



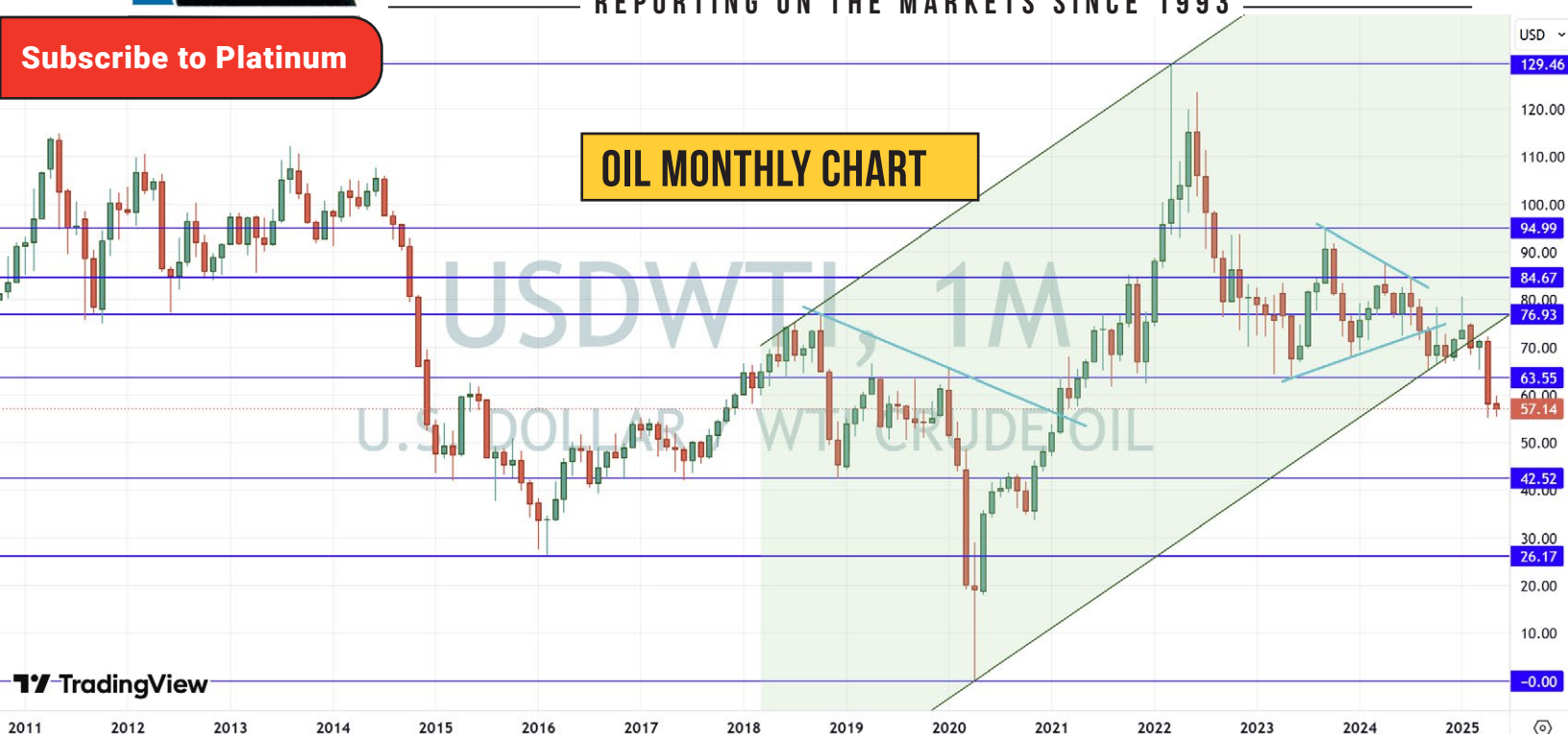
MAY 6, 2025

Market Trend News

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OIL MONTHLY CHART



Oil Breaks Major Support Area!

April saw the breaking of a major support level for WTI Oil. The \$63ish US/barrel area broke down and we are now sitting around \$57US a barrel. How low can it go? Will we test the \$42.50 area?

Oil prices have dropped do to a combination of economic, geopolitical, and supply related factors.

[[Oil ends at four-year lows as OPEC+ accelerates output hikes](#)]

[[Why are oil prices plummeting? Hint: it's not just tariffs.](#)]

Goldman's analysts lowered their WTI crude prediction for 2025 to average \$56 per barrel. [[Goldman Sachs Slashes Its Oil Price Forecast Yet Again](#)]

Commodity fluctuations always go farther than we would expect. Look at the crash of 2020 that saw WTI May futures close at -\$37.64 a barrel, the first time oil prices turned negative. Then in 2022, we saw Oil hit \$130ish in the spot market.

So where does one start building a position to the upside? Will the downside be drastic like 2020? I'm thinking probably not. We need to see a bottoming formation and it could take weeks or months. Watch the \$42 level and the \$26 level. I'd be pretty shocked if it hit \$26.

Good luck in your trades and have a great week!

MEDIA

INTERESTING
INTERVIEWS
& ARTICLES



Chat With Traders
The Power in Fixed-Sized,
Non-Compounding FX Plays ·
Christian Mayer



Palisades Gold Radio
Tavi Costa: Gold's
Revaluation - This Could Be
History in the Making



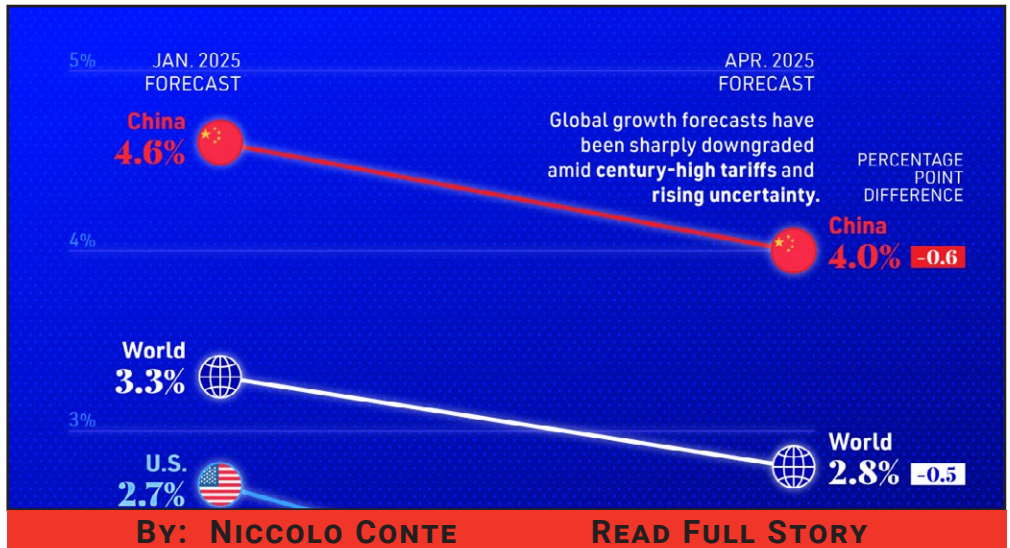
Mining Stock Education
How to Discern Junior
Mining Stock Scams: Insights
with Bill Powers & Brian Leni



Kitco Mining
John Feneck:
\$3,200 Gold: Act or Miss Out?



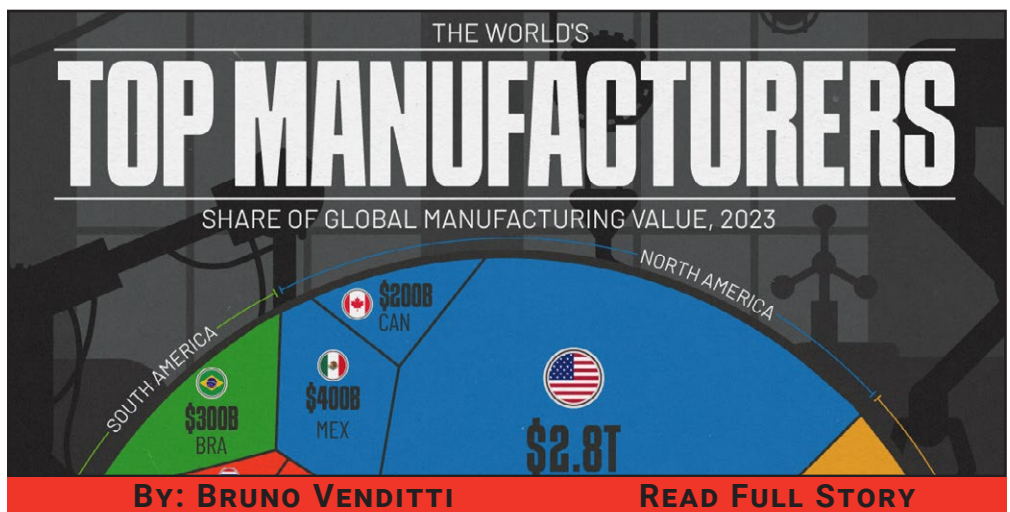
CHARTED: FALLING GDP GROWTH FORECASTS FOR 2025



