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# Blackstone Mobilises Second Diamond Drill Rig at the Ta Khoa Nickel Project

## Highlights

- Blackstone has commenced the second phase of drilling with a second diamond drill rig mobilised at the Ta Khoa Nickel Project in Northern Vietnam (see Figure 1);
- The second drill rig has deeper drilling capabilities to test the multiple new targets generated from a recently completed IP survey (refer to ASX announcement dated 19 August 2019);
- The shallow diamond drilling rig continues to test the Ban Phuc disseminated sulfide (DSS) and the second rig has been mobilised to test deeper targets throughout the Ta Khoa Nickel Project;
- Results from the recent IP survey indicate a strong correlation exists between high chargeability and high grade DSS and massive sulfide vein (MSV) mineralisation (see Figure 2);
- Blackstone is the first Company to undertake an IP survey at Ta Khoa and the geophysical method has successfully defined existing and potential further high-grade zones within both MSV and DSS prospects;
- Significant potential exists to delineate further high-grade mineralisation throughout the Ta Khoa Nickel Project initially within a 5km radius of the existing processing facility;
- The Ta Khoa Nickel Project has existing modern infrastructure built to Australian Standards including a 450ktpa concentrator located within a premier nickel sulfide district;
- Blackstone continues to investigate the potential to develop downstream processing infrastructure in Vietnam to produce a downstream nickel and cobalt product to supply Asia's growing lithium ion battery industry (see Figure 3).

Blackstone Mineral's Managing Director Scott Williamson commented:

"We're excited to be drilling our deeper targets generated from the recently completed IP survey at the Ta Khoa Nickel Project, we look forward to further consistent newsflow from both drill rigs over the coming weeks. We remain well funded to test the multiple new targets generated from the maiden IP survey and continue to unlock the full potential of the extensive Nickel sulfide system at Ta Khoa."

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Blackstone Minerals Limited **(ASX code: BSX)** is pleased to announce the Company has commenced the second phase of drilling with a second diamond drill rig mobilised at the Ta Khoa Nickel Project in Northern Vietnam. The Ta Khoa Nickel Project is located 160km west of Hanoi (see Figure 3) in the Son La Province of Vietnam and includes an existing modern nickel mine (Ban Phuc) built to Australian Standards, which is currently under care and maintenance. The Ban Phuc nickel mine successfully operated as a mechanised underground nickel mine from 2013 to 2016.

Since announcing the option to acquire a 90% interest in the Ta Khoa Nickel Project (refer to ASX announcement dated 8 May 2019), Blackstone has commenced drilling and completed an initial IP survey. The IP survey has proven successful and the results will be used to target the second phase of deeper drilling. Blackstone will continue to test for shallow DSS targets at Ban Phuc and using the IP survey results has now commenced the second phase of deeper drilling to target high chargeability zones which correlate with the higher-grade zones within the Ban Phuc DSS. Blackstone is the first Company to use IP as a targeting tool and the initial results suggest the geophysical method will allow the Company to successfully define higher grade zones within both the MSV and DSS prospects throughout the Ta Khoa Nickel Project.



Figure 1: Blackstone Mobilises Second Diamond Drill Rig at the Ta Khoa Nickel Project

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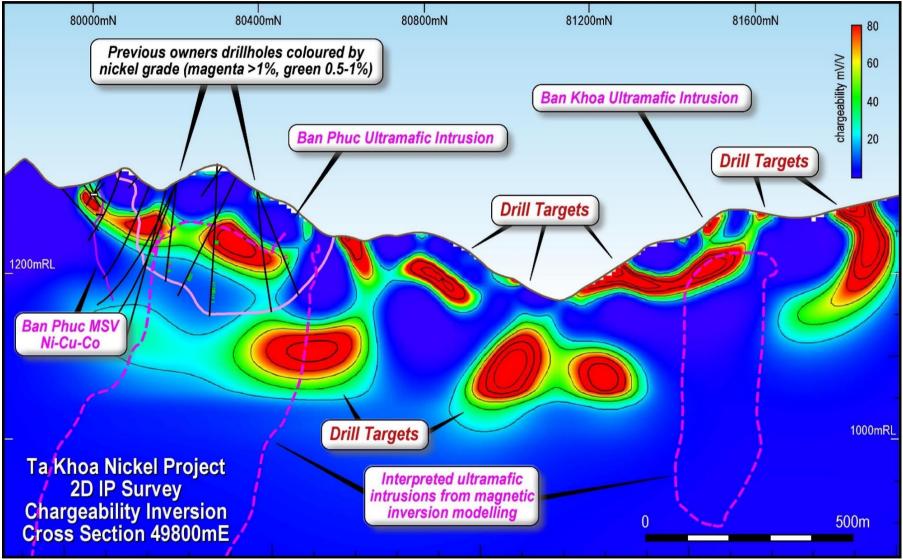


