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1ST October 2025 - ASX Announcement

DESOTO ENTERS INTO EXPLORATION ALLIANCE IN GUINEA WITH TSX-LISTED FORTUNA MINING CORP

DeSoto Resources Limited (ASX: DES) ("DeSoto" or "the Company") is pleased to announce it has executed a binding Heads of Agreement **(HOA)** with Fortuna Mining Corp (TSX:FVI) **(Fortuna)** to establish an exploration alliance **(Alliance)** and Joint Venture **(JV)** across an area of interest in Guinea's Siguiri Basin.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Binding HOA establishes an Alliance to apply for, acquire and explore new permits over a prescribed Area of Interest (AOI) in Guinea's Siguiri Basin.
- Once the target permits have been acquired, Fortuna will spend up to US$12.5m over three years to progress exploration in a set-equity joint venture (70% FVI – 30% DES).
- **Importantly, the JV does not include DeSoto's existing 100%-owned tenements** (including tenements that DeSoto has under application), **or preclude DeSoto from acquiring other projects in the Siguiri Basin outside of the AOI** with the Alliance delivering exposure to new opportunities for DeSoto, while not being responsible for funding exploration in the initial years.
- The Alliance builds on the collective strength of both companies, with DeSoto being well established in Guinea with strong exploration credentials, and Fortuna a West African producer with strong technical expertise and a large exploration budget.
- Both DeSoto and Fortuna hold the strong belief that the Siguiri Basin remains one of the few remaining regions globally with the potential to host large (+2Moz) open-pittable deposits.
- New and existing opportunities have already been identified across the Siguiri Basin.
- The two companies have already made joint representations to the Government in Guinea, with Managing Director Chris Swallow and Fortuna Senior Vice President - Exploration Paul Weedon meeting key Ministers and advisors in late August.

ABOUT FORTUNA MINING CORP.

Fortuna is a Canadian-listed precious metals company with a growing footprint in West Africa, most notably through its Séguéla gold mine in Côte d'Ivoire and the rapidly advancing Diamba Sud gold project in Senegal.

Its African assets have become a core pillar of its portfolio, contributing significantly to free cash flow and production growth with a market capitalisation of US$2.62 billion[1].

[1] As at 1st October 2025

Commenting on the Exploration Alliance, DeSoto Managing Director Chris Swallow:

"This agreement with Fortuna represents a significant strategic step for DeSoto in Guinea. The structure provides our shareholders with further substantial exposure to a highly prospective region while ensuring that exploration expenditure is initially carried by our partner. With a strong partner in Fortuna and a robust governance framework, this Alliance creates a solid platform to deliver discovery success in one of West Africa's premier gold provinces."

Commenting on the Exploration Alliance, Fortuna Senior Vice President Paul Weedon:

"Fortuna is looking to continue to grow its exploration footprint across the highly prospective Birimian terrain of West Africa. The Alliance with DeSoto provides an excellent opportunity to work with a highly credentialed technical team with extensive in-country experience and success in an underexplored and very prospective country, supporting our long-term organic growth strategy"

KEY AGREEMENT TERMS

- Exploration Alliance & Structure: Incorporation of an Australian joint venture company (JVCo) and wholly owned Guinean subsidiary.
- Ownership Interests: Fortuna 70% initial interest, DeSoto 30% initial interest.
- JVCo board to comprise up to four directors (two from each party, with the majority holder holding a casting vote).
- Project Generation Phase: up to 36-month period to identify "Go Projects".
- Joint Venture Phase: Upon agreement of a Go Project, JVCo will transition into a formal Joint Venture, with Fortuna to solely fund exploration until the later of:
    - 3 years from the date of commencement of the Joint Venture; or
    - US$12.5 million expenditure across Go Projects.
- Post sole funding period, costs to be shared on a pro-rata basis or interests diluted.
- Dilution & Royalty: Non-contributing interests diluted under a standard dilution formula with interests falling below 10% convert into a 2% Net Smelter Return Royalty.
- Transfer & Partner Rights: Standard pre-emptive, right of first offer, drag-along, and tag-along provisions.

Next Steps

- Incorporation of JVCo and GuineaCo.
- Lodgement of initial mineral permit applications.

- Establishment of the Technical Committee and commencement of field activities upon granting of permits.
- The Company will provide an update on the JV as and when appropriate.

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This release is authorised by the Board of Directors of DeSoto Resources Limited

For further information visit our website at DeSotoresources.com or contact:

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