



**Ascot Resources Ltd.**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**For the three months ended March 31, 2022**

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, except where indicated)

Report date: May 13, 2022

This Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") of Ascot Resources Ltd. ("Ascot" or the "Company") is dated May 13, 2022 and provides an analysis of our unaudited consolidated interim financial results for the three months ended March 31, 2022 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2021. The following information should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). Unless otherwise noted, all currency amounts are expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars. Additional information about the Company, including the audited financial statements and the notes thereto, for the year ended December 31, 2021, prepared in accordance with IFRS, can be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company's website at [www.ascotgold.com](http://www.ascotgold.com).

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

Ascot is a Canadian-based development and exploration company publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") in Canada (symbol AOT). The Company is also trading on the OTCQX market in the U.S. (symbol: AOTVF). The Company is focused on re-starting the historic past producing Premier gold mine located in British Columbia's Golden Triangle. The Company filed its feasibility study in May 2020 for its 100% owned Premier and Red Mountain Gold Projects which will supply gold and silver ores to the process plant. The study supports robust economics including base case After-tax NPV5% of C\$341 million and IRR 51% (based on US\$1400/oz gold price, \$17/oz silver price and CAD to US exchange rate of 0.76.) Ascot received the Mines Act Permit amendment ("MAPA") to re-start Premier Gold Project in December 2021. The Silver Coin, Big Missouri, and Premier deposits, collectively being named the Premier Gold Project (PGP) are located near the processing facility on the historical Premier Mine site, and the Red Mountain Project (RMP) is located 23 km to the southeast in an adjacent valley. PGP together with RMP is defined as the "Project". In addition, the Company continues to drill a number of gold-silver discoveries on its 25,000 hectares of mineral concessions that benefit from their proximity to PGP and the towns of Stewart, BC and Hyder, Alaska.

The Company also has two other properties: Swamp Point, an aggregate mine in care and maintenance located in British Columbia on the Portland Canal, and Mt. Margaret, a porphyry copper-molybdenum-gold-silver deposit located in Washington State, USA.

## Q1 2022 AND RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- On May 9, 2022, the Company announced the start of the 2022 exploration drilling program, which comprises approximately 18,000 metres and will be equally split between exploration and in-fill holes. Exploration drilling will be largely concentrated on the Sebakwe and Day Zones and in-fill drilling will focus exclusively on the Big Missouri deposit. In contrast to last year, assay turnaround times are expected to be much shorter this year as a new third party assay lab is being set up in the town of Stewart.
- On April 4, 2022, the Company provided an update on construction financing and development plans for PGP. In December 2020, as part of a total construction finance package of US\$105M (see News Release dated December 10, 2020), the Company secured a US\$80M senior credit facility (the "**Senior Facility**") with Sprott Private Resource Lending II (Collector), LP ("**Sprott**"). After drawing down the initial US\$20M tranche under the Senior Facility, Ascot was required to satisfy various conditions before drawing down the remaining US\$60M. However, the Company has been unable to reach an agreement with Sprott on the satisfaction of the drawdown conditions for the remaining US\$60M of the Senior Facility. Therefore, the initial US\$20M drawdown will remain outstanding and Ascot is pursuing alternative financing options to replace the remainder of the Senior Facility. Until alternative financing can be secured, Ascot will continue advancing the project with available liquidity. The Company anticipates that commencement of underground development and advancement of other key construction areas will continue as previously planned. However, certain work packages may be placed on hold until the Company is able to secure alternative funding. While the resulting implications to the project are uncertain at this time, it is possible that there will be a delay to the initial production target of Q1 2023.
- On March 21, 2022, the Company published its inaugural Sustainability Report. This report will be updated annually and will evolve as Ascot progresses from development into production next year.

