



# Solomon Gold plc

1 March 2010

## Announcement to London Stock Exchange

### Solomon Gold Appoints COO

The Directors of Solomon Gold Plc are pleased to advise that Mr Alex Thin has been appointed as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company, with operational responsibility over the Company's projects in the Solomon Islands and Queensland, Australia. This newly created position for Solomon Gold has become necessary due to the Company's expanding exploration and project development activities, together with the opportunity for the rapid definition of gold resources across its projects. The COO is expected to work closely with the Company's CEO and CFO, with focus on managing the day-to-day affairs of the Company and its various projects.

Mr Thin holds a Bachelors Degree in Engineering (with Honours) from the Camborne School of Mines in the United Kingdom, together with Mine Manager's and Mine Overseer's Certificates of Competency gained from work experience in South Africa. In addition, Mr Thin has undertaken courses in mine valuation, minerals marketing, industrial relations, technical, financial and legal appraisal of mining projects, and applied mining geostatistics.

Mr Thin's previous experience encompasses roles in Australia and South Africa for Southern Uranium Ltd, Emperor Mines Ltd, DRD Australia Ltd, Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd and SRK Consulting, including roles as a Senior Mining Engineer, Business Development Manager, Manager of Growth Projects, and Long-term Planning Engineer.

The Board is confident that Mr Thin's wealth of experience will further enable the Company to capitalise on the opportunities it has before it to become an integrated gold explorer, developer and miner in the Pacific Region.

### About Solomon Gold

Solomon Gold listed on the London AIM exchange in early 2006 at which time it completed a £5m equity fundraising. Following the acquisition of Acapulco Mining and Central Minerals in Late 2009 early 2010, Solomon Gold has 193,970,075 shares on issue. Solomon Gold's original and core gold exploration projects are located in Solomon Islands and remain a major focus of the Company. However, the Company has extended its strategy to include becoming an integrated gold explorer, developer and miner with projects in lower risk theatres as well as Solomon Islands. Solomon Gold's Board includes accomplished professionals with enviable track records in the areas of exploration, mine development, investment, finance and law. Board and Management have significantly vested interests in the Company holding approximately 19.3% of its issued share capital. Solomon Gold is based in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. It has a diverse portfolio of higher risk high reward exploration projects in Solomon Islands and lower risk projects which are more advanced towards resource definition in Queensland, at Mt Perry and Normanby, where exploration costs are approximately one third of that in Melanesia.



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Solomon Gold operates exploration programs from Honiara in Solomon Islands and Brisbane Queensland. The Company is represented by RFC Corporate Finance, based in Sydney Australia as its Nominated advisor (NOMAD) and retains the services of Fairfax I.S. PLC, Brokers in London, England.

Further details concerning the company's key projects and personnel can be found at [www.solomongold.com](http://www.solomongold.com).

## Solomon Gold's Projects

### *Guadalcanal (Solomon Islands)*

To date, Solomon Gold and its subsidiary, Australian Resource Management (ARM) Pty Ltd have expended approximately A\$20m on the search for a giant gold copper porphyry system on the island of Guadalcanal in Solomon Islands. The Company currently holds tenement interests over 612km<sup>2</sup> land covering highly prospective terrane on the southwest Pacific rim of fire, a region known for very large copper gold porphyry and epithermal gold deposits, such as Lihir, Bougainville and Ok Tedi in Papua New Guinea and Batu Hijau and Grasberg in Indonesia. In 2001, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission concluded (that) "*Solomon Islands is perhaps the most prospective Pacific island country for minerals after Papua New Guinea.*" The country has a Westminster system of Government with a modern Mining Law. An assistance mission, RAMSI, staffed by other South Pacific nations has helped restore internal stability after a period of ethnic tensions.

Solomon Gold's main project interests are over the Koloula, Kuma and Sutakiki Valleys an approximate 20 to 30 minute helicopter flight from the nation's capital, Honiara; and the Mbetilonga Caldera, approximately 15km south of Honiara. A number of impressive prospects have been outlined, which are the subject of ongoing field programs.

Solomon Gold's programs on Guadalcanal have included developing a substantial geological, geochemical and airborne magnetic database over the tenements and as a result the Company has established a competitive understanding of the geology of the area. The data originally collected indicated a very strong potential for large porphyry copper gold deposits. The Company drilled 14,000 metres of core, resulting in its best intersection, in late 2007, of 32m@9.45g/t gold in a porphyry related skarn system intersected in drillhole SK11 in the Sutakiki Valley, 30km southeast of Honiara.

On March 5 2009, Solomon Gold progressed to operating its Guadalcanal tenements under a Venture Agreement with Newmont Ventures Limited, a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation (NYSE:NEM) ("Newmont"), over its Guadalcanal tenements. In terms of the Agreement Newmont can earn 51% of the Guadalcanal project area by expending US\$6 million by March 4 2012, and may elect to expend a further US\$6 million within a further two (2) years to earn an additional 19% interest (a maximum potential interest of 70%). Importantly, in the first year of the joint venture, it has completed the acquisition of highly diagnostic Airborne Electro Magnetic data over the entire Guadalcanal Venture licence area, and is well advanced in the collection of a complete stream sediment Bulk Leach Extractable Gold data set, also over the entire licence area. Interpretation of this data, along with the detailed mapping and sampling of advanced prospects being prepared for drill testing in 2010 is well advanced.



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The Directors consider Newmont's interest in Guadalcanal as a significant demonstration of support for the prospectivity of Solomon Gold's projects on Guadalcanal. Newmont is one of the world's leading gold project development and operating companies, with considerable experience in the southwest Pacific and Indonesia.

