



Transcript of initial interview with Mr. Jason S. Weber



President and CEO of Kiska Metals Corp.



TSX Venture Exchange: KSK

December 15, 2011

**Mr. Jason S. Weber - President and CEO of Kiska Metals Corp.** Jason joined Rimfire Minerals Corporation in December of 1999 as Manager, Corporate Communications, a position he held until 2007 when he was named President and CEO of Rimfire Minerals Corporation (Now Kiska Metals). His career was launched as a Project Geologist with Equity Engineering Ltd., working in Western Canada, Labrador and Central America. Active in promoting the exploration industry, Jason is past Chair of Mineral Exploration Roundup, one of the world's largest annual exploration conferences. Jason graduated from the University of British Columbia with a B.Sc. in Geological Sciences.

**Smallcaps.us:** A warm welcome everyone to another Smallcaps.us interview. Today we're talking with Mr. Jason Weber, President and CEO of Kiska Metals Corporation, which is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange with ticker symbol KSK. Kiska is an exciting exploration Company with an interesting portfolio of properties, and so we're pleased to have the opportunity to introduce Mr. Weber and his Company. Jason, thanks for being here, welcome.

**Jason Weber:** Hello. Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to speak with you.

**Smallcaps.us:** Kiska Metals Corp. has properties all over the globe, from the United States and Canada to Mexico and Australia. To get started, can you give us a brief overview of Kiska's ongoing projects in these countries?

**Jason Weber:** Absolutely. We currently have a portfolio in excess of thirty exploration projects. The focus of this portfolio is largely British Columbia in Canada and Alaska in the United States, but we do have some projects, as you mentioned, in Australia. And most recently, we just spun our Mexican assets out into another junior company called Evrim Resources.

So our focus has largely been gold and that has included gold and copper porphyry deposits such our flagship Whistler Project in Alaska.

Our efforts in British Columbia largely focus on gold and copper deposits. We're probably one of the largest land holders in central British Columbia in what's called the Quesnel Trough area where we have some wholly owned projects as well as some projects joint-ventured with Xstrata.

**Smallcaps.us:** Thanks. So the Whistler Property, which is 100% owned, is the Company's most advanced to date. First, let's talk a bit about the project's location in Alaska, because that may seem off the beaten path, but in fact it's situated in a very favourable geological belt. Can you shed some light on this?

**Jason Weber:** Yes. Whistler is favourably located in Alaska and you're right, a lot of people think of Alaska as being a remote area, but we're very fortunate that we're located about 150 kilometres northwest of Anchorage, Alaska. Anchorage is a major city for Alaska with an international airport, with a good highway system, and we're quite close to port facilities at the town of Tyonek which is situated on Cook Inlet. This is where they generate power for Anchorage with a natural gas power plant, which is about 100 miles from the project site.

You're quite right on the geological potential of this region in the world. We're in the, what's called, the Alaska Range which is really an extension of the Aleutian Island chain as it comes on to mainland North America. Other notable deposits in this belt are the Pebble deposit that Northern Dynasty is working on with their partner, Anglo, and this is a giant Copper-Gold deposit.

From the infrastructure side, it's been quite a bit of news in the recent past year with the Donlin Creek Project just announcing their feasibility study last week. A big part of their feasibility includes a natural gas pipeline which would come from the coast of Cook Inlet right through the Whistler Project and on to the Donlin Creek Project. It's a total of about a 500-kilometre pipeline. And again, with it going right through the Whistler Project, that provides some

excellent infrastructure access for us should we develop this project into the mining and production phase.

**Smallcaps.us: Excellent, now on the Whistler Property there are a number of very interesting zones. For example, the Whistler zone itself on which the current NI 43-101 compliant resource estimate is based. Would you share a bit more about this zone and the current resource estimate?**

**Jason Weber:** The Whistler resource was initially estimated by Geoinformatics Exploration Inc. That's the company that we merged with to form Kiska back in 2009. We updated that study in early 2011.

It essentially consists of an 80 million ton resource of half a gram gold and 0.17% copper. And there's some silver in that as well. What comes out of that is an indicated resource of 1.28 million ounces gold and 300 million pounds of copper. With that, there's an inferred resource that's 146 million tons averaging 0.4 grams of ton gold and 0.15% copper. That gives you another 1.85 million ounces of gold and 470 million pounds of copper.

