Strata Advances Zelica Towards Development with Multiple Pre-Development Programs Underway

Highlights

- Multiple pre-development workstreams are progressing in parallel at the Zelica Gold Project, funded by BML Ventures under the recently executed Mining Services and Profit Share Agreement
- Metallurgical, environmental, geological and engineering programs are advancing as planned
- Field sampling completed for metallurgical test work and waste-rock characterisation
- Soil characterisation fieldwork has been completed to support rehabilitation planning and regulatory approvals
- These programs designed to de-risk mine planning, processing and permitting
- Collectively, these pre-development initiatives represent another significant milestone in advancing the Zelica Gold Project towards mining, alongside Strata's funding, development and mining partner, BML Ventures

Strata Minerals Limited (ASX: **SMX** or "the **Company**") is pleased to provide an update on key pre-development workstreams underway at its 100%-owned **Zelica Gold Project** (Zelica) in Western Australia. Following the establishment of its development partnership with BML Ventures, the Company is advancing a range of technical studies to support the evaluation and planning of potential future mining activities at Zelica (figure 1).

These programs form part of the systematic de-risking process required to support a potential decision to proceed to development under the BML partnership. The programs currently underway encompass metallurgy, geological interpretation, environmental baseline studies and engineering support work, and form an important part of the broader development strategy for the Project.

Figure 1: Zelica's pre-existing trial open pit at the Zelica Gold Project, Western Australia

Strata Minerals Limited
ASX: SMX
a: Level 5, 191 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA, 6000
p: +61 2 9299 9690
w: https://stratamineralslimited.com/
e: info@stratamineralslimited.com

Managing Director Peter Woods commented:

"The breadth of technical work now underway at Zelica demonstrates our commitment to rapidly and systematically advancing the Zelica Project toward development. Since partnering with BML Ventures, we've commenced multiple workstreams spanning metallurgy, environmental studies, geological interpretation and engineering support. These programs will provide key technical inputs for development planning while reducing technical uncertainty."

"Further exploration across the broader Zelica Project area is progressing in parallel with the pre-development activities with the high-resolution magnetic survey across the broader Zelica tenure now complete, which will assist with refining high-priority drill targets across the prospective 10km gold corridor."

Technical Studies Underway

Strata, together with its development and mining partner BML Ventures, has commenced an integrated suite of technical programs covering metallurgy, geological interpretation, environmental baseline studies and engineering support.

The workstreams are designed to strengthen the data required for mine design, processing evaluation, permitting and operational planning. Current activities include metallurgical sampling and test work, geological mapping and structural interpretation, petrological and geochemical investigations, waste rock and soil characterisation, environmental baseline data collection, and engineering support studies.

The outcomes from these programs will be incorporated into ongoing geological, engineering and environmental assessments.

Supporting Future Development

The current work is expected to support several key areas of Project advancement, including refinement of the geological and structural model, mine planning and engineering assessments, and metallurgical and processing evaluation. It will also inform waste rock management, rehabilitation planning, environmental approvals and permitting, operational scheduling, and future engineering studies.

Together, these workstreams are designed to strengthen Zelica's technical foundation, reduce technical uncertainty, and support informed decision-making as the Company advances its development strategy.

Building the Development Dataset

In parallel with engineering and environmental programs, Strata has started specialist geological investigations to improve understanding of geological interpretation, mineralisation controls, and lithological characteristics within the proposed mining area.

These investigations complement the Company's existing exploration database and will provide key technical inputs for ongoing mine planning and resource evaluation as the Project progresses.

Petrological and geochemical studies are also underway to improve understanding of the deposit's mineralogy and support metallurgical assessment and processing studies.

Results from these laboratory-based programs will be progressively incorporated into the Company's geological, engineering and environmental workstreams as they become available.

Metallurgical Test Work

Samples have been collected across the Zelica Project to support planned metallurgical test-work. The sampling program was designed to capture material from the oxide, transitional and fresh weathering profiles expected to be encountered during mining, with the majority of samples sourced from the main mineralised lode.

Oxide material was collected from the historic low-grade stockpile, transitional samples from both the historic pit and recent reverse circulation (RC) drilling, and fresh material from RC drilling.

Sufficient material has been collected across each weathering profile to prepare representative composite samples, with final composites to be selected following receipt of all assay results. The metallurgical program will support future processing design and mine planning studies.

Waste Rock Characterisation

A waste rock characterisation sampling program has been completed across material representing the hanging wall, footwall and ore-associated material. Additional samples were collected from the historic waste dump and low-grade stockpile.

Material was sourced from both recent RC drilling and exposures within the historic pit, providing comprehensive coverage over the length, width and depth of the proposed mining area.