WHAT GOLD INVESTORS SHOULD KNOW IN 2025



RANKED: GLOBAL SHARE OF MANUFACTURING VALUE, BY COUNTRY



MEDIA

INTERESTING
INTERVIEWS
& ARTICLES

Sprott

April 28th, 2025

**Safe Havens:
The Enduring Stability of
Precious Metals in
Turbulent Times**

**Steve Schoffstall &
John Kinnane**



The
MicDropMarkets
Podcast

Spaces #56 with
Tracy Schuchart

Tariffs, Logistics,
& Small Business

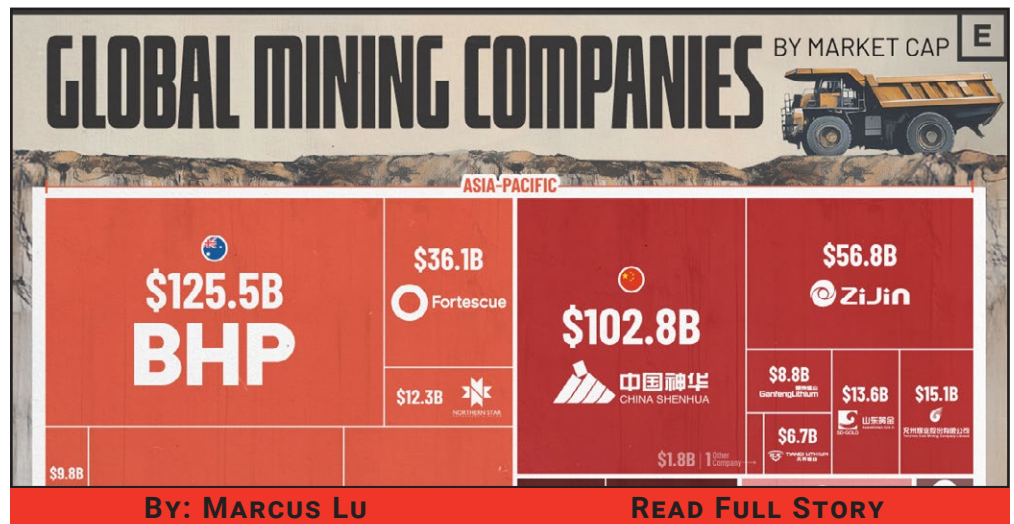
Guests: Carol Roth &
Ross Kennedy



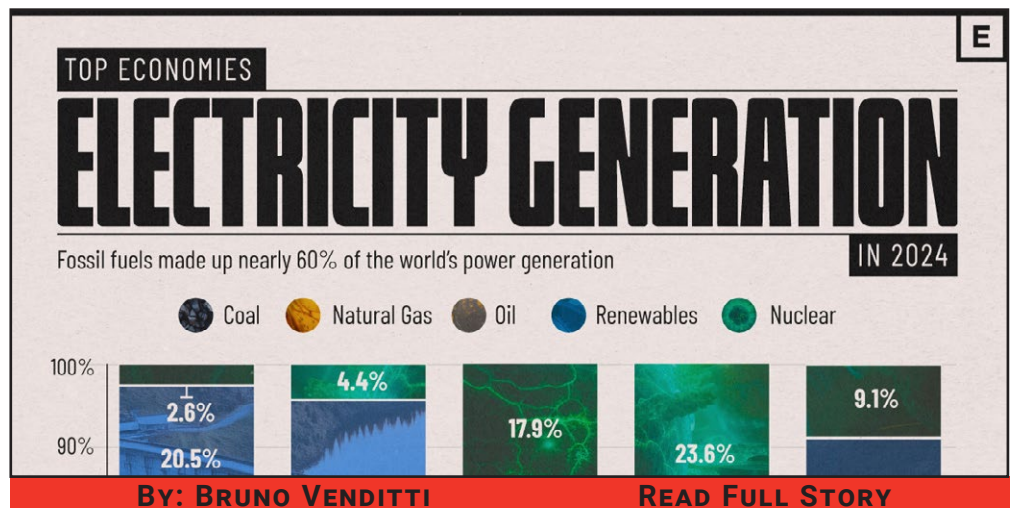
MAPPED: WHICH COUNTRIES PRODUCE THE MOST SILVER?



CHARTED: THE GLOBAL MINING INDUSTRY, BY MARKET CAP



CHARTED: HOW TOP ECONOMIES GENERATED ELECTRICITY IN 2024



SCENARIO PLANNING: TO IMPROVE TRADING PERFORMANCE & BETTER MANAGE TRADES

BY: CORY MITCHELL

APRIL 29, 2025

TRADETHATSWING.COM

Stop looking for the perfect strategy or even trying to predict the market. With Scenario Planning you take the guesswork and frustration out of trading, improving your focus and your results. No matter what the market does, you know what YOU have to do.

No strategy is going to win all the time or predict what the market will do with certainty. Even if a system is highly accurate in picking in direction, it may have poor timing (be too early or too late), or expose us to too much [risk for the profit](#) potential.

Many successful traders don't try to predict the market at all. They don't have to. They have found another way. I personally found myself to be quite poor at predicting where prices will go in the future. I may get the direction right, but I could be too early or late. Or sometimes my timing is great, but the big move I was expecting fizzles out.

Luckily, I, nor you, need to be good at predicting future events with certainty (and if you can, great, this article isn't for you).

The Mental Flip: It's Me, Not the Market

"It's not about what the market does. It's about what I do."

There is no need to predict what the market will do. Rather, we plan for what we will do no matter what the price does.

If you integrate this mental flip, your trading will drastically improve. You no longer need to waste time predicting, and being frustrated when it doesn't pan out. Rather, you plan the trade, start to finish, no matter what the market does.

Do this, and you are no longer at the mercy of what the market does. You are in control of your actions, and how you navigate the market.

And isn't that what many of us are striving for in all areas of our life? NOT to control our surroundings. Because we can never control others, the stock market, the weather, or economic forces. BUT WE CAN CONTROL how we act and react to others, the weather, the stock market, and economic forces.

We can plan for what we will do if the market (or something else) does X, Y, or Z. And we can even have a plan for when we are unsure!

Let me give you a non-trade example. You could have a rule that if something is a "maybe" you will say "no" until you have time to decide whether it is a "yes" or a "no".

Or let's say someone asks you to do something, but you are unsure...

Instead of saying "maybe" and leaving them on the hook (and you on the hook to clarify at some point), or worse yet saying "yes" when you don't want to do something, just say "no" and follow up with "I'll let you know if I change my mind."

You may not want to adopt this rule. But you can see how it creates clarity and boundaries around what you accept, and it avoids mental-wheel-spinning when you're uncertain.

Imagine applying that rule to your trading. You have a strategy and you see a trade setup, but you don't like something about it. It's a "maybe trade". A rule like this states you stay out, unless it becomes a "yes". To become a yes, you'll need to tell yourself how you'll manage this trade given that you are uncertain about it, and provide evidence to yourself for why the trade is acceptable to take. It may become a yes, or may stay a Maybe or a No (in either case, you stay out).

Life is filled with uncertainty, and so is trading. But that doesn't mean we never act. We can plan and act in spite of uncertainty.

Assume you said "Yes" to a blind date, but now you're there and it's NOT going well. You could have pre-planned for that scenario. Have an exit plan or have rehearsed a little speech to let them down easy and make a quick exit. This avoids the mental anguish of sitting there wondering what to do. If we didn't have a plan this time, we now know to spend some time making one for next time.

Same with trading. If you know what to do already, there is clarity. Less mental anguish. You can stay present (in a situation or trade) and be true to yourself based on the information coming in. But we only get this if we have created rules/boundaries around how we act or don't act in certain situations.

If we notice ourselves asking "What should I do?" while in a trade, we have a hole in our scenario planning or strategy. There is something we didn't consider.

Look at what it is, and consider how this situation will be handled if it comes up again. This puts you back in control of your trading.

"What should I do?" should only ever be asked BEFORE we enter a trade. Plan it out, and then only take a trade if there is a plan in place.

My [Complete Method Stock Swing Trading Course](#) teaches you how to find and ride explosive stocks.

Trading Scenario Planning

Scenario Planning is part of a process I call [Commentating the Price Action](#). With Commentating we talk through what we know and key factors that affect our trading decisions. Commentating also involves talking through what needs to occur to take a trade and how we will handle that trade once we are in it.

This latter part is Scenario Planning. It re-confirms how we will manage the trade based on our strategy as the trade unfolds.

Scenario planning can be as simple as saying “I will stick to my stop loss or target no matter what.”

Or it may add some additional rules, such as “I will stick to my stop loss or exit, but I need to out before earnings/news at X time.”

Or scenario planning can become more complex, such as using different exit methods based on the quality of the trade signal or the quality of market conditions. We plan for whatever scenario arises while in a trade.

It may seem complex. People often say “I can’t possibly plan for every scenario!” But we actually only need a few rules to help navigate *any* trade.

Here’s how I Scenario Plan every trade I take. Before I trade I mentally grade each trade, and then I have a rule for how I will manage that trade.

- **Good Conditions + Good Trade Setup:** Don’t move the [Stop loss](#) or [Target](#) during trade. Only consider an early exit if the price stalls right near the target and most of the profit has been collected. If price is moving well and is approaching the target, consider implementing a trailing stop loss to both protect nearly all the profit and potentially capture a bit more than the original target.
- **Poor Conditions + Good Trade Setup:** Either don’t take the trade, or use the [aggressive trailing stop loss](#) and the original target stays where it is (reward:risk may be smaller than in an ideal scenario). If conditions are really poor, don’t take it. If they are acceptable, use the aggressive trailing stop loss. There must be some evidence to warrant taking the trade.
- **Good Conditions + Poor Trade Setup:** Either don’t take the trade, or use the [aggressive trailing stop loss](#) and the original target stays where it is (targets may be bigger or smaller than normal when factoring for the conditions). If the trade setup is really poor, don’t take it. If it is acceptable, especially since conditions are favorable for trading, use the aggressive trailing stop loss. There must be some evidence to warrant taking the trade.
- **Poor Conditions + Poor Trade Setup:** Don’t trade. Oftentimes, I will close my trading platform so I can’t place trades.

If conditions improve (I have the chart up, but my platform isn’t open), then I re-open it and will start watching. But as long as conditions and trade setups are poor, I am staying out.

- **Good Conditions + Setup in Conflict:** Overall conditions are good, but sometimes at key levels I will have a trade setup for both a long and a short. I can pick which direction I prefer and plan for that trade. I then decide whether I will let the trade play out or if I will use a trailing stop loss.

I also have the option to trade the first signal that develops. In this case, I will use a trailing stop loss because a trade in the opposite direction could occur.

If I opt to take this trade, I also have to decide if I will take a trade in the opposite direction if I get stopped out another trade trigger develops in the opposite direction. I also have the option to stay out if there is a conflicting setup. I need to collect more information before deciding what to do.

- **Conditions improve or deteriorate while in a trade:** Things can change while a trade is ongoing. If conditions start to get ugly while in a trade, I utilize an aggressive trailing stop loss. If conditions improve during a trade, then I give the trade the same freedom a good condition trade would warrant based on the scenarios above. Basically, conditions can go from good to bad, or bad to good, and when that happens I shift how I manage those trades based on the rules above.

To be able to go through this process, you need to know what a good trade setup looks like and what a bad trade setup looks like. In my [trading courses](#), I discuss what good patterns look like and things to avoid. Your strategy should do the same. If you look for a certain pattern, for example, note the elements that seem to be present in trades that do better. Note the elements present in patterns that tend to perform worse.

You also need to know [when to trade and when not to](#). <—This article discusses how I analyze market conditions for my strategies, as each strategy may require different things for taking trades.

The Stages of Scenario Planning

In order to plan our scenarios, we need a certain amount of knowledge about our trading strategy, the conditions we trade, and we also need to understand a few things.

What we need to understand: our knowledge base, our skill set, and our ability to plan are limited to the strategies we have practiced and are good at. We aren’t predicting trade results and we aren’t trying to trade every turn the price makes.

Step 1 is learning a strategy and the market conditions that work well for it.

You may decide to stop at step 1. If you are happy with how a strategy performs by leaving the trades alone using a pre-defined exit method, that's great! Stick with that.

If feel your strategy could be improved by incorporating more real-time information on conditions and trade setup quality, exiting winning trades earlier (before they turn into losses) if conditions turn unfavorable mid-trade, or cutting losses quicker if the price doesn't move as expected, then incorporate Scenario Planning. It is an enhancement.

