FAR EAST CAPITAL LIMITED

Suite 24, Level 6, 259 Clarence Street SYDNEY NSW AUSTRALIA 2000

Tel:+61-2-9230 1930 Mob:+61 417 863187 Email: wgrigor@fareastcapital.com.au AFS Licence No. 253003 ACN 068 838 193



Weekly Commentary

The Mining Investment Experts

27 March 2021 On Friday's Close Analyst: Warwick Grigor

Altech Chemicals has the silicon anode game changer

Altech (ATC) is leading the pack on anodes

Altech was the first mover in Australia in the high purity alumina scene (HPA) with plans to mine kaolin in WA and convert it to HPA in Malaysia. The target market for the HPA is the separators in lithium-ion batteries that require a minimum of 99.99% purity. While this development is work in progress, the company has been investigating other uses for the HPA, including the coating of battery anode materials.

Success in applying HPA layer on graphite anodes

Altech has had a series of announcements referring to a breakthrough in anode manufacturing over the past few months. Back in December, it announced the successful application of a 2-3 nanometre coating of alumina (HPA) to graphite particles in work undertaken by Curtin University. This was a significant improvement on the 5-10 layer coating previously achieved by other parties.

100 cycle milestone quickly achieved

In January, it announced the commencement of battery performance tests using the HPA coating and by March, it had achieved the milestone of 100 charge and discharge cycles with positive results. This test work will continue with the aim of achieving 800 cycles, which is considered the ultimate test for a commercial product.

Commercialisation steps

In February, ATC announced the commencement of a PFS on the construction of a production facility to be established in Germany. It is looking at a 10,000 tpa production chain for anode graphite coating. The study could take about 12 months. Capex is not expected to be very high but the study will give us greater understanding when released.

The new product range for the coating step, named Anode Grade "APC01" and "ALC01" is expected to be produced from an HPA plant that will be built in Johor, Malaysia.

Extending the breakthrough to silicon particles

In March, ATC announced the successful extension of the application of HPA to silicon particles for use in anodes. Silicon has a significant advantage over graphite for use in lithium-ion battery anodes in that it has 10x the theoretical energy capacity compared to graphite. However, limitations for silicon use in battery anodes have included particle volume expansion of up to 300% when energised, and a large "first cycle lithium loss".

There are a number of companies around the world that have been seeking to perfect silicon anodes but first they have to overcome the expansion problem that results in degradation and the failure to achieve 800 cycles. So far companies like Talga have fallen well short of the mark, with that company being stuck at 70 cycles for more than a year now.

Altech's technology had to be adjusted to work effectively on silicon, but this seems to have met with success on silicon supplied by Silicon Ferrosolar, a subsidiary of the Ferroglobe Group.

What does all this mean?

There are two takeaways from what Altech has announced. The first one, being the HPA coating on graphite, is incrementally useful. Overcoming the first cycle capacity loss enables higher energy density batteries with longer life. Coulombic Efficiency, cycling stability, high-rate performance and fast charging capability are all expected to improve.

The second and the most significant takeaway is that Altech may have secured the holy grail with regards to unlocking the potential of silicon anodes. The significance of this achievement should not be underestimated. This is the real game changer if the test work proves that it can extend the life out to 800 cycles.

We have added Altech to our chart coverage.

Disclosure: Interests associated with the author own shares in Altech.

Celsius is a serious copper company now

Change of direction late in 2020

We have previously identified Celcius Resources (CLA) as a promising new copper play following the acquisition of the large Maalinao-Caigutan-Biyong (MCB) project in the Philippines. This took over as the Company's flagship project following the realisation that the Nambian copper/cobalt project in Nambia was not going to make the grade.

MCB was back-doored into Celsius, bringing a change of management that comprised serious project development people. The orebody was originally discovered by Freeport and tested by approximately 24 drill holes. One of the more impressive intercepts was 384m at 1.25% Cu and 0.46 gpt gold. Many of Freeport's local employees have been reemployed, making for a smooth transition of ownership and workforce.

Importantly for shareholders, the deal is performance based. Deferred consideration for the acquisition of the MCB Project is payable only after two events occurring within 36 months of settlement. Firstly, a financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA) or a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) is achieved with the Philippines Government, and secondly, an economically viable DFS is produced within the same time frame. Both events would be materially positive for the share price.