- On March 8, 2022, the Company closed a previously announced bought deal financing (the "Offering") for total gross proceeds of \$64,241. The net proceeds from the Offering will be used for capital costs at PGP, for PGP's exploration program and for general corporate purposes (see "PGP and RMP project development").
- On January 25, 2022, the Company provided an update on PGP with respect to progress to date and development plans in 2022. The update included a detailed project schedule and an updated capital cost estimate for PGP. With the Mines Act permit amendment in hand and a more definitive project schedule, Ascot reported an updated project capital estimate of \$224,000, reflecting an increase of 27% over the previous (March 2021) project capital estimate (see "PGP and RMP project development").
- On January 24, 2022, Environmental Management Act ("EMA") Permit was received, completing the Joint MA/EMA Permit for PGP.

## OPERATING OVERVIEW

### Premier Gold Project ("PGP")

The PGP comprises four claim groups, identified as the Premier, Big Missouri, Dilworth, and Silver Coin groups, and includes three mining leases, totaling 392 hectares, 175 Crown grants totaling 2,354 hectares, and 107 mineral claims totaling 8,907.1 hectares. The total area is 8,133 hectares when overlaps are accounted for. The Company owns three mining leases, two of which expire on December 17, 2050, and the third, which expires on December 14, 2048.

In February 2020, the Company published an updated independent National Instrument 43-101 ("NI 43-101") mineral resource estimate for the PGP. The updated NI 43-101 resource estimate for the PGP reported 1.1 million ounces of gold and 4.7 million ounces of silver in the indicated category, and 1.2 million ounces of gold and 4.67 million ounces of silver in the inferred category. PGP mineral reserves established in the feasibility study in accordance with NI 43-101 technical report published in May 2020 are as follows:

### PGP Mineral Reserve Statement

	Tonnes	Grade		Contained Ounces	
		Au	Ag	Au	Ag
		g/t	g/t	koz	koz
<b>Total Probable</b>	3,632	5.45	19.1	637	2,231

Notes for Table: CIM Definition Standards were followed for classification of Mineral Reserves

1. A mean bulk density of 2.85 t/m<sup>3</sup> is used for Premier and of 2.80 t/m<sup>3</sup> for all other deposit areas
2. The AuEq values were calculated using US\$1,400/oz Au and a US\$17/oz Ag and the following equation: AuEq(g/t) = Au(g/t)+ Ag(g/t) x 17 / 1,400
3. The following CoG based on AuEq grade were used to estimate the economic potential of the stopes: Longhole = 2.85 g/t, Inclined undercut Longhole = 3.44 g/t, cut and fill = 3.44 g/t, room & pillar = 3.82 g/t and development = 2.85 g/t

**Red Mountain Project (“RMP”)**

The RMP consists of 47 contiguous mineral claims for a total of 17,125 hectares. It is located approximately 18 km east-northeast of the town of Stewart and within Nisga’a Nation traditional territory. RMP mineral reserves established in the feasibility study in accordance with NI 43-101 technical report published in May 2020 are as follows:

**RMP Mineral Reserve Statement**

	Grade			Contained Ounces	
	Tonnes	Au	Ag	Au	Ag
	kt	g/t	g/t	koz	koz
<b>Proven</b>	2,194	6.68	21.7	471	1,530
<b>Probable</b>	351	5.51	13.8	62	155
<b>Total Proven and Probable</b>	<b>2545</b>	<b>6.52</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>1685</b>

Notes for Table: CIM Definition Standards were followed for classification of Mineral Reserves

1. The AuEq values were calculated using US\$1,300/oz Au and a US\$15/oz Ag and the following equation:  $AuEq(g/t) = Au(g/t) + Ag(g/t) \times 15 / 1,300$
2. The following CoG based on AuEq grade were used to estimate the economic potential of the stopes: Longhole = 3.11 g/t, Inclined undercut Longhole = 4.0 g/t, cut and fill = 4.1 g/t and development = 3.11 g/t

**Qualified Persons and NI 43-101 Disclosure**

John Kiernan, P.Eng., Chief Operating Officer of the Company is the Company’s Qualified Person (QP) as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and has reviewed, approved and takes responsibility for all of the written scientific and technical disclosure of this MD&A.