Step 2 is learning to scenario plan and mapping out any adjustments we can make to the trade while it is ongoing. We do this before the trade, acting out our plan as the price action unfolds during the trade.

Want to learn how to day trade forex? The [EURUSD Day Trading Course](#) shows what you need to know. to make a living or side income from this market.

Is Scenario Planning a Violation of the Strategy?

"Aren't we supposed to take every signal our strategy gives us?"

"Aren't we supposed to stick to our strategy no matter what?"

"I have backtested a strategy and it is profitable based on using set parameters, shouldn't I just leave the trades alone?"

These are great questions. And not everyone needs scenario planning. If you use an [automated trading system](#), you've already programmed into the strategy how you will manage trades. You don't need to scenario plan in the moment. Although, scenario planning may help you enhance the performance of your system by considering alternative exits based on conditions and setup quality.

Scenario planning can become part of a strategy. It is simply [improving our trade rules](#) based on the real-time information we have leading up to and during a trade.

How we Scenario Plan should be included in your [Trading Plan](#).

In this way, what looks like a highly discretionary trading system can actually be rather automated. I'm applying rules to how each trade is managed based on my strategy which provides the basic pattern, entry, stop loss, and target.

Scenario planning allows me to make slight adjustments to these parameters based on real-time information. Because over time we begin to see that not every trade is equal. Some trades are better than others, but there may still be profit potential on a slightly worse pattern. Yet we may not want to trade them exactly the same.

This can **potentially** enhance the performance of the strategy. Is scenario planning for you? I don't know. Practice it, and then test it against leaving trades alone.

Practicing Trade Scenario Planning

As the price action is unfolding, talk through what needs to happen to form a quality trade setup.

What is the [trade trigger](#)?
How big will the stop loss be?
What will the target be?
How are the overall conditions?

As the setup forms and the [trade trigger](#) gets closer to triggering, look at the information and decide how you will manage the trade. Will you just leave it alone, utilize a trailing stop loss, or exit manually (how and why?)?

If you have questions during the trade, note them. You will need to include that in your scenario planning. You shouldn't have questions while you are in a trade. If you do, the scenario planning is lacking an answer to your question. Create an answer for next time that situation arises.

Knowing what to do in a trade shouldn't be the hard part of trading...yet it produces a lot of anguish for many people. This is alleviated with scenario planning. BUT, it is mentally hard to scenario plan for every trade. It takes work. It requires focus...similar to [meditation](#).

It is much easier to let the mind drift, take random trades, and hope they work out. This causes a lot of mental anguish down the line. We need to flip that around. If we do the mental work before a trade, we save ourselves the mental anguish later on!

Compare Scenario Planning and "Leave alone" results

Most strategies you learn in courses, videos, or articles show how to find trade setups, where to place the entry, stop loss, and target, and possibly some additional rules and trade management guidelines.

This is basic scenario planning. Key elements of the trade have been planned out (entry, stop loss, target).

See how the strategy performs using these basic elements. It may perform great, or you may see areas for improvement with more in-depth scenario planning.

Come up with rules for how you will improve performance with scenario planning. How and why will you get out of trades early? Practice doing this planning before the trade happens.

Compare the results using the basic rules to your scenario planning results.

Over time, a winner will be revealed.

For some people or strategies, just sticking to a basic entry and exit may work best. For others, they may reach the next level through scenario planning.

You Still Need a Strategy

Scenario Planning enhances a strategy. The strategy already provides an edge by giving us entries and exits that are likely to produce a profit over time. Scenario planning helps us stick with that plan, or potentially increase profit by realizing that not all setups and market conditions are equal. That *always* avoiding, or *always* taking, a certain type of trade setup or market condition may not be the best answer for profit maximization or our personality.

The Key Takeaways

ANYONE can incorporate scenario planning. It is simply confirming how you will manage a trade before you take it. You will want to re-confirm this throughout the trade.

You can also use it to enhance your strategies by pre-planning for scenarios that may arise during the trade.

If the trade isn't acting right...do you have a plan for that?

If it is acting very well...do you adjust your target or implement a trailing stop loss instead of the original target?

Even starting to ask such questions about your strategies and trades can start you down the road of finding ways to improve those strategies. Potentially grabbing more profit (or reducing losses) on trades you are taking or analyzing anyway.

Want to learn how to swing trade currencies, including strategies, and how to adapt to changing market conditions? Check out the [Forex Swing Trading Course](#).

Cory Mitchell, CMT

Disclaimer: Nothing in this article is personal investment advice, or advice to buy or sell anything. Trading is risky and can result in substantial losses, even more than deposited if using leverage.



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| April 2025

Coppernico is a mineral exploration company focused on creating value for shareholders and stakeholders through project evaluation and exploration **in pursuit of the discovery of world-class copper-gold deposits in the Americas.**

Management and technical teams have a successful track record of raising capital, discovery and monetization of exploration successes. Coppernico is **currently focused on the Sombrero Project in Peru.**

Sombrero Project - Major Discovery Opportunities

- **Eocene intrusion cluster** with associated **Fe-Cu skarn mineralization**
- **3,900m elevation** with excellent infrastructure
- **First-ever copper-gold drilling** in this underexplored district
- **Strong community partnerships**
- **Initial drill targets share key characteristics with major copper mines in the belt like Las Bambas:**
 - **Scale** – Multiple large targets comparable to world-class deposits in the belt
 - **Rock type** – Extensive exoskarn formations with similar lithologies (Ferrobamba, Huahuani, Andahuaylas-Yauri Batholith)
 - **Mineralization style** – Massive Fe-Cu skarn mineralization found at surface
 - **Age of mineralization** – Eocene-aged intrusion

SOMBRERO PROJECT
FLAGSHIP



Capital Structure (as at November 13, 2024)

Shares Issued & Outstanding	Options Outstanding (\$0.50, expiring August 6, 2029)
177,304,848	7,795,000
Warrants Outstanding (15,795,383 @ \$0.30, expire Aug 13, 2029; 120,000 @ \$0.15, expire Jan 29, 2027; 19,375,289 @ \$0.75, expire May 16, 2026; 854,640 @ \$0.50, expire May 16, 2026)	Cash Balance (as at December 31, 2024)
36,145,312	~C\$11M

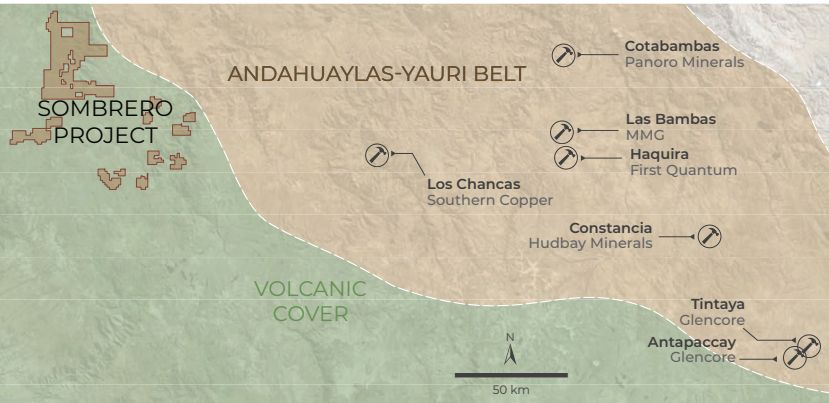
“The Sombrero project represents a **unique opportunity to extend a world-class belt** and hosts the potential for multiple major discoveries.”

Tim Kingsley, VP of Exploration

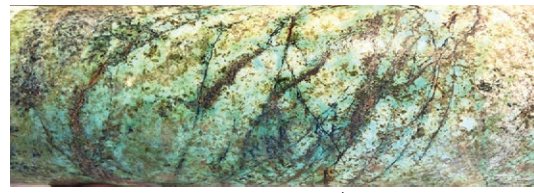
Building a World-Class Exploration Portfolio

- ✓ Exploration company **focused in the Americas**
- ✓ Pursuing **large-scale, advanced-stage, high-quality copper and gold** assets
- ✓ Prioritizing the **highest safety, community and environmental standards** at all times
- ✓ Working with a **premier technical team**

Opportunity to Extend a World-class Belt

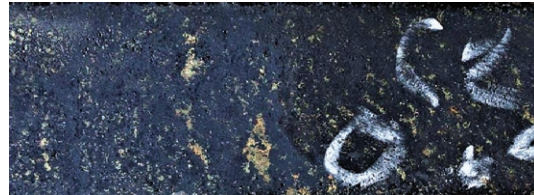


Historical Core at Ccascabamba Target Area



Drill Hole FE-DDH-03B
At 33 m: 1.32% Cu and 0.03 g/t Au in hematite vein stockworks with malachite staining at their margins

30.4-51.4 m: 21 m of 0.50% Cu and 0.01 g/t Au Oxide Endoskarn Mineralization Ccascabamba Diorite Sill

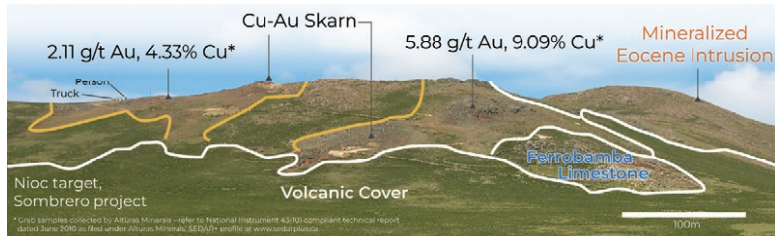


Drill Hole FE-DDH-03A
At 62 m: 1.35% Cu and 0.54 g/t Au massive magnetite with disseminated pyrite in sulphide zone

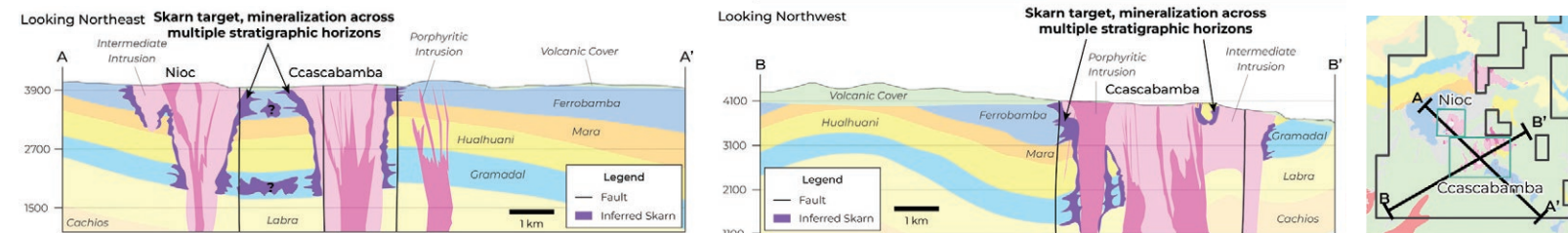
64-98 m: 34 m of 0.20% Cu and 0.09 g/t Au Mixed Sulphide Zone in Magnetite Exoskarn (Upper Mara) Coincident Magnetic and Conductivity Responses