Maiden resource announced in January

Celsius recently announced a maiden JORC resource of 313.8 Mt at 0.48% copper and 0.15 gpt gold, with a high grade core of 93.7 Mt at 0.8% copper and 0.28 gpt gold. It

is the higher grade core that is the subject of a scoping study that is underway.

It puzzles me that the share price still doesn't reflect the value. Maybe there are still some stale bulls from when it was viewed as a cobalt play. Perhaps investors don't like the Philippines, but MCB is in the same region as the successful Didipio gold/copper mine operated by Oceana Gold (105 Mt at 0.5% copper and 1.1 gpt gold). There are plenty of precedents for the development of this type of orebody in the Philippines. CLA has benchmarked the project against other operations in the Philippines that employ block cave mining, saying that a 5-10 Mtpa underground operation could be mined for US\$7-10 pt and processed for US\$4-7 pt.

The market capitalisation of \$33m grossly undervalues the Company given the size of the resource and the new found favour of copper stocks generally. Perhaps investors are sitting on the sidelines hoping to get cheap stock in a placement, which is probably imminent given the cash balance of \$2.9m on 31 December, and the need to fund the current round of drilling.

However, as we all know, it is very difficult for private investors to participate in placements. Even though the company is small at less than the frequently quoted \$100m cut-off for the institutional radar, there will be a number of fund managers that will be eager to get set at such low

Disclosure: Interests associated with the author own shares in Celsius.

prices. Once the funding is completed there will be no obvious impediments to a much higher share price.

Los Cerros (LCL) still delivering good drill holes

Drilling at the Tesorito is incrementally adding to the understanding of this huge gold/copper system with the announcement of each hole. The latest hole announced, TS-DH15, returned 215m at 0.86 gpt Au from 110.9m, including 34m at 1.97 gpt from 214m down hole. (Note that absence of mineralisation from surface to 110.9m does not mean the orebody starts at that depth. The hole was designed to test depth extensions. To achieve this, without drilling down-dip, the hole has to be angled through country rock before hitting the orebody).

Hole 15 achieved its objective, confirming the westerly depth extensions of the high grade zone with the interval at 1.97 gpt. This is a 75m extension to the west and down dip from the previous hole 11.

The next hole we are waiting on is # 16. The core looks similar to the surrounding holes so the grade should also be similar, but there is another possibly very expansive twist with this one. The hole extended down to 690m, to test a new zone of interest that is distinct from the material higher up the hole. Maybe it is a separate porphyry or it could be a depth displacement of the same mineralisation. We will know when assays come back in 5-6 weeks.

Other drilling in progress includes hole 21, which hit the high grade porphyry cap, known as the cupola that was previously hit in holes 7 and 8. This could provide some very strong results that the market will love.

Each hole the Company has reported has enhanced the understanding of the orebody and gone a long way to derisking the geology. While there might not be as many "sugar hits" going forward after the current round of drilling to ignite aggressive speculator buying in the market, the increasing confidence will likely lead to more sustained institutional buying of the stock and a rerating. The shares have been caught in a short term downtrend but when it comes out of this pattern it will an excellent time to soak them up to benefit from the next phase of this wonderful discovery.

Three good announcements from Lucapa

Lucapa opened the week with news that the 45% expansion of capacity at the Mothae Mine (70% LOM) to 1.6 Mtpa has been completed on time and within budget. This expansion was the reason for the \$10m placement in November last year. We can now look forward to the boost in earnings.

This release was followed by a 35% increase in the JORC Classified Inferred Alluvial Diamond Resource to 1.98 Mm³ containing 135,900 carats at a grade of 6.86 cphm³. At the modelled value of US\$1,440/ct, this represents an in-situ value of A\$250m. It underpins a minimum five year life on top of the six years that it has already been producing, during which it has sold US\$200m worth of diamonds (LOM 40%).

The third announcement referred to the sale of 5,619 carats sale of diamonds from Mothae, for US\$5.9m. Significantly, Mothae has repaid US\$2m to Lucapa in respect to the development loan. This is exactly what shareholders want to see. Money coming back from two mines into the Lucapa treasury in Perth.

Lucapa continues to present itself as one of the most impressive diamond production companies in the world with two high class mines and exciting exploration projects. With both mines now working at expanded capacities, and diamond demand and prices recovering after the covid inspired slump in 2020, the earnings outlook for Lucapa is looking much stronger ... but the share price is yet to factor this in. That smells like an opportunity to me.

Disclosure: Interests associated with the author own shares in Lucapa and FEC has received capital raising fees.

