

Syndicated Metals stamps its mark on Isa

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SYNDICATED Metals stamped its mark as a major player in the North West mineral sector yesterday by becoming one of the largest landholders in the Mount Isa-Cloncurry region.

The miner yesterday announced a deal with Cerro Resources to pick up the running of its molybdenum-rhenium-copper-gold deposit, known as Kalman, 60 kilometres south-east of Mount Isa.

Syndicated also now has the right to earn an 80 per cent interest in all of Cerro's Mount Isa tenements which cover an area of more than 700 square kilometres.

The Kalman deposit complements Syndicated's Barbara copper deposit 50 kilometres north-east of Mount Isa.

Syndicated Metals manager director Russell Davis yesterday said the deal would allow the company to become a "significant player" in the mining region.

Kalman has the potential for a shallow open pit mining operation to augment Syndicated's growing copper-gold resource at Mount Remarkable, near Kajabbi, which is expected to enhance the opportunity for early mine development.

Mr Davis said the company had a strong belief in the exploration potential of the Mount Isa district and the Pilgrim Fault zone in particular.

"The potential of this zone to host additional significant mineral discoveries is considered to be outstanding," Mr Davis said.

Commentators yesterday speculated Syndicated's current resource at Barbara alone could be valued at as much as \$28 million.

The company could move into production in 18 months time, subject to approvals and other processes including a new mineral resource estimate and a pre-feasibility study.

Mr Davis said the company was committed to a Mount Isa-based workforce in such an event.

"We are a Mount Isa-focused company. Due to the location of our deposits, our workforce would be based in Mount Isa and people could drive out to site," he said.

The company wants to become a long-term mining business in the Mount Isa region, non-executive director Jan Hope said yesterday.

"This deal with Cerro brings us much closer to that reality," she said.