## *Fauro*

An exploration licence covering over 70km<sup>2</sup> of Fauro Island was granted to Solomon Gold on 30 November 2009 for a period of three years and is owned 100% by Solomon Gold. The licence may be renewed for 4 years after this initial term and a mining lease may be applied for by the Company.

Fauro lies 82km southeast of the giant copper gold mine on Bougainville, in neighbouring PNG, and Solomon Gold geologists believe Fauro to represent a gold rich high level variant sitting above a porphyry system similar to Bougainville. Fauro's geological setting is similar to the giant 40m oz Lihir deposit, 560km to the northwest. Lihir and Fauro show similar mineralogy and geological setting, and Solomon Gold believes Fauro to have potential to host a world class gold deposit with geological similarities to Lihir.

The northern peninsula of Fauro and Masamasa Island, 5km east are the remnant rims of a volcano which gave off silica and gold rich mineral fluids as the volcano waned. Stream sediment sampling in December 2009 by Solomon Gold geologists has identified gold contents between two and six times the levels found in highly anomalous samples on the Company's project on the main island of Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, 530kms to the southeast. Samples of silicified volcanic host rocks on Fauro taken at the same time by Solomon Gold geologists show gold values up to 169grams per tonne or over 5 ounces per tonne, and some samples showed gold visible to the naked eye.

An airborne magnetic and electromagnetic survey over the entire licence area is planned for February 2010 to identify strong resistors interpreted to represent gold rich silicified volcanic rocks in the volcanic rim. Thereafter the company expects to commence a drill program in the second quarter of 2010 to test the anomalies identified.

## *Queensland, Australia Projects*

In late 2009 and early 2010, Solomon Gold acquired two companies holding promising exploration projects in Queensland, Australia. The acquisitions reflect a strategy to become an integrated gold explorer, developer and miner in environments ranging from high risk reward situations in Solomon Islands to lower risk, more advanced projects proceeding to resource definition in Queensland. The projects at Mt Perry, Normanby, Rannes and Clermont are 100% owned and operated by Solomon Gold.

## *Mt Perry*

The Mt Perry project covers 1,344km<sup>2</sup> located four hours drive northwest of Brisbane and lies approximately 15km northwest of Lihir Gold's Mt Rawdon mine which has a 1 million oz resource producing 100k oz pa gold. The tenements are held in Solomon Gold's 100% owned subsidiary Acapulco Mining Pty Ltd.



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The area is located on the intersection of strong regional geological features and hosts in excess of 60 named historic mines and additional unnamed diggings. Extensive mapping and sampling has identified seven drill targets which have yielded potentially economic results. Extensive drilling programs for 2010 are planned on the 6x3km Chinamans-Spring Creek-Reagans, 1x4km Edina-New Moonta and the 1x4km Augustine-Dingle-Nickos-Harpurs systems which have yielded both high grades and long intersections of medium grade mineralisation to date. Airborne geophysical coverage has identified 17 strong resistors and magnetic anomalies to be assessed for porphyry gold copper molybdenum potential. Strongly mineralised porphyry copper molybdenum prospects are evident at Bania, Cradle Gully and Chinamans. Solomon Gold also intends to test these targets in 2010.

The Company aims to define a 1 million oz gold resource in the project area.

## *Rannes*

Solomon Gold's 100% owned subsidiary Central Minerals holds exploration licences covering 3,670km<sup>2</sup> over a strike length of 200km on the eastern margin of the Permian Triassic Bowen Basin in Central Queensland, approximately 200km southwest of the Central Queensland port of Rockhampton. The project is based on the recognition by Solomon Gold geologists of long and broad zones of low temperature gold bearing fragmented and silicified rocks at the sheared base of the Bowen Basin limestone and volcanic rich sediments on its eastern margin.

The main project in the area is at Rannes which exhibits structures and geochemistry similar to the Carlin trend in Nevada USA. The Carlin and Battle Mountain Trends are amongst the most prolific gold producing belts in the world, boasting in excess of 200million ounces of combined resources and production to date. Mineralisation occurs on structural trends which are the focus of the intrusions, faulting and characteristic low temperature mineralisation.

Five prospects (Crunchie, Homestead, Kauffmans, Cracklin Rosie and Porcupine Pie) in the Rannes Central area have been subject to first pass drilling by Central Minerals and previous explorers with potentially economic intersections in all five.

In addition, surface soil, stream and rock sampling has identified a further thirteen gold targets, of which five (Soggy-Hogget Hill, Mt Cooper and Brother-Police Camp Creek) are considered to be high order and located close to the drilled prospects referred to above. Police Camp Creek is four kilometres long and defined by strong gold results in soil sampling. Mt Cooper, located in the northwest of the Rannes project, is 7km long, open ended and defined by strong silver values in soils. Mt Cooper is located in Bowen Basin sediments and is considered to represent the upper level expression of a gold mineralised system at depth.

Solomon Gold plans to continue the exploration program at Rannes, with drilling of further initial targets planned for the next quarter.

Solomon Gold is targeting a resource in excess of 1 million ounces of gold at Rannes.



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## Qualified Person

Information in this report relating to the exploration results is based on data reviewed by Mr Nicholas Mather (B.Sc. Hons Geol.), the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr Mather is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy who has in excess of 25 years experience in mineral exploration and is a Qualified Person under the AIM Rules. Mr Mather consents to the inclusion of the information in the form and context in which it appears.

By order of the Board  
Karl Schlobohm  
Company Secretary

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