

May 2026

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 348 \$11.95

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Hawk swoops on Meerkat

Hawk Resources Ltd has expanded its footprint into a second state as it looks to build a genuine development pipeline from its US copper portfolio.

In April, Hawk announced an agreement to acquire up to 80% of the Meerkat copper project in Arizona, giving it a second prospective asset to sit alongside its Cactus copper project in Utah.

The acquisition hands Hawk a position on the world-class Laramide magmatic arc, host to Tier-1 copper deposits such as La Caridad and Cananea in Mexico and the Mission Complex, Copper World Complex and Red Mountain deposits in Arizona. The company's review of historical exploration data has indicated the presence of a large magnetic anomaly, historical copper and molybdenum mining and elevated copper and moly grades in rock and soil samples.

Hawk managing director Scott Caithness said while the company wasn't actively seeking new assets, the Meerkat opportunity was too good to turn down.

"It was presented to us by the guys behind Monument Metals and once we dug into the data, we really liked the look of it," he told **Paydirt**. "Obviously there has been mining in the area historically, but more importantly it sits on a world-class belt and when they showed us the magnetics, there was this classic porphyry mag anomaly 1km in diameter just to the north-west of the project area."

While the licence doesn't extend to cover the historical Santo Nino mine, its history of production at 7-8% copper suggest the area is mineralised.

"We will talk to the owners of the mine about potentially adding it, but there is clearly copper around the anomaly anyway," Caithness said. "The combination of the historical workings alongside the magnetic anomaly and the breccia pipes suggests previous work has only scratched the surface."

While the mine produced high-grade copper, there has been little exploration done

around it, presenting an obvious opportunity for Hawk. Caithness said the company would approach Meerkat in a disciplined manner.

"We will compile the old data – which is always a challenge in itself," he said. "From what we can see, the limited exploration was only shallow drilling up to the 70s and while it identified copper-moly mineralisation, none of it was JORC-compliant. At face value, it all looks very interesting but we will have to do our own work."

"We will follow up on the mag anomaly with some initial soil and stream sampling to understand where the copper mineralisation

model to Cactus, focusing on breccia-hosted copper mineralisation capable of holding high-grade and medium-grade deposits.

With early targets yielding only mildly encouraging results, Caithness is comfortable moving onto a new set of prospects.

"There was some mineralisation but not enough to be significant so we are now moving onto a second set of targets," he said.

At the Copperopolis target, a single hole will test a plus-60mV chargeability anomaly which Hawk sees as holding potential for a large-scale intrusive source of primary copper mineralisation.

"All the previous surface work in the 60s was done using vertical holes," Caithness explained. "But, because they are sub-vertical targets, you are either going to hit them or miss them completely. They missed, and all subsequent drilling was deeper. We are trying to drill across the mineralised horizon in the top 150 to get an idea of what is happening near the surface."

"We know we will have some good holes and we know some will miss but once we find that near-surface mineralisation from that information we can work our way down."

The Hawk portfolio is rounded out by something completely different – a scandium project in the remote eastern regions of Western Australia.

"Again, it was opportunistic," Caithness said of the Olympus project, 150km north-east of Warburton. "We like the thematic around scandium and the chance was presented to us."

The highlight of the ground is a large 7km by 4km plus-500 ppm soil anomaly and RAB hole intercept of 11m @ 934 ppm scandium from surface.

A Native Title meeting with the Traditional Owners of the area Olympus sits on was expected at the time of print.

– Dominic Piper



is coming from. That should lead us eventually to our own geophysics programme in the second half of the year before we move onto drilling in 2027."

Hawk can resist any temptation to move prematurely towards drilling at Meerkat thanks to the steady flow of news to come from work on its Cactus project in Utah.

While the first round of drilling failed to deliver resounding success, Caithness remains confident in the geological model.

The Cactus mine produced 1.27mt @ 2.07% copper, 7.4 g/t silver and 0.33 g/t gold in the period 1905-1919 but it has only been since Hawk's arrival in 2024 that it has been subject to concerted modern exploration. The company has applied a new deposit