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**ASX Announcement**

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### **New Leaching Technology for Wowo Gap**

Resource Mining Corporation (ASX:RMI) has developed new leaching technology to extract nickel and cobalt for its Wowo Gap project located in south east Papua New Guinea.

The successful trials have used organic acid to extract nickel and cobalt from both the shallower limonite and deeper saprolite ores and provide a more cost effective alternative to a standard high pressure acid leach process (HPAL) which uses sulphuric acid as the leaching agent.

“The results are particularly encouraging because it has the potential to change the project economics from a development perspective and be better for the environment,” said Resource Mining Corporation Managing Director Warwick Davies.

Research conducted by the company in 2007 found the Wowo Gap saprolite ore contained large amounts of magnesium silicate so that under normal HPAL treatment the magnesia in these ores was preferentially consumed by the acid.

“Our research confirmed very high concentrations of sulphuric acid must be used to leach the nickel from the saprolite and because sulphuric acid is the major consumable in an HPAL plant, excessive use has a negative impact on project economics if saprolite only was to be processed,” Mr Davies said.

A 2008 Feasibility Study discovered that the HPAL process was economically viable for the shallower but lower grade limonite ores and the system could utilise high magnesia saprolite ore to neutralize the sulphuric acid.

While these results were encouraging, the majority of the higher grade and deeper saprolite ore was unable to be processed and so in 2010 the company looked to science-based innovation using alternative leaching agents to find a solution.

“We’re delighted that our latest trials have achieved nickel and cobalt metal extractions from the deeper saprolite ores of between 80 and 90 per cent,” Mr Davies said.

“Importantly, the new technology also allows metal extractions up to 70 per cent for nickel and more than 95 per cent for cobalt in the shallower limonite ores,” he said.

Test work to date suggests that this new innovative leaching technology has a number of significant advantages over the traditional HPAL methods including:

- The organic acid process is able to leach nickel and cobalt from both limonite and saprolite ores,
- The organic acid is bio-renewable, and is significantly less harmful to the environment and employees when compared to the highly reactive in-organic acids such as sulphuric acid,
- Test work indicates that leach rates are typically in the order of one hour to achieve maximum metal extraction,
- The process is not a high pressure acid leach process, which would imply the capital cost of the leach vessels is likely to be significantly less expensive than an HPAL plant,

“Based on all the advantages of the new technology, additional metallurgical test work will be conducted over the coming months to optimize the metal extraction process and assess metal recovery options,” said Mr Davies.

**About Resource Mining Corporation Limited:** A Perth-based specialist mineral exploration company creating wealth from mineral commodities using innovative technical, marketing and financial skills as it explores for economic metal deposits in Australia and Papua New Guinea. The company has a strong commitment to sustainable development and aims to realize world class mineral opportunities through science-based innovation, expert environmental analysis and best practice community stakeholder engagement.

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