

WORK UNDERWAY AT NOVALES-UDIAS FOCUS ON DEFINING MAIDEN DRILL TARGETS

Key highlights:

- Commencement of field work, including geological mapping and rock-chip sampling on the Novales-Udias Project now underway
- Review of historic regional soil geochemistry has identified a series of underexplored, significant zinc anomalies across the licence area. These will be used in conjunction with additional data to define drill targets
- Surface mapping and rock-chip sampling will focus on a series of high priority targets such as:
 - Brinia Area where a peak soil geochemistry value of 17% Zn was recorded near former workings
 - Large scale soil anomaly in the Motilos-Magdalena area which spans over
 2km in length and 1km in width and reaches up to 4.5% Zn.
- Exploration work will also target underground mine workings for extensions to the known mineralisation at the Novales Mine (situated less than 10km from Reocín Mine (62Mt @8.7% Zn and 1.0% Pb¹); old workings historically intersected karstfilled "ore bags" and recorded multiple intersections of 20-30m widths and grades of 18-35% Zn².
- Excellent potential for soil and rock-chip sampling to be extended and infill areas through the licence area to highlight new zones of mineralisation
- The size and scale of some of the surface anomalies support the potential for new and significant zones of zinc mineralisation to be defined

Variscan Mines Limited ("Variscan" or the "Company") (ASX:VAR) is pleased to announce that the Company has commenced field work on the Novales-Udias zinc project located in Cantabria, northern Spain with geological mapping and rock chip sampling of high priority targets now underway. This work together with the historical data compilation currently well underway will help to fast track the definition of drill targets for a maiden drill program.

Variscan's CEO, Stewart Dickson said, "Variscan is pleased to be generating momentum on the very prospective Novales-Udias Project. It is a proven mining area and this work will augment our existing understanding as well as act as a catalyst towards a maiden drill program expected in Q1 2020".

¹ Velasco et al., Geology and Geochemistry of the Reocín Zinc-Lead Deposit, Basque-Cantabrian Basin, *Economic Geology*. Vol. 98, 2003, pp. 1371-1396

² Anecdotal evidence from original Novales miners interviewed during the WAI Due Diligence.



Target Areas

Variscan has identified and prioritised target areas for the fieldwork based on historical data, in particular regional soil geochemistry, (refer ASX Announcement 6 November 2019) to generate the following high priority target areas (see **Figure 1**).

NOVALES-UDIAS ZINC PROJECT High Priority Geochemistry Targets PRIORITY 4 Mina de Brincia Comillas PRIORITY 1 Novales-San Jose **PRIORITY 4** Dos Maria PRIORITY 2 Motilos 1800000 PRIORITY 3 PRIORITY 2 Duna Magdalena **PRIORITY 2** Brinia 2,250 Meters 2 250 1 125 0

Figure 1. Soil geochemistry contours for the Novales-Udias Project

Fieldwork will gather detailed geological information to further prioritise target definition and drill-hole positioning for future drilling. The work program will include:

- geological mapping and rock-chip sampling over geophysical and high order soil anomalies to define drill targets for zinc mineralization;
- underground rock-chip sampling of former backs and faces to define areas of mineralization that require further drilling; and
- integration of newly generated field information with the historical data including drilling data currently being compiled by the School of Mines at the University of Cantabria to generate targets for follow up drilling



Priority 1 Target

Novales Mine (San Jose)

One of the significant opportunities for the project is the potential exploitation of unmined areas of the underground Novales Mine and extensions to the known mineralisation. Historical information will be used to access the old mine and conduct surface exploration to access this opportunity with old workings in Cantabria historically intersected karst-filled "ore bags" and recorded multiple intersections of 20-30m widths and grades of 18-35% Zn³.

Figure 2. Unmined zinc mineralisation and underground workings



Priority 2 Targets

Motilos - Esmeralda - Pepita

The Motilos-Esmeralda-Pepita prospects (**Figure 3**) cover the northern part of a large-scale soil anomaly which spans over 2km in length and 1km in width and reaches up to 4.5% Zn. Historical workings in these areas are largely sub-vertical and reach up to 100m long and 70m wide and represent excellent exploration targets

Magdalena - Sinforosa

The Magdalena – Sinforosa prospects (**Figure 3**) cover the southern part of a large-scale soil anomaly which spans over 2km in length and 1km in width and reaches up to 4.5% Zn. The old workings in this area are characterized by deep and heavily fractured areas.

Zanjones de Brinia – Buenita - Angel

The Zanjones de Brinia – Buenita – Angel prospects (**Figure 3**) are defined by a soil anomaly which runs in a N-S direction over 1 km in strike and 500 m width and peaking at over 17 % Zn. The area is characterized by a series of shallow workings along faults which varies from 30 m to 90 m in length. Based on current information the area appears to be under-explored.