No less than 5 m of >= 0.1% Cu, maximum dilution 6 m (See technical disclosure on Auryn Resources, now Fury Gold Mines Ltd., news release dated June 13, 2019)

Identified Through an Erosional Window



Schematic Sections through Ccascabamba Target Area



A Unique Opportunity for Significant Success

- ✓ Rare **major discovery opportunity** at Sombrego
- ✓ Inaugural **drilling underway: large-scale, high-grade**, advanced exploration targets
- ✓ Established **three-year renewable social access agreement**
- ✓ **Expanding exploration portfolio** to offer more for shareholders and reduce risk
- ✓ **Completed listing on the TSX** on Aug 13, 2024
- ✓ **Commenced trading on OTCQB** on Nov 15, 2024

Management



Ivan Bebek
Founder, Chair & CEO



Stacy Rowa
CFO



Tim Kingsley
VP of Exploration



Christian Rios
SVP of Corporate Development

Directors

Ivan Bebek
Antonio Arribas
Keenan Jennings
MJ McQuhae
Gordon J. Fretwell
Marie-Hélène Turgeon
Jeffrey Mason

Disclaimer: This document has been prepared by Coppernico Metals Inc. (the "Company") to introduce the Company's mineral exploration projects. Because it is a high level summary presentation, the information contained herein cannot contain all the information that should be reviewed before making an investment decision. Summary of Cautionary Notes: 1. Forward looking statements are inherently uncertain; 2. Canadian mineral disclosure differs from U.S. mineral disclosure; 3. Full disclosure records for Coppernico Metals Inc. can be found at www.sedarplus.com, some information may be found under the Company's former name, Sombrego Resources Inc., or the predecessor company, Auryn Resources Inc. (now Fury Gold Mines Limited). The scientific and technical information contained in this document was reviewed and approved by Tim Kingsley, M.Sc., CPG, Coppernico's VP of Exploration, who is a "Qualified Person" (as defined in NI 43-101).

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DRILL RESULTS COURTESY OF JUNIOR MINING HUB

Top Gold Drilling Highlights

News	Date	Company	Project	Au (g/t)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Grade x Width	Market Cap	Location
	4/29/2025	New Murchison Gold Limited \$0.02 0.00 (6.25%) 5M	Garden Gully	3090	251.36	1.64	5068 Au total 	\$147.76M	Western Australia, Australia
	4/15/2025	Collective Mining Ltd. 13.46 0.38 (2.91%)	Guayabales	3.10*	71.65	263.85	818 AuEq total 	\$892.68M	Colombia
	3/25/2025	Erdene Resource Development Corporation 0.86 -0.01 (-1.15%)	Bayan Khundii	79.81	2	10	798 Au total 	\$315.83M	Mongolia
	4/6/2025	Alkane Resources Limited \$0.79 -0.01 (-0.63%) 1.4M	Tomingley	196.95	115.4	3.1	611 Au total 	\$481.41M	New South Wales, Australia
	3/31/2025	Spartan Resources Limited \$2.08 -0.02 (-1.20%) 4.1M	Dalgaranga	23.20	597.66	25.76	598 Au total 	\$2.69B	Western Australia, Australia
	4/24/2025	Spanish Mountain Gold Ltd. 0.13 0.00 (0.00%)	Spanish Mountain	4.18	56	139	581 Au total 	\$57.82M	British Columbia, Canada
	4/22/2025	Sitka Gold Corp. 0.53 -0.05 (-8.62%)	RC	1.55	341.5	352.8	547 Au total 	\$194.38M	Yukon, Canada
	4/29/2025	Melkior Resources Inc. 0.165 0.005 (3.13%)	Carscallen	77.40	208.5	6.9	534 Au total 	\$5.56M	Ontario, Canada
	4/8/2025	Pantoro Gold Limited \$2.80 -0.04 (-1.43%) 384K	Norseman	44.39	151.5	10.15	451 Au total 	\$1.11B	Western Australia, Australia

Top Copper Drilling Highlights

Use Control + To Zoom

Click on Company for News

News	Date	Company	Project	Cu (%)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Grade x Width	Market Cap	Location
	4/24/2025	NGEx Minerals Ltd. 11.72 -0.17 (-1.43%)	Lunahuasi	2.88*	564	271.9	783 CuEq total 	\$2.46B	Argentina
	4/30/2025	Blackstone Minerals Limited \$0.07 0.00 (1.54%) 898K	Mankayan	0.89*	342	608	541 CuEq total 	\$43.30M	Philippines
	4/2/2025	Blackstone Minerals Limited \$0.07 0.00 (1.54%) 898K	Mankayan	1.25*	692	432	540 CuEq total 	\$43.30M	Philippines
	4/22/2025	ATEX Resources Inc. 1.95 0.00 (0.00%)	Valeriano	0.59*	1264	735	434 CuEq total 	\$540.85M	Chile
	4/24/2025	AbraSilver Resource Corp. 2.845 -0.045 (-1.56%)	La Coipita	0.38	410	621	236 Cu total 	\$440.86M	Argentina
	4/30/2025	Magna Mining Inc. 1.44 0.01 (0.70%)	McCreedy West Mine	8.48*	97.23	25.6	217 CuEq total 	\$278.72M	Ontario, Canada
	4/29/2025	White Cliff Minerals Limited \$0.02 0.00 (0.00%)	Rae Copper Project	3.08	52	58	179 Cu total 	\$43.60M	Nunavut, Canada
	3/27/2025	Fitzroy Minerals Inc. 0.29 0.00 (0.00%)	Caballos	0.83*	66	200	166 CuEq total 	\$34.30M	Chile
	4/14/2025	Getty Copper Inc. 0.04 0.00 (0.00%)	Getty Copper	0.27	20.4	591.3	158 Cu total 	\$6.04M	British Columbia, Canada
	5/5/2025	Osisko Metals Incorporated 0.45 0.055 (13.92%)	Gaspe	0.43	12	323	139 Cu total 	\$240.77M	Québec, Canada

Top Silver Drilling Highlights

News	Date	Company	Project	Ag (g/t)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Grade x Width	Market Cap	Location
	3/26/2025	Aya Gold & Silver Inc. 9.00 0.17 (1.93%)	Zgounder	3794	6	10	37940 Ag total	\$1.15B	Morocco
	3/26/2025	Barton Gold Holdings Limited \$0.50 0.03 (7.00%) 557K	Tarcoola	4747	46	6	28482 Ag total	\$101.80M	South Australia, Australia
	3/26/2025	Barton Gold Holdings Limited \$0.50 0.03 (7.00%) 557K	Tarcoola	4747	46	6	28482 Ag total	\$101.80M	South Australia, Australia
	4/2/2025	AbraSilver Resource Corp. 2.845 -0.045 (-1.56%)	Diablillos	189.50	79.5	63.5	12033 Ag total	\$440.86M	Argentina
	4/29/2025	AbraSilver Resource Corp. 2.845 -0.045 (-1.56%)	Diablillos	161.60	82	65	10504 Ag total	\$440.86M	Argentina
	5/5/2025	Kootenay Silver Inc. 0.92 0.01 (1.10%)	Columba	620	405.5	16.5	10230 Ag total	\$56.60M	Mexico
	5/4/2025	Unico Silver Limited \$0.23 0.01 (2.22%) 843K	Cerro Leon	772*	42	13	10036 AgEq total	\$96.35M	Argentina
	5/1/2025	Hecla Mining Company 4.695 0.155 (3.41%)	Keno Hill	1845	146.21	4.66	8598 Ag total	\$2.87B	Yukon, Canada
	4/15/2025	Eloro Resources Ltd. 0.91 -0.02 (-2.15%)	Iska Iska	129.57	151.5	52.5	6802 Ag total	\$78.58M	Bolivia
	4/15/2025	Barton Gold Holdings Limited \$0.50 0.03 (7.00%) 557K	Tarcoola	434	46	14	6076 Ag total	\$101.80M	South Australia, Australia

Top Li2O Drilling Highlights

Use Control + To Zoom Click on Company for News

News	Date	Company	Project	Li2O (%)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Grade x Width	Market Cap	Location
	4/27/2025	Sayona Mining Limited \$0.02 0.00 (0.00%) 39M	Moblan	1.87	273.75	60.65	113 Li2O total	\$207.78M	Québec, Canada
	4/24/2025	Brunswick Exploration Inc. 0.145 0.00 (0.00%)	Mirage	1.51	166.6	35.65	54 Li2O total	\$31.62M	Québec, Canada
	4/23/2025	Piedmont Lithium Inc. 7.44 -0.06 (-0.80%)	North American Lithium	1.45	291	35	51 Li2O total	\$164.58M	Québec, Canada
	4/21/2025	Sayona Mining Limited \$0.02 0.00 (0.00%) 39M	North American Lithium	1.45	291	35	51 Li2O total	\$207.78M	Québec, Canada
	3/25/2025	Wildcat Resources Limited \$0.19 -0.01 (-5.41%) 902K	Tabba Tabba	1.40	29	33	46 Li2O total	\$262.19M	Western Australia, Australia
	4/2/2025	Linear Minerals Corp. 0.015 -0.005 (-25.00%)	Augustus	1.01	49.9	18.1	18 Li2O total	\$1.23M	Québec, Canada
	3/27/2025	Linear Minerals Corp. 0.015 -0.005 (-25.00%)	Augustus	1.02	68.45	9.95	10 Li2O total	\$1.23M	Québec, Canada
	4/8/2025	Linear Minerals Corp. 0.015 -0.005 (-25.00%)	Augustus	1	139	8.9	8.9 Li2O total	\$1.23M	Québec, Canada
	4/10/2025	Linear Minerals Corp. 0.015 -0.005 (-25.00%)	Augustus	1.09	1.45	5	5.5 Li2O total	\$1.23M	Québec, Canada

Equivalency values are provided by news release and are not verified by Junior Mining Hub. Drilling results are not true width, but core length. "From" is represented by the top of interval, or vertical depth reported in the news release. Please click the news release link to confirm values (these are not guaranteed) and gain additional context. Junior Mining Hub does not provide investment advice or instructions, products or services. It is essential that you should not rely solely on the information contained on the platform, including information shared by other users of the platform and services. Click here to see our complete [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) Agreements.



"Markets tend to return to the mean over time."

- Bob Farrell

Metals/Crypto Prices

CEO.CA	Price	1 Week	YTD
Gold	\$3,304.30	0.01%	26.76%
Silver	\$32.76	-2.53%	13.20%
Copper	\$4.60	-4.82%	15.63%
CAD/USD	\$0.73	0.75%	4.42%
Bitcoin	\$94,237.24	0.68%	0.86%
Ethereum	\$1,791.71	0.25%	-46.24%

*Metal and cryptocurrency data as of 4:00pm ET yesterday.