On August 28, 2018, the Red Mountain Project was referred by the BC EAO to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Minister of Environment for consideration and granted an Environmental Assessment Certificate on October 5, 2018.

RMP is subject to a gold metal stream whereby Sprott Private Resource Streaming and Royalty (B) Corp. (“SRSR”) may acquire up to 10% of the annual gold production from RMP at a price of the lower of US\$1,000/oz and spot price up to a maximum of 500,000 oz produced. Alternatively, SRSR may elect to receive a one-time cash payment of \$4 million at the commencement of production in exchange for a buy-back of the gold metal stream.

**PGP and RMP project development**

Throughout Q1 2022 and to-date, the Company continued to advance detailed engineering on the mill refurbishment, tailings storage facility, water treatment plant, power substation, overland piping and pumping and other key areas at the project site as well as procurement of critical long lead time equipment required in the refurbishment of the Premier mill. As of to date, the Company progressed detailed engineering to approximately 85% completion overall. Throughout 2021 and early 2022, the Company delivered and made significant progress on installation of a number of critical long lead time equipment items, including the Ball and SAG mills, mill motors and liners, water treatment clarifier and the tailings thickener. Ascot has ordered approximately 87% of the remaining fixed equipment for the project. Key orders remaining in the plant relate mostly to piping, instrumentation, and bulk consumables.

With the Mines Act permit amendment in hand and a more definitive project schedule, on January 24, 2022, Ascot announced an updated project capital estimate of \$224,000, reflecting an increase of 27% over the estimate announced in Q1 2021 of \$176,000. At a high level, the factors that have caused cost increases to the project, in order of influence, are:

fixed indirect costs caused by schedule delays, weather impacts, piping and instrumentation labour productivity, indirect cost inflation, supply chain pressures, and COVID-19 protocols.

On March 8, 2022, the Company closed a previously announced bought deal financing (the "Offering"). The Offering consisted of (i) 28,610,000 common shares of the Company (the "Offered Shares") sold at a price of \$1.02 per Offered Share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$29,182; (ii) 12,831,000 hard dollar units of the Company (the "HD Units") at a price of \$1.02 per HD Unit for gross proceeds of \$13,088; (iii) 14,590,000 units of the Company that qualify as "flow through shares", as defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada) (the "CDE FT Units") at a price of \$1.255 per CDE FT Unit for gross proceeds of \$18,310; and (iv) 3,240,000 common shares of the Company that qualify as "flow-through shares" (the "CEE FT Shares", and together with the Offered Shares, HD Units and CDE FT Units, the "Offered Securities") as defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada) at a price of \$1.13 per CEE FT Share for gross proceeds of \$3,661. Each HD Unit and CDE FT Unit is comprised of one common share of the Company and one half of one common share purchase warrant (each whole common share purchase warrant, a "Warrant") with each Warrant entitling the holder to purchase one common share of the Company at a price of \$1.25 for a period of 24 months subject to acceleration. In aggregate, the gross proceeds to the Company totaled \$64,241.

The net proceeds from the sale of Offered Shares and HD Units will be used for capital costs at PGP and for general corporate purposes. The gross proceeds of the sale of CDE FT Units will be used to incur underground capital development expenditures at PGP in 2022. The gross proceeds of the sale of CEE FT Shares will be used to support PGP's exploration program in 2022.

