

Estrella Resources announces discovery of new manganese in Lautém



Image Estrella Resources

DILI, 28 February 2025 (TATOLI) – Estrella Resources (ASX: ESR) has announced a significant new discovery at the Soru Manganese Prospect in the Lautém Manganese Project, in Timor-Leste.

The discovery encompasses a large area of tertiary manganese derived from the erosion of secondary manganese found in nearby hills. This discovery includes a layer of alluvial and exposed secondary manganese spanning 1.5km by 700m.

Currently, work is ongoing to determine the grade, width, and source of the manganese, with samples being analyzed in Australia.

This development showcases Estrella’s successful exploration model and signifies a promising advancement in the Lautém Manganese Project.

Commenting on the new discoveries Estrella Managing Director Chris Daws said: “We are very pleased to report the discovery of extensive surficial alluvial manganese at the newly identified Soru Manganese Prospect which have come about through the development of Estrella’s exploration model which is now being tested and proving highly successful.”

“This is a promising development and our team is currently working to ascertain the grade, width, and source of the manganese,” he said.

Daws said that to facilitate further exploration and resource definition, “we are in the process of upgrading our Environmental License to enable trenching and drilling activities. The necessary environmental assessment documents are being prepared to support this upgrade. Once authorised, we will be able to undertake the necessary ground-disturbing activities to gain a more detailed understanding of the mineralisation and move forward with economic studies.”

He said that Estrella has already transported several indicative samples back to Australia for laboratory analysis.

“We look forward to sharing the results with our shareholders as they become available. This is yet another exciting step forward for Estrella as we continue to progress the Lautém Manganese Project,” Daws concluded.

Estrella Resources Limited (ESR) is a minerals exploration and development company focused on emerging manganese assets in Timor-Leste as well as advanced minerals projects in Western Australia.

Estrella was one of only four entities (and one of just two ASX-listed companies) from a pool of global applicants to be successful, being awarded three Exploration and Evaluation Concessions (initially totalling 121.5 km²) in the Lautém Municipality, north-east Timor-Leste.

26 February 2025

New Discovery Extends Soru Mn Prospect

HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ **Surficial alluvial manganese mapped over wide area at the newly discovered Soru Manganese Prospect**
 - The alluvial manganese deposits are derived from the erosion of secondary manganese forming in nearby hills
 - The layer of alluvial and exposed secondary manganese can be traced over a 1.5km by 700m area
 - Work in progress to ascertain grade, width and source of the manganese with samples brought back to Australia for analysis
 - Environmental License upgrade being sought to allow for trenching and drilling

