

709 NEWS

P.O. Box 2220, Suite 100 139 Water Street, St. John's NL, A1C 6E6
 Tel : 576-NEWS (6397) Toll Free Tel: 1-888-709-NEWS (6397)
 Fax: 709-753-7340 Toll Free Fax : 1-877-709-NEWS (6397) 1/3
 Website: www.bristolgroup.ca E-mail: 709NEWS@bristolgroup.ca

PUBLICATION:

The Business Post – C.B.S., NL

DATE:

December 10, 2007

Page: 1

Section: X

'Quite a run' for Altius Minerals

*Newfoundland's most successful junior
exploration company celebrates its first decade*

By Craig Westcott
The Business Post

Brian Dalton admitted to being a little more reflective than usual during Altius Minerals' 10th annual general meeting held recently at the Johnson Geo Centre in St. John's.

The company president and founding director of Altius took time to walk shareholders through some of the highlights of the past decade. And as anyone who has been following the company's progress knows, they have been quite a few.

Its share price has increased over fourteen thousand percent

since its first day of trading.

"Altius is a natural resource project generation and royalty business," Dalton explained to the shareholders in attendance, including one woman who had traveled from France. "We like to think of ourselves as being innovative."

'Innovative' is perhaps putting it mildly.

The company has made a name for itself by continuously generating interesting mineral exploration projects and enticing other juniors and larger companies to form joint ventures and take on the heavy lifting of financing the hunt for mineral deposits.

See "ALTIUS" on page 4

709 NEWS

P.O. Box 2220, Suite 100

Tel : 576-NEWS (6397)

Fax: 709-753-7340

Website: www.bristolgroup.ca

139 Water Street, St. John's NL, A1C 6E6

Toll Free Tel: 1-888-709-NEWS (6397)

Toll Free Fax : 1-877-709-NEWS (6397)

E-mail: 709NEWS@bristolgroup.ca

PUBLICATION:

The Business Post – C.B.S., NL

DATE:

December 10, 2007Page: **4**

Section:



Altius team exercises a disciplined approach

Continued from page 1

But Altius has also had great success forming entirely new companies with its partners, such as Ramblers Metals and Mining, which is working towards mining an historic copper and gold deposit on the Baie Verte peninsula, and Aurora Energy, which is the lead player among the companies hoping to mine uranium in Labrador.

Then there's Newfoundland Refining Corporation, a company Dalton created through Altius with some European investors. NRC hopes to build North America's first new refinery in 30 years at a location in Placentia Bay.

"Partnerships have been critical to the whole history of Altius," Dalton admitted.

That strategy of working with partners and leveraging other people's money has enabled Altius to grow its market capitalization to some \$890 million.

"We'd much rather have a piece of something that turns out to be fantastic rather than try to own it all ourselves," said Dalton.

The company has also been successful at exercising a disciplined approach to taking advantage of the cycles in the commodities market. For instance, Altius was the first player to start looking at the uranium potential of Labrador's Central Mineral Belt back when uranium was trading at about \$6 a pound.

Altius also managed to buy a piece of the Voisey's Bay smelter royalty in 2003 before production at the ovoid had started. The deal will see Altius reap tens, perhaps hundreds, of millions of dollars over the life of the huge nickel, copper, cobalt project.

And while the company has oil shale properties in New Brunswick and an interesting minerals play in Scandinavia, just about everything Altius has tackled in the last 10 years, Dalton pointed out, has been located in Newfoundland and Labrador.

But Dalton allowed the people behind Altius were pretty nervous when they waited for their listing back in 1997 and in the immediate period afterwards.

"The markets weren't there," Dalton recalls, referring to a period when the junior exploration market was shaken from the fall-out of the infamous fraud at Bre-X.

The money raised from the IPO, meanwhile, was being used up as Altius drilled holes and conducted other exploration.

"But in the fall of 1998, after a huge effort, we signed up five joint ventures in quick succession, including one with Billiton and another with Teck Cominco," said Dalton.

Altius has had continued success with its partnership model of pursuing exploration ever since.

The company has also been careful to protect its stock by not diluting it too much, a common weakness of many juniors. The purchase of the Voisey Bay royalty helped with that effort, because it effectively bought Altius a quarterly revenue stream for as long as nickel is mined in Labrador. Dalton reckoned that could be as long as a century, with all the potential discoveries to be made in the area.

"There is so much upside potential at Voisey's Bay," Dalton noted. "We said at the time it was like buying a royalty stake in Sudbury in 1900."

Meanwhile, despite diversifying into other big projects and enterprises, Altius remains at its core an exploration project generation company, Dalton stressed.

"This past summer we set a new record for the number of joint ventures established with other companies," he observed. "A lot of other things are happening but that part of our business is very, very core to what we do, and as busy as we've been, it's very gratifying to know that side of the business is still running so well."

Looking towards the future, Altius just completed a \$50 million financing to buy a bigger piece of the refinery project. Already a 37 per cent owner of Newfoundland Refining Corporation, Altius can increase its stake to 51 per cent by funding the next \$100 million in project costs.

The company has also just completed the sale of the last of its equity position in Aurora Energy, earning some \$214 million.

"We still like this project and its resources are growing," Dalton said of the Michelin and Jacques Lake uranium deposits and potential satellite deposits, which could see production as soon as 2013.

Altius also retains a royalty on production at the property. But where Altius is not controlling or managing Aurora, its management team felt it made sense to sell its equity position.

"We thought it best to turn this investment into cash and do what we do, which is create new things," Dalton said. "We're not trying to be a mutual fund."

No doubt, though, there are many mutual fund managers who would love to have Altius' compounded average year over year rate of return of 64 per cent.

"I like where we've been and I like where we're going, and I like being in a position where you can make more things happen," the always reserved Dalton acknowledged.

"It's obviously been quite a run." ■

editor@thebusinesspost.ca

709 NEWS

P.O. Box 2220, Suite 100 139 Water Street, St. John's NL, A1C 6E6
 Tel : 576-NEWS (6397) Toll Free Tel: 1-888-709-NEWS (6397)
 Fax: 709-753-7340 Toll Free Fax : 1-877-709-NEWS (6397)
 Website: www.bristolgroup.ca E-mail: 709NEWS@bristolgroup.ca

3/3

PUBLICATION:
The Business Post – C.B.S., NL

DATE:
December 10, 2007

Page: **4**
 Section:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Greg Lockhart

Altius Minerals president Brian Dalton. "I like where we've been and I like where we're going."