 $^{^{3}}$ Anecdotal evidence from original Novales miners interviewed during the WAI Due Diligence.



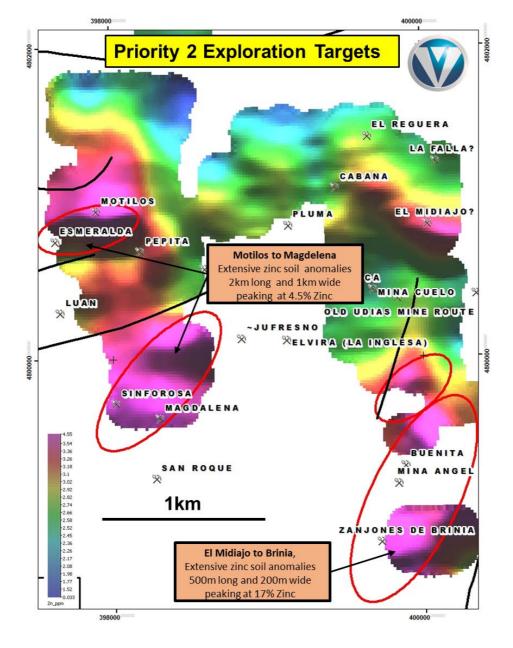


Figure 3. Priority 2 Large scale under-explored/tested geochemical anomalies

Priority 3 Target

Mina Los LLagos - Mina de Duña

The Mina Los LLagos - Minas de Duña Prospect areas (**Figure 4**) are defined by a historic soil anomaly up to 1km long and 0.5km wide in which soil values reach 7% Zn and substantial zones with +0.5% Zn. Minas de los Llagos links directly to Mina de Duña. Reconnaissance mapping has indicated that this is a substantial, strike continuous zone of ankeritic dolomite, karsts and faults over a width of 100-200m, several stopes and adits. There are two pits aligned along the main fault and mineralized zone continues from Llagos to Duna and there are good widths of iron rich dolomites. This area is a significant exploration target as well as strike extensions to the SW.



Priority 3 Exploration Targets

HINAS LOS LLAGOS

Codorros to Duna
Extensive zinc anomalism in soils up to 7% Zn

500m

Figure 4. Priority 3 large Scale under-explored/tested geochemical anomalies

Priority 4 Targets

Mina de Brincia

Mina de Brincia is part of a 2 km long, 1.6 km wide NE-SW (040°) corridor of successive zones of zinc mineralization and is located on a topographic high, in heavily faulted and fractured, karstic Fe-rich dolomites (**Figure 5**). Soil sampling has been used successfully to show extensive zinc anomalies that reach up 800m in strike and 200m in width and reached up to 3.5% Zn and are aligned NE-SW and highlight potentially several parallel anomalous zones in this area.



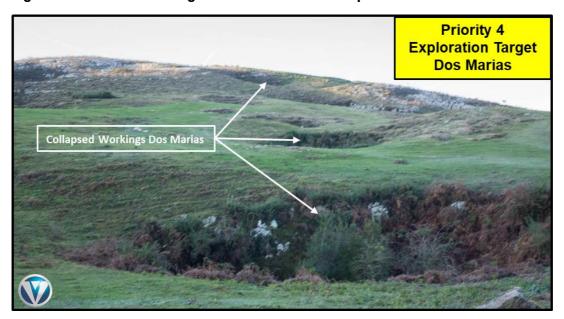




Dos Marias

Dos Marias is located in the Ruiloba area, NNW of Udias and west of Novales and occurs in an elevated position, with its current surface expression a series of medium sized, heavily vegetated depressions (**Figure 6**). The mineralization is associated with the Comillas anticline and the fracture set at Dos Marias is more N-S and 060° so the deposit may belong to a separate 'corridor' of mineralisation that remains largely untested for zinc mineralisation which needs further exploration works.

Figure 6. Historical workings at the Dos Marias Prospect



Project Summary:

The Novales-Udias Project is located in the Basque-Cantabrian Basin, some 30km south west from the regional capital, Santander. The advanced zinc project is centred around the former producing Novales underground mine with a large surrounding area of exploration opportunities which include zinc soil anomalies over 2km long and close to 1km wide and up to 17% Zn. Significantly, the Novales-Udias Project includes a number of granted mining tenements (refer ASX announcement 29 July 2019).