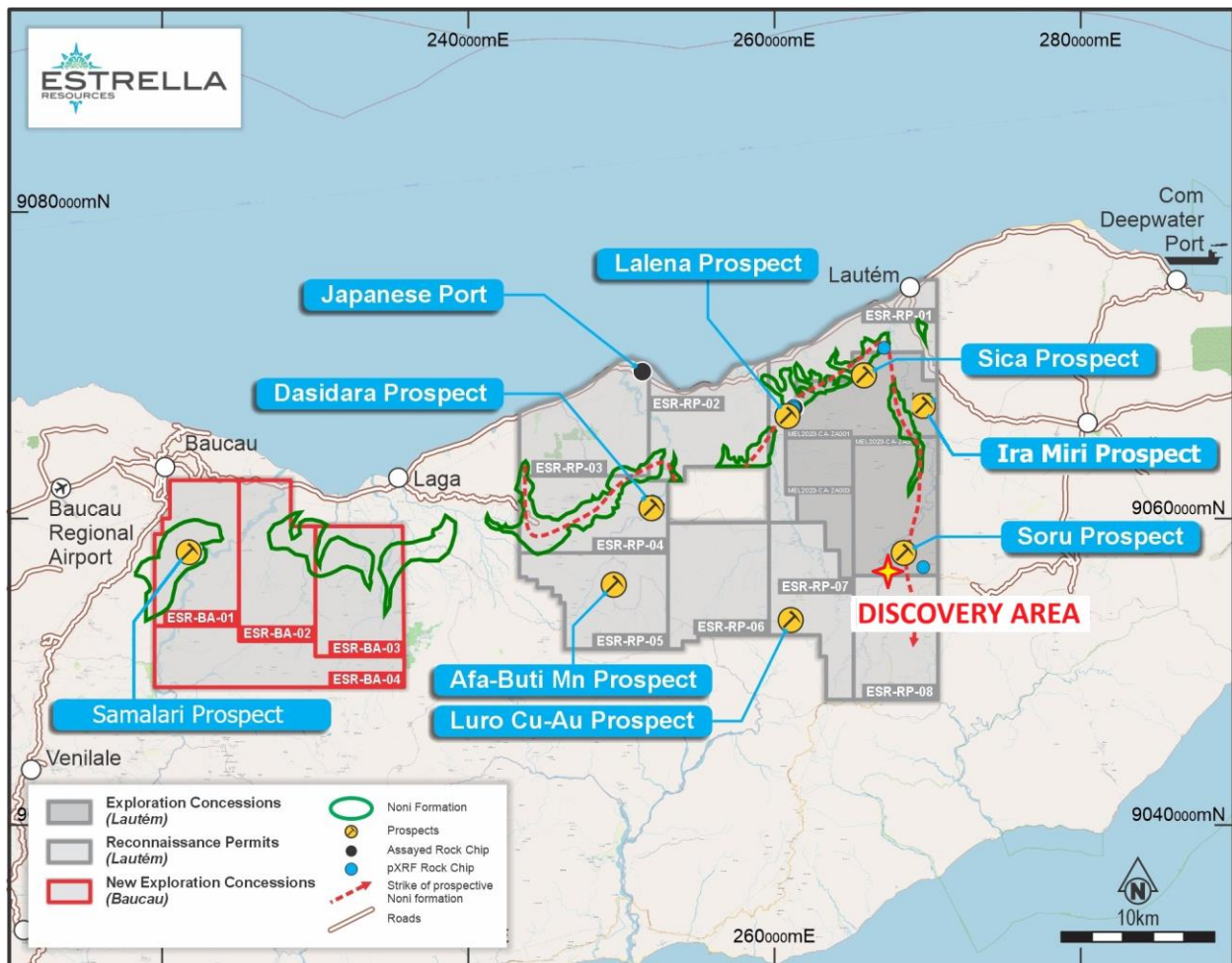


Figure 1: The discovery area just south of the Soru Prospect

Estrella Resources Limited (ASX: ESR) (Estrella or the Company) is pleased to announce the local geological team has identified a significant area of tertiary (alluvial / colluvial) manganese, which has been deposited due to the erosion of nearby hills where secondary manganese (supergene) has been forming. This discovery is located near the Soru Prospect within its Lautém Manganese Project, Timor-Leste (Figure 1).

Commenting on the new discoveries Estrella Managing Director Chris Daws said:

"We are very pleased to report the discovery of extensive surficial alluvial manganese at the newly identified Soru Manganese Prospect which have come about through the development of Estrella's exploration model which is now being tested and proving highly successful.

The alluvial manganese deposits are derived from the erosion of secondary manganese in the nearby hills, and the layer can be traced over a significant area of 1.5km by 700m. This is a promising development and our team is currently working to ascertain the grade, width, and source of the manganese.

To facilitate further exploration and resource definition, we are in the process of upgrading our Environmental License to enable trenching and drilling activities. The necessary environmental assessment documents are being prepared to support this upgrade. Once authorised, we will be able to undertake the necessary ground-disturbing activities to gain a more detailed understanding of the mineralisation and move forward with economic studies.

We have already transported several indicative samples back to Australia for laboratory analysis, and we look forward to sharing the results with our shareholders as they become available. This is yet another exciting step forward for Estrella as we continue to progress the Lautém Manganese Project."



Figure 2: Large clasts of supergene manganese located on hillsides (left, visually >95% Manganese oxides) and within local creek systems (right, visually >80% Manganese oxides). Samples have been brought back to Australia for analysis with assay results due in late March.

