

ASX RELEASE  
21 October 2024

## Desert Metals commences diamond drilling at the King Kong prospect, Adzope gold project, Côte d'Ivoire

- Desert Metals has commenced its first drilling program at the **King Kong prospect** on the **Adzope gold project** in Côte d'Ivoire
- At least **8 diamond drill holes for 1,500m** are planned next to and underneath artisanal gold pits in the highly prospective northeast King Kong area of the Adzope gold project
- Drilling is designed to test zones of interpreted gold mineralisation that have been identified by mapping the walls of the artisanal gold pits and is supported by ground geophysics
- A ground geophysics survey of Gradient Array Induced Polarisation (**GAIP**) and ground magnetics (**GMAG**) over **55.45-line kilometres** covering an area of **5.5km<sup>2</sup>** has been completed over the northeast artisanal area known as "**the Beach**" and further to the southeast of this area
- First results from diamond drilling and Desert Metals' ongoing soil, channel and grab sampling programs are expected in the **December 2024 quarter**

Desert Metals Limited (Desert Metals, DM1, or the Company) is pleased to announce it has commenced its **first drilling program** at the **King Kong prospect** in the northeastern area of the **Adzope gold project, Côte d'Ivoire**.

The program will comprise a minimum of **eight diamond drill holes** ranging in length from **180m to 220m**, for a total program of **1,500m**. The drill program has been designed to test interpreted zones of gold mineralisation mined by artisanal workers in a series of pits trending southwest from the extensive alluvial gold workings, known as "**the Beach**", in the northeast corner of the Adzope gold permit. It is the first time this area has ever been drill-tested. Drilling is expected to take **3-4 weeks** to complete.

### Desert Metals Managing Director Stephen Ross said:

*"We are delighted to commence our first drilling program at the King Kong prospect, which is part of the highly prospective Adzope gold project. This northeast corner of the Adzope project, now known as 'the Beach', is covered with numerous artisanal gold pits and extensive alluvial gold workings, so it is the obvious location for the first drilling program on this permit.*

*Recent ground geophysics over the Beach area and the mapping of the artisanal pit walls have helped us plan holes into the zones we believe have recently been mined for gold. We are using a low-impact portable diamond drill rig that is easily mobilized between holes and pit areas, thus enabling us to plan further holes as the program evolves. We look forward to updating the market as the drill program progresses."*

Local drilling company, Easy Drilling SARL, is completing the program using a man-portable hydraulic **Rock-800 diamond drill rig**. Drilling will be undertaken using a triple-tube in the oxide layer to ensure good recoveries and NQ width holes down to the target depths of between **180m and 220m**. The Rock-800 has the capability to drill to a total depth of 800m. All holes will be surveyed downhole.

These drill rigs are extremely low impact, thus reducing the need to clear roads or substantial drill pads to undertake the drilling. This allows the Company a great degree of flexibility when planning further holes or moving between drill holes. See Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1 – Rock-800 diamond drill rig and core logging at King Kong**

Desert Metals recently completed a ground geophysics survey of Gradient Array Induced Polarisation (GAIP) and ground magnetics (GMAG) over **55.45-line kilometres** covering an area of **5.5 km<sup>2</sup>** over **the Beach** area. The survey was conducted on 100m-spaced north-south oriented lines, with readings taken every 25m.

The GAIP and GMAG survey assisted in defining the initial drill targets by (i) mapping out rock types and major structures; (ii) defining chargeable zones that indicate sulphides that could host gold mineralisation; and (iii) defining resistive zones that indicate silicification and quartz veining.

Utilising the ground geophysics results and mapping of the artisanal pit walls, drilling will focus on three recently mined artisanal gold pits next to the Beach area in the northeast section of the Adzope gold permit. See Figure 2 below.

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Desert Metals has completed the first phase of a two-phase soil sampling program around the Beach area with **1,005 soil samples** completed. Samples were spaced 50m apart on 200m-spaced east-west lines in the general vicinity of both hard rock and alluvial artisanal gold mining activity around the Beach area. The aim of the soil sampling program is to define in situ gold anomalies for follow-up drilling that may consist of auger, aircore, reverse circulation, and/or diamond drilling, initially in the general vicinity of artisanal gold mining activity (see DM1 ASX Announcement dated 20 September 2024).

Channel and grab sampling of the artisanal pits and the areas surrounding the artisanal pit areas at both the King Kong prospect and the Beach area is ongoing and is being undertaken in conjunction with the soil sampling. All samples will be submitted to Intertek in Côte d'Ivoire for gold analysis via fire assay with a cut-off of 5ppb.