Novales-Udias Project Highlights

- Near term zinc production opportunity (subject to positive exploratory work)
- Large tenement holding of 68.3 km² (including a number of granted mining tenements)
- Regional exploration potential for another discovery analogous to Reocin (total past production and remaining resource 62Mt @ 8.7% Zn and 1.0% Pb⁴⁵)
- Novales Mine is within trucking distance (~ 80km) from the Asturias zinc smelter

⁴ Velasco, F., Herrero, J.M., Yusta, I., Alonso, J.A., Seebold, I. and Leach, D., 2003 - Geology and Geochemistry of the Reocin Zinc-Lead Deposit, Basque-Cantabrian Basin, Northern Spain: in Econ. Geol. v.98, pp. 1371-1396.
5 Cautionary Statement: references in this announcement to the publicly quoted resource tonnes and grade of the Project are historical and foreign in nature and not reported in accordance with the JORC Code 2012, or the categories of mineralisation as defined in the JORC Code 2012. A competent person has not completed sufficient work to classify the resource estimate as mineral resources or ore reserves in accordance with the JORC Code 2012. It is uncertain that following evaluation and/or further exploration work that the foreign/historic resource estimates of mineralisation will be able to be reported as mineral resources or ore reserves in accordance with the JORC Code 2012.



- Classic MVT carbonate hosted Zn-Pb deposits
- Historic production of high-grade zinc; average grade reported as ~7% Zn⁶
- Simple mineralogy of sphalerite galena calamine
- Ore is strata-bound, epigenetic, lenticular and sub-horizontal
- Reported historic production of super high grade 'bolsas' (ore bags) commonly 10-20% Zn and in some instances +30% Zn⁷
- Access and infrastructure all in place
- Local community and government support due to historic mining activity

Next Steps:

Variscan has already identified a suitably accredited laboratory in Spain to perform same preparation and assay testing on the rock-chip samples generated from fieldwork. Results will be published as soon as practicable. In the interim, historical data compilation and digitisation, which is well underway, will continue with initial results expected to be available shortly. We continue to move towards the definition of drill targets for a maiden drill program.

ENDS

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Notes

Variscan Mines Limited (ASX: VAR) is a growth oriented, natural resources company focused on the acquisition, exploration and development of high quality strategic mineral projects. The Company has compiled a portfolio of high-impact base-metal interests in Spain, Chile and Australia.

The Company's name is derived from the Variscan orogeny which was a geologic mountain building event caused by Late Paleozoic continental collusion between Euramerica (Laurussia) and Gondwana to form the supercontinent of Pangea.

Competent Person Statement

The information in this document that relates to technical information about the Novales-Udias project is based on, and fairly represents information and supporting documentation compiled and reviewed by Mr. Ché Osmond, an employee of Wardell Armstrong International. Mr. Osmond is a Chartered Geologist (CGeol) and Fellow of the Geological Society of London, and European Geologist (EurGeol) of the European Federation of Geologists, and 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 to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the December 2012 edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves" ('JORC Code'). Mr Osmond consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based upon the information in the form and context in which it appears.

Where the Company refers to the Novales-Udías Project and the historic exploration results and production data previously advised to the ASX on 29 July 2019 it confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in that market announcement.

⁶ Anecdotal evidence from original Novales miners interviewed during the WAI Due Diligence supported with historical production data from the School of Mines in Torrelavega historical archives.

 $^{^{7}}$ Anecdotal evidence from original Novales miners interviewed during the WAI Due Diligence.



JORC Table 1, Sections 1 and 2 in reference to the Novales-Udias Project:

Section 1 Sampling Techniques and Data

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Sampling techniques	 Nature and quality of sampling (eg cut channels, random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the minerals under investigation, such as down hole gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc). These examples should not be taken as limiting the broad meaning of sampling. Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used. Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report. In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (eg 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g charge for fire assay'). In other cases more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (eg submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information. 	 The specific soil sampling technique is unknown due to age (mostly from 1984 from Asturiana de Zinc who no longer own the licenses). Geochemical analysis technique unknown. Depth and colour of samples recorded on hard copy tabulated results for Zinc and Lead quoted in ppm. Co-ordinates not provided for all samples, just reference number to grid lines specific to planned soil grid also in hard copy maps from historical data. Unknown whether measures taken for sample to be fully representative of soil profile
Drilling techniques	 Drill type (eg core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc) and details (eg core diameter, triple or standard tube, depth of diamond tails, facesampling bit or other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by what method, etc). 	N/A – drilling not conducted
Drill sample recovery	 Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed. Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples. Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material. 	N/A – drilling not conducted
Logging	 Whether core and chip samples have been geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies. Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, 	 Logging has not been conducted to a level suitable for the estimation of a Mineral Resource. Logging is qualitative. Logging of observations on hard copy tables for each sample only.