If you take these to the indicated and inferred resources, and you convert them to gold equivalent, so taking the value of the silver and the copper with it and converting that to the value in gold, it comes out to 2.25 million ounces gold equivalent in the indicated category and 3.35 million ounces in the inferred category. So that gives you over 5.5 million ounces gold equivalent.

So it's a sizable deposit and there is potential to expand this deposit to depth, but it's not something that we're really contemplating at this time. We're looking for more near-surface deposits in the vicinity.

**Smallcaps.us: Well, that's great. And what can you tell us about the other zones on the Whistler Property?**

**Jason Weber:** It's important to understand that unlike the Pebble deposit, located about 270

kilometres to the southwest of us, which is one giant copper-gold deposit, we are looking at a series of smaller deposits that are clustered together in one area. If you were to take this to the development phase, you'd still be looking at processing these various deposits together at the same mill and same infrastructure.

So we have been searching in the vicinity of Whistler, in 18 by 9-kilometre area within which the Whistler deposits sits. And we've made five other porphyry discoveries in that area as close as 1.5 kilometre away from Whistler and as far as 5 kilometres away.

We've also got another cluster of copper-gold deposits that are about 23 kilometres away that we call Island Mountain.

**Smallcaps.us: Earlier this year, Kiska completed a 30,300-metre drill program at Whistler. What were the goals of that program and what were the results?**

**Jason Weber:** As I mentioned, our focus has really been on finding and developing additional near-surface deposits. One of the challenges that has been presented to previous explorers up here, and hence presented the opportunity to Kiska, is that the deposits here right around the Whistler area are covered by anywhere from 5 to 20 metres of gravel. This gravel hides these deposits.

Our focus really has been on developing, trying to step out and build on some of these other discoveries right in the vicinity of Whistler and also to make new discoveries.

There's a very, very large area here that hasn't really been explored all that well, so we feel that there's a strong possibility to make additional discoveries there. And before we move this Whistler project forward, we want to make sure we've discovered the best deposits there and are moving the best ones towards pre-feasibility and feasibility type scenarios.

So roughly half our budget was spent in the Whistler area exploring these new discoveries and looking for new ones. The other half of our

budget was spent at the south end of the property at our Island Mountain target which is probably the next most advanced discovery after the Whistler deposit itself.

**Smallcaps.us: And would you say that there's room for expanding the resource at Whistler and how do you envision the medium to long-term future there?**

**Jason Weber:** Yes, absolutely. The Whistler deposit, that resource is open at depth. However, our focus is on, as I said, near-surface deposits and that is those deposits that surround the Whistler deposit itself and the Island Mountain down 23 kilometres to the south of Whistler.

In the medium term, we look to complete drilling at Island Mountain to come up with the next 43-101 resource estimate. Our goal really is to double the resource that we have at Whistler. We feel that with the current size of what we have and the grades for copper and gold that we have right now, we just need to double this resource to get it into a realm that would be considered economic.

We've taken some very large steps that way and we'd hope to get enough drilling done to get a new resource completed there in the New Year. Whether it will be a double, I don't know that we've done enough drilling yet, but certainly that will be a focus of upcoming programs as to continue to build on that and work towards that doubling of the resource on the project.

**Smallcaps.us: And can you tell our listeners a bit about Kiska's shareholder structure and its most recent financing activities?**

**Jason Weber:** We're very fortunate to have a good strong institutional shareholder as our major partner and that's Geologic Resource Partners. They're based in Boston, Massachusetts, in the United States. They have 30% shareholding in Kiska, and they really were the drivers of the merger to form Kiska back in 2009. They were the major shareholder of Geoinformatics who had the Whistler project and sought us out.

We were running a company called Rimfire Minerals at that time and they sought us out to negotiate a merger. We completed the merger in August of '09 and the real purpose of that merger was to advance the Whistler Project, the key asset in Geoinformatics. They've been strong supporters of us.

Our most recent financing was done in the spring of 2011. We raised just over \$17 million at \$1.15. That came with a half warrant as well as one share unit and that was done through a consortium of banks here in Canada led by Raymond James and National Bank Financial.