Figure 2: Ta Khoa Nickel Project 2D IP Chargeability Inversion Section 49800mE (refer ASX announcement 19 August 2019)

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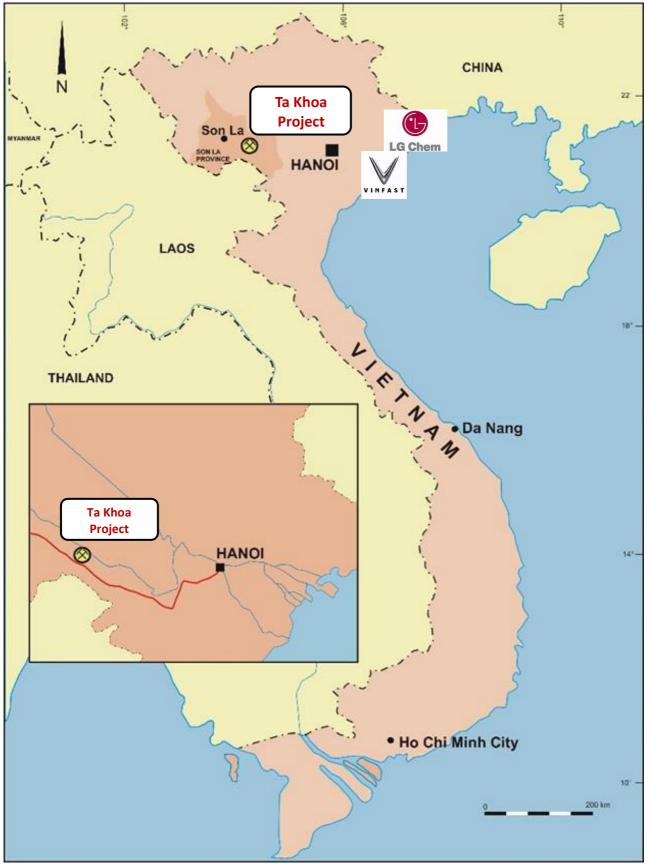


Figure 3: Ta Khoa Nickel Project Location (see approximate location of LG Chem & Vinfast joint venture battery factory in Northern Vietnam port city of Hai Phong <u>http://ht.ly/lfZn30p4Etv</u>)

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## Massive Sulfide Vein (MSV)

The MSV, constituting the recently mined Ban Phuc underground resource, is a body of Ni-Cu-Co-PGE sulfide hosted within a shear, and is considered to be magmatic in origin rather than a hydrothermal vein. The vein is 640m in length and continues to at least 450m below surface with an average width of 1.3m. Host rocks are hornfelised Ban Phuc Horizon calcareous sediments and tremolite-altered ultramafics. Quartz vein material typically brecciated and infilled with remobilised sulfides, is also present within the host shear. More than 25 mapped MSV targets (see Figure 4) exist throughout the project with only minimal drilling by previous owners outside of the main Ban Phuc MSV deposit.

Significant historic intersections of the MSV at Ban Phuc include (refer to ASX announcement dated 8 May 2019 for drilling results):

BP04-63	2.02m @ 4.64% Ni, 3.59% Cu & 0.15% Co from 258.7m
BP13-06	2.25m @ 3.88% Ni, 1.59% Cu & 0.12% Co from 322.9m
LK03	2.50m @ 3.98% Ni & 0.96% Cu from 167.9m
LK11	2.05m @ 4.33% Ni & 1.14% Cu from 189.7m
BP301-18	<b>9.2m @ 4.15% Ni, 1.33% Cu &amp; 0.13% Co</b> from 48.3m Incl. <b>4.9m @ 6.49% Ni, 1.19% Cu &amp; 0.20% Co</b>

Significant historic drilling and trenching results from unmined MSV targets at Ta Khoa include (see Figure 4 and ASX announcement dated 8 May 2019 for drilling and trenching results):

Suoi Phang	1.0m @ 5.96% Ni, 3.53% Cu, 0.02% Co & 0.2g/t PGE; 1.0m @ 5.98% Ni, 0.24% Cu, 0.19% Co & 0.17g/t PGE; 2.1m @ 4.19% Ni, 0.36% Cu & 0.14% Co.
King Snake	1.6m @ 3.27% Ni, 1.30% Cu, 0.11% Co & 2.22g/t PGE; 1.7m @ 3.30% Ni, 1.02% Cu, 0.11% Co & 2.16g/t PGE; 0.8m @ 3.08% Ni, 1.59% Cu, 0.17% Co.
Ban Chang	1.6m @ 2.19% Ni & 1.54% Cu; 1.0m @ 2.65% Ni & 1.04% Cu; 1.7m @ 1.89% Ni & 0.91% Cu.
Ban Khang	2.5m @ 1.76% Ni, 0.25% Cu & 0.19% Co; 2.6m @ 1.59% Ni, 0.71% Cu & 0.08% Co; 1.8m @ 1.51% Ni, 0.35% Cu & 0.17% Co.
Ban Mong	0.5m @ 6.11% Ni, 0.11% Cu & 0.2% Co; 0.5m @ 4.56% Ni, 0.15% Cu & 0.15% Co; 0.5m @ 4.61% Ni, 1.20% Cu, 0.13% Co & 4.33g/t PGE.