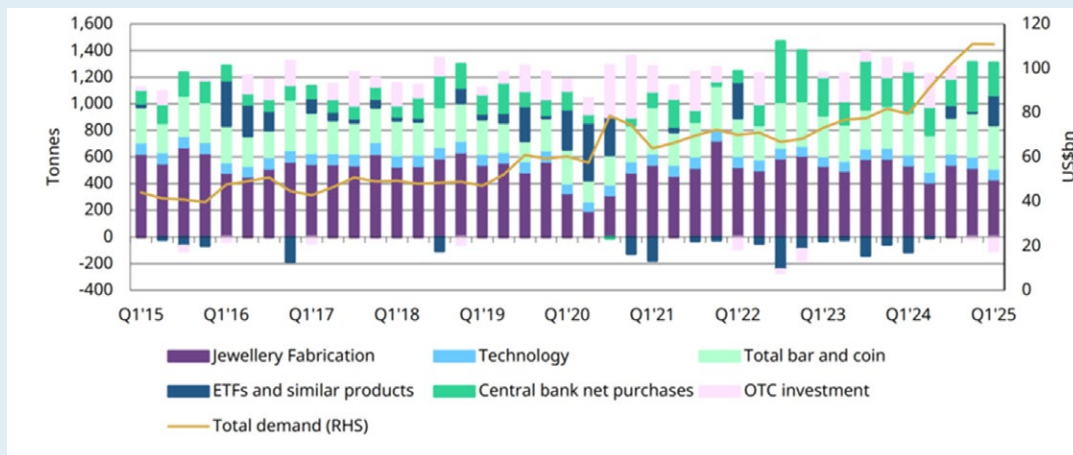
In Today's Briefing

Gold

After flirting with \$3,500 on April 22, gold is currently consolidating in a fairly narrow range as it stubbornly holds the \$3300 level. The rotation into the safe-haven asset continues as uncertainty ripples throughout the geopolitical and economic landscape.



According to the World Gold Council's quarterly update released on Wednesday, global demand for the precious metal, including over-the-counter trading, rose by 1% year-on-year to 1,206 metric tons in Q1 of 2025 - [Q1 gold demand explodes; investors rush to safety as global uncertainty mounts - WGC](#).



Joseph Cavatoni, Senior Market Strategist at the World Gold Council, told Kitco News: “Banks are no longer taking risk capital and putting it to work. I think risk assets move in tandem a lot more likely than they have in the past. And a lot more severely than they have in the past,” he said. “U.S. Treasuries are also being looked at differently than they have in the past. This leaves people trying to find that balance in their portfolios and they are turning to gold.”

Concerning the metal’s stubborn hold on what some consider unsustainable, nosebleed levels (\$3,000-plus), and how consumption is broad-based among Western and Eastern consumers alike, WGC’s Cavatoni again: “We continue to see natural ebbs and flows in the price, but we’re staying at these elevated levels,” he said. “This is telling us that this is fundamental buying as opposed to just pure push and pull of speculation. Because of this uncertainty in markets, the case remains strong for us to see gold continuing to be consumed on a very, very large scale, both among investors and central banks.”



Earlier this morning (Wednesday, April 30), the Bureau of Economic Analysis gave us our first read of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product, which wasn’t even close to what economists were thinking. The report revealed that the U.S. economy shrank by 0.3% in Q1 2025, defying expectations of a 0.3% expansion - [Gold price still sees profit taking even as U.S. GDP contracts 0.3% in Q1](#).

On deck is another piece of economic data that has the potential to trigger movement in the metal (and everything else that trades under the sun)—Friday’s nonfarm payrolls report.

Gold Equities

Last week, mining colossus Newmont Corporation (NGT.TO) dropped quarterly earnings that beat analyst expectations - [Newmont Stock Gains on Earnings. Why Miners Are Better Than Gold](#).

The company cranked out 1.54 million ounces of glitter during the quarter, a decline of 8.3% compared to last year, but soaring metal prices more than made up for the weaker output.

The gold miner notched a first-quarter profit of \$1.9 billion, up from \$179 million a year earlier. Adjusted earnings came in at \$1.25 a share, beating the 92 cents analysts had expected, according to FactSet. Revenue rose to \$5.01 billion from \$4.02 billion a year earlier and topped the \$4.7 billion consensus estimate.

The stock is attempting to regain its highs set last October, before underwhelming 3rd quarter earnings exacted a heavy toll...



Further down the food chain...

Junior Resource Equities

In our [April 17 Briefing](#), we highlighted the breakout of the [S&P TSX Venture Gold Index](#) from its decade-long base, while noting the absence of a meaningful push to new high ground for the more closely watched CDNX. Flash forward two weeks—to NOW—the CDNX is testing a key multi-year resistance level, and if the momentum proves sustainable, we won't need to worry about any notion of 'Selling in May' (and going away).



General Mining Sector News

Burkina Faso = Mining Unfriendly

'Mining unfriendly' for most foreigners, that is - [Burkina Faso to nationalise more industrial mines, PM says](#).

Tearing a page out of the Malian junta's playbook, Burkina Faso's prime minister, Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo, telegraphed his intention to take control of more foreign-owned mines via a new state-controlled mining company, Société de Participation Minière du Burkina, aka SOPAMIB.

This dick move comes in the wake of all-time record-high Au prices. Coincidence?

Burkina Faso's military-led government, which seized control of the West African nation in 2022, used SOPAMIB to wrestle control away from two gold mines (previously) owned and operated by Endeavour Mining—Boungou and Wahgnion.

Ouédraogo said existing state-controlled mining initiatives have been successful, with the National Precious Substances Company collecting over eight tons of gold in 2024 and more than 11 tons in the first quarter of this year, primarily from artisanal sources.

“We should see more of the benefits of mining in Burkina Faso not just the consequences that the population suffers,” Ouédraogo said.

While the military junta running the country pivots away from the West, they’re bonding big time with Moscow - [Burkina Faso grants mining lease to Russia’s Nordgold for gold project](#).

Burkina Faso has granted Russian miner Nordgold a lease to operate the Niou gold deposit in the nation’s Plateau-Central region. The split: Nordgold gets 85% - the junta keeps 15%, carried... a free ride (Nordgold also operates the Bissa and Bouly mines with a similar ownership structure).

The Niou operation is expected to produce roughly 20.22 metric tons of gold over its eight-year mine life but is expected to displace a large number of artisanal miners working in the area.

All told, Niou is expected to contribute 51.5 billion CFA francs (\$89 million) to the state’s budget and 7.06 billion CFA francs to the state’s mineral wealth fund during its eight years of operation.

Canadian miners [Orezone Gold](#) (ORE.TO) and [IAMGOLD](#) (IMG.TO) continue to operate projects in the West African nation.



Still on Africa...

The Gates / Bezos-backed mining vehicle, KoBold Metals, is broadening its search for critical metals by making a move into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Its designs on the Central African nation’s robust endowment of mineral wealth are aggressive—designs that may involve the investment of billions - [Gates, Bezos-backed critical minerals explorer to ‘go big’ on Congo – report](#).

Benjamin Katabuka, the country’s newly appointed director general, told the British newspaper that KoBold is looking to “go big” in the DRC, currently the world’s biggest producer of cobalt and the leading copper producer on the continent. He added the company plans to apply for licences to explore for these two critical minerals as well as lithium, of which the DRC holds significant deposits but has yet to fully unlock.

Katabuka welcomes the idea of a Western mining entity entering the fray. He believes the move will add balance to China’s dominance in the nation’s mining sector.



KoBold's push into Congo comes at a time when the African nation is negotiating with the US on a potential minerals pact. Earlier this year, DRC President Felix Tshisekedi offered a minerals-for-security deal to Washington in an effort to end the ongoing armed conflict with Rwanda-backed M23 rebels.

KoBold specializes in the use of AI to probe a region's subsurface stratum for potential economic orebodies. Having recently raised \$537 million from a number of well-heeled investors, the company is actively involved in roughly 60 projects spread across four continents.

A Bit of M&A To Keep the Sector Guessing

Last week, China's CMOC Group [took a run at Lumina Gold](#) (LUM.V) in an all-cash deal valued at C\$581 million. This week, Australia's Alkane Resources moved on [Mandalay Resources](#) (MND.TO) in an all-paper deal valued at nearly A\$560 million - [Alkane and Mandalay Combine to Create Growing Gold and Antimony Producer](#).

According to the terms of the deal, Mandalay shareholders will receive 7.875 Alkane shares for each share held. After the dust settles, (former) Mandalay shareholders will own 55% of the combined company, and (existing) Alkane shareholders will own 45%.

Strategic Rationale for the Transaction

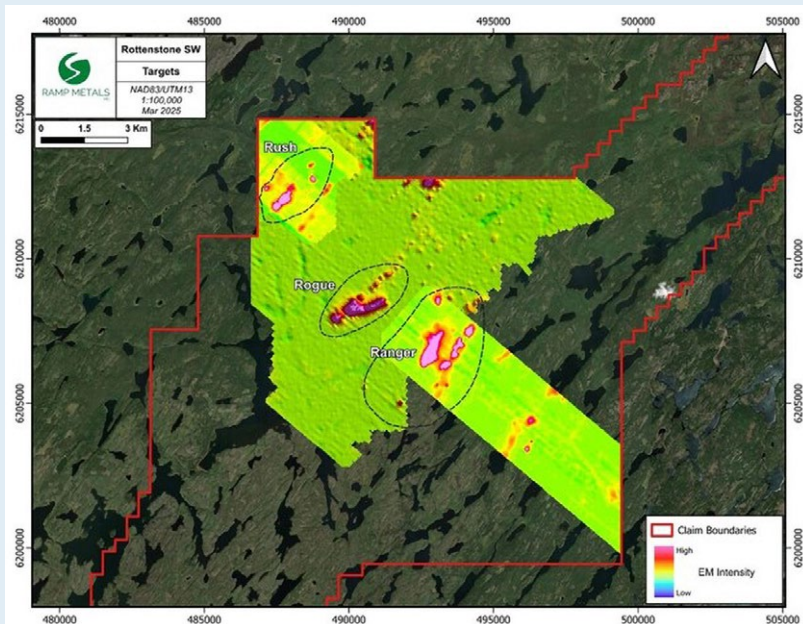
- Combined forecast production of ~160,000 gold-equivalent ounces in 2025, growing to over ~180,000 gold-equivalent ounces in 2026. The combined company will operate three producing mines in premier jurisdictions - Costerfield and Tomingley in Australia and Björkdal in Sweden. The combined company's margins are expected to expand with 2025 AISC of ~A\$2,750 / ~US\$1,760 per ounce reducing to approximately ~A\$2,160 / ~US\$1,420 per ounce in 2026.5
- Improved capital market positioning anticipated to drive valuation re-rate. The combined company is expected to benefit from a primary ASX listing valuation re-rate driven by GDXJ and potential ASX 300 index inclusion. Further value should be unlocked through greater trading liquidity, a larger free-float and a more diverse shareholder base as the combined company continues to grow.
- Creates a powerful platform with a shared vision for continued growth. Robust balance sheet with a proforma cash balance of A\$188 / C\$167 million³ at 31 March 2025 to pursue organic and inorganic growth. The combined company plans to continue to invest in exploration at all three of its producing mines and pursue other growth opportunities in addition to the Boda-Kaiser copper-gold project which adds future production potential with its significant scale.
- Merged leadership focused on delivering re-rate and driving growth. The combined company's Board of Directors will consist of three Mandalay nominees (Brad Mills, Frazer Bouchier and Dominic Duffy), two Alkane nominees (Ian Gandel and Nic Earner) and a new independent Chair, Andy Quinn, a chartered mining engineer and highly credentialed investment banking and mining industry veteran. Management, led by Nic Earner, and including Mandalay's operating team, provides operational continuity and foundation to unlock portfolio value.

