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Every Project Needs God And Gravity: Kasbah Resources Already Has One Of Those Boxes Ticked At Achmmach

By Rob Davies

These days the high profile base metals are copper and nickel. Tin has lost its place as a major metal and it is now a relatively small market. Nevertheless, at a price of US\$22,500 a tonne, it's worth quite a bit more than nickel at US\$18,000 a tonne. That might be of academic interest to most people, but not to Wayne Bramwell of [Kasbah Resources](#). He's working towards identifying a deposit containing a 100,000 tonnes of tin in resource. That might not sound very dramatic, but in gross terms that has a value of US\$2 billion.

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Wayne is still some way off that target, but he has hopes that the Achmmach property that [Kasbah](#) is working on in Morocco might one day deliver the desired result. There's no doubt that the drilling results so far give strong encouragement to these hopes. Intersections such as 36.5 metres at an average grade of 0.8% tin demonstrate that this is a sizeable target. As Wayne says, if that were a nickel intersection people would be beating a path to his door. The reason they aren't is because the tin market is quite small at 340,000 tonnes a year, and there's concern that the Indonesians could restart a lot of alluvial production and flood the market. Wayne doesn't think that will happen because they are too aware of the environmental damage it would cause.

[Kasbah](#) actually has two tin properties in Morocco but the other one, El Karit, is quite small and the mineralisation is very coarse grained. That makes grade estimation difficult and Wayne would need a relatively high grade at the resource level of between 0.5% and 0.6% tin to give a degree of protection on that. So, while El Karit is on the back burner Wayne and his team are throwing everything they have at Achmmach where the grades are already coming good. With A\$6.7 million in the treasury the company is well funded to make rapid progress there.

A third round of drilling is just about to get under way. This 6,000 metre programme follows on from the successful second drill campaign which confirmed the potential of this old property. Earlier work by the Moroccans had identified a resource of 10 million tonnes around the Meknes zone, but not to JORC standards. This zone was accessed through an adit in the hill and [Kasbah](#) has now demonstrated that it is much bigger than previously thought, and that a new zone exists several hundred metres to the east of it. It is this new zone that was intersected by hole AD021, the hole which encountered that long intersection.

The deposit sits in a hill running two kilometres north-east to south-west, and work so far has proved that it's mineralised 600 metres to the west and 600 metres to the east, but also that the more prospective ground is to the east. The mineralised intersections cut by the surface drilling were encountered at depths of several hundred metres but this doesn't concern Wayne as they still sit above the level of adit. That means that any mining operation that gets underway here will enjoy the benefits of at least one of the two favourable factors that any project needs: God and Gravity.

Now that some conception of the overall size has been established, the next task is to define the geometry and get a better handle on the mineralisation controls. Wayne says the company is fairly confident that the source is a deep-seated granite one to two kilometres down. What is not clearly understood yet is how the silicified sandstones were mineralised, although the dolerite dykes running through it could be one route. As more data comes in the team will gain a far greater understanding of what the structural controls are. More assays are due shortly, and positive news from those will not only keep the market happy but will also provide a lot more information to the geologists. Their main task is to establish the relationship between the new zone and Meknes, both of which have similar styles of mineralisation.

Finally, [Kasbah](#) does have a gold property at Tamlalt in the north east of the country. However, temperatures of 50 degrees prevent any field work right now. Once the summer is over, Wayne has plans for a geochemical survey and is optimistic that previous tight drilling did not examine all the possibilities.