

Ticker: MTR LN

Cash SCPe: ~£7m

Project: T3, Kalahari Cu Belt

Market cap: £21m

Price: 1.375p/sh

Country: Botswana

RECOMMENDATION: BUY

TARGET PRICE: 2.2p/sh

RISK RATING: HIGH

DFS confirms PFS, T3 nears production decision

MOD released the T3 full DFS results following the publication of the DFS reserve on Monday. On a pre-tax basis, the study shows an NPV_{8%} of US\$368m, a 33% IRR, and 3.7 years payback, at an average 3.08/lb copper price. This NPV is between the US\$281m of the PFS base case and the US\$402m of the PFS expansion case at similar copper prices. DFS production is 318kt of Cu over 11.5 years at an average AISC of US\$1.56/lb Cu. Build capex rose to US\$182m from US\$155m in the PFS, per the decision to lift nameplate from 2.5Mtpa to 3Mtpa. Following ESIA approval and granting of a mining license by 3Q19, MOD expects to secure financing and commence construction in 4Q19. The study does not include an underground, though a scoping study is planned for 2H19 following additional drilling. The company indicated that it has received expression of interest for debt funding of the project, and is advancing discussions with strategic parties for non-debt funding.

Table 1. Summary table of T3 studies and SCP estimates

T3 (100% MOD)	PFS		T3	SCPe	Δ (%)	SCPe		Δ (%)
	base	exp.	DFS	DFS case		old	new	
Pit inventory / reserve (kt ore)	21,430	41,000	34,400	34,440	-	34,400	34,440	-
Pit inventory / reserve (% Cu)	1.02%	0.86%	1.00%	1.00%	-	1.00%	1.00%	-
Pit inventory / reserve (kt Cu)	218	353	343	344	-	344	344	-
Pit strip (x)	4.8	4.3	5.7	5.7	-	5.7	5.7	-
Nameplate mill (ktpa)	2,500	4,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-
Cu recovery (%)	93%	92%	93%	93%	-	92%	93%	+1%
LOM production (kt Cu)	203	325	318	319	-	316	319	+1%
Average production (kt Cu pa)	23	28	28	28	-	26	28	+5%
Mine life (yrs)	8.8	11.7	11.5	11.5	-	12.0	11.5	-4%
Pre-production capex (US\$m)	155	163	182	182	-	193	182	-6%
Expansion capex (US\$m)	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
LOM sustaining capex (US\$m)	31	54	84	84	-	54	84	+55%
Mining cost (US\$/t mined)	2.31	2.54	2.63	2.63	-	2.09	2.63	+26%
Processing cost (US\$/t milled)	2.90	2.60	6.27	6.27	-	7.50	6.27	-16%
LOM AISC net Ag (US\$/lb)	1.36	1.46	1.56	1.57	-	1.30	1.51	+16%
Copper price (US\$/lb)	3.03	3.02	3.08	3.09	-	2.86	2.89	+1%
Silver price (US\$/oz)	18.87	18.84	-	15.25	-	15.50	15.25	-2%
Discount rate (%)	8%	8%	8%	8%	-	8%	8%	-
Pre-tax NPV (US\$m)	281	402	368	397	+8%	372	316	-15%
Pre-tax IRR (%)	39%	38%	33%	33%	-1%	35%	28%	-22%
Project NPV (US\$m)	-	-	-	233	-	228	182	-20%
Project IRR (%)	-	-	-	25%	-	25%	21%	-17%

Source: MOD, SCP estimates

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Valuation

Asset valuation: We mirror the DFS inputs and copper prices for an SCP pre-tax NPV_{8%} of US\$397m, slightly above the US\$368m in the DFS likely on spend timing differences, and a 33% IRR identical to the DFS. We then deduct taxes according to the Botswana sliding rate for a US\$233m post-tax NPV_{8%} and 25% IRR. Adjusting to spot copper (-6% to 289c/lb) lowers this to US\$182m with a 21% IRR and 4.8 year payback. This demonstrates the high leverage of T3 to copper prices – we give a detailed summary of our model assumptions in Table 1, and a range of sensitivities to copper prices and discount rates in Table 3 below, for example the post-tax NPV_{8%} lifts to US\$331m with a 32% IRR at 350c/lb.