The Company had US\$60 million undrawn Senior Credit facility with Sprott. On April 4, 2022, the Company announced that it has been unable to reach an agreement with Sprott on the satisfaction of the drawdown conditions for the undrawn amount. Therefore, the initial US\$20M drawdown remains outstanding and Ascot is pursuing alternative financing options to replace the remainder of the Senior Facility. Until alternative financing can be secured, Ascot will continue advancing the project with available liquidity. The Company anticipates that commencement of underground development and advancement of other key construction areas will continue as previously planned. However, certain work packages may be placed on hold until the Company is able to secure alternative funding. While the resulting implications to the project are uncertain at this time, it is possible that there will be a delay to the initial production target of Q1 2023.

### **Mt. Margaret Project**

The Mount Margaret porphyry copper-molybdenum-gold-silver deposit is located 22.5 kilometres southwest of Randle, Washington in Skamania county in Southwest Washington State.

Ascot obtained property title to the 50% undivided private mineral interests on the lands on a private land package MS-708 and the government of the United States owns the other 50% interest. Ascot has the right to earn a 100% interest in the property subject to a 1.5% NSR and a negotiated federal royalty.

In 2011, the Company applied for two hardrock mineral prospecting permits (the "Permits"). In December 2018, after many years of environmental analysis, the United States Forest Service and United States Bureau of Land Management (together, the "Federal Defendants") concluded the proposed prospecting activity would have no significant environmental impacts and released decisions allowing the applications to be granted. Cascade Forest Conservancy filed an action in federal court challenging those decisions; the Company intervened on the side of the Federal Defendants. On February 18, 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon (the "Court") released an opinion on the litigation. The court ruled in favor of the Federal Defendants and Ascot on most issues; however, the court held that the environmental analysis performed by the Federal Defendants was insufficient in two narrow respects — one related to potential recreational impacts, and one related to potential groundwater impacts. The court ordered the parties to brief the court on what remedies are necessary to address the insufficiencies in the environmental analysis.

On January 31, 2022, the Company received the court's order vacating the December 2018 Decision Record and December 2018 findings approving the issuance of the Permits by BLM and also vacating the February 2018 decision notice and findings consenting to the issuance of the Permits. The matter was remanded to the Federal Defendants for further action consistent

with the court's February 2021 opinion and order. This court decision allows the Federal Defendants to proceed with the additional groundwater monitoring without direct oversight or involvement from the court. The most recent court decision does not prevent further exploration of Mt. Margaret, but gives the Federal Defendants more time to perform further groundwater analyses to address the deficiencies identified in the court's February 2021 decision. The Company requested from the Federal Defendants a proposed timeline and strategy to address the limited deficiencies identified by the court.

### **Swamp Point Project**

Ascot acquired the aggregate deposit in 2002 to access potential local markets such as the port expansions in Prince Rupert along with the California markets, which were quickly running out of readily available local supply. Surface transport costs are much higher than seaborne transport making BC source aggregate cost competitive. The property is subject to two royalties; one to the BC Provincial Government and one to a private company owned by the former management of Ascot. Swamp Point was put on care and maintenance in 2008 as a result of the economic downturn.

The site has some existing onsite infrastructure and a deep-water port which have been maintained by the Company, giving it the advantage of being able to re-start within a short lead time, with some further site preparation required. The Company continues to seek to divest Swamp Point, which it considers a non-core asset, and use proceeds from the sale for general working capital purposes.

### **2022 EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

The 2022 exploration program commenced in early May and comprises approximately 18,000 metres and will be equally split between exploration and in-fill holes. Exploration drilling will be largely concentrated on the Sebakwe and Day Zones and in-fill drilling will focus exclusively on the Big Missouri deposit. Drilling will initially be conducted from surface but is anticipated to shift to underground drill stations as development enables access and will allow for shorter drill holes and more precise targeting. Last year the Company was plagued by extraordinary assay lab turnaround times upwards of nearly three months. In contrast, assay turnaround times are expected to be much shorter this year as a new third party assay lab is being set up in the town of Stewart. Ascot has signed a priority service contract with this new assay lab, and once it is in service, turnaround times are expected to be a fraction of what was encountered last year.