Cautionary Statement: *Visual estimates of mineral abundance should never be considered a proxy or substitute for laboratory analyses where concentrations or grades are the factor of principal economic interest. Visual estimates also potentially provide no information regarding impurities or deleterious physical properties relevant to valuations.*

The alluvial and colluvial deposits so far cover a mapped area of 1.5 km x 0.7 km (Figure 3). The red area outlines the alluvial mineralisation which can be found scattered in creek debris and in the alluvial layered sediments within creek walls. Typically, clasts range from a 5cm to several 10's of centimetres in size with an average thickness of 4-5 cm.

The colluvial mineralisation occurs as sub-centimetre to 1 metre sized clasts derived from the soils over adjacent hills to the tertiary deposits. Erosion on the hills is slowly uncovering supergene mineralisation that formed on the hill slopes (what we call secondary manganese) and moving it onto the alluvial fans that occur along the wider rivers (tertiary manganese).



Figure 3: Very large clasts of supergene manganese washed into a small creek from the hillsides. Both photos show Noni Chert fragments with supergene enrichment (both ~35% Chert, 65% manganese-iron oxides). Samples have been brought back to Australia for analysis, with assay results due in late March.

Cautionary Statement: Visual estimates of mineral abundance should never be considered a proxy or substitute for laboratory analyses where concentrations or grades are the factor of principal economic interest. Visual estimates also potentially provide no information regarding impurities or deleterious physical properties relevant to valuations.

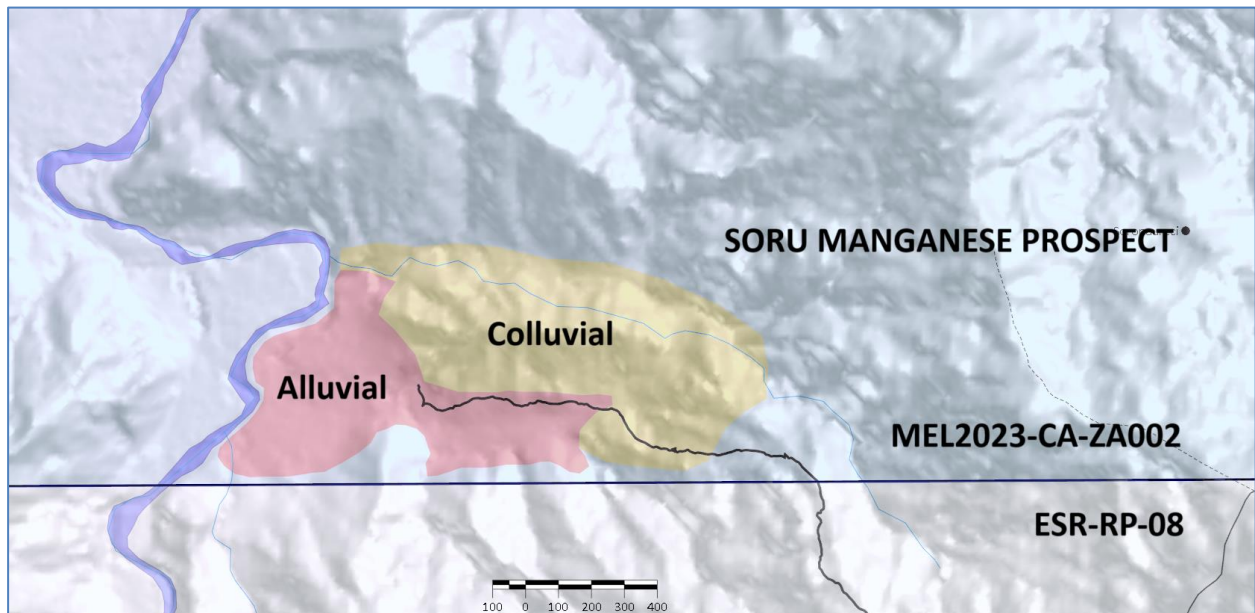


Figure 4: Mapped location of the alluvial and colluvial surficial manganese at the Soru Manganese Prospect

Next Steps

The company is preparing the necessary environmental assessment documents required to upgrade the Environmental License so that it may perform ground-disturbing activities such as trenching and drilling.

This work will be necessary to enable the company to define a resource in order to progress economic studies on the mineralisation.

The company has transported several indicative samples of manganese back to Australia and will submit them to the laboratory for analysis.

The company will update shareholders as results come to hand.