Corporate valuation: We convert our T3 project NPV to a group valuation by adding net cash and cash from options, and deducting US\$47m of LOM central G&A, and modelling a US\$220m finance package with 60% gearing (US\$132m debt) at a 9% lender IRR. This takes our NPV to US\$138m at build start and US\$389m in 1Q21 at first production. We then add the remaining US\$88m in equity, raised at a 25% premium to spot, and add options for a fully-funded fully-diluted share count. At first production in 1Q21, this equates to a 1xNAV_{8%} exit valuation of A85c/sh for MOD. Adding a nominal US\$50m for the 70%-owned exploration licenses improves this exit to A96c/sh. Of note, the *per share* valuation is highly dependent on equity premium and size, as the company has flagged that it is looking at strategic non-debt investments, which could relate either to a sell down of regional exploration holdings or a sell-down at asset level. While this may improve per share valuation, it would not impact the T3 project valuation.

Table 2. T3 NAV for MOD and MTR look-through per share

1xNAV project valuation*: MOD					Asset value: 1xNPV project @ build start (US\$m, ungeared)*					
US\$m	FD o/ship	NAVx	A\$/sh		MOD NAV (US\$m)	\$2.25lb	\$2.50lb	\$2.89lb	\$3.00lb	\$4.00lb
T3 project NPV8%	182	100%	1.0x	0.73						
Exploration	50	70%	1.0x	0.14	10% discount	39	104	192	216	413
Cash (SCPe 4Q18 + 1Q19 net proceeds)	18	100%	1.0x	0.07	8% discount	66	138	235	262	480
	235			0.94	6% discount	100	179	287	317	561
<i>*Build start, ex fin. cost and G&A, dil. for options not mine build</i>					Ungeared project IRR:	9%	14%	21%	23%	32%
Project valuation: MTR					Metal Tiger look thru (p/sh)					
US\$m	FD o/ship	NAVx	p/sh		\$2.25lb	\$2.50lb	\$2.89lb	\$3.00lb	\$4.00lb	
Holding in MOD*	235	21%	1.0x	2.35	10% discount	1.7	2.3	3.2	3.4	5.4
Cash (MTR, SCPe 4Q18)	9	100%	1.0x	0.46	8% discount	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.9	6.1
Project-level exploration holding^	50	30%	1.0x	0.73	6% discount	2.3	3.1	4.2	4.5	6.9
MTR investments	1.8	100%	1.0x	0.09	<i>*Project level NPV, excl finance costs and central SGA, discounted to build start</i>					
	75			3.6						

Source: SCP estimates

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Our view

With pre-reported reserves and mill sizing, the key novelties are slightly higher recovery and production, a drop on capex against our forecast, but higher mining cost offset by lower (US\$6.27/t) processing cost, with a net 16% lift in AISC. In short, this is what drives our post-tax project NPV down from US\$228m to US\$182m, or US\$138m post G&A and finance costs.

Geologically, stepping back from T3, whose post-tax geared economics reported today are not Tier 1 yet, the company has flagged that it will continue drilling the underground at T3. With the copper ore zones bifurcating and dropping in grade this could be useful but is not the main game, in our opinion. Rather, in a self-build scenario, we see T3 as an excellent base-resource, which substantially lowers the discovery hurdle on the rest of the belt – in our opinion, the most prospective sedimentary copper belt globally, based on exploration maturity vs. endowment basis, and an accelerating discovery rate (the only one globally). This only improves with a lower hurdle. Thus, we lift our nominal exploration value from US\$34m to US\$50m. This leaves MTR's NAV ~unchanged, taking it from US\$76m to US\$75m.

