

Nordic exploration award 2014

The Nordic Exploration Award 2014 goes to Øystein Rushfeldt for:

- Dramatically increasing the copper resources of the sediment-hosted Nussir Cu deposit in Finnmark, Northern Norway
- Working energetically and enthusiastically for the financing and social acceptance of a new copper mine.

Øystein is Mining engineer (mineral processing) from NTH (now NTNU), graduating in 1988. He has more than 25 years of experience from Norwegian and international mining companies. His former employers include Sydvaranger AS, Hustadmarmor AS (Plant manager), Titania AS (CEO) and Eramet Norge AS (Technical Director/Plant Manager). During his career he has also been very enthusiastically involved in the mining community in Norway: he has been President of both Norwegian Mining and Quarrying Industries (Norsk Bergindustri) and of the Norwegian Mining Society (Norsk Bergforening). Early in his career he took the initiative for a series of symposia focussing on the resource potential and other challenges of the Barents Region.

Øystein has been the key person in the development of the Nussir deposit since 2009 when he was appointed CEO of Nussir ASA. Open dialogue groups were immediately set up with the various stakeholders in the areas. The most comprehensive ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessments), ROS (Risk and Vulnerability) and Zoning plans ever prepared for a mining project in Norway were completed; these led to the granting of final approval of the Zoning Plan for the Nussir and Ulveryggen deposits by the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation in March this year. Currently, the Norwegian Environment Agency is handling the application for a Discharge Permit under the Pollution Law.

Nussir ASA is a Norwegian junior company, and, due to the very energetic efforts of Øystein, has been able to finance extensive drilling campaigns on the Nussir deposit over the last years, resulting in the increase of resource estimate by 50 % during the first half of 2014, from 44 to 66 Mt of copper ore (JORC). With the 8 Mt estimate for the nearby Ulveryggen deposit the total resource for the two deposits has reached 74 Mt copper ore and has thereby attained a potential for long-term mining. Øystein is also very interested in the scientific studies of these deposits and has supported several student theses projects, as well as being willing to use non-traditional geophysical surveys such as seismic methods, in order to advance knowledge of the ore body and its setting.

Thanks to Øystein, the drilling campaign is continuing this autumn, in spite of the general challenges involved in raising prospecting capital, and we find him well qualified for the Nordic Exploration Award 2014.

The Nordic exploration award is presented to recognise and honour outstanding achievement, accomplishment and service to the Nordic exploration industry set up in 2006 by Magnus Ericsson co-founder of the Raw Materials Group. The Award is particularly intended to stimulate the interest and confidence of the general public in the exploration sector and to increase the general awareness of the importance of mineral exploration.

Award winners are selected by an independent Award Committee with international members following a nomination procedure. Individuals, companies or groups of individuals of any nationality are eligible for nominations to the Award Committee.

The award honours a person/s or company that has accomplished one or more of the following in the Nordic area (Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) in recent years:

- Made a significant mineral discovery.
- Provided an outstanding service to the exploration sector.
- Demonstrated leadership in management or financing of the exploration industry.
- Been responsible for a technological invention or innovation leading to the advancement of exploration and/or mining.

Award Committee

The Award Committee consists of the following members:

Olof Forslund	Sweden
Henrik Stendahl	Greenland/Denmark
Markku Mäkelä	Finland
Jan Sverre Sandstad	Norway

Previous award winners:

1. 2006 Ted Posey, North Atlantic Natural Resources (Lundin Mining), Sweden
2. 2007 Vesa-Jussi Penttilä, Finn-Nickel/Belvedere Resources, Finland
3. 2009 Stina Danielsson, Rolf Johnson, Robert Pantze, Boliden Garpenberg, Sweden
4. 2010 Tapani Mutanen, GTK, Finland
5. 2012 Jim Coppard, Anglo American, Finland
6. 2013 Ole Christiansen, NunaMinerals, Greenland

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