The Board has authorised for this announcement to be released to the ASX.

ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Christopher J. Daws
Managing Director
Estrella Resources Limited
+61 8 9481 0389
info@estrellaresources.com.au

Media:
David Tasker
Managing Director
Chapter One Advisors
E: dtasker@chapteroneadvisors.com.au
T: +61 433 112 936

InvestorHub
<https://investorhub.estrellaresources.com.au/link/Wrvq7e>

Forward Looking Statements

This announcement contains certain forward-looking statements which have not been based solely on historical facts but, rather, on ESR's current expectations about future events and on a number of assumptions which are subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies many of which are outside the control of ESR and its directors, officers and advisers.

Competent Person Statement

The information in this announcement relating to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Steve Warriner, who is the Group Exploration Manager of Estrella Resources, and a member of The Australasian Institute of Geoscientists, and based on information compiled by Beau Nicholls, who is a Director of Sahara Natural Resources and is the Exploration Manager for Estrella Timor-Leste, and a fellow of The Australasian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Warriner and Mr Nicholls have sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration, and to the activity they are undertaking to qualify as Competent Persons as defined in the 2012 Edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resource and Ore Reserves". Mr Warriner and Mr Nicholls consent to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on their information in the form and context in which it appears.

Cautionary Statement

Visual estimates of mineral abundance should never be considered a proxy or substitute for laboratory analyses where concentrations or grades are the factor of principal economic interest. Visual estimates also potentially provide no information regarding impurities or deleterious physical properties relevant to valuations.

APPENDIX 1 JORC TABLE 1 – TIMOR-LESTE EXPLORATION

Section 1 - Sampling Techniques and Data

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Sampling techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and quality of sampling (e.g. cut channels, random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the minerals under investigation, such as down hole gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc). These examples should not be taken as limiting the broad meaning of sampling. Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used. Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report. In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (e.g. 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g charge for fire assay'). In other cases more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (e.g. submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of mineralisation has been based on geological mapping, visual mineral estimates and confirmation of metallic concentration using a Bruker S1 Titan Portable XRF instrument. Initial rock-chip samples were taken and pXRF determinations on uncrushed samples made in the field. Samples are then brought back to Dili and pulverized to 100% passing 1mm before the powder is again subjected to PXRF A sub-sample of 300g is then dispatched through customs and quarantine in Australia to ALS in Malaga for multi-element analysis. Exported samples are analysed using a 4-acid digest, ME-XRF26s, ME-MS61L and B-ICP69 at ALS in Malaga
Drilling techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drill type (e.g. core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc) and details (e.g. core diameter, triple or standard tube, depth of diamond tails, face-sampling bit or other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by what method, etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No drilling has been undertaken to date.
Drill sample recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed. Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples. Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No drilling has been undertaken to date. The installation of pulverising sample prep facilities in Timor-Leste ensures sample representivity when presented to the PXRF and when obtaining the 300g split to send to Australia.
Logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether core and chip samples have been geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies. Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc) photography. The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock-chip samples were geologically logged for mineral content and photographed prior to sending for assay or screening by pXRF.
Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken. If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc and whether sampled wet or dry. For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique. Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the mineralisation which in manganese oxides is very fine. The exploration program is in its very early stages and initial sample sizes are kept small due to freight and customs / quarantine restrictions. They are not considered representative of the bulk of mineralisation.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	<p><i>representivity of samples.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in-situ material collected, including for instance results for field duplicate/second-half sampling. Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled. 	
<p>Quality of assay data and laboratory tests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total. For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc, the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc. Nature of quality control procedures adopted (e.g. standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (i.e. lack of bias) and precision have been established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three sample types are quoted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Uncrushed Field PXRF (a fresh mineral face is chipped from samples prior to the XRF determination in the field) 2 – Crushed PXRF (samples from above are taken back to Dili, 1-3kg of material, and crushed/pulverised to 100% passing 1mm in the company's dedicated sample preparation facility, and 15g of powder is then taken for PXRF analysis. Crushed PXRF determinations have been subjected to repeat samples, standards and confirmation of accuracy by laboratory analysis. 3 – Assay, where 150g of material is exported to ALS in Malaga via quarantine in Darwin. Standards and blanks have not been included in samples sent to Australia. The company relies on the internal standards and blanks used by ALS. Samples are being analysed at ALS in Malaga using a 4-acid digest, ME-ICP for 61 elements and all samples are also being tested for Pt, Pd and Au by fire assay and ICP-MS finish on a 50g sub-sample. Currently, uncrushed field samples are being analysed by PXRF on location,. The Cautionary statement is included when assessing pXRF.
<p>Verification of sampling and assaying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel. The use of twinned holes. Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols. Discuss any adjustment to assay data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No prior modern exploration has been conducted in the area. No adjustments to assay data were undertaken save where the ME-XRF26s method reports MnO%. Mn% is derived by dividing MnO by 1.2912
<p>Location of data points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation. Specification of the grid system used. Quality and adequacy of topographic control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timor personnel use GRID software on mobile phones to record GPS locations, sampling data and photographs. Mobile phone accuracy (shown during coordinate capture) is set at a maximum tolerance of 5m. Topographic control is accomplished using 30m spaced satellite point data.
<p>Data spacing and distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results. Whether the data spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied. Whether sample compositing has been applied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No systematic sampling has been conducted at this early stage.
<p>Orientation of data in relation to geological structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type. If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No orientation-based sampling bias has been identified.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	<p><i>introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material.</i></p>	
<p>Sample security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The measures taken to ensure sample security.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exported samples are in the possession of ESR personnel from field collection to customs submission in Darwin. Possession then passes to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries where Northline Couriers pick up the samples and take them by road to ALS in Malaga. • Non-exported samples remain with ESR personnel past Darwin Airport Customs.
<p>Audits or reviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No independent audit or review has been undertaken. • Internal QAQC involves frequent standard checks on the PXRf instrument to determine any drift of accuracy. • Additional checks involve analysis of any assayed samples in comparison to the crushed and uncrushed in-country PXRf determinations so as to provide confidence in in-country analysis.