Strategically, we note the company is looking into non-debt strategic investments. We speculate that this could be earn-ins or cash sales of distal exploration holdings, or alternatively a sell-down at asset level. Firstly, a regional sell-down would lower the equity requirement to build T3, and thus improve the per share equity valuation. However, this would not impact the fundamental NPV of T3, and in fact would risk lowering the potential for exploration success (if less land was held). Similarly, Sandfire's expression of interest at A\$0.38/sh recently would perhaps be influenced by total exploration holdings. Consequently, we retain our view that belt-scale exploration, with conservative drilling and proved EM techniques would be the easiest path to value add, but of course is higher risk than pushing ahead with T3 as it stands. With Metal Tiger structurally more geared to exploration success (~1.5x more geared to a nominal exploration value add, +2% NSR on new finds), we see MTR as the preferred way to play exploration, and vice versa for MOD's improved gearing on T3 should investors want to play development. An asset sell-down could lower the equity requirement, a positive given the current anemic ECM conditions, but per-share value would be dependent on whether a premium or discount to NAV was achieved.

Recommendation: Maintain BUY rating and 2.2p/sh price target

We apply a 0.6x NAV multiple to MTR's NAV to derive our 2.2p/sh price target and maintain our BUY rating. We show our SOTP valuation and sensitivities of this target price to copper and discount rate below.

Table 3. MTR valuation based on MOD / T3 look through

Project valuation: MTR					Asset value: 1xNPV project @ build start (US\$m, ungeared)*					
	US\$m	FD o/ship	NAVx	p/sh	MOD NAV (US\$m)	\$2.25lb	\$2.50lb	\$2.89lb	\$3.00lb	\$4.00lb
Holding in MOD*	235	21%	0.6x	1.41	MOD NAV (US\$m)	\$2.25lb	\$2.50lb	\$2.89lb	\$3.00lb	\$4.00lb
Cash (MTR, SCPe 4Q18)	9	100%	0.6x	0.28	10% discount	39	104	192	216	413
Project-level exploration holding ^A	50	30%	0.6x	0.44	8% discount	66	138	235	262	480
MTR investments	1.8	100%	0.6x	0.05	6% discount	100	179	287	317	561
	75			2.2	Ungeared project IRR:	9%	14%	21%	23%	32%
<i>*72m MOD shares x US\$235m NAV above; ^ANominal SCP valuation</i>					Metal Tiger look thru (p/sh) \$2.25lb \$2.50lb \$2.89lb \$3.00lb \$4.00lb					
<i>Source: SCP estimates</i>					10% discount	1.0	1.4	1.9	2.1	3.2
					8% discount	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.3	3.7
					6% discount	1.4	1.8	2.5	2.7	4.1
					<i>*Project NPV, ex finance and corp SGA, d'cnt to build start</i>					

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Why we like Metal Tiger

1. Exposure to least-explored and most (recently) prospective sedimentary copper belt globally
2. Direct leverage (30% asset and 21% TopCo) to >11,000m² land position
3. Indirect leverage to +8,700km₂ via 50% holding in private company Kalahari Metals
4. Regional exploration taking off, belt heating up, with MOD/MTR JV drill permits granted
5. Proven exploration strategy: EM for domes, mag for stratigraphy, soils for prospecting

Catalysts

- 2Q19: ESIA approval and ML granted
- 2019: Follow up drilling at T4 and T23 dome
- 2019: Infill T3 to complete
- 2H19: Conceptual studies into T3 Expansion and underground mining
- 3Q19: Project finance
- 4Q19: T3 construction start
- 1Q21: First ore processed

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Ticker: MTR LN	Share price: 1.38p/sh	Market P/NAV (MOD): 0.61x	Recommendation: BUY
Author: Brock Salier	Market cap: £21.4m	Market P/NAV (MTR): 0.38x	Price target: 2.2p/sh

Commodity price	CY19E	CY20E	CY21E	CY22E	CY23E
Copper price (US\$/lb)	2.89	2.89	2.89	2.89	2.89
1xNAV project valuation*: MOD	US\$m	FD o/ship	NAVx	A\$/sh	
T3 project NPV8%:	182	100%	1.0x	0.73	
Exploration	50	70%	1.0x	0.14	
Cash (SCPe 4Q18 + 1Q19 net proceeds)	18	100%	1.0x	0.07	
	235			0.94	

*Build start, ex fin. cost and G&A, dil. for options not mine build

Project valuation: MTR	US\$m	FD o/ship	NAVx	p/sh
Holding in MOD*	235	21%	1.0x	2.35
Cash (MTR, SCPe 4Q18)	9	100%	1.0x	0.46
Project-level exploration holding^	50	30%	1.0x	0.73
MTR investments	1.8	100%	1.0x	0.09
	75			3.6

