

# **EQUITY RESEARCH**

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# **SPEC BUY**

Current Price \$0.39
Valuation \$0.90
TSR 131%

Code:			ASX:CTM
Sector:		I	Materials
Shares on Issue (m):			497
- Fully Diluted (m)			502
Market Cap (A\$m):			199
<ul> <li>Fully Diluted (\$m):</li> <li>Cash (A\$m) (Estimate):</li> </ul>			201 17
Debt (A\$m) (Estimate):			1/
Enterprise Value (A\$m)			182
Zincerprise value (rigini)			
52 wk High/Low (ps):		A\$0.56	A\$0.25
12m av. daily vol. (Msh	s):		591
Advanced Projects			Stage
Jaguar		Permitting/	_
Jambreiro		_	Studies
Boi Novo		E>	ploration
Jaguar		Mt	Ni %
Measured		14.8	1.06
Indicated		97.8	0.84
Inferred		25.7	0.88
Key Metrics:			
2/5/	FY28e	FY30e	FY31e
P/E (x) EV/EBITDA (x)	0.0 -1.9	2.2 0.6	2.0 0.6
EV/EBITUA (X)	-1.9	0.6	0.6
Financials:			
	FY28e	FY30e	FY31e
Revenue (\$m)	40	515	530
EBIT (\$m)	-131	246	259
Rep Earn (A\$m)	-116	91	101

Directors	
Didier Murcia	Chairman
Darren Gordon	Managing Director / CEO
Bruno Scarpelli	Executive Director
Mark Hancock	Non-Executive Director
Chris Banasik	Non-Executive Director



Please refer to important disclosures from page 5

Monday, 10 March 2025

# **Centaurus Metals (CTM)**

## Installation Licence Finalised

Analyst | George Ross

## **Quick Read**

Grant of the Jaguar Project Installation License by the Para state government is a significant permitting milestone. This license is the final environmental permit required for grant of the project's Mining Licence. Cuts to nickel quotas in Indonesia has prompted gains in market pricing and improving overall market sentiment. This is well timed for the ongoing strategic partnering and funding processes. We maintain our Speculative Buy recommendation and improve our price target from \$0.85 to \$0.90 per share.

## **Key Points**

**Installation Licence:** CTM reports it has received approval of the Jaguar Nickel Sulphide Project Installation Licence (LI) from the Para state Environmental Agency. The LI is the final condition required for finalisation of the Jaguar Mining Licence which is expected to be issued in the next few months.

The LI provides CTM with the formal right for construction of the Jaguar project to commence in line with the current project design once a suitable funding package has been finalised. The LI also enables CTM to submit an application to the State Development Department for tax incentives related to a range of goods and services including fuel and major equipment

**Strategic partnering process continues:** CTM has continued to engage with potential partners regarding strategic partnership for development of Jaguar. Receipt of the LI should be viewed as a significant permitting de-risking event by potential funding partners.

Indonesian Nickel cut well timed: In January, the Indonesia government announced it would aim to cut its nickel mine quota from 272 million tonnes in 2024 to 150 million tonnes in 2025. Indonesian nickel production currently represents more than 55% of total global production. We expect these cuts to drive higher nickel prices, with CTM being a beneficiary. Nickel prices have already started to move with LME spot now at US\$16,050/t, up from a low of US\$14,770/t in early January.

**Boi Novo:** CTM recently reported new assay results from the Boi Novo copper exploration project. These included a standout interval of 5.5m at 8.4% Cu from 147m including 2m at 22.0% Cu, 0.5g/t Au from 150.5m. Further drilling is required to establish the scale of breccia associated sulphide mineralisation.

## **Recommendation & Price Target**

We maintain our Speculative Buy recommendation and improve our Price Target to \$0.90 per share.



Centaurus Metals (A	SX:CTM)
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 ASX:CTM
 Share price (A\$)
 0.39

 Market Cap (A\$m)
 A\$193m

 Analyst: George Ross
 Shares (m)
 497

 www.argonaut.com
 497

Profit & loss (\$M)	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
Revenues (A\$m)	40	454	515	530	568
Operating costs (A\$m)	-124	-171	-162	-170	-187
Other income/forwards (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Royalties (A\$m)	-2	-26	-30	-31	-33
Corporate overhead (A\$m)	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8
Total Costs (A\$m)	-135	-205	-200	-209	-229
Ebitda (A\$m)	-94	249	315	321	340
Margin (%)	-35%	52%	61%	61%	60%
Depreciation (A\$m)	-36	-76	-68	-62	-63
Ebit (A\$m)	-131	172	246	259	276
Finance income/expense (A\$m)	-22	-33	-22	-6	4
Pre-tax profit (A\$m)	-153	139	224	253	280
Tax (A\$m)	0	0	0	-11	-43
Underlying earnings (A\$m)	-153	139	224	242	237
Exceptional items (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Non Controlling Interest (A\$m)	37	-97	-133	-141	-134
Reported Earnings (A\$m)	-116	42	91	101	103