Section 2 - Reporting of Exploration Results

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
<p>Mineral tenement and land tenure status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships, overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings. The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a license to operate in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploration and Evaluation Concessions MEL2023-CA-ZA001, MEL2023-CA-ZA002 and MEL2023-CA-ZA003 are awarded for two years to Estrella Murak Rai, forming the joint-venture between Estrella Resources Representante Permanente (70%) and Murak Rai Timor (30%). Reconnaissance Permits ESR-RP-01, ESR-RP-02, ESR-RP-03, ESR-RP-04, ESR-RP-05, ESR-RP-06, ESR-RP-07 and ESR-RP-08 are awarded to Estrella Resources Limited Representante Permanente (100%) Exploration and Evaluation Concessions MEL2024-DA-ZB001, MEL2024-DA-ZB002 and MEL2024-DA-ZB003 are awarded for four years to Estrella Murak Rai, forming the joint-venture between Estrella Resources Representante Permanente (70%) and Murak Rai Timor (30%). Estrella Resources Limited Representante Permanente and Estrella Murak Rai are registered in Timor-Leste and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Estrella Resources Limited (Australia). All of the Concessions and Permits are current and in good standing.
<p>Exploration done by other parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first exploration was conducted by Allied Mining Corporation in 1937 during which mineral potential was discovered. Very small-scale mining of manganese, gold and construction material was conducted. The exploration was not systematic and hampered by difficult access. Other work in the early 2000's has been conducted by the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council -PECC Minerals Network to assist Timor-Leste to understand and develop its minerals potential. Local geologists and companies have sporadically explored the area however there has been no documentation collected nor systematic exploration to quantify mineral occurrences. No minerals drilling has taken place. No close-spaced geophysics has taken place. No systematic, modern exploration has taken place. The Geological Institute of Timor-Leste (IGTL) has recently (and still is) conducting stratigraphic analysis and fossil dating to reconstruct the geological history of Timor-Leste.
<p>Geology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current Concessions and Permits host three main forms of manganese mineralisation. Primary mineralisation can be found in stratigraphic banded cherts and banded irons formed from direct precipitation of manganese onto the sea floor. Evidence for both microbial and inorganic processes exist. Secondary mineralisation exists as a supergene blanket above the cherts