The transaction is expected to close in Q3 of 2025.

RAMP Tags Potential VMS Discovery at Flagship Project

Last summer, [Ramp Metals](#) (RAMP.V) lit up trading screens when it dropped assays from a discovery hole at its flagship Rottenstone SW Project in Saskatchewan. The highlight interval from its Ranger zone—73.55 g/t Au over 7.5 meters—triggered multi-bagger gains in rapid order.

Earlier this week, the company announced having tagged a new (potential) VMS discovery—semi-massive and massive sulphides—in all three holes drilled into its 'Rush' target - [Ramp Metals Provides Drilling Update and Confirms Copper-Zinc Mineralization at Rush Target](#).



The Rush target is a NE-SW trending conductive anomaly over 1100m in length. Rock samples from the October 2024 field program returned values of up to 1.61% copper, 0.79 g/t gold, and up to 113 g/t silver across different samples. In addition, soil geochemistry samples taken above the anomaly returned values up to 798.5ppm copper and 21,152ppb silver(21.15 g/t). More details can be found in the Press Release dated January 20th.

The market is liking the newsflow coming out of the Rottenstone SW camp...



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Hits of the Week

The uranium market has pulled back sharply since peaking at \$107 per pound in February, but Sprott says the long-term bullish thesis remains intact. In its latest report, Sprott notes that uranium prices have stabilized near \$65/lb following a correction driven not by weakening fundamentals, but by a pause in utility contracting. Buyers have been waiting for clarity on US tariffs and potential trade restrictions on Russian enriched uranium. Some of that uncertainty began to clear in early April, helping steady the spot market. Sprott maintains that uranium's decline reflects macro sentiment and technical selling—not a reversal in the commodity's structural outlook. "Despite market pressures, uranium's term price remains stable at \$80/lb and global supply is constrained below demand levels," the firm said - [Is the uranium bull market over? Sprott says no](#)

Mark Carney's victory in Canada's federal election is poised to significantly impact the mining industry, particularly the extraction and processing of critical minerals essential for the global energy transition. His administration plans to establish a "Major Federal Project Office" with a "one project, one review" mandate. This initiative aims to streamline environmental assessments by eliminating duplication between federal and provincial processes, thereby accelerating the approval of mining projects. Such a move is poised to benefit companies involved in critical mineral extraction, including lithium, nickel, and cobalt, by reducing bureaucratic delays - [What Mark Carney's victory means for the mining industry](#)

A British Columbia First Nation filed on Friday an injunction application on an "urgent basis" in Supreme Court to halt construction to raise the dam at the former Mount Polley gold mine. The Xat'sull First Nation is part of the larger Secwepemc (Shuswap) nation, located in the Cariboo region of the Canadian province. The Xat'sull first filed a judicial review on April 15 with the Supreme Court of BC against the province's minister of mining and critical minerals, the minister of environment and parks, the provincial deputy permitting officer, major mines offices, and the Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) to overturn two provincial decisions authorizing MPMC to raise the height of the dam at its tailings storage facility (TSF) - [BC First Nation files 'urgent' injunction to halt tailings dam construction at Mount Polley mine](#)

Chinese authorities on Friday condemned President Donald Trump's executive order to expand deep-sea mining, calling it a violation of international law. Signed in private, the order aims to accelerate the mining of critical minerals in both US and international waters, part of a broader strategy to counter China's dominance in the global supply of these resources. "The US authorization... violates international law and harms the overall interests of the international community," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said, the BBC reported. The move has stirred international criticism, especially over its provision to allow seabed exploration beyond US jurisdiction. Deep-sea mining has increasingly come into focus as countries seek access to valuable metals like nickel, manganese, and cobalt — key components in batteries for electric vehicles and smartphones - [China calls Trump deep-sea mining order unlawful](#)

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**ADVANCED MARKET KNOWLEDGE
PART I****BY: OILMAN JIM****APRIL 7, 2025****OILMAN JIM'S LETTER**

If you do not know exactly what you are doing, it is not always easy making money in the natural resources micro cap markets and often preconceptions can get in the way. There are many books on investing and trading, but few that realistically address the actual peculiarities of these markets. General stock market investment books are quite useless in, since investment techniques suitable for main markets and large companies are not appropriate for natural resources micro cap companies. Most of those that try to apply these techniques lose, often a lot. It is a completely different game.

There is not actually much useful information out there about trading these companies, hence I decided to write this. I shall be covering everything you will not read elsewhere, particularly subjects which others either do not understand or even know about, or even if they do, are unwilling to talk about openly, including shorting and the various forms of market abuse. I shall set out exactly how all this works in detail. Exactly how the insiders make their profits. And how you can profit too. I shall explain all the things that no one else will, all the secrets the insiders do not want you to know. A large amount of money can be made if you know how it all actually works and what goes on behind the scenes may be completely different to what you think. I believe most will find it eye opening.

I have been involved in the markets for a long time. I bought my first shares in the 1970s and I have worked in the financial sector since the early 1980s. My particular knowledge is of the stock markets and I have been actively involved in these, both in the UK and the US, from both sides of the fence, for over 40 years. My main focus is on the oil and gas industry, where I have significant experience, but I also understand fully how the game is played in all the other sectors, whether it is mining, pharmaceuticals, technology, or any other area. The modus operandi with them all is just the same. To succeed, you need to understand exactly what everyone is doing and precisely what their agendas are

It is important to accept reality, understanding from the outset is that very few of these companies succeed.

Many rotate through a series of different managements and projects, with their share prices declining year after year. Even the ones that do appear to "succeed" often do not do so from the perspective of longer-term shareholders, the value of whose investments constantly erode away with continual dilutive financings. While the very occasional one will actually deliver for shareholders, broadly these micro cap companies should not be viewed as investments. Anyone with doubts about that just needs to review a few longer term price charts to see the endless declines.

What these type of shares are good for though is trading, since they can move very fast, often by multiples, in a short space of time. To succeed, it is necessary to understand why and when they do this, and how to avoid the numerous pitfalls and traps that can ruin people who get involved.

The first things to put to one side are fundamental and technical analysis. They are simply not applicable to small, speculative companies in continuous fundraising cycles. Of course, the company has to have an exciting project, that is essential and, yes, they all will have resource reports and/or financial projections, but that all is best taken with a pinch of salt. What is assumed in these is rarely delivered. Key if there is going to be short-term share price performance is a compelling, highly promotable story, with big headline numbers.

Technical analysis is equally inapplicable when large numbers of new shares are being issued into the market at new price points. Previous support and resistance levels lose any significance with the large scale dilution that takes place in these companies.

Those who see themselves as investors wanting to invest in great projects and profit thereby may question all this, but it does not matter how great the project is if the company is going to fund it with multiple placements at ever decreasing prices.

As perhaps is becoming clear, the key points are financing and promotion.

Small cap speculative companies generally exist to enrich their insiders, not their public investors, and everything they do is for their own benefit, not yours.

The vast majority lose with these companies, but for the scheme to work, some have to profit and you want to be one of those.

So let us go through the various stages when a “deal” is put together. Whether they are using a shell or floating a new public company, the operation is basically the same, although a shell is often easier since many of the necessary elements (trusted brokers, attorneys, auditors and of course the key point, a listing) already are in place.

First, they need a project and I shall focus on oil and gas, although the principles are the same for all companies. It does not necessarily need to be a good project, the main requirement is large potential numbers. Failure generally is on the cards anyway. Best from a promotional point of view are projects that are drill ready.

There are two main options (other deal types will be discussed in relation to company structures and share issues later): acquire or farm-in to a permit or license, where all the preliminary work such as seismic is done and the next stage is drilling, or acquire an old oil field with possible undeveloped locations and deeper exploration potential. The latter is quite popular since such fields can often be acquired for very little; indeed, if there are decommissioning liabilities, they might even get paid to take them over. Often they are acquired by an offshore company and the public company does its deal with that, with the organisers effectively flipping the asset into the public company for a several million upfront profit. It can also be done for no or little cash with the public company agreeing to do certain work and the organisers’ offshore company retaining a carried interest. Many deals are more sophisticated and the transaction is done in stages, but the principles are the same. Of course, some companies are genuine with real projects. Sadly, they do not necessarily always perform that well. There are a few stars every decade, but very few of the companies we will encounter are actually like these ones and commercial failure is the most likely option.

Remember, most projects are not economic and will never even cover the public company costs, let alone provide any return to shareholders. Indeed, many projects only exist because they are necessary for the CEO and/or organiser to hustle the money. Reality is the good projects get acquired by the large companies; small companies rarely get their hands on them.

With a vehicle and a project, the organiser, whether the CEO or someone behind the scenes (as often is the case), will address financing and promotion. These are the two most important matters if you want to make money trading these companies and, with the advent of social media, they have started to merge together. As I said before, much of this is done in stages, but it is the main financing for which we need to watch.

The key is always to be heading for an event, fully financed. You do not want to be in at an earlier stage, with the main financing still to be done, or be in after the event, when the development finance will need to be done, but without the original excitement.

I am going to be addressing all of this and more in much greater detail, with clear explanations of how such knowledge can be applied for advantage. There are some truly bad companies that never offer any long-term profit opportunity, but many do for a certain period of time and that is what the “game” really is all about. Yes, there is the very odd one that could make a good investment, but the vast majority do not, which is why most micro cap investors’ portfolios show losses, often extremely large ones. It is about trading them over relatively short periods of time. That is where the money is made in this market.

Essentially, you need to know where the company is in its operational, financing and promotional cycle. Understanding that unlocks the door to market success, since by entering at the right point you will always be buying into upward moves. And this is the key.

