

# Research



Positive

Positive

## Sundance SPECULATIVE BUY

| Current Price:           |        | \$0.50    |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Target Price:            |        | \$0.73    |
| Ticker:                  |        | SDL       |
| Sector:                  |        | Materials |
| Shares on Issue (m):     |        | 2,712.2   |
| Market Cap (A\$m):       |        | 1,356.1   |
| Net Cash (A\$m):         |        | 43.0      |
| Enterprise Value (A\$m): |        | 1,313.1   |
| 52 wk High/Low:          | \$0.67 | \$0.11    |
| 12m Av Daily Vol (m):    | 40.07  | 27.1      |
| Directors:               |        |           |

#### George Jones Chairman Guilio Casello Managing Director Michael Blakiston Non-Executive Director Fiona Harris Non-Executive Director Barry Eldridge Non-Executive Director Robin Marshall Non-Executive Director

Substantial Shareholders:

Talbot Group

#### Share Price Graph



Analysts: **Tim Serieant Troy Irvin** 

### 9 March 2011

## **Pivotal player**

#### **Beauty and the Beast:**

Sundance Resources (SDL) has defined a high grade (~62%Fe), >400Mt DSO resource base at its Mbarga (Cameroon) and Nabeba (Republic of Congo) deposits (Mbalam Iron Ore Project). SDL is seeking to establish itself as a 35Mtpa producer from 2015.

#### Impact:

There are a number of significant near-term catalysts on the horizon to drive a re-rating:

- March Q Resource upgrades, maiden reserve completion of the Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS)
- June Q Finalise development and commercial agreements (Conventions) with respective governments, select Strategic Partner
- December H 2011 Project financing and Final Investment Decision (FID)

#### View:

16.0%

The logistical challenges associated with greenfields developments should not be underestimated, especially in frontier countries.

However, the prize on offer is significant. SDL shapes as a pivotal player in unlocking the iron ore potential of Central-West Africa. Mbalam could ultimately become part of a ~100Mtpa regional development encompassing Core Mining's Avima (RoC) project, CNME (Belinga), African Aura's at Nkout deposit and Equatorial Resources' (EQX) Badondo project (see Figure 1).

Securing Strategic Partner/Project Financing arrangements will be a significant milestone. Severstal (Russian) already has equity interests in two companies proximal to SDL (Core Mining and African Aura), POSCO (Korean) has had dealings with the Cameroon Government, while two Chinese parties have secured MOUs covering port and rail infrastructure. SDL has flagged it will look to execute a deal similar in nature to the Gindalbie Metals (GBG) - Ansteel Karara JV, whereby a steel mill(s) underwrites the development in exchange for off-take and equity at the project and corporate level. Given the level of interest, SDL may seek multiple partners to maintain corporate appeal whilst still underpinning development of Mbalam.

We present our key modelled project assumptions in Table 2. At this stage, we only model the high grade hematite production and have inflated capital and operating costs by 25% above the 2008 PFS.

#### **Recommendation:**

Spec Buy

Argonaut rates SDL a Speculative Buy. Valuation - \$0.73.

**Argonaut Securities Research** 

**Sundance Resources** 



Central-West Africa has significant iron ore potential

Figure 1: Regoinal development potential



Source: SDL and EQX

#### Comparing the capital intensity of selected prosposed iron ore developments

### Table 1: Capital intensity of selected iron ore developments (mine, rail, port)

| Company       | Project   | Location         | Total Capex est* | Status     | Production capacity Capital Intensity |     |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Citic Pacific | Sino Iron | Cape Preston, WA | 5,350            | Production | 28                                    | 194 |
| Zanaga        | Zanaga    | RoC, Cameroon    | 7,448            | PFS        | 45                                    | 166 |
| Murchison     | Oakajee   | Geraldton, WA    | 7,373            | DFS        | 45                                    | 164 |
| Aquila        | Anketell  | Cape Lambert, WA | 5,774            | DFS        | 40                                    | 144 |
| African Aura  | Putu      | Liberia          | 2,500            | PFS        | 20                                    | 125 |
| Sundance      | Mbalam    | RoC, Cameroon    | 4,200            | DFS^       | 35                                    | 120 |
| Fortescue     | Solomon   | Port Hedland, WA | 8,400            | Approved   | 100                                   | 84  |

\* Total capex inc mine, port, rail

^estimate

Source: Argonaut, Company Reports

#### Key project assumptions

#### Table 2: Mbalam Iron Ore Project

| Key Project Assumptions |                          |       |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Mbalam Iron Ore Project | The second second second | 14    |
| Mining Inventory        | Mtpa                     | 350   |
| Production              | Mtpa                     | 35    |
| Grade                   | % Fe                     | 62    |
| Capex^                  | \$m                      | 4,200 |
| Mine Life               | \$m                      | 10    |
| Cash Costs^             | \$/t                     | 25    |
| Start                   | yr                       | 2015  |
| LT Fe price             | \$/t                     | 81    |
| Discount Rate           | %                        | 15    |
|                         |                          |       |

| Fiscal Assumptions ^ ^ |   |    |
|------------------------|---|----|
| Royalties              | % | 3  |
| Tax                    | % | 30 |

^ Argonaut est - 25% increase on 2008 PFS numbers

^^ To be determined

The Cameron and Congo Government each have to right to a 10% interest.

SDL's respective interest in each project reduces to 81% and 76.5% respectively

Source: Argonaut, SDL



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