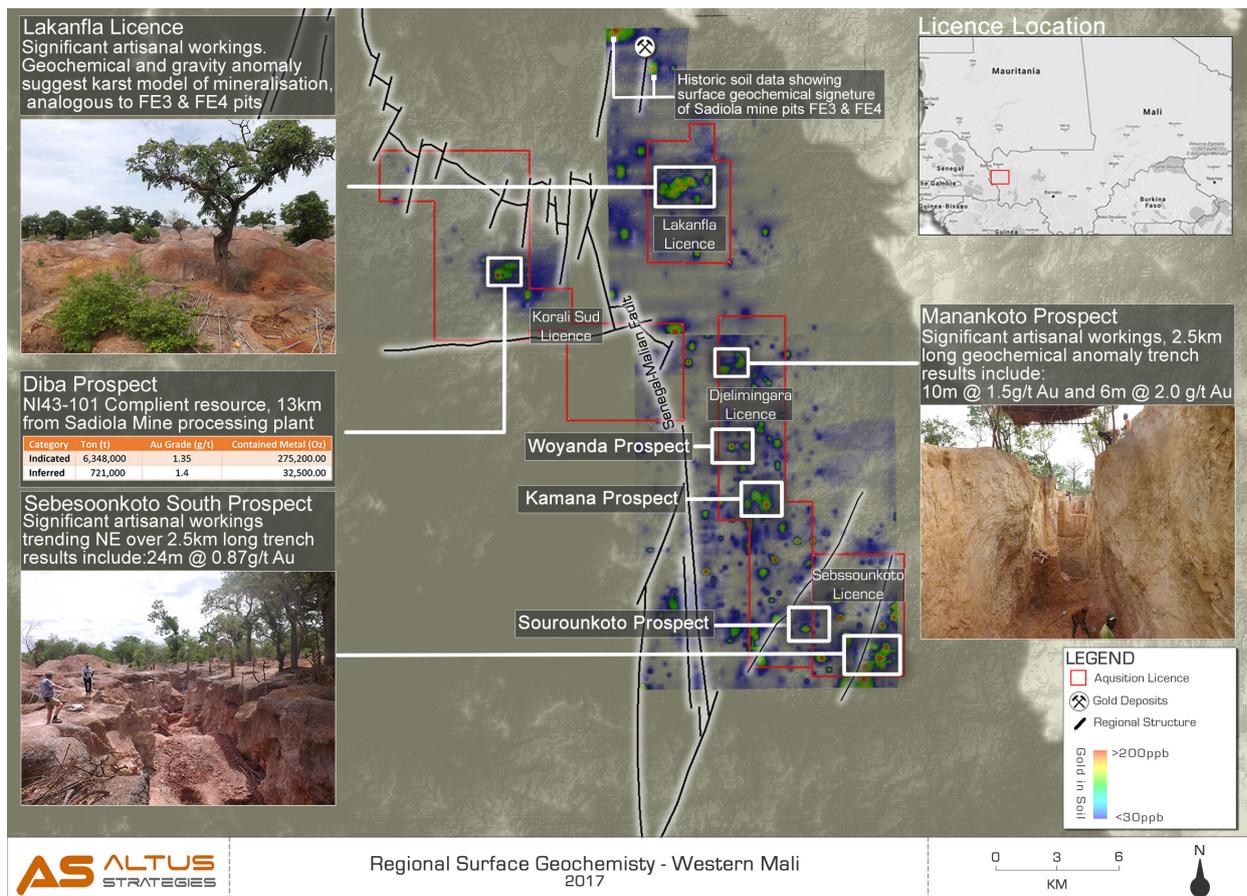


# Minjng Journal

## Altus aims for oxide gold in Mali

One day after completing the acquisition of Legend Gold, project generator Altus Strategies (LN:ALS) has laid out a plan to go after the top prize for any West Africa-focused junior explorer – oxide gold resources.



Altus, which has more than 20 African assets on its books, said the three assets it inherited in Mali as part of the all-share deal for Legend, are ripe for the discovery of economic gold deposits and could possibly justify the development of a centralised processing plant.

The Legend assets consist of the Diba and Lakanfla deposits in western Mali and the Pitiangomo Est project in southern Mali, currently under a joint venture with Resolute Mining (AU: RSG).

Altus was keen to talk up the potential of Diba and Lakanfla, which are 100%-owned by the company and, in keeping with its project generator model, will be open for joint ventures.

The former has a modest historic mineral resource of 275,000oz grading 1.35g/t in the indicated category and 32,500oz at 1.4g/t in the inferred category, which looks like it can be converted into a JORC or 43-101-compliant calculation.

Historic drilling highlights the potential for economic oxide gold ounces, with highlights including 12m at 20.66g/t and 32m grading 2.06g/t, both within 50m of surface.

Lakanfla, meanwhile, looks to have similarities to both Sadiola and the former operating Yatela mine in Mali.

Diba is considered to be geologically analogous to the karst-type FE3 and FE4 openpits that form part of the operating Sadiola mine. It also appears to have geological similarities to the Yatela karst-type gold deposit previously mined between 2001 and 2015.

Historic drilling at Diba previously returned intersections such as 12m at 9.78g/t and 16m grading 5.2g/t from shallow depths.

At Pitiangomo Est, Resolute reportedly carried out 110 air core drill holes for a total of 4,869m and a gradient-array induced polarisation survey focused on the Misseni prospect in 2016, followed up by a seven hole RC drilling programme this year. The ASX-listed producer, which is mining the 8Moz Syama deposit 40km to the north, has a right to earn up to 70% of the project through funding exploration.

Altus CEO Steven Poulton said: "Based on the encouraging historic drilling results to date and the shear intensity of active artisanal gold mining, we believe the potential exists for a significant oxide gold resource to be defined from a number of proximal deposits that could be centrally processed."

He said the company's exploration teams were now on the ground, mapping and sampling artisanal workings and completing soil surveys to prioritise the next phases of exploration.

**Staff reporter**

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