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	channel, etc) photography.The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged.	Details noted are whether sample was deep enough to hit the underlying dolostone or limestone strata.
Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation	 If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken. If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc. and whether sampled wet or dry. For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique. Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise representivity of samples. Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in-situ material collected, including for instance results for field duplicate/second-half sampling. Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled. 	 Sub-sampling and preparation unknown. Unknown as to whether samples were split or reduced in any way. Weight of the samples are not known. Unknown if any quality control procedures were adopted. Unknown whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.
Quality of assay data and laboratory tests	 The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total. For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc, the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc. Nature of quality control procedures adopted (eg standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (ie lack of bias) and precision have been established. 	 Unknown whether samples were analysed with the appropriate analytical method. Unknown as to which laboratory and what assay type was utilised, not possible for handheld XRF usage as samples were taken in approximately the mid-1980's. Quality control procedures unknown.
Verification of sampling and assaying	 The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel. The use of twinned holes. Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols. Discuss any adjustment to assay data. 	 Data has only been verified with occasional overlap of soil sampling grids which do concur. WAI is not aware of any additional sample verification. Primary data is in the form of handwritten tables, no laboratory certificates and no known data entry protocols.
Location of data points	Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation.	 GPS not used for each point, only a section line with numbers assigned to each sample point along that line, thus a compass must have been used to give a bearing from a single starting point, unknown as to whether this starting point was survey controlled. Original maps are in 1:2,000 scale and are hand drawn



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	 Specification of the grid system used. Quality and adequacy of topographic control. 	with superimposed 2m contour lines, these may have been instrumental in the orientation and location of grid lines and points therein.
Data spacing and distribution	 Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results. Whether the data spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied. 	 200m x 20m spacing for most soil sample grids Data spacing is deemed sufficient to delineate mineralisation at surface only; however, is not sufficient for Mineral Resource estimation. Unknown whether sample composting was applied.
	Whether sample compositing has been applied.	
Orientation of data in relation to geological structure	 Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type. If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material. 	 Orientation of soil sample grid lines is varied throughout NW-SE, N-S and E-W. Unknown as to whether there was a sample bias
Sample security	The measures taken to ensure sample security.	Unknown, due to age of sampling campaign
Audits or reviews	The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.	WAI is unaware of any audits of reviews of sampling techniques

Section 2 Reporting of Exploration Results

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Mineral tenement and land tenure status	 Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships, overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings. The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area. 	 The exploration permit "Buenahora" is currently held by Slipstream Spain and subject to acquisition by Variscan Mines WAI is not aware of any environmental issues that could affect ongoing works within these licences The exploitation permit for the Novales/Udias historic mine area is owned by Slipstream Spain and subject to acquisition by Variscan Mines WAI is not aware, at the time of writing this, of any issues with tenure or permission to operate in this region
Exploration done by other parties	Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.	All exploration to date has been carried out by Hispanibal and Asturiana de Zinc (previous subsidiary of Xstrata / Glencore) and local miners pre-2007, all data quoted in this announcement pertains to historical data gathered by these companies.
Geology	 Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation. 	Mississippi Valley Type Lead-Zinc deposit, hosted in sub- horizontal limestones and dolomites.
Drill hole	A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration	No drilling data has been quoted within this



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Information	results including a tabulation of the following information for all Material drill holes: easting and northing of the drill hole collar elevation or RL (Reduced Level — elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar dip and azimuth of the hole down hole length and interception depth hole length. If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not Material and this exclusion does not detract from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case.	announcement, only historical underground channel samples, soil geochemistry and anecdotal evidence from the miners of the Novales and Udias underground mines. The historic drilling data (hard copies) for this project is still in the process of being fully compiled for ongoing geological use
Data aggregation methods	 In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (eg cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high grade results and longer lengths of low grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail. The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated. 	 All data within this announcement pertains to historical soil and underground channel sampling, the exact nature of the sampling methodology or averaging techniques applied to the values are unknown at this stage. The higher grades quoted for the "bolsas" within this announcement are anecdotal, however, during review of the historical drilling by WAI there have been records of +30% Zinc grades over small intervals (~1m). No metal equivalent values have been utilised in this report.
Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths	 These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results. If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported. If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (eg 'down hole length, true width not known'). 	 The grades quoted within this announcement pertain to underground channel samples, soil samples and anecdotal ROM grades from the Novales and Udias underground Pb-Zn mine. The length of samples and whether the grades were averaged is not known at this stage. The historical drilling was predominantly vertical or dipping steeply -60° to -90° from surface
Diagrams	Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views.	 Locations of soil samples have been displayed in plan view with appropriate scale with a legend for contoured soil anomalies. Tabulations of intercepts are not available as the data does not refer to drilling.
Balanced	Where comprehensive reporting of all	High grades have been quoted within this report;



Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
reporting	Exploration Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be practiced to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.	however, the lower grades from the historical soil samples and some ROM grades are more representative of the typical mineralisation.
Other substantive exploration data	Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples – size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances.	Historical surface drilling, IP line geophysics and underground drilling data with positive results indicative of mineralisation are currently held at the School of Mine in Torrelavega, these data are currently being digitised for further geological use.
Further work	 The nature and scale of planned further work (eg tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling). Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive. 	Further exploratory works are currently being planned which will be outlined in a subsequent announcement.