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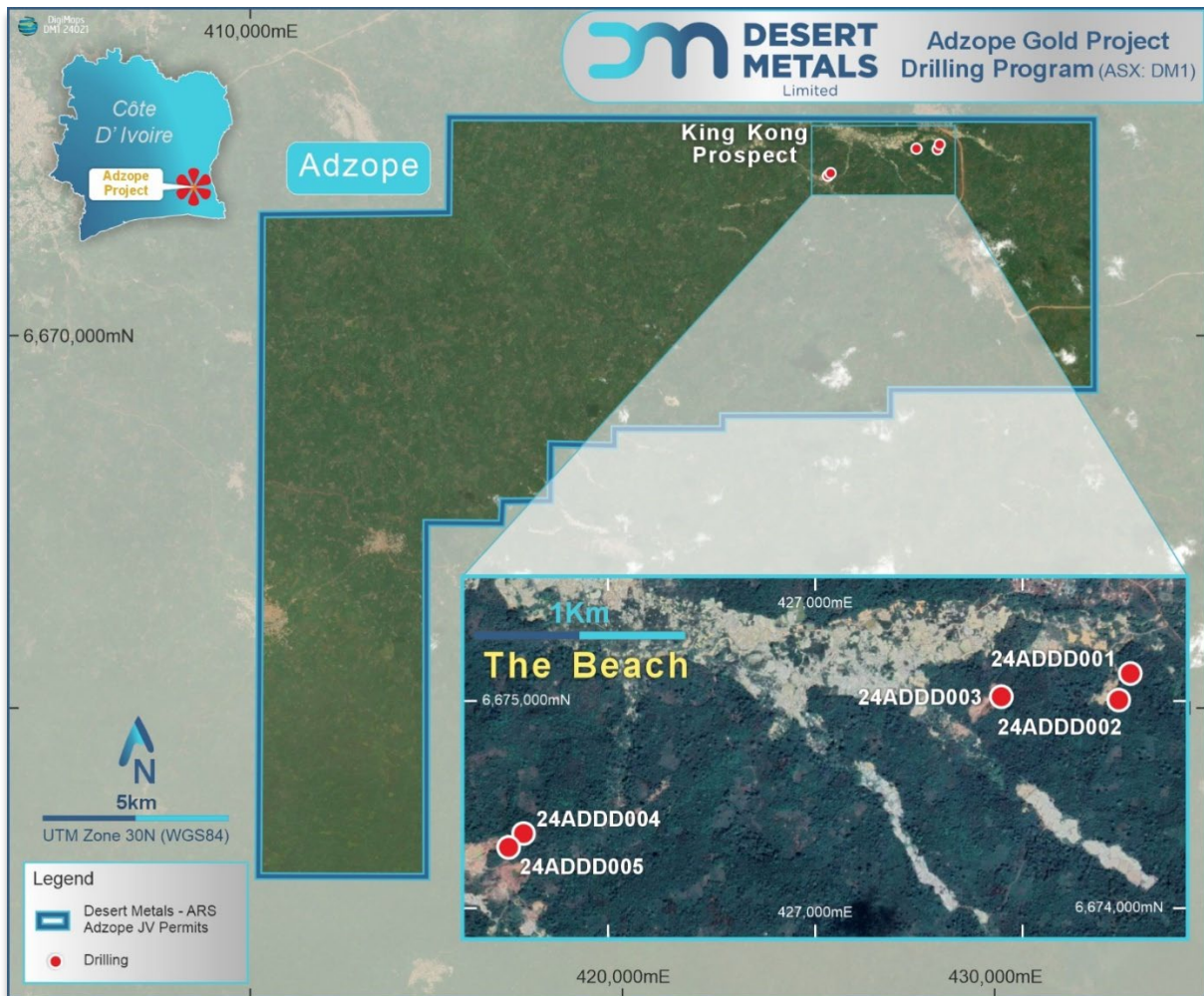


Figure 2 – Location plan King Kong diamond drilling

## Next steps

The King Kong diamond drilling program is scheduled to take **3-4 weeks**. The location of three of the eight diamond drill holes will be determined as the program progresses taking into account what is observed in the drill core. The diamond drill core will be submitted for gold assay using the Chryso<sup>TM</sup> PhotonAssay technique at Intertek Ghana.

The first results from the fully funded diamond drilling program and the various ongoing soil, channel, and grab sampling programs are expected in the **December 2024 quarter**.

**This Announcement has been approved for release by the Board of Desert Metals Limited.**

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## About Desert Metals Limited

Desert Metals Limited is an ASX-listed (ASX:DM1) mineral exploration and development company. DM1 has the right to earn a majority interest under low-cost joint venture arrangements in seven gold and lithium projects covering 2,769km<sup>2</sup> of granted mineral permits and permit applications in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. DM1 currently owns 51% of the Tengrela South project 30km south of the operating Sissingue gold mine and is earning 80% of the highly prospective Adzope gold project. DM1 also has a variety of nickel, copper, and base metal-focused projects in the Narryer Terrane of the northwest Yilgarn Craton and, high-grade Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Platinum Group Elements (PGEs) at its Innouendy Project in Western Australia.

## Competent Persons Statement

The information in this announcement that relates to Exploration Results is based on, and fairly represents, information and supporting documentation prepared by Stephen Ross, a competent person who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Ross has a minimum of five years' experience which is relevant to the style of mineralization and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Joint Ore Reserves. Mr Ross is a related party of the Company, being a Director, and holds securities in the Company. Mr Ross has consented to the inclusion in this announcement of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

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Some of the statements appearing in this announcement may be in the nature of forward-looking statements. You should be aware that such statements are only predictions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties. Those risks and uncertainties include factors and risks specific to the industries in which DM1 operates and proposes to operate as well as general economic conditions, prevailing exchange rates and interest rates and conditions in the financial markets, among other things. Actual events or results may differ materially from the events or results expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement. No forward-looking statement is a guarantee or representation as to future performance or any other future matters, which will be influenced by several factors and subject to various uncertainties and contingencies, many of which will be outside DM1's control. DM1 does not undertake any obligation to update publicly or release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after today's date or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the fairness, accuracy, completeness or correctness of the information, opinions or conclusions contained in this announcement. To the maximum extent permitted by law, none of DM1, its directors, employees, advisors, or agents, nor any other person, accepts any liability for any loss arising from the use of the information contained in this announcement. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement. The forward-looking statements in this announcement reflect views held only as at the date of this announcement.

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