Cash flow (\$M)	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
Net Profit (A\$m)	-116	42	91	101	103
Depreciation (A\$m)	36	76	68	62	63
Non Controlling Interest (A\$m)	-37	97	133	141	134
Exploration, interest & other (A\$m)	-25	-60	-52	-37	-29
Working capital change (A\$m)	-54	1	0	0	58
Other (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Operating activities (A\$m)	-196	157	240	266	329
Capital Expenditure (A\$m)	-193	-24	-24	-74	-75
Exploration & evaluation (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Other (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Investment activities (A\$m)	-193	-24	-24	-74	-75
Dividends (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Equity (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Other (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Debt draw / (Repay) (A\$m)	220	-90	-200	-243	0
Financing activities (A\$m)	220	-90	-200	-243	0
Cash change (A\$m)	-168	43	16	-50	253

Balance sheet	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
Cash (A\$m)	46	89	105	55	308
Receivables (A\$m)	12	62	65	66	72
Inventories (A\$m)	12	31	32	33	36
Other current assets (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Total current assets (A\$m)	70	183	202	154	416
Property, plant & equip. (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Mine Properties (A\$m)	482	434	395	410	426
Exploration Properties (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Other (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Total non-curr. assets (A\$m)	482	434	395	410	426
Total assets (A\$m)	552	617	597	564	843
Current Payables (A\$m)	25	-6	-5	8	-6
Short term borrowings (A\$m)	90	200	243	0	0
Other (A\$m)	-7	-6	-5	8	-5
Total curr. liabilities (A\$m)	108	187	232	16	-11
Long term borrowings (A\$m)	363	199	0	0	0
Other (A\$m)	0	0	0	0	0
Total non-curr. liabil. (A\$m)	363	199	0	0	0
Total liabilities (A\$m)	471	386	232	16	-11
Net assets (A\$m)	81	231	364	548	854
Equity					
Contributed equity (A\$m)	282	282	282	282	282
Accumulated earnings (losses) (A\$m)	-194	-44	90	273	579
Reserves (A\$m)	-7	-7	-7	-7	-7
Total attributable equity (A\$m)	81	231	364	548	854
Non-Controlling Interests (A\$m)	-120	-161	-153	-140	-134
Total Equity (A\$m)	-40	69	211	408	720

2028E

0

0

0.00

912

912

2029E

0.00

912

912

0

0

2030E

0

0

0.00

912

912

2031E

0.00

0

0

912

912

2032E

0.00

912

912

0

0

Share Capital

Average issue price

Ordinary shares - end

Diluted shares - end

Total Cash Raised

New shs issued/exerciseable

Recommendation	Spec Buy
Price Target	A\$0.90
TSR (%)	131%
(Assumed 70% Retention of Jaguar)	

C1 Cost Ore Milled

Nickel Forecast (Real)



Key Financials/Ratios	Unit	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
GCFPS	¢	-39	32	48	54	66
CFR	X	-1.0	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6
EPS	¢	-23	8	18	20	21
PER	Χ	0.0	4.7	2.1	1.9	1.9
Yield	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Interest cover	X	-1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ROCE	%	0%	40%	62%	63%	65%
ROE	%	0%	60%	43%	25%	14%
Gearing	%	96%	103%	98%	0%	0%
Jaguar Project Performance		2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
Jaguar Project Performance Ore Mined		2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E
•	Mt	<b>2028E</b>	<b>2029E</b> 3.5	<b>2030E</b> 3.5	<b>2031E</b> 3.5	<b>2032E</b> 3.5
Ore Mined	Mt %					
Ore Mined Tonnage		1.8	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Ore Mined Tonnage Ni	%	1.8 0.40	3.5 0.80	3.5 0.81	3.5 0.80	3.5 0.79
Ore Mined Tonnage Ni Co	%	1.8 0.40	3.5 0.80	3.5 0.81	3.5 0.80	3.5 0.79
Ore Mined Tonnage Ni Co Payable Metal Produced	%	1.8 0.40 0.01	3.5 0.80 0.02	3.5 0.81 0.02	3.5 0.80 0.02	3.5 0.79 0.02
Ore Mined Tonnage Ni Co Payable Metal Produced Nickel	% % kt	1.8 0.40 0.01	3.5 0.80 0.02 14.3	3.5 0.81 0.02	3.5 0.80 0.02 15.8	3.5 0.79 0.02 15.5
Ore Mined Tonnage Ni Co Payable Metal Produced Nickel Cobalt	% % kt kt	1.8 0.40 0.01	3.5 0.80 0.02 14.3	3.5 0.81 0.02	3.5 0.80 0.02 15.8	3.5 0.79 0.02 15.5

Project Valuation	A\$M	A\$/sh
Jaguar Build Date Post-Tax NPV(8)   100% Ownership	878	1.77
Jambreiro Build Date Post-Tax NPV(8)   100% Ownership	273	0.55