The program will support waste rock management studies, while samples have also been collected for Emerson dispersion testing to assist with the assessment of material handling, landform design and rehabilitation planning.

Soil Characterisation Fieldwork

Soil characterisation fieldwork has been completed across multiple locations within the Zelica Gold Project area to characterise soil profiles in areas that may be disturbed by future development.

Representative samples were collected from each soil horizon, with photographic records taken of soil profiles and surrounding undisturbed ground to support ongoing environmental and rehabilitation planning for the Project.

This information will assist with topsoil management, rehabilitation strategies, environmental approvals and mine closure planning.

High-Resolution Aeromagnetic Survey across the broader Zelica Project tenure

A high-resolution aeromagnetic survey has now been completed across the broader Zelica Project area at 50m line spacing providing the first consistent, high-resolution magnetic dataset across the expanded area, with data to be processed over the coming weeks. Survey results are expected to enhance geological interpretation, improve understanding of structural controls on gold mineralisation, refining existing high-priority drill targets and identify new exploration opportunities across the Zelica Project area.

Next Steps

Over the coming months Strata expects to continue progressing:

- metallurgical test work and laboratory analysis
- environmental baseline and approval studies
- engineering and mine planning activities
- permitting and regulatory support work
- development optimisation studies
- additional technical programs as required
- processing high-resolution magnetic survey data and refining high-priority drill targets
- advance maiden JORC compliant mineral resource estimate
- exploration across the 9.5km gold corridor

The Company looks forward to providing shareholders with further updates as these workstreams continue to advance.

Zelica Gold Project Background

The Zelica Gold Project is located in the highly prospective Yundamindra District of Western Australia, between the major gold mining centres of Leonora and Laverton.

The project benefits from excellent infrastructure access and is located within ~50 km of multiple +1Moz gold deposits and several processing mills, supporting a potential low-capex development pathway.

Recent drilling has confirmed a ~1km strike of shallow oxide gold mineralisation, which remains open at depth and along strike, demonstrating significant growth potential. Strata is actively advancing the project through drilling to expand the known high-grade system.

The broader project area also presents significant upside across a highly prospective ~9.5km mineralised corridor, having seen minimal meaningful exploration prior to Strata's acquisition.

Importantly, Zelica is held under a granted mining licence and Strata has partnered with BML Ventures to fast-track development at Zelica, providing a capital-light pathway to near-term gold production, while in parallel Strata continues to carry out targeted, systematic exploration across the Project area.

Authorised for ASX release by the Board of the Company.

COMPANY CONTACT

Peter Woods - Managing Director
Strata Minerals Limited
pw@stratamineralsltd.com

MEDIA & INVESTOR RELATIONS

Melissa Tempra
NWR Communications
melissa@nwrcommunications.com.au

ABOUT STRATA MINERALS LIMITED

Strata Minerals Limited is an Australian, ASX listed, exploration company with a strategic focus on acquiring, exploring and developing mineral projects in world class jurisdictions. The Company is advancing a portfolio of high-potential gold assets in Western Australia, led by the Zelica, Penny South and Biranup Gold Projects. Strata has entered into a tribute mining partnership to advance Zelica's development, providing a capital-light pathway to near-term gold production.

Forward Looking Statements

Some statements in this announcement regarding estimates or future events are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements preceded by words such as "planned", "expected", "projected", "estimated", "may", "scheduled", "intends", "anticipates", "believes", "potential", "could", "nominal", "conceptual" and similar expressions. Forward-looking statements, opinions and estimates included in this announcement are based on assumptions and contingencies which are subject to change without notice, as are statements about market and industry trends, which are based on interpretations of current market conditions. Statements regarding plans with respect to the Company's mineral properties may also contain forward looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are provided as a general guide only and should not be relied on as a guarantee of future performance. Forward-looking statements may be affected by a range of variables that could cause actual results to differ from estimated results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to liabilities inherent in exploration and development activities, geological, mining, processing and technical problems, the inability to obtain exploration and mine licenses, permits and other regulatory approvals required in connection with operations, competition for among other things, capital, undeveloped lands and skilled personnel; incorrect assessments of prospectivity and the value of acquisitions; the inability to identify further mineralisation at the Company's tenements, changes in commodity prices and exchange rates; currency and interest rate fluctuations; various events which could disrupt exploration and development activities, operations and/or the transportation of mineral products, including labour stoppages and severe weather conditions; the demand for and availability of transportation services; the ability to secure adequate financing and management's ability to anticipate and manage the foregoing factors and risks and various other risks. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be correct.