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## **AURA BOARD APPROVES FIRST DRILLING PROGRAMME AT TWO WEST AFRICAN PROJECTS**

- **The Aura Board has approved a budget of \$670,000 for the next phase of the exploration at its Africa JV Projects**
- **Drilling of Requibat calcrete uranium project to determine extent, continuity and grade of mineralisation**
- **Drilling at the recently announced Fai Project to determine the extent of the mineralisation**
- **Metallurgical testwork of the Fai mineralisation**
- **Drilling planned to commence in September**

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**Aura Energy Limited (ASX Code AEE)** has approved and will fund the next phase of exploration at its projects in Mauritania and West Africa.

The projects are joint ventures between Aura and GCM Resources plc (AIM Code GCM). GCM has approved, but will not fund the programmes. This will end GCM's right to sole fund the joint ventures, and will enable Aura to earn back equity in the projects.

### **Requibat Project**

Aura carried out a field programme in December 2008 on its Oued el Foule Est exploration permit in Northern Mauritania. The objective of the programme was to test the extent of uranium mineralisation, high grade in places, encountered during previous reconnaissance surveying by Aura.

A programme of pitting and sampling was conducted in the programme. In total 85 shallow pits were excavated to an average depth of approximately 0.7m. Samples were taken for analysis from pit walls and bottoms.

In total, 19 of the pits contained elevated uranium values ranging from 119 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> to 2217 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, with wall samples of these pits averaging 535 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.

Within an area where the majority of the sampling was completed, one strong radiometric zone approx 3.0 km in length with width varying between 100 to 500m, returned evidence of uranium mineralisation in 10 of 15 pits. These 10 pits averaged 810 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> in pit walls and 780 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> from pit floor samples.

Peak wall sample was 1700 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> and peak floor sample was 2217 ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.

The uranium mineralisation occurs within weathered lower Proterozoic granites and is commonly associated with calcrete.



**Map showing the Aura-GCM Joint Venture Projects in Mauritania**

The programme at Requibat will:

1. determine continuity and grade of uranium mineralisation within selected mineralised zones defined by the December 08 programme by shallow drilling (to approximately 5m depth) on patterns ranging from 200m x 100m to 200m x 200m.
2. determine continuity and grade of uranium mineralisation within other strong radiometric zones known to contain near surface uranium mineralisation.



### Fai permit

Aura has recently announced the awarding of the Fai Est Exploration Permit in central Mauritania. The Joint Venture had made application for the permit because it contains one of the largest and strongest radiometric anomalies in Mauritania. The permit covers approximately 1500 square kilometres, and is situated 250 kilometres east of the capital Nouakchott.

The preliminary fieldwork in the permit has indicated the presence of laterally extensive uraniferous gravels at the position of the radiometric anomaly. Only the main radiometric anomaly has been visited to date.

Three pits which have been dug within the anomaly contain gravels to depths between 0.80 and 1.05 metres. The average uranium oxide content of seven sub-surface samples of gravel taken from these three pits is 140ppm U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.

The programme will include systematic drilling on an 800 by 400 metres grid within the radiometric anomaly and under the adjacent sand cover. This will indicate the extent of the system, and whether the grades and thickness found in the reconnaissance programmes is typical of the system. The work may provide sufficient information to determine an inferred resource compliant with the JORC code, but this depends on the continuity of the mineralisation.

### For further information contact:

For further information contact:

Dr Bob Beeson - Managing Director

[bob.beeson@auraenergy.com.au](mailto:bob.beeson@auraenergy.com.au)

Tel: (03) 9890 1744

*The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results, Mineral Resources, or Ore Reserves is based on information compiled by Dr Robert Beeson. Dr Robert Beeson has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking. This qualifies Dr Beeson as a Competent Person as defined in the 2004 edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Dr Robert Beeson consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.*

#### Corporate Information

##### Directors

B Fraser	Non-Executive Chairman
Dr B Beeson	Managing Director
S O'Loughlin	Non-Executive Director
J Stephenson	Non- Executive Director & Company Secretary

##### Issued Capital

As at the date of this report the issued capital of the Company is comprised of:

64,482,659 fully paid ordinary shares  
3,050,000 unlisted options



## ABOUT AURA ENERGY

**Aura Energy** (ASX: AEE, "Aura") is a uranium explorer with projects in Australia, Sweden and Africa. The Company has assembled an exceptional portfolio of properties on three continents, including a major presence in Sweden's Alum Shale Province, one of the largest depositories of uranium in the world. The Company continues to be very active, with drilling completed on all three continents in 2008.

Aura is a major landholder in the mineralised Alum Shale of central Sweden. The Alum Shale is widely distributed throughout the Baltic States and locally contains exceptionally large resources of uranium, vanadium, molybdenum and nickel.

Aura's Storsjön Project adjoins Continental Precious Metals' (TSX: CZQ) Viken Project, which has a published resource of 1.05 billion pounds  $U_3O_8$  grading 0.017%. This size of resource makes Viken the second largest published uranium deposit in the world after Olympic Dam.

Aura considers that it holds approximately half of the uranium field, and anticipates defining resources of similar size to Viken in its Storsjön Project.

In Australia, Aura is exploring prospective uranium districts of Western Australia targeting calcrete deposits in the Murchison and Goldfields regions and lignite/sandstone Mulga Rock style in the Gunbarrel Basin. Aura has a joint venture with Mega Redport (TSX: MGA) and exploration is continuing at palaeochannel targets defined by EM and radiometrics. Aura has completed three drilling programmes at its Wondinong Project (100%), located near Mt Magnet.

In an alliance with GCM Resources plc (LSE & AIM: GCM), Aura is exploring in West Africa. Under the alliance, Aura has been granted four exploration licences in Mauritania and applied 10 further licences. Two phases of fieldwork at Its Requibat Project has demonstrated the presence of large areas of calcrete-type uranium mineralisation at surface, with grade averaging in excess of 500 ppm  $U_3O_8$ .

The Company has also made applications for three in Niger on the margin of the Air Massif. Uranium mineralisation has been observed in all three Mauritanian licences.

Aura's management team and staff are highly experienced in uranium exploration, including involvement in a number of historical discoveries.

### **Aura / GCM African Uranium Alliance.**

On behalf of its Uranium Alliance with GCM, Aura has been actively developing high quality uranium exploration targets in West Africa since April 2007. The Alliance brings together the technical uranium experience, targeting and exploration skills of Aura with the project development and mining experience of GCM. The Alliance is managed and exploration conducted by Aura with funding provided jointly by Aura and GCM in cash and in kind. On granted Permits project specific joint ventures between Aura and GCM are established under which GCM initially solely funds exploration, with Aura retaining the right to participate at 30% (or, at Aura's election, lower) interest.



**aura energy** ASX Media Announcement

Aura Energy Limited is an ASX listed uranium exploration company, active in evaluating uranium occurrences in Sweden, the Yilgarn Province and Gunbarrel Basin in Western Australia, as well as in West Africa.

GCM Resources plc is a London based company quoted on the London Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market ("AIM"). The Company is strategically focused on coal and related investments across a range of geographical locations including: South Africa, Bangladesh and China with the aim of sourcing potential opportunities that offer near return whilst mitigating risk through the development of a diverse portfolio of assets. Primarily focused on the exploration and development of coal deposits the Company also targets related infrastructure such as power plants and telecommunications networks to build on related areas of the coal mining industry and support local development.