

ASX: AZS

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DRILLING COMMENCES AT LA TORTUGA

Mexican focused precious and base metals explorer, **Azure Minerals Limited** ("Azure" or the "Company") is pleased to report that diamond core drilling is underway at its 100%-owned La Tortuga Project, located in the state of Sonora, Mexico.

This drilling is being funded by Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (**JOGMEC**) which is earning a 51% interest in the La Tortuga Project by spending US\$3 million of exploration expenditure. To date JOGMEC has funded approximately US\$1.32 million of expenditure.

This drilling program, comprising five holes totalling 1,500 metres, will test two high priority skarn copper-zinc and porphyry copper targets, identified as Targets B and F in Figure 1.

The targets host outcrops of strongly quartz-sericite altered porphyry with visible copper oxide mineralisation coincident with aeromagnetic and Induced Polarisation (IP) geophysical anomalies.

Azure Minerals Executive Chairman, Mr Tony Rovira, said that La Tortuga is prospective for the discovery of large scale mineralised systems and this drilling program builds on the promising results obtained in the last round of exploration.

"Early exploration at La Tortuga went well, with several high priority targets identified with strong indications of mineralisation. Both Azure and JOGMEC are pleased with the progress to date at La Tortuga and look forward to the results of this program," said Mr Rovira.

During 2009 Azure completed a seven hole (2,747m) diamond drilling program at Target A which intersected both porphyry copper and skarn copper-zinc mineralisation. A best intercept of 26.9m @ 0.5% copper, 0.4% zinc & 12g/t silver was returned from a depth of 130.0m, within an overall interval of 156.9m @ 0.2% copper and 0.2% zinc from surface.

Background

JOGMEC is a wholly-owned Japanese Government corporation established to assist in the stable supply of oil, gas and mineral resources to the Japanese economy. JOGMEC seeks to gain entry into high-potential mineral exploration projects through providing funding and technical assistance, with a view to the later introduction of commercial Japanese interests. To assist with those objectives it has entered into the La Tortuga joint venture with an objective to discover large copper deposits.

The La Tortuga Project comprises the La Tortuga and Los Nidos properties, covering 213km² (see Figure 2). It is situated only three kilometres east of the now closed El Tecolote Mine (now owned 100% by Azure) which produced 1.4Mt @ 1.9% copper, 7.0% zinc and 50g/t silver in 1978-1984, and is located 90 kilometres northwest of Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora State, where Azure has its exploration and administration base. The Joint Venture is managed and staffed by Azure with technical assistance from JOGMEC.

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Figure 1
La Tortuga Project showing Drilling Targets over Aeromagnetic Image.