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		<p>where they have been exposed to chemical weathering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary mineralisation exists where high rainfall and erosion has sorted and concentrated detrital manganese into river paleo-channels or scree deposits. • Alluvial gold mineralisation has been reported in the area however no exploration has been undertaken. • Estrella will use and expand upon the current known stratigraphy to evaluate and document mineralisation styles and relate them back to the tectono-stratigraphic genesis of the area.
Drill hole information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration results including a tabulation of the following information for all Material drill holes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>easting and northing of the drill hole collar</i> • <i>elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar</i> • <i>dip and azimuth of the hole</i> • <i>down hole length and interception depth</i> • <i>hole length</i> • <i>If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not Material and this exclusion does not detract from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No drilling has been undertaken in the area. • Sample locations are shown in the body of the text.
Data aggregation methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (e.g. cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated.</i> • <i>Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high grade results and longer lengths of low grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail.</i> • <i>The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration results with all relevant drillhole information are reported in the body of the text. • No aggregation methods have been used. • Metal equivalent values have not been used.
Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results.</i> • <i>If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported.</i> • <i>If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (e.g. ‘down hole length, true width not known’).</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any relationships have been discussed within the body of the text.
Diagrams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported. These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant diagrams have been included within the main body of text.
Balanced Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation.</i> • <i>Where comprehensive reporting of all</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new information has been withheld.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	<p><i>Exploration Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be practiced to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.</i></p>	
<p>Other substantive exploration data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples - size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other substantive data exists as the program is in its early stages. • All observations are discussed within the body of the text.
<p>Further work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The nature and scale of planned further work (e.g. tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large- scale step-out drilling).</i> • <i>Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work by ESR will include systematic mapping and sampling along with stratigraphic and structural classification. • Additional work on specific areas will be included under the heading Next Steps in the body of the text when appropriate to do so.

Magnificent manganese assays kickstart Estrella's Timor-Leste project

Business News, 13 Feb 2025. By Rowena Duckworth

[Estrella Resources](#) has received some stunning assay results from rock chip sampling from two new in-situ supergene manganese discoveries at the company's Lautém project in Timor-Leste, with grades up to a striking 58.6 per cent manganese.

The company also reported a bulk determination for detrital material that has accumulated on the valley floor at the Sica prospect, with assays from 48 large grab samples collected from this transported material averaging 40.1pc manganese. The result is high by anyone's standards.

The in-situ supergene manganese outcrops at Sica and Estrella's neighbouring Ira Miri project lie on either side of a river valley and are about 4.5 kilometres apart.

The samples have low levels of the contaminants boron, arsenic, phosphorus and silica, making the manganese marketable to the steel industry. Steel quality is improved with the addition of high-grade manganese ores, and it allows for more control when creating specific steels.

[Estrella Resources](#) managing director [Chris Daws](#) said: "Recent assays from the Ira Miri discovery area and the Sica prospect have confirmed the significant potential for high-grade manganese mineralisation, reinforcing the value of this project. We are also pleased with the systematic sampling of detrital material on the Sica valley floor, which further supports the broader manganese mineralisation across the region."

Environmental surveys of Estrella's drilling locations are now complete and applications to develop access tracks and for drilling later this year are being drafted. The company will begin community consultation and education as soon as possible.

Estrella is targeting three different manganese deposit types at Lautém, including primary manganese within a chert formation and a higher-grade secondary manganese in overlying supergene rocks. Natural processes have eroded and transported rock to also accumulate unconsolidated tertiary manganese-rich deposits in current and historic valley areas.

These accumulations could be as significant as at its Sica project and may form a supplementary feed for any future mining operation.

Estrella was one of the first companies to pick up an exploration licence in Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor) in December 2023, as the country marched away from its war-ravaged history. The area is sparsely populated and minimally farmed, which the company says enhances its suitability for exploration.

The region is also well endowed with infrastructure to support a mining operation, is close to major roads and power infrastructure and offers direct access to ports.

Estrella's nearby Ira Miri prospect includes a striking 3m-high outcropping bed of manganese that the company interprets to be secondary supergene mineralisation derived from underlying manganese-rich cherts of the Noni Formation.