### **MANAGEMENT'S OUTLOOK FOR 2022**

Management is planning a number of activities for 2022, which include:

- Completion of refinancing of the Senior Facility
- Completion of construction of the new water treatment plant and tailings storage facility in Q4 2022
- Commencement of underground ramp development in May and advance to the delivery of ores for pre commissioning by Q4 2022
- Surface exploration drilling with a focus on the Day and Sebakwe zones
- Slope definition drilling at Big Missouri both from Surface and Underground
- Health and safety initiatives related to Covid and construction protocols
- Meeting a number of permitting compliance requirements as the project transitions from construction into operation
- Recruitment of operating personnel

### **COVID-19**

In March of 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global pandemic related to COVID-19. The Company is committed to protecting the health and safety of its workforce and the communities in which it operates. Ascot's 2022 field season will operate and current activities at site are being conducted in compliance with the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer.

Ascot has developed and implemented a COVID-19 Safety Plan (posted on the Company's website) to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure for its employees, their families and the residents of the communities of Stewart, BC and Hyder, Alaska. To date there have been no significant interruptions to the Company's supply chain or service providers.

Ascot's health and safety staff have procedures in place including a rapid testing program. All personnel working or visiting the mine site must be tested in Stewart. Upon completion, negative results will allow personnel to continue to the mine site. If any of the test results are positive, the person(s) will go to the Stewart Health Centre where a PCR test will be administered. They will then proceed to the quarantine rooms which have been secured by Ascot until the results of the PCR test are obtained. The daily self-screening and health checks are ongoing and are accompanied by a signature page. Stringent cleaning protocols continue and will continue to remain in effect. For more details see below "Environmental, Social and Governance" and refer to Ascot's COVID-19 Safety Plan posted on the Company's website.

### **Russia-Ukraine military conflict**

In February 2022, Russian forces launched a military operation in Ukraine and in response, many countries have imposed significant economic sanctions against Russia and certain Russian individuals and institutions. The ongoing conflict and the related sanctions have resulted in considerable uncertainty in the global financial system, increased fuel prices, supply chain challenges and escalating cybersecurity disruptions and threats. To date, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict has not had a direct impact on the Company, as it does not have any significant exposure in either Russia or Ukraine from a business or personnel perspective. However, the conflict in Ukraine and the global response to it keep evolving, and future developments related to the conflict are difficult to predict. As such, the developing conflict may have a significant adverse impact on the Company's assets, liabilities, and overall financial condition as well as on the Company's project development and operational costs.

## **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

### **Operations**

#### **Three months ended March 31, 2022 compared to three months ended March 31, 2021**

The Company reported a net loss of \$1,370 for Q1 2022 compared to a net income of \$2,673 for Q1 2021. The \$4,043 change from net income in Q1 2021 to net loss in Q1 2022 is attributable to a combination of factors including:

- A \$3,880 decrease in the gain on valuation of the Company's derivatives, driven by fluctuations in the variables used to calculate the fair value of the embedded derivatives;
- A \$542 increase in stock-based compensation expense due to stock options and units granted in Q1 2022, which were deferred from December 2021;
- A \$194 increase in general and administrative expense due to increased activities in Q1 2022,

Partially offset by:

- The absence of a loss on marketable securities (Q1 2021: loss of \$309), and
- A \$269 increase in foreign exchange gain.

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Key financial results for the last eight quarters are provided in the table below:

<b>C\$000</b>	<b>Q1 2022</b>	<b>Q4 2021</b>	<b>Q3 2021</b>	<b>Q2 2021</b>	<b>Q1 2021</b>	<b>Q4 2020</b>	<b>Q3 2020</b>	<b>Q2 2020</b>
Exploration & evaluation cost capitalized	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,695	4,585
Mineral property, plant & equipment cost capitalized	25,088	38,430	24,732	11,330	85	5,371	21	325
G & A expense	1,509	1,132	1,183	1,340	1,315	1,174	1,186	1,032
Stock-based compensation	1,070	305	472	418	528	1,481	289	305
Property maintenance costs	72	86	38	99	86	23	305	121
Net income (loss)	(1,370)	(170)	(1,700)	(3,751)	2,673	(4,436)	682	(1,189)
Income (loss) per share - basic and diluted	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.00)