Global Energy receives approval-in-principle

Global Energy Ventures (GEV) achieved another milestone recently with approval-in-principle for its $C\text{-}H_2$ ship containment system, being the first step in a two step approval process. This involved the examination of design and drawings by the American Bureau of Shipping as it ran an extensive analysis of potential hazards. It tested the robustness of the design to determine if there were unresolvable or unmitigated risks identified that might be show stoppers.

Having achieved this first hurdle, GEV has been given the green light to proceed to the next stage to get final approval. The next 12-18 months will be occupied by further testing to achieve final, full class approval.

GEV is now free to start a dialogue with shipyards to assess their capabilities regarding design, construction skills and economic viability as it seeks to identify contractors to undertake construction of the ships.

There is a separate approval process required for the installation of fuel cell based engines to power the ships, which it is looking at installing with the skills of Ballard, but this should be relatively procedural.

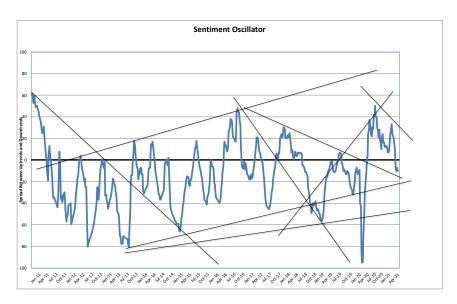
Disclosure: Interests associated with the author own shares in GEV.

Electriq announces H2Gate hydrogen study

Electriq Global has announced that is is working with the Port of Amsterdam, Evos, Hydrogenious and Hysilabs to investigate the technical and commercial feasibility of importing and storing hydrogen on an industrial scale (though the initial work will be on a smaller scale). The

project, named H2Gate, is an initiative designed to transition the Amsterdam area to a sustainable energy system.

The task before the project is to overcome challenges with transporting and storing compressed and cooled hydrogen (though some industry players would dispute that there is a problem with compressed hydrogen). Several hydrogen carrier technologies are to be assessed to determine synergies that may exist. This objective acknowledges the competition in this space with a determination to decide which methods are best. It is a fact finding mission that the rest of the hydrogen sector will be watching with interest, but it is noteworthy to see that the outcome may be a recommendation for a combination of technologies. While there is room for speculation, Electric Global seems well positioned in the lead up to an IPO later this year.



Sentiment Oscillator: Sentiment weakened slightly. There were 33% (33%) of the charts in uptrend and 43% (40%) in downtrend on Friday's close.

Detailed Chart Comments

NB. Only the bold comments have been updated. Comments in grey type are from previous weeks and will be less relevant. Please note that this list is a cross section of the market. It IS NOT a list of recommendations.

Indices	Code	Trend Comment	
All Ordinaries	XAO	testing downtrend	
Metals and Mining	XMM	down	
Energy	XEJ	risen to resistance line	
Stocks	Code	Trend Comment (updated comments in bold)	Main Interest
Alpha HPA	A4N	new high	HPA
Adriatic Resources	ADT	down	zinc, polymetalic
Alkane Resources	ALK	breached uptrend, heading down	gold, zirconia
Alicanto Minerals	AQI	sideways	base metals, silver, gold
Altech Chemical	ATC	uptrend - flag forming	HPA, anodes