Although the black mineralisation is commonly covered by scree from the overlying limestones, the mineralised trend can be followed over a whopping 4km with primary, secondary and tertiary manganese occurrences. Estrella believes the presence of manganese oxide clasts in the scree hints at supergene mineralisation lying only a few metres below the soil cover.

Estrella sent five samples from the reconnaissance mapping at Ira Miri to ALS's laboratory in Australia for geochemical analysis.

The secondary supergene outcrop samples have more than 58pc manganese – 75pc manganese oxide - and are very low in the deleterious elements boron, phosphorus and silica. Additionally, the underlying source rock for the manganese graded up to a stellar 20pc manganese.

At the Sica prospect, which was only identified in August last year, is also progressing at pace. Samples of in-situ secondary mineralisation returned manganese levels from a pleasing 46pc to 49.3pc manganese. This secondary supergene area is a flat oxide layer now partially exposed through erosion. The erosion is responsible for concentrating tertiary manganese on the Sica valley floor.

Estrella's decision to pivot to Timor-Leste is looking to be a shrewd move, especially given its government is looking to diversify the nation's tax revenue stream away from its richly endowed petroleum minerals base and has a newly enacted mining code for metals exploration.

Is your ASX-listed company doing something interesting? Contact: matt.birney@businessnews.com.au

Murak Rai-Estrella Resources kontinua halo estudu ba manganés iha Lautein

DILI, 17 Feveiru 2025 (TATOLI) – Empreza estatál Murak Rai Timor (MTR) ho nia konsóriu *Estrella Resources Limited* (ESR) kontinua halo estudu detallu, iha tinan ne'e, hodi define rekursu manganés iha bloku tolu iha munisípiu Lautein.

Prezidente Konsellu Administrasaun no Prezidente Komisaun Ezekutiva MTR, José Manuel Gonçalves, hateten rezultadu husi peskiza ba manganés iha bloku tolu iha Lautein hatudu pozitivu, tanba ein termu kualidade rekursu manganés liuhusi identifikasaun hatudu nia kualidade husi grau médiu to'o aas, tanba haree husi nia persentajen manganés ne'e iha fatuk ida.

“Ida-ne'e rezultadu di'ak tanba ita iha kualidade ne'ebé monu iha médiu no aas ne'e, fásil uitoan atu komersializa kompara ho grau ne'ebé menus. Ami iha esperasan boot atu halo estudu detallu iha tinan ne'e hodi define rekursu no informasaun sufisiente atu ita bele planu ba dezvoltimentu”, José Manuel Gonçalves informa ba Tatoli iha Timor Plaza.

Nia salienta katak objetivu husi estudu ka serbisu detallu ne'e atu hetan informasaun subterenu nian, katak atu hatene informasaun iha rai-okos hodi justifika katak estensaun ba rai-okos, vertikal, lateral ne'e atu define rekursu sufisiente hodi investe osan hodi dezvoltolve.

“Ami hamutuk ho parseiru Estrella bele dehan katak manganés ne'e ita halo deskobrimentu teknikal hatudu di'ak ona no ita sei kontinua halo peskiza detallada, inklui perfurasaun ne'ebé bele akontese iha tinan ida-ne'e”, nia reitera.

Prezidente esklaresse objetivu halo prefurasaun ne'e atu define rekursu ne'e nia distribuisaun, nune'e MRT bele prodús relatóriu komersial ida hodi justifika ba autoridade no Governu katak iha duni rekursu sufisiente atu dezvoltolve.

Relembra katak, iha 27 Juñu 2024, empreza Murak Rai Timor ho empreza konsóriu *Estrella Resources Limited* asina akordu parsosial ka *shareholder agreement* ne'ebé halo peskiza ba manganés ba bloku tolu iha Lautein.

Tuir akordu nee, MRT sei serbisu hamutuk ho ESR hodi fó apoiu iha faze prospeasaun no peskiza, inklui dezvoltimentu rekursu manganés iha área konsesaun tolu hanaran ZA001, ZA002 no ZA003 iha Lautein ho rásiu partisipasaun mak 30% ba MRT no 70% ba ESR.

Jornalista: Arminda Fonseca

Editora: Maria Auxiliadora