**Smallcaps.us: Considering Kiska's involvement in commodities, what would you say about the state of the gold and copper markets, and how do you see those developing in the coming years?**

**Jason Weber:** Well, I pay most attention to the gold market because we really consider the Whistler Project a gold project rather than a copper project.

I think that with the gold companies being in a state where they need to replace the ounces that they're currently mining, it's going to be a favourable market for junior companies that have ounces on the ground.

Obviously some of the economic considerations and turmoil around the world had a favourable lift for gold, but I also look at the fundamentals on the discovery rates for new deposits and we, as explorers, aren't as efficient as we used to be. I think that makes the senior producers hungry for more deposits.

Now the backdrop to all this is I don't think that the gold price is going to fall back down to \$1200 or \$1100 in the near future. I think when you combine that need for new ounces for the producers with a strong gold price, I think that presents an excellent opportunity for junior companies who have ounces on the ground to sell their projects to those gold producers.

**Smallcaps.us: Well that's good to know. And what can you tell us about Kiska's**

## **management team and the other key members of the Company?**

**Jason Weber:** The management team is really out of Rimfire Minerals, the company that we operated for 10 years prior to the merger. The key people behind Kiska are myself as the CEO. Our director and now VP of Business Development, Dave Caulfield, who is the founder of Rimfire and our Vice President of Exploration, Mark Baknes, were two of the key founders of the Company.

Rimfire was based on the fact that we had operated a consulting firm that did mineral exploration for major companies, junior companies all over the world. We were involved in the discovery of the Wolverine massive sulphide deposit, which is a zinc-gold-copper-silver deposit in Alaska that's now just gone into production. And it was really that discovery that led us to believe that we should start our own junior company and do this work for ourselves. That was sort of the kick-off for Rimfire.

We did work for major companies over that 10-year span. Our partners included Barrick Gold, AngloGold, Newmont, Xstrata, Inmet. So we had a good suite of major company partners. That's really one of the strengths of our group. There's good technical and geological program execution while building relationships with the major companies which, of course, are going to be the end buyers of a project like Whistler.

Our board is one I'm proud to be part of. We've got our chairman Geoff Chater, who's been involved in many financings and raising money for companies such as First Quantum which is a very successful copper company obviously.

Jack Miller who used to be the Chief Operating Officer at Quadra Mining, he's on our board as well. So we have some good technical expertise, somebody who's built mines before.

John Kanellitsas and George Ireland who are representatives of Geologic Resource Partners, our largest shareholder. And somebody with M&A experience, Mark Selby, also from the Quadra team.

So a good strong board that's agile and very keen on advancing Whistler. A very good support group and guidance for this Company.

## **Smallcaps.us: Now before we close, why is this a good time to start looking at your Company for investing opportunities?**

**Jason Weber:** Well, typically, the end of the fiscal year here in Canada is a great time to be looking as we're into what's called the tax-loss season. People are selling stocks that are down for their tax losses, so they can claim that on their next year's income tax.

That is especially prevalent this year because of all of the market turmoil. Overall, there's been quite a bit of a downtrend that has created even more selling in companies like ours. Typically what we see in the first quarter of the new year is an uptake in these share prices as people come back into these stocks.

So I think anybody who gets involved in Kiska at this stage will do well in the new year.

The other is that they're just aren't very many big projects like the one Kiska is working on and we have control of essentially a new gold-copper district in Alaska that is on the radar screen of the big producers and I think with some time here as we add ounces to the story, I think that's going to catch on and we'll get a higher evaluation for the ounces we have in the ground, plus we're going to have more ounces. So that's going to have an even stronger effect on our share price in moving that up. So I think right now is an excellent time to be looking at Kiska.

**Smallcaps.us:** Well, thank you, Jason. I really appreciate your insight and we will certainly keep an eye on your Company's activities. We obviously hope to have you back in the future to give us an update on its progress.

**Jason Weber:** Absolutely. It's been my pleasure.

## **Interview Feedback**

We welcome your questions and feedback regarding this interview at: <http://smallcaps.us/kiska-metals-ceo-jason-weber-opens-up-about-5-6-million-ounces-gold-eq-whistler-property>.

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