Factors that can cause fluctuations in the Company's quarterly results include unrealized gains and losses on embedded derivatives, commitments and marketable securities, the nature and extent of exploration activities carried out under specific work program, finance expenses, grant and vesting of stock options, RSUs and DSUs, and issuance of shares. In Q4 2020, the Project was determined to be commercially viable and technically feasible. As a result, the exploration and evaluation costs on the Project was reclassification to mineral property, plant & equipment. Over the past eight quarters, the Company has been focused mainly on the exploration, engineering studies, permitting and construction of PGP. The Company carried out an exploration program on PGP in 2021, which started in May and wrapped up in October. Higher mineral property costs since Q2 2021 are a result of the Company commencing large-scale pre-construction activities at PGP in 2021. The fluctuations in net income (loss) from Q2 2020 to Q1 2022 were caused primarily by the changes in fair value of the Company's embedded derivatives, commitments and marketable securities.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

### Capital Resources

In Q1 2022, the Company issued 59,271,000 common shares (Q1 2021: none), 13,710,500 warrants (Q1 2021: none), 3,432,211 stock options (Q1 2021: 280,000), 113,665 Deferred Share Units ("DSU") (Q1 2021: 15,558), 721,432 Restricted Share Units ("RSU") (Q1 2021: none) and 162,162 Performance Share Units ("PSU") (Q1 2021: none). Also, 906,750 stock options expired and 17,902 RSUs were exercised during Q1 2022.

The Company considers its capital structure to be primarily through shareholders' equity and Senior and Convertible Debt. Management's objective is to ensure that there is sufficient capital to minimize liquidity risk and to continue as a going concern. As an exploration and development stage company, the Company is unable to finance its operations from cash flow and has relied primarily on equity and debt financings.

Although the Company has been successful in the past in obtaining financing through the sale of equity securities, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to obtain adequate financing in the future, or that the terms of such financings will be favourable.

### Liquidity

In December 2020, the Company closed a project financing package with Sprott and Beedie for the development of the Project. The financing package consists of a) a US\$80 million Senior Debt; b) the Production payment agreement ("PPA"), and c) a US\$25 million Convertible Debt. Upon closing of the package, the Company made an initial draw-down of US\$20 million from the Senior debt for net proceeds of US\$13.2 million (CAD\$16.9 million) and received PPA consideration of US\$5.0 million (CAD\$6.4 million). The Company also made an initial draw-down of US\$10 million from the Convertible Debt. The proceeds were used to repay the existing convertible note. The availability of the Senior and Convertible Debt is subject to certain conditions and covenants, including the maintenance of minimum cash and working capital balances. At March 31, 2022 the Company was in compliance with the covenants. Subsequent to Q1 2022, the Company announced that it has



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been unable to reach an agreement with Sprott on the satisfaction of the drawn conditions for the remaining US\$60 million of the Senior Debt. Therefore, the Company is pursuing alternative financing options to replace the Senior Debt.

On April 9, 2021, the Company closed a bought deal financing. A total of 70,700,000 common shares of the Company were sold at a price of \$0.86 per common share for gross proceeds of \$60,802. The table below summarizes the expected use of proceeds as of the date of the financing:

Principal purposes	Expected use of proceeds C\$ in million	Actual use of proceeds (as of March 31, 2022) C\$ in million	Difference C\$ in million
Mineral property evaluation and detailed project engineering	8.0	8.0	-
Procurement and fabrication of equipment	12.0	12.0	-
Project construction	20.0	20.0	-
General, corporate and administrative expenses	17.2	10.4	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>

The actual use of proceeds shown in the above table represents funds spent to date. The Company does not expect the final use of proceeds to differ materially from the expected use of proceeds.

