

Near-term production hopes for West African

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Kristie Batten

GOLD hopeful West African Resources has purchased a second-hand heap leach plant with the aim of fast-tracking first gold production to 2015.

The 1.6 million tonne per annum heap leach plant is for the Mankarga 5 deposit, part of the Boulsa project in Burkina Faso.

While the company did not disclose the purchase price for the plant, it said it was for "substantially below replacement cost".

The package includes primary and secondary crushers, an agglomerator, conveyer and radial stacker, as well as electricians, pumps, spare parts and ancillary equipment, which West African said were in good condition and only required minor refurbishment.



The plant is in Ghana and will be trucked the 850km to Boulsa in the June quarter.

West African managing director Richard Hyde said the acquisition would allow the company to target 2015 gold production.

"The heap leach plant provides the potential for us to fast-track the recently acquired Mankarga 5 deposit into production with an initial production target of 1.6 million tonnes per annum to achieve initial production of at least 50,000 ounces of gold per annum, subject to study outcomes," he said.

"We remain on track to deliver a resource upgrade for Mankarga 5 by the end of this quarter, with the completion of a preliminary economic assessment and scoping study in the first half of calendar 2014."

Pending a positive study outcome, the company would move to a feasibility study and permitting in the second half of the year, followed by the start of construction in early 2015.

Drilling at Mankarga 5 is also ongoing.

West African picked up the Mankarga 5 deposit as part of its recent acquisition of Canada's Channel Resources.

Mankarga 5 has a 1.2 million ounce resource.

Shares in West African jumped 11.5% to A14.5c.



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