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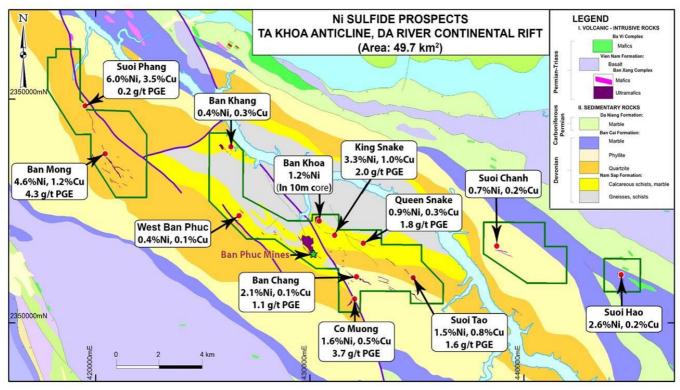


Figure 4: Ta Khoa dome geology prospective for multiple magmatic nickel sulfide deposits (refer to ASX announcement dated 8 May 2019 for trenching results)

## **Disseminated Sulfide (DSS)**

Considerable potential exists within the Project for unmined deposits of DSS within ultramafic intrusions. Regional exploration in the Ta Khoa corridor has identified an extensive system of maficultramafic intrusives, a remarkable number of which have associated Ni-Cu massive or DSS mineralisation. DSS targets exist at Ban Phuc, Ban Khang, Ban Chang and Ban Khoa.

Significant historic intersections of unmined DSS at Ban Phuc include (refer to ASX announcement dated 8 May 2019 for drilling results):

BP04-68	<b>74.0m @ 1.02% Ni &amp; 0.20% Cu</b> from 73.0m Incl. <b>51.0m @ 1.19% Ni &amp; 0.24% Cu</b> from 91.0m
BP9706	<b>71.3m @ 0.94% Ni &amp; 0.13% Cu</b> from 122.0m Incl. <b>32.0m @ 1.54% Ni &amp; 0.26% Cu</b> from 130.0m
LK46	<b>90.2m @ 1.10% Ni</b> from 140.2m Incl. <b>54.2m @ 1.50% Ni</b> from 162.9m
LK50	<b>83.0m @ 1.12% Ni</b> from 96.5m Incl. <b>60.3m @ 1.35% Ni</b> from 117.1m
BP14-03	<b>71.2m @ 0.98% Ni &amp; 0.18% Cu</b> from 90.5m



## Ta Khoa Nickel Project - Next Steps

Previous project owners focused their mining and exploration efforts primarily on the MSV at Ban Phuc, while Blackstone will look to explore both MSV targets and DSS targets throughout the entire Ta Khoa Project initially within a 5km radius of the existing processing facility. Blackstone will conduct further geophysics on the MSV and DSS deposits and continue the significant drilling campaign. Blackstone will aim to deliver a maiden resource on the DSS at Ban Phuc over the coming months and investigate the potential to restart the Ban Phuc concentrator through focused exploration on both MSV and DSS deposits. Blackstone will also commence metallurgical testing on the Ban Phuc Disseminated orebody with an aim to develop a flow sheet for a product suitable for the Lithium Ion battery industry. In addition, Blackstone will investigate the potential to develop downstream processing infrastructure in Vietnam to produce a downstream nickel and cobalt product to supply Asia's growing lithium ion battery industry.

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## **About Blackstone**

Blackstone Minerals Limited **(ASX code: BSX)** is actively exploring the Ta Khoa Nickel Project in Northern Vietnam. The Ta Khoa Project includes the Ban Phuc nickel mine which operated as a mechanised underground mine from 2013 to 2016. The Ta Khoa Nickel Project has existing modern infrastructure built to Australian Standards including a 450ktpa processing plant located within a premier nickel sulfide district. Blackstone owns a large land holding within the BC Cobalt Project with 48 km of untested strike potential of highly prospective geology analogous to the world class Bou-Azzer primary Cobalt district in Morocco. Blackstone is exploring for nickel and gold in the Eastern Goldfields and gold in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Blackstone has a board and management team with a proven track record of mineral discovery and corporate success.

#### **Competent Person Statement**

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Exploration Targets is based on information compiled by Mr Andrew Radonjic, the Technical Director of the company and who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Andrew Radonjic has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Andrew Radonjic consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appear.