



ASX: AZS

12 January 2011

APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER

Mexican focused **Azure Minerals Limited** ("Azure" or "Company") is pleased to advise that it has appointed Mr Gary Leighton as Project Development Manager for its Mexican operations. Mr Leighton will lead the development of the Company's San Francisco Manganese Project, located in the state of Jalisco, Mexico.

Mr Leighton, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines in the United States, is a highly experienced Mining Engineer with an extensive career in the successful development, construction and operation of major resource projects. He has more than 30 years experience working in South America and is a fluent Spanish speaker.

During his career, Mr Leighton has held senior positions with several major international mining companies in South America, including:

- BHP Minerals (Manager of engineering & construction at Escondida Copper Mine, Chile);
- Placer Dome & Outokumpu Copper (General Manager of development at Zalvidar Copper Mine, Chile); and
- Bema Gold (General Manager of Cerro Casale Gold Project, Chile).

More recently, Mr Leighton has been responsible for the rehabilitation and resumption of mining and processing operations at the high grade Tamaya underground copper-gold mine in Chile (2004-2006) and the Carmen open pit and underground copper mine in the Philippines (2007-2010).

Azure's Executive Chairman, Mr Tony Rovira commented that this appointment will expedite the transition of Azure from an exploration company to a minerals producer.

"The appointment of Gary Leighton adds significant momentum to the development of Azure's San Francisco Manganese Project", said Mr Rovira.

"As a mining engineer with extensive experience in the rehabilitation, development and construction of mining projects throughout Latin America, Gary brings the knowledge and energy required to successfully build a mining and processing operation. Gary will be relocating to the project site in Mexico within the next week".

This appointment follows agreement to acquire the high grade San Francisco Manganese Mine, which contains a non-JORC compliant Foreign Resource Estimate (refer ASX Announcement 2 December 2010). Azure also recently announced the appointment of international mining consultancy Coffey Mining Pty Ltd to bring this resource to JORC code compliance in the first half of 2011.

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