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Alto Metals	AME		down	gold exploration
American Rare Earths (was BPL)	ARR		testing uptrend	rare earths
Apollo Consolidated	AOP	down		gold exploration
Arafura Resources	ARU		pullback	rare earths
Ardea Resources	ARL		uptrend, fallen back to support	nickel
Aurelia Metals	AMI		down	gold + base metals
Australian Potash	APC		holding shallower uptrend	potash
Auteco Minerals	AUT		down	gold exploration
ВНР	ВНР		aggressive downtrend	diversified, iron ore
Base Resources	BSE		near highs	mineral sands
Beach Energy	ВРТ		LT downtrend continuing	oil and gas
Bellevue Gold	BGL		strong rally	gold exploration
Blue Star Helium	BNL		down	gas, helium
Boab Metals	BML		down	silver/lead
Breaker Resources	BRB		sideways	gold exploration
Buru Energy	BRU		breached downtrend	oil
Calidus Resources	CAI		down	gold
Capricorn Metals	СММ		down	gold
Caravel Minerals	CVV		recovering	copper
Celsius Resources	CLA		down	uptrend
Chalice Gold	CHN		testing support line	nicklel, copper, PGMs, gold exploration
Chase Mining	CML		back to lows	nickel/copper/PGE
Chesser Resources	CHZ	down now		gold exploration
Cobalt Blue	СОВ	new high		cobalt
Cyprium Metals	CYM		back to highs	copper
Danakali	DNK		steeply higher	potash
Davenport Resources	DAV		rising again	potash
De Grey	DEG		breached downtrend	gold
E2 Metals	E2M		correcting lower, ST downtrend	gold exploration
Ecograf (was Kibaran)	EGR		heavy pullback	graphite
Element 25	E25		pullback	manganese
Emerald Resources	EMR		coming back to support line	gold
Euro Manganese	EMN		down	manganese
Evolution Mining	EVN		down	gold
Firefinch	FFX		strongly higher	gold
First Graphene	FGR		consolidating	graphene
Fortescue Metals	FMG		down	iron ore
Galaxy Resources	GXY	testing downtrend		lithium
Galena Mining	G1A		at recent highs	lead
Galilee Energy	GLL		pullback	oil and gas, CBM
Genesis Minerals	GMD		down	gold
Gold Road	GOR		breaching downtrend	gold
Hastings Technology Metals	HAS		breached uptrend	rare earths
Hazer Group	HZR		down	hydrogen

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Highfield Resources	HFR	rising	potash
Hillgrove Resources	HGO	breached downtrend	copper
Iluka Resources	ILU	testing uptrend	mineral sands
Image Resources	IMA	testing support	mineral sands
Independence Group	IGO	pullback	gold
ioneer (was Global Geoscience)	INR	new high	lithium
Ionic Rare Earths (Oro Verde)	IXR	at highs	rare earths
Jervois Mining	JVR	rising again	nickel/cobalt
Jindalee Resources	JRL	correcting lower	lithium
Kairos Minerals	KAI	downtrend	gold exploration
Kin Mining	KIN	risen to resistance line	gold
Kingston Resources	KSN	down	gold
Kingwest Resources	KWR	down	gold
Legend Mining	LEG	turned down at resistance line	nickel exploration
Lepidico	LPD	breached downtrend	lithium
Lindian Resources	LIN	softer	bauxite
Lithium Australia	LIT	pullback	lithium
Los Cerros	LCL	rallying	gold exploration
Lotus Resources	LOT	new high	uranium
Lucapa Diamond	LOM	breaking downtrend	diamonds
Lynas Corp.	LYC	breached uptrend	rare earths
Magnetic Resources	MAU	uptrend	gold exploration
Mako Gold	MKG	down again	gold exploration
Manhattan Corp	мнс	down	gold exploration
Marmota	MEU	still down	gold exploration
Marvel Gold	MVL	off its lows	gold exploration
MetalTech	MTC	strong rally	gold
Meteoric Resources	MEI	down	gold exploration
MetalsX	MLX	near highs	tin, nickel
Metro Mining	MMI	down again	bauxite
Mincor Resources	MCR	down	gold/nickel
Musgrave Minerals	MGV	rallying	gold exploration
Myanmar Minerals	MYL	breaching downtrend	lead, zinc, silver
Nelson Resources	NES	new high	gold exploration
Neometals	NMT	near high	lithium
Northern Minerals	NTU	down	REE
Northern Star Res.	NST	down	gold
Oceana Gold	OGC	down	gold
Oklo Resources	OKU	down	gold expl.
Orecorp	ORR	down	gold development
Orocobre	ORE	testing downtrend	lithium
Oz Minerals	OZL	new high	copper
Pacific American Holdings	PAK	sideways	coal
Pantoro	PNR	breached support line	gold