* * *

The vast majority of speculative micro cap companies are loss making, many with heavy capital expenditures and generous salaries. Thus, most need cash constantly. Very few have assets which offer adequate security to a lender, so financing has to be equity based. Broadly, there are two ways to do this. First, sell shares directly to investors who believe the company is a good proposition and actually want to buy the stock, even if they intend to flip it at a profit. Second, finance through the market.

The first is a quite straightforward proposition. The company’s broker, or brokers, will contact investors on its list, or through others, and stock will be placed at a discount to the market price.

These contacts are made on a confidential basis and until the placement is announced to the market, the investors are in possession of “inside information” which they are not meant to disclose or act upon. Obviously, they do and the market prices generally decline before placing announcements indicating this. In some cases, the information leaks widely and is even published leading to large price declines, which can require the placement price to be reset downwards. A good indication of the “quality” of the placement can be discerned from the level of the discount and the level of the leaks.

The shares issued in these placings are not necessarily paid for immediately. Settlement can be several weeks later when the shares are actually issued. During this time shares in certain markets which do not impose holding periods are often forward sold and this can be a time of intense promotion on social media as those looking to flip extol the attractions of the shares they want to sell to you. It is not necessarily guaranteed profit for those taking the placement or the would be flippers though, since the poorer quality companies can often rapidly go to a discount to the placing price. Some feel they have “joined the club” when they enter this circle and take placements, but in reality they are often just marks.

The second, financing through the market, is a far from straightforward proposition and there are three main ways in which it is done. First within this category is naked shorting, whereby a trader or “institution” (more on them later) sells shares they do not own and simply fails to deliver them. They then approach the company saying they want to invest a large amount and cover their short via a direct issuance of stock from the company at a discount. Their selling also will have forced the share price down already and a good profit can be made without actually laying out any cash. Clearly, a lot of this is done on a nod and a wink and they sell knowing that they will be able to cover later on. The share price is damaged, but the company gets the cash and the directors’ salaries get paid, which to them is the most important thing.

Second is convertible loan notes. These represent loans made to the company, which are either repayable in cash, usually at a premium, or can be converted into shares at a discount. For cosmetic reasons, they generally have clauses prohibiting short selling by the holders, but these can be got around and are intended to be got around.

The holder then simply sells shares short, which generally moves the price down, then converts the loan note into shares at a further discount to cover the short. It is virtually guaranteed profit for the loan note holder and often the only way that some companies can obtain finance.

Third is investor sharing agreements. These are for the “institutions” that do not want to put up any cash at all and essentially are just a present by the directors to friends and associates. Under an investor sharing agreement, the company issues shares to the “investor” who sells them and then pays over a percentage of the share price to the company. It is money for nothing with zero risk for the “investor” who just sells shares they did not even have to pay for and keeps around 25% of the sale proceeds. They are only used by the very worst of companies.

Clearly, existing shareholders are greatly disadvantaged by the above financing methods and some countries prohibit them, but not all. Hence the continued popularity with some companies for markets such as the UK.

Naked shorting, referred to above, also can be done on a large scale pre-placement in connection with a ramp. Indeed, it is much easier to sell large volumes on rising prices rather than falling ones. People buy a lot more when they see the share price going up. Vastly increased promotional activity often is an indication that a placement is on the way: why would someone pay for it other than to sell stock? Trading long on this basis is highly risky, though, since the placement, often at a large discount could be announced any day.

Some pre-placement ramps are primarily to get the share price up, so the placement can be done at a higher level than present, but the key tell-tale is the promotional activity by the less than reputable (more on this in a while).

It is quite easy to guess whether a placement is coming up simply by looking at the company’s accounts and working out when they are going to run out of cash. If you combine this with the monitoring of promotional activity, you will rarely be wrong with your placement forecasting.

Avoiding holding shares over a placement possibly is one of the most important keys to success with micro cap companies, which is why understanding the promotional side is so important.

Companies with convertible loan notes outstanding are best avoided, since the share price is very much more than likely to decline. Companies with investor sharing agreements in place almost certainly should be avoided, since their share prices are virtually guaranteed to decline.

One mystery for many is that whereas some companies do have promise, others have little and people ask why do they keep these worthless, purposeless companies going. The answer is simple: salaries for directors, fees for brokers, lawyers and auditors, trading profits for insiders with the shares. It is a pure exercise in cynicism. But with abusive promotional and financing techniques, even these types of companies can be kept alive.

Not all are deliberately dishonest, many are simply run by incompetents with a tendency towards pomposity. They engage in failed project after failed project, yet will never accept that perhaps they do not really understand the business. They actually believe they are serious business people, despite racking up seven figure losses year after year after year, and genuinely believe they deserve six figure salaries, large expense accounts and pension plans. None of the professional advisers say any different, because as long as the CEO can keep fundraising, they can keep earning too. Fees is what it is all about. Do not be fooled by implied endorsements from what may appear to be respectable associations. The names are only there because they are being paid.

Why do people buy shares in these types of companies? Possibly because they are foolish, with little knowledge and believe the story that the company is currently promoting or, more often, simply because they think or have been told that the share price will go up. Indeed, that is basically how the micro cap markets work. The majority of people simply do not care about any underlying “fundamentals,” their investment or trading decision is based solely on a belief that they can sell the shares at a profit later that day, week, month or year. And that is how these often quite nonsensical companies keep going. Investing in them is simply a game of pass the parcel, but with the odds very much rigged against the investor.

In this situation, since the shareholders do not really care about what is going on, the directors can do whatever they want. Every so often there may be some shareholder activism, but generally very few investors turn up at company meetings, other than for free food and drinks, and hardly any vote. The asset for the insiders is not anything on the balance sheet, it is the public quote.

The reality is that with control of the board of a quoted public company, you can do anything you want. In the right hands, it is a licence to print money.

We are then back to the deal process outlined earlier, with the “asset” being a necessary nuisance to raise funds and promote. The reality is that virtually anything can be dressed up and, for a good fee, a professional will come up with a report endowing the asset with the necessary promise.

I mentioned earlier that there were acquisition deal types for the company other than paying cash. The consideration paid by the public company for the asset can, of course, be shares issued at a ground floor price. The identity of the counter party can readily be disguised through the use of an offshore company, itself with multiple shareholders who will each receive less than the disclosure level of the public company’s enlarged capital. They can all in reality be the same person using entities with no recorded beneficial ownership, such as funds, foundations and companies with bearer shares. The offshore company owns the asset, the public company acquires the offshore company (something like an Isle of Man incorporated one can give it a more respectable look) and the public company shares are issued in consideration to the offshore company shareholder names, each of which will own less than the disclosable level.

All that is needed to effect the above is cooperative professional advisors, since the purchase and sale agreement often in some jurisdictions does not need to be publicly disclosed, since those undertaking such an exercise will of course ensure that the transaction will not be classed as a reverse takeover, where a prospectus or new admission document would be required.

Like some of the financing techniques I described previously, corporate abusers can not get away with such a transaction in certain jurisdictions in the same blatant manner, since the purchase and sale agreement would need to be exhibited to a regulatory filing and the nature of the shareholders would become apparent. In other jurisdictions such as the UK, however, it is all fine, or at least it is not found out, or examined.

All these essentially free shares are going to be sold into the market, though, depressing the value of shares which the public will have paid for. It is important to understand these matters, to see why shares can trade so far below their notional issue prices.

It is simply because insiders secretly were given very large numbers of shares for nothing. The asset acquired by the company in such a situation equally will be worth nothing, regardless of the professional endorsements and valuations that come with it.

At the same time, it would be wrong not to say that not all companies and directors are the same as those described above. The problem, though, is that many are, hence the need to be aware. At the end of the day, directors are in it for themselves and, notwithstanding what they may say, the interests of investors are very low down their list of priorities. Investors only get considered when they need money. They are not regarded as the legal owners of the business, rather just as a necessary evil. Only when directors need, or feel they will need them, will the investors interests be considered.

Remember, you have to look out for your own interests and understand that the key to a promising stock play is always to be heading for an event, fully financed. This is the point in time when most share price rises take place. As I said before, you do not want to be in at an earlier stage, with the main financing still to be done, or be in long after the event, when the development finance will have to be done, but without the original excitement.

* * *

The whole of the micro cap game works only because of promotion. This is the most important ingredient and it is essential to understand this.

Historically, micro caps were promoted by financial writers in the newspapers and tip sheets and by brokers either face-to-face with clients or in telephone conversations. The writers and brokers usually were informally compensated, often quid-pro-quo, and that tradition continues today, the only difference now being the participants. Financial writers and brokers are still actively promoting shares, but others now have equal if not greater importance.

The big change is that previously there was a certain quality filter on the information being communicated, since the writers and brokers would not have been employed without them having a certain level of knowledge. Now anyone can have an audience for their opinions, regardless of their ability. And how can someone with no knowledge themselves know the difference?

Most people now obtain their information from the Internet and a new world has opened up in which investors can interact. The earliest forms of electronic investor communication were the bulletin boards, which continue today. If everything is in balance, they should display alternative views and provide investors with a reasonable perspective of other investors' opinions. Unfortunately, dissenting, and often truthful, voices tend to be suppressed, either by being shouted down by other posters, perhaps just other accounts, or by being removed by the administrators or moderators due to complaints from those other posters and/or accounts. Sometimes, the companies being discussed are PR clients of the platform, in which case it is possible that the administrators and moderators are less than independent. Commentary on these boards essentially is worthless, but it does have a huge impact on many investors. Much is PR often being posted by the company or those retained either directly or indirectly. A significant part of the information being posted is deliberately false or misleading and often there is little or no counter to that.

The bulletin boards have to a certain extent now been superseded by the social media platforms, of which the most important for shares is Twitter, although the boards do remain extremely popular. A similar situation to the bulletin boards does prevail on Twitter, with promoters trying to shout down or bully those posting opposing views, however, this is less effective, since on Twitter the administrators and moderators will not come to their rescue and take down the posts they do not like and/or ban the truthful posters.

In all these venues, the idea of the promoter(s) is to create interest and excitement, leading to buying by investors. Ideally, these investors once they have bought the shares will in turn promote the stock. Whenever the price falls, those touting it claim to be topping up and a club or team like feeling is encouraged amongst investors, particularly via groups, to discourage any selling. Messaging services such as Telegram also are used for this purpose. The most powerful emotion being exploited is FOMO (fear of missing out) and people succumb to this time and time again. Like the bulletin boards, the majority of the information posted by promoters on social media is false or misleading.

Another major source of information for investors to which they afford much credence is interviews.

Unfortunately, since they invariably are paid for, virtually all of these are staged, with pre-agreed questions and the company reviewing and editing the interview prior to broadcast and distribution. The information contained in these interviews often is misleading. They also provide further material for the bulletin board and social media promoters to use, misinterpret or distort.

In similar vein, many of these types of companies also word news announcements in a way that can be deliberately misinterpreted by promoters. It is very important to read the whole announcement, word by word, looking for any ambiguities. If you can spot them, then you can readily see what the real story is. I shall give examples of these later.