46.5

7.91

7.98

US\$/t Ore

US\$/lb Ni

\*Value base on current shares on issue es on issue

27.6

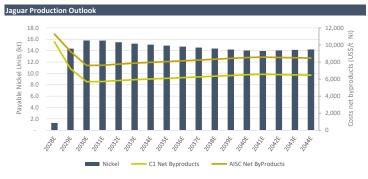
8.00

27.6

8.00

27.6

8.00



Company Valuation Summary	Spot		Forecast	
	A\$M	A\$/sh	A\$M	A\$/sh
Jaguar Post-Tax NPV(8) 70% Retained	427	0.47	577	0.63
Jambreiro Post-Tax NPV(8) 100% Ownership	172	0.19	172	0.19
Regional Exploration	20	0.02	20	0.02
Corporate Overheads	-68	-0.08	-68	-0.07
Cash (Estimate)	17	0.02	17	0.02
Debt	0	0.00	0	0.00
Future Unpaid Capital	165	0.18	165	0.18
Total	732	0.80	882	0.96
Price Target 50:50 Spot:Forecast			807	0.90

 $\ensuremath{^{*}}\xspace$  Valuation estimated on a capital diulted share basis

Directors & Management	
Didier Murcia	Chairman
Darren Gordon	Managing Director / CEO
Bruno Scarpelli	Executive Director
Mark Hancock	Non-Executive Director
Chris Banasik	Non-Executive Director
Natalia Streltsova	Non-Executive Director

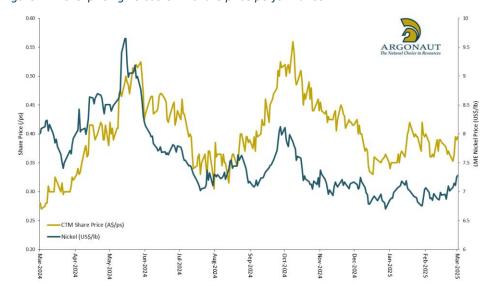
Jaguar Project Resources	Mt	Ni %	Co %
Measured	15	1.06	0.04
Indicated	98	0.84	0.02
Inferred	26	0.88	0.03
Total	138	0.87	0.03



# **Nickel Pricing**

Figure 1: Nickel pricing versus CTM share price performance.

Nickel pricing on the way up and we expect CTM's share price to follow



Source: Factset, Argonaut, March 2025

# **Corporate Level Valuation**

Our corporate level valuation assumes construction of Jaguar will be begin at the beginning of CY2026, with operations ramping up from early-CY2028. We assume capital requirements would be provided by a 30% selldown of the project at a 20% discount to NPV. Funding shortfalls would be provided by debt and an equity raising. Using our base case assumptions, CTM's assumed 70% retained stake in Jaguar is today valued at NPV(8) A\$577M.

The Jambreiro Iron Ore project remains CTM's sleeper project. We also include \$20M in value for regional exploration projects including Boi Novo.

Corporate overheads are presented as a the NPV of modelled heady company future outgoings. We estimate \$17M in current cash and equivalents with no significant debt.

Table 1: CTM company level net asset valuation.

We ascribe a Price Target of A\$0.90 per share and maintain our Speculative Buy

Company Valuation Summary	Spot	Forecast			
	A\$M	A\$/sh	A\$M	A\$/sh	
Jaguar Post-Tax NPV(8) 70% Retained	427	0.47	577	0.63	
Jambreiro Post-Tax NPV(8) 100% Ownership	172	0.19	172	0.19	
Regional Exploration	20	0.02	20	0.02	
Corporate Overheads	-68	-0.08	-68	-0.07	
Cash (Estimate)	17	0.02	17	0.02	
Debt	0	0.00	0	0.00	
Future Unpaid Capital	165	0.18	165	0.18	
Total	732	0.80	882	0.96	
Price Target 50:50 Spot:Forecast			807	0.90	

\* Valuation estimated on a capital diulted share basis

Source: Argonaut, January 2025



# **Key Risks to valuation**

## **Timelines**

Our discounted cash flow model is time dependant. Any delay to scheduled development or production will adversely effect on our valuation.

## **Metallurgical performance**

Sulphide concentrate characterisation studies have concluded that fluorine is present at manageable levels for pyrometallurgical refiners. Deleterious elements are less of an issue for hydrometallurgical refiners.

## **Commodity Pricing**

Value estimates are based on consensus long term commodity price forecasts. A 10% difference to the price of nickel over the modelled life of mine will result in a  $^{\sim}25\%$  shift in project valuation.

#### Costs

Cost assumptions are based on operating and capital costs from CTM documentation and our knowledge of industry rates.

### **Exploration success**

Valuation assumes that future exploration and investments achieve acceptable returns. Subjective value is attributed to exploration assets at Jaguar.

### Interest rates/discount rates

Argonaut takes cash flow risk into account when choosing discount rates for different projects. Our valuation is sensitive to the discount rate used.



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The publishing analyst holds CTM shares.

Argonaut holds or controls 261,638 CTM shares.

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