*72m MOD shares x US\$235m NAV above; ^Nominal SCP valuation

Asset value: 1xNPV project @ build start (US\$m, ungeared)*					
MOD NAV (US\$m)	\$2.25lb	\$2.50lb	\$2.89lb	\$3.00lb	\$4.00lb
10% discount	39	104	192	216	413
8% discount	66	138	235	262	480
6% discount	100	179	287	317	561
Ungeared project IRR:	9%	14%	21%	23%	32%
Metal Tiger look thru (p/sh)					
	\$2.25lb	\$2.50lb	\$2.89lb	\$3.00lb	\$4.00lb
10% discount	1.7	2.3	3.2	3.4	5.4
8% discount	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.9	6.1
6% discount	2.3	3.1	4.2	4.5	6.9

*Project NPV, ex finance and corp SGA, d'cnt to build start

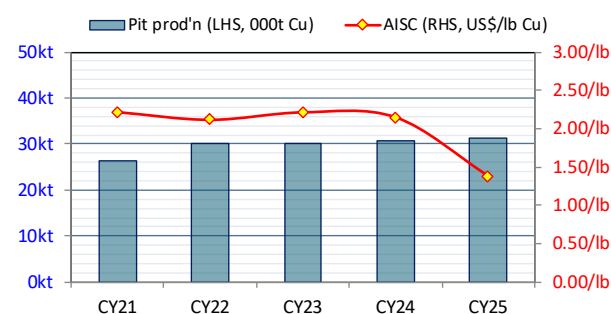
Spot MTR valuation				
Spot MTR valuation	A\$m	FD o/ship	NAVx	p/sh
Value of MOD holding	41.7	100%	1.0x	1.44
Implied 30% expl'n cash and investments	(1.9)	100%	1.0x	(0.06)
	40			1.38

Sensitivity of above MTR value to T3 and exploration value uplift*						
MTR value (p/sh)	T3 value:	US\$29m	US\$50m	US\$75m	#####	#####
Exploration value: US\$27m	0.42	0.63	0.88	1.13	2.13	
Exploration value: US\$50m	0.57	0.79	1.04	1.29	2.29	
Exploration value: US\$75m	0.75	0.96	1.21	1.46	2.47	
Exploration value: US\$100m	0.93	1.14	1.39	1.64	2.64	
Exploration value: US\$200m	1.63	1.84	2.09	2.34	3.34	

*T3 and expl'n on 100% basis, per share diluted for options not mine-build

Production (Y1 from 3Q20)					
	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25
Production (000t Cu)	26	30	30	31	31
C1 cost (US\$/lb Cu)	2.21	1.99	2.09	2.03	1.26
AISC cost (US\$/lb Cu)	2.21	2.11	2.21	2.15	1.37
C3 cost (US\$/lb Cu)	2.54	2.43	2.54	2.49	1.73

AISC = C1 + sustaining capex + central G&A, C3 = AISC + depreciation



Source: SCP estimates

Resource / Reserve	Mt	Cu %	Mt	Cu %	
Meas., Indicated & Inferred:	60.1	0.98%	T1 global:	2.7	2.00%
Reserves:	34.4	1.00%			

Project financing		Company financing	
Min capex (US\$m)	182	Gearing (%)	60%
Drilling/FS cost (US\$m)	10	Build equity raised (US\$m)	88
G&A + finance cost (US\$m)	11	Spot price (MOD, A\$/sh)	0.34
Working capital (US\$m)	17	Equity issue premium (%)	25%
Min. build finance (US\$m)	220	Share issue price (A\$/sh)	0.43

Share data	Basic (m)	FD (m)	FD with mine build equity (m)
MOD Resources	302.7	351.4	642.7 (post 1Q19 equity)
Metal Tiger	1,557	1,557	1,557