Investor evenings, presentations and lunches also belong to the same category as interviews. They can build up a false trust between investors and directors, who for the main are essentially professional salesmen. Investors can feel privileged and often think they are privy to advance information as a result, but this is rarely the case.

Officially, public issuers use and directly engage IR companies and PR web sites, but the meaningful impacts on price and volume are achieved in other ways. These companies and web sites often interrelate to commentators, who profile themselves as independent and uncompensated, even though they are paid. They are self styled stock market experts who purport to provide informed opinion, although the only criteria for qualification as one of their stock selections is a cash payment. Nevertheless, they do have influence and reinforce their credibility between themselves, even interviewing each other. I am sure you will be able to spot them.

Most powerful, although usually only used in North America, are large email blasts, which can create millions of dollars of volume a day for micro cap stocks. Some promoters can not bring themselves to stomach the several hundred thousand dollar cost for an effective one, although this method has significant impact.

Disclosure of compensation is rigorously enforced in some countries, the regulatory view being it is important for investors to know whether the opinion is genuine or paid for. In others such as the UK, no one appears to care.

The reality is that micro cap companies frequently are promoted on the basis of mistruths.

The companies rarely lie in their news announcements, but they can write them in a way that allows people to mislead themselves, or leave ambiguity to allow for alternative, more positive, interpretations by promoters.

Most of the time, it is best not to believe any of it and not allow yourself to be persuaded of the merits of a company to the extent that you believe it is a long term hold. These companies are for buying and selling, rarely for holding beyond the short to medium term.

For an investors point of view, though, it is better to see strong and effective PR engaged. The poorer companies, which are the majority, often can not generate the necessary impact to ensure the required excitement and get the share price moving. The level of the people involved is a fair indication of the level of the promotional quality of the company's management and project.

Incentives for the promoters usually are in the form of cash and often warrants. Normal payments to official IR and PR outfits will be made directly by the public companies, but cash and warrants for the unofficial, non-disclosed, PR will usually come from the party controlling the company, often working in tandem with one of the brokers.

As a side note, it is very much worth keeping an eye on promoters' activities, since their activities can often flag up a forthcoming placement, which as detailed previously can usually be confirmed by a quick review of the company's cash position. It is essential to avoid these.

There are two main public audiences for these people: those who believe in fundamentals and look for what they think are good investments; and those who are only interested in whether the price is going to go up, preferably in the shortest possible time scale.

Looking at the first group, they are easy to manipulate. The company can only publish facts, but the promoters can do "research" and since 99.9% of their audience is clueless regarding petroleum geology / mining geology / pharmaceutical research, etc., they can as good as make it up. One of the favourite techniques with oil projects is "closeology," which essentially is used to "prove" the merits of the company's acreage by its proximity to producing tracts, or other acreage owned by well known companies.

There will be good reasons why the prospect being promoted has not been drilled or permitted/leased by other companies, but this inconvenient point is ignored.

It is important to understand that even within an oil field, some parts are productive and some are not. Oil and gas generally is contained in undulating sands of varying thickness. The geologist aims to map these with structure and isopach maps. These will show both the prospective and non-prospective areas. Prospective areas are leased or permitted by real oil companies, non-prospective areas are not. Therefore, it is quite easy for a charlatan to acquire a large land tract, surrounded by production or well known names - and equally easy for their promoters to "research" it and extrapolate estimated "production" or "reserve" numbers.

The next step often will be for the promoters to speculate on the possibility of a takeover by a major oil company and huge possible numbers for that will be touted. The company can cooperate with this by issuing meaningless statements that it is in discussion with other parties regarding the project (it could simply be for the supply of everyday services) and the promoters can twist these statements to fuel their take over theories. "Credibility" is added by other paid commentators and posters espousing and endorsing the idea.

It is also important to understand that Government issued oil and gas licences and permits can cost very little to obtain, and in some cases they can actually be a liability due to work programme commitments. The process to obtain one is relatively easy and in many cases quite straightforward. The United States has the simplest process, where Government or State departments offer leases for sale by auction. Alaska is particularly popular, due to its large perceived hydrocarbon resources. The minimum bid there, which is sufficient to acquire many tracts, is just \$5 an acre.

Outside North America, it is generally necessary to submit a geological report and a work programme, however, extremely large tracts can be obtained for very little cash. There are a number of geologists who specialise in obtaining licences and permits and their fee to prepare an application can be as little as \$5,000.

As outlined previously, these leases, licences or permits can be flipped into the public company at a price which then gives the asset a multi-million pound valuation on the books of the company.

This often is the "fundamental" value upon which some investors are focussing.

Back to the promoters and the second main audience who are only interested in whether the price is going to go up, preferably in the shortest possible time, this is an even easier group to convince. All that is needed is repetition of a simple message from as many sources or accounts as possible. You will see groups regularly switch on and switch off with these types of posts like a machine. It can either be done by a number of paid posters or just by one individual with a number of accounts. The catalyst to creating buying then is simply placing a few buy trades to start the price moving up and the advertisement of that move via the paid posters. Once underway, it can be accelerated by interviews and paid commentators.

It is very easy for people to get lured into these momentum plays and, as always, FOMO (fear of missing out) is what has to be avoided. It is very important to resist these, since getting involved destroys trading discipline.

If you understand what these promoters are up to, it is easy to spot them and avoid getting involved. Yes, you could make some money on one or two of their trades, but overall you will lose, big time if you get hit with a placement, which is usually what happens. In any case, relying on promoters for trading ideas is not the route to success, in fact quite the opposite.

Part 2 next issue...

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CAD

EDITOR'S
WATCHLIST



JANUARY 24TH PRESENTATION

FEB. 26TH CANACCORD REPORT

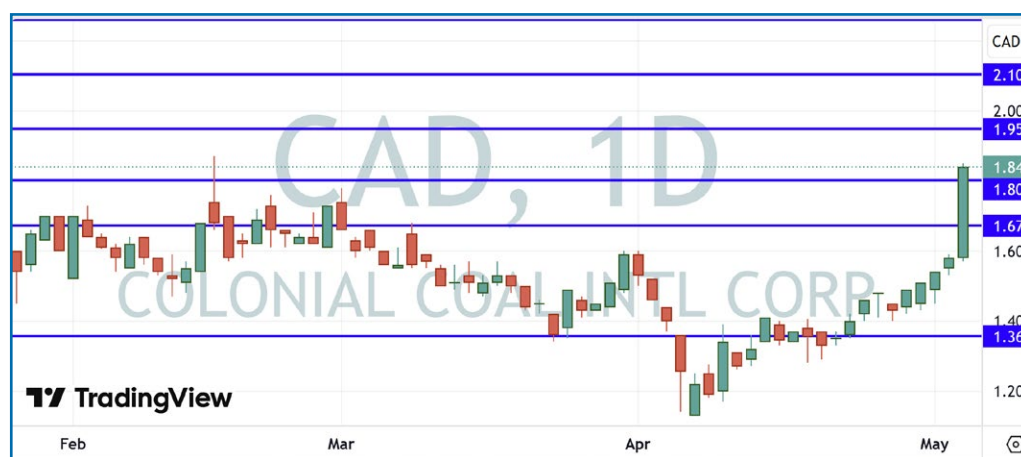


Colonial Coal (CAD TSX Venture) closed at \$1.86 +.28 on the Alpha market yesterday. The stock is working on its 5th positive week since bottoming out at \$1.13 on April 7th. That is a .73 cent move in the last 3 weeks.

Colonial's news release on April 14th was about the passing away of director Tony Hammond and a one paragraph update:

"Colonial Coal continues to work very hard and in earnest with its bankers to solicit various significant levels of interest in connection with each of its seasoned Huguenot and Flatbed coking coal projects located in northeast British Columbia; the Huguenot project itself being the subject of a prior preliminary economic assessment which was published by the corporation."

Not much news, but it seems to be trading the right way now. Many shareholders, like myself, are looking for that first takeover bid. I'm holding my position.



Benz Mining (BZ TSX Venture) closed at .355 yesterday. The company is busy drilling and raising large sums of money. The stock hit .45 on April 25th and seems to have solid support in the low .30s. Often big bids of over 100k show up which is very positive.

Recent News:

April 3rd: [[Benz Delivers a New High Grade Gold Discovery at Glenburgh](#)]

"New High-Grade Gold Discovery: Benz initial results from maiden drilling at the Zone 126 target at the Glenburgh Gold Project have revealed a significant new high-grade gold lens approximately 80m down-plunge from previously interpreted gold mineralisation.

o Significant intercepts include:

- 11m at 19.9g/t gold from 274m (GBZ126_010)
- 5m at 10.2g/t gold from 222m and 7m at 3.5g/t gold from 233m (GBZ126_001)
- 4m at 12.2g/t gold from 319m (GBZ126_009)
- 8m at 5.6g/t gold from 243m (GBZ126_013)"

April 16th: [[Benz Raises A\\$13.5 Million to Accelerate Exploration at Glenburgh and Mt Egerton Gold Projects](#)]

Form 603: [[April 28th Jupiter Asset Management LTD declared owning 8.38%](#)]

The company is funded with millions, will be drilling for months, and there will be lots of drill results coming. Gold is above \$3200US/oz and Benz will hopefully ride the momentum higher. I'm holding my position.

MTNEWS**THE GLOSSARY
AND FINEPRINT**

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Links

Tradingview

Tradingview is an excellent online charting platform as well as a social network for traders and investors to exchange ideas.

Glossary

Diamond Hands

Slang term for an investor who is ready to hold a position for the end goal, despite the potential risk, headwinds and losses.

Doji Candle

Doji Candles look like a cross because the financial instrument's open and close for the time period are close to equal.

Fibonacci Retracement (Fib)

These are levels in the chart where support and resistance are likely to occur. The levels are 23.6%, 38.2%, 61.8%, and 78.6%. 50% is often added but is not an official level. The levels are calculated from two points chosen by the user, usually an extreme low and an extreme high.

FLEM & DHEM

Fixed Loop Electromagnetic and Down Hole Electromagnetic Surveys

FOMC

The Federal Open Market Committee consists of 12 members and is the U.S. Fed's monetary policy making body. It is responsible for formulation of a policy designed to promote stable prices and economic growth.

FOMO

Fear Of Missing Out

Naked Shorting

It is the illegal practice of shorting stock that is not borrowed.

Nonfarm Payrolls

Is an official statistic released by the U.S. department of labor, usually on the first Friday of the month. It is a measure of the number of workers in the U.S. excluding farm workers and those employed in private households or non-profit organisations.

Shorting

Borrowing stock, selling it in the market to hopefully buy it back at a lower price, making profit from the difference in price, and then returning the borrowed stock.

Short Squeeze

When a company's stock starts to quickly rise because people shorting the stock are trying to cover their losing positions to prevent further loss.

YOLO

You Only Live Once