On April 20, 2021, the Company closed a bought deal private placement. A total of 24,000,000 common shares of the Company were sold at a price of \$0.86 per common share for gross proceeds of \$20,640. The table below summarizes the expected use of proceeds as of the date of the financing:

Principal purposes	Expected use of proceeds C\$ in million	Actual use of proceeds (as of March 31, 2022) C\$ in million	Difference C\$ in million
Project construction	9.7	9.7	-
General, corporate and administrative expenses	9.6	-	9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>

On March 8, 2022, the Company closed a bought deal financing. A total of 59,271,000 common shares and 13,710,500 share purchase warrants were issued for gross proceeds of \$64,241. The table below summarizes the expected use of proceeds as of the date of the financing:

Principal purposes	Expected use of proceeds C\$ in million	Actual use of proceeds (as of March 31, 2022) C\$ in million	Difference C\$ in million
Procurement and fabrication of equipment	5.0	5.0	-
Project construction	31.2	14.3	16.9
Mine development	18.3	0.3	18.0
Exploration	3.7	-	3.7
General, corporate and administrative expenses	2.2	-	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>40.8</b>

In Q1 2022, the Company did not spend any funds on qualifying flow-through mining expenditures. As at March 31, 2022, the Company had \$21,972 cash balance required to be spent on flow-through expenditures by December 31, 2023.

As at March 31, 2022, the Company had working capital of \$78,749 (December 31, 2021: \$47,001) and cash & cash equivalents balance of \$89,403 (December 31, 2021: \$59,129). The increase in cash & cash equivalents was due to the net proceeds of \$60,357 from the Offering partially offset by expenditures on mineral properties, plant and equipment of \$27,348; cash outflows from operating activities of \$2,454; deferred financing costs of \$45, and payment for lease liabilities of \$236.

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**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Included in accounts payable and accruals at March 31, 2022 is \$183 (December 31, 2021: \$384) due to the Company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Chief Operating Officer (COO) and directors.

Key management personnel are persons responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of an entity, and include executive and non-executive directors as well as the Company's CEO, CFO and COO. Key management personnel compensation comprised:

	Three months ended March 31, 2022	Three months ended March 31, 2021
Salaries, short-term benefits and management fees	\$ 335	\$ 297
Project development costs	27	25
Share-based payment transactions	772	235
	\$ 1,134	\$ 557

During Q1 2022, key management personnel were granted 2,304,036 stock options at a weighted average exercise price of \$1.11. Using the Black-Scholes model, the fair value of the options granted to key management personnel was determined at \$1,315.

During Q1 2022, the Company granted 113,665 DSUs to its directors. Based on the Company's share price on grant dates, the total fair value of the DSUs was \$126. During Q1 2022, the Company granted 381,327 RSUs to the Company's CEO, CFO and COO. Using the Black-Scholes model, the fair value of the RSUs granted to key management personnel was determined at \$423.

Share-based and option-based awards for 2021 were not granted until February 2022 as there was a Company-imposed blackout in December 2021, the time at which the annual grant is normally made. Therefore, the Q1 2022 compensation for related parties is higher than in Q1 2021 due to the postponed equity grants.