Ratio analysis (MOD)	CY19E	CY20E	CY21E	CY22E	CY23E
Average shares out (m)	588	661	661	661	661
EPS (USc/sh)	-	-	-	2.3	1.8
CFPS before w/c (US\$/sh)	-	-	-	4.2	3.9
EV (US\$m)	78.0	104.3	165.8	228.7	297.6
FCF yield (%)	-	-	-	17%	16%
PER (x)	-	-	-	0.44x	0.59x
P/CF (x)	-	-	-	5.8x	6.2x
EV/EBITDA (x)	-	-	17.4x	8.8x	15.1x

Income stmt (MOD)	CY19E	CY20E	CY21E	CY22E	CY23E
Revenue (US\$m)	-	-	162.0	185.8	185.8
COGS (US\$m)	-	-	128.6	132.7	139.3
Gross profit (US\$m)	-	-	33.4	53.0	46.5
Admin (US\$m)	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
D&A, attrib (US\$m)	-	-	19.1	20.9	21.7
Finance cost (US\$m)	-	5.9	11.0	8.6	6.2
Tax (US\$m)	-	-	1.8	4.4	3.3

Net income (US\$m)	(3.3)	(9.6)	(2.1)	15.5	11.6
Cash flow stmt (MOD)	CY19E	CY20E	CY21E	CY22E	CY23E
EBIT (US\$m)	(3.3)	(3.7)	10.7	28.5	21.1
Add back D&A (US\$m)	-	-	19.1	20.9	21.7
Less tax + net interest (US\$m)	-	(5.9)	(12.8)	(13.0)	(9.5)
Net change in wkg cap (US\$m)	-	-	(25.1)	(0.8)	0.3
Cash flow ops (US\$m)	(3.3)	(9.6)	(8.2)	35.6	33.6
PP&E - build + sust. (US\$m)	(35.5)	(146.5)	-	(8.0)	(8.0)
PP&E - expl'n (US\$m)	(6.4)	-	-	-	-
Cash flow inv. (US\$m)	(41.9)	(146.5)	-	(8.0)	(8.0)
Share issue (US\$m)	98.1	-	-	-	-
Debt draw (repay) (US\$m)	-	132.0	(19.8)	(26.4)	(26.4)

Cash flow fin. (US\$m)	98.1	132.0	(19.8)	(26.4)	(26.4)
Balance sheet (MOD)	CY19E	CY20E	CY21E	CY22E	CY23E
Cash (US\$m)	58.1	34.0	6.1	7.2	6.5
Acc rec. + inventories (US\$m)	0.6	0.6	34.4	35.1	35.4
PP&E (US\$m)	37.2	183.7	164.6	151.7	138.0
Others (US\$m)	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3
Total assets (US\$m)	133.1	255.6	242.3	231.3	217.1
Debt (US\$m)	-	132.0	112.2	85.8	59.4
Accounts payable (US\$m)	1.4	1.4	10.1	9.9	10.5
Others (US\$m)	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Total liabilities (US\$m)	6.0	138.0	126.9	100.3	74.5
Shareholders' equity (US\$m)	176.4	176.4	176.4	176.4	176.4
Retained earn'gs + rsvs (US\$m)	(49.0)	(58.6)	(60.7)	(45.2)	(33.6)
Non-controlling interest (US\$m)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Liabilities + equity (US\$m)	133.1	255.6	242.3	231.3	217.1

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TENDER: The analyst recommends tendering shares to a formal tender offering

UNDER REVIEW: The stock will be placed under review when there is a significant material event with further information pending; and/or when the research analyst determines it is necessary to await adequate information that could potentially lead to a re-evaluation of the rating, target price or forecast; and/or when coverage of a particular security is transferred from one analyst to another to give the new analyst time to reconfirm the rating, target price or forecast.

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7	The analyst preparing this report received compensation based upon SCP's investment banking revenue for the issuer	NO
8	The analyst has conducted a site visit and has viewed a major facility or operation of the issuer	YES
9	The analyst has been reimbursed for travel expenses for a site visit by the issuer	NO

Sprott Capital Partners Equity Research Ratings:

Summary of Recommendations as of March 2019	
BUY:	11
HOLD:	0
SELL:	0
NOT RATED:	2
TOTAL	100%

¹ As at the end of the month immediately preceding the date of issuance of the research report or the end of the second most recent month if the issue date is less than 10 calendar days after the end of the most recent month