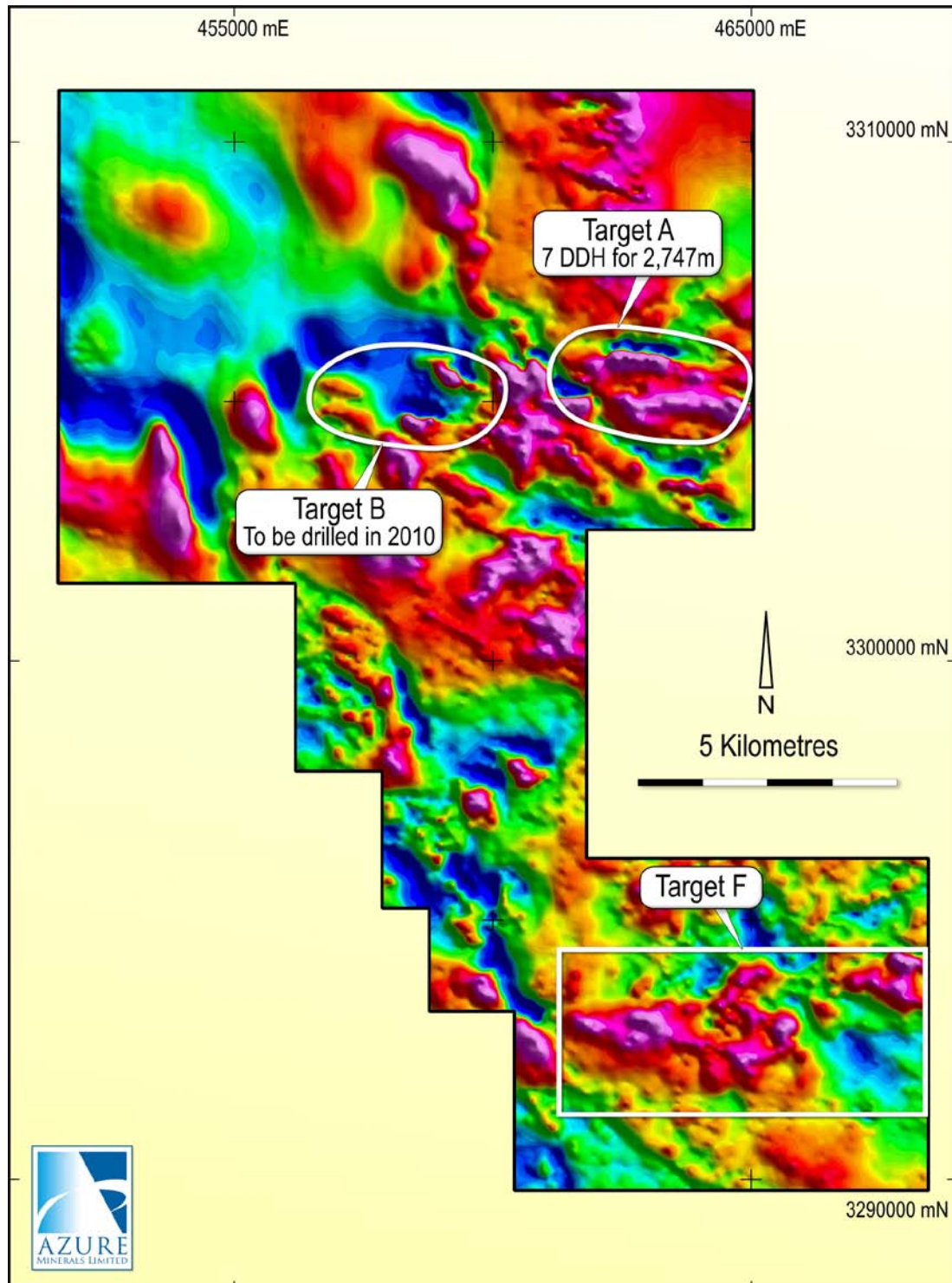
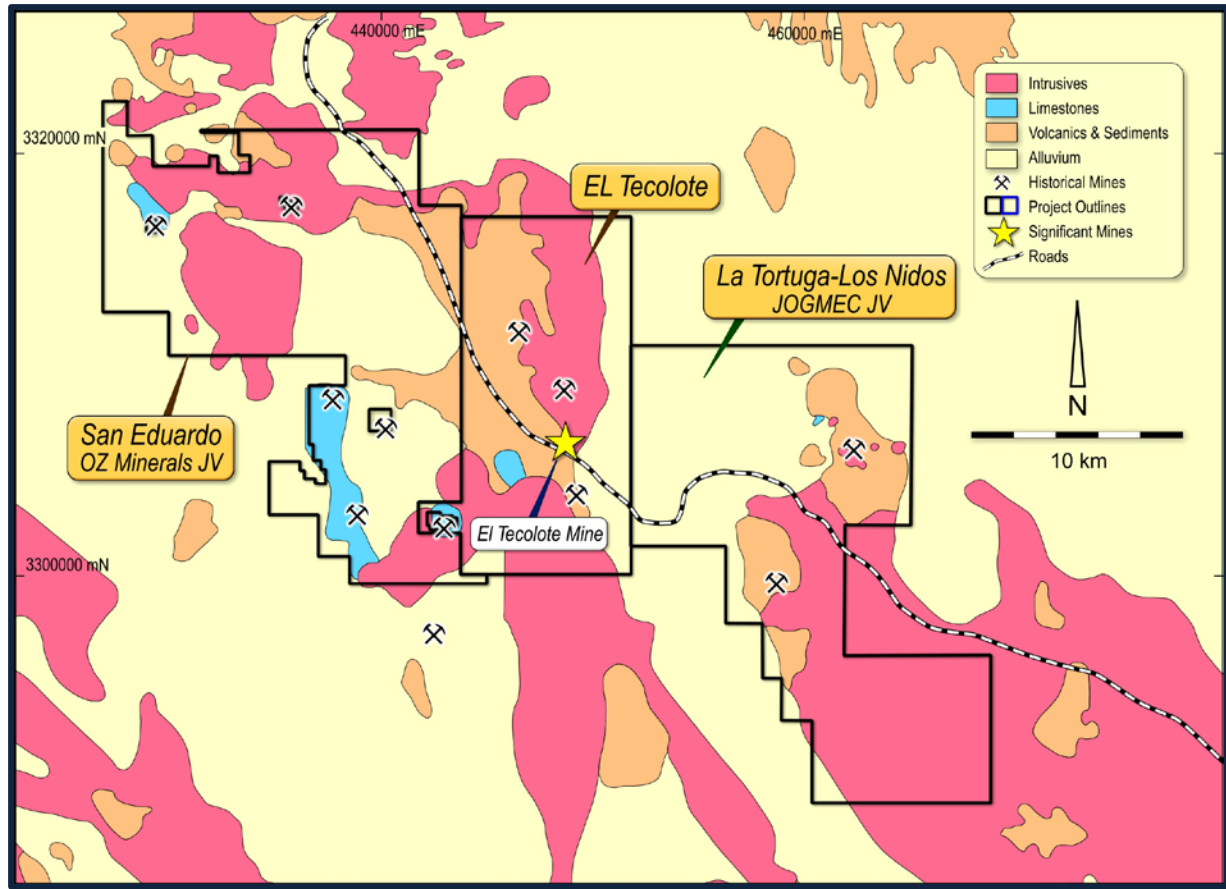


Figure 2: La Tortuga Project Location



Competent Person Statement:

Information in this document that relates to Exploration Results and Mineral Resources is based on information compiled by Mr Tony Rovira, who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Rovira is a full-time employee of Azure Minerals Limited. Mr Rovira has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves". Mr Rovira consents to the inclusion in the documents of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.