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Panoramic Res	PAN	breaching uptrend	nickel
Peak Minerals	PUA	down	copper exploration
Peak Resources	PEK	correcting lower	rare earths
Peel Mining	PEX	off its highs, on support line	copper
Peninsula Energy	PEN	rallying	uranium
Poseidon Nickel	POS	down	nickel
Perseus Mining	PRU	down	gold
Pilbara Minerals	PLS	pullback	lithium
Polarex	PXX	down	polymetallic exploration
Queensland Pacific Metals	QPM	new high	nickel/cobalt/HPA
Ramelius Resources	RMS	rallying	gold production
Red5	RED	down	gold
Red River Resources	RVR	breached uptrend	zinc
Regis Resources	RRL	down	gold
Renergen	RLT	rising	gas, helium
Resolution Minerals	RML	new low	gold exploration
Resolute Mining	RSG	down	gold
RIO	RIO	steeply lower	diversified, iron ore
Rumble Resources	RTR	back in downtrend	gold exploration
Salt Lake Potash	SO4	down	potash
St Barbara	SBM	secondary downtrend	gold
Sandfire Resources	SFR	breached downtrend	copper
Santos	STO	strongly higher	oil/gas
Saturn Metals	STN	breached downtrend	gold exploration
Sheffield Resources	SFX	rising	mineral sands
St George Mining	SGQ	down	nickel
Silex Systems	SLX	testing downtrend	uranium enrichment technology
Silver Mines	SVL	testing downtrend	silver
Sipa Resources	SRI	down	general exploration - Ni,Cu, Co, Au
Stanmore Coal	SMR	breached steepest downtrend	coal
Strandline Resources	STA	rising	mineral sands
Sunstone Metals	STM	improving	
Talga Resources	TLG	breached support line, down	graphite
Technology Metals	TMT	sideways	vanadium
Tesoro Resources	TSO	down	gold exploration
Theta Gold Mines	TGM	down	gold
Thor Mining	THR	lower	gold exploration
Tietto Minerals	TIE	rallying	gold
Titan Minerals	TTM	sideways	gold
Venturex	VXR	surge on funding	zinc
Vimy Resources	VMY	steeply higher	uranium
West African Resources	WAF	breached downtrend	gold
Westgold Resources	WGX	breached downtrend	gold
West Wits Mining	WWI	off its highs	gold

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Western Areas	WSA		down	nickel
Whitehaven Coal	WHC		on support line	coal
Wiluna Mining	WMX		down	gold
Yandal Resources	YRL		rising again	gold exploration
Zenith Minerals	ZNC		sideways	gold exploration
Zinc Mines of Ireland	ZMI		rising	zinc
Totals	33%	47	Uptrend	
	43%	61	Downtrend	
		143	Total	

Guides to Chart Interpretations

- Charts usually go pass from one trend (up or down) into the other via a period of indecision and uncertainty during which the trend can either recover or change. This period is signified by the orange colour. The orange represent both the greatest risk and greatest reward possibilities.
- Once a chart is in confirmed up or downtrends it is not uncommon for 10-20% of that trend to have already transpired.
- There are trends within trends. The focus of this chart review is the immediate trend that affects the sentiment i.e. it can be a downtrend within a long-term uptrend.
- Not every chart warrants a new comment every week. The new comments are in bold type. Grey type comments may be dated.
- Individual charts provide a single view. It is valuable to look at charts of other companies in similar commodities, and the overall sentiment is also very valuable. Not many stocks can swim against the tide.
- We periodically add or delete charts, some times for obscure reasons. If a chart consistent gives poor signals or is very erratic, we may delete it. Sometimes we add a chart because we want to see what all the fuss is about. We do have a preference for charting stocks that we cover in our research as well.
- Errors and omissions may occur from time to time, especially in fast moving markets.

Amber Lights in Tables: Just a reminder if when the amber light is used in the table – it is when the charts are ambiguous or when there is a change of trend taking place. If a chart is breaching a downtrend it can either be a positive sign or a trap. Only once it has done more work can it be confirmed as a new uptrend. Maybe it is a new uptrend (or conversely a new downtrend); the risk takers can decide to jump on board early (or sell). They will maximise their losses if indeed it is the start of the new uptrend (downtrend). More risk-averse investors should wait a little longer, being prepared to give up some of the gains in return for greater certainty.

Weightings of Sectors Represented in the Company Charts					
Sector	No. of Companies	Weighting			
Gold	32	22.4%			
Gold Exploration	25	17.5%			
Nickel	12	8.4%			
Copper	9	6.3%			
Oil/Gas	6	4.2%			
Lithium	8	5.6%			
Zinc/Lead	7	4.9%			
Rare Earths	7	4.9%			
Mineral Sands	5	3.5%			
Iron Ore/Manganese	5	3.5%			
Potash/Phosphate	5	3.5%			
Coal	4	2.8%			

Uranium	4	2.8%	
Graphite	2	1.4%	
Bauxite	2	1.4%	
Silver	2	1.4%	
Cobalt	1	0.7%	
Tin	1	0.7%	
Diamonds	1	0.7%	
Other	5		
Total	143		

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