**COMMITMENTS, CONTRACTUAL AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS**

As at March 31, 2022, the Company's contractual and other obligations are as follows:

	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years	Total
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 13,352	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,352
Long-lead time equipment engineering and procurement	12,004	-	-	-	12,004
Senior and convertible debt principal, interest and fees (a)	1,846	41,189	8,865	-	51,900
Production payment agreement (b)	317	2,820	3,294	880	7,311
Reclamation liabilities (c)	816	655	721	37,460	39,652
Benefits agreement - PGP and RMP	500	700	675	800	2,675
Pre-production royalty - Red Mountain project	50	100	100	100	350
Minimum lease payments	442	666	89	-	1,197
	\$ 29,327	\$ 46,130	\$ 13,744	\$ 39,240	\$ 128,441

- (a) Interest on the Senior Debt from December 10, 2020 until June 30, 2022 (the "Availability Period") is capitalized and added to the principal loan amount. At all times following the last day of the Availability Period, all interest shall be payable in cash. Principal and accrued interest are payable quarterly from September 30, 2023 to December 31, 2025, with quarterly repayments equal to 10% of the total amount outstanding at the end of the Availability Period.

Interest on the Convertible Debt is compounded quarterly and is added to the principal loan amount prior to the date which will occur when construction is complete and PGP has successfully completed an agreed completion test ("Completion Date"). All interest incurred after the Completion Date is payable in cash quarterly. Principal and capitalized interest are payable on December 10, 2023 (the maturity date, which may be extended by one year if all material permits, contracts and authorizations for PGP are in place). Any undrawn balance of the Convertible Debt incurs a standby fee of 3% beginning on December 10, 2020.

- (b) Under the PPA, the Company has agreed to pay Sprott monthly production payments equal to US\$13 multiplied by the number of ounces of gold from which the Company receives payment on from December 10, 2020 until 450,000 ounces of gold has been produced.
- (c) The amount in reclamation liabilities are undiscounted cash expenditures.

### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires the use of certain accounting estimates. These estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the relevant facts and circumstances taking into account previous experience, but actual results may differ from amounts included in the financial statements.

Areas requiring estimates that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in the financial statements are:

#### ***Stock-based compensation***

Compensation expense for options granted to employees, directors and certain service providers is determined based on estimated fair values of the options at the time of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, which takes into account, as of the grant date, the fair market value of the shares, expected volatility, expected life, expected forfeiture rate, expected dividend yield and the risk-free interest rate over the expected life of the option. The use of the Black-Scholes option pricing model requires input estimation of the expected life of the option, volatility, and forfeiture rate which can have a significant impact on the valuation model, and resulting expense recorded.

Compensation expense for RSUs and PSUs granted to employees and consultants of the Company is calculated based on the fair value of RSUs or PSUs awarded, measured on their grant date. The fair value of RSUs and PSUs is based on the quoted market price of the Company's common shares on the day prior to the RSU or PSU grant date. Compensation expense for DSUs granted to directors is based on the fair value of DSUs awarded, calculated based on the quoted market price of the Company's common shares on the DSUs grant date.

#### ***Provision for decommissioning and site restoration***

The future obligations for site closure activities are estimated by the Company based on the laws and regulations of the countries in which it operates, with due consideration to the fact that the requirements could change as a result of amendments in the laws and regulations relating to environmental protection and other legislation affecting resources companies. Management's estimation of the Company's decommissioning and rehabilitation provision is based on the reclamation and closure activities it anticipates as being required and its estimate of the probable costs and timing of such activities and measures.

#### ***Derivative liabilities***

When debt includes an embedded derivative component, its fair value is estimated using a financial pricing model. The Company estimates the fair value of its interest rate floor derivative using Black's formula. The key assumptions used in the estimate are forward interest rates, discount rates and interest rate volatility. The Company estimates the fair value of its conversion option derivative using the Finite Difference method. The key assumptions used in the model are risk free rates, expected volatility and credit spread. The expected volatility assumption inherent in the pricing model is based on the historical volatility of the Company's stock over a term equal to the remaining term of the corresponding debt instrument. The credit spread assumption in the model is based on the Company's cost of unsecured debt.

***Changes in estimate on timing of cash flows associated with PPA***

The value of the Company's PPA was initially calculated based on Ascot's anticipated future gold production schedule using discounted cash flows. When there is a significant change in the production schedule, the PPA's value is recalculated using discounted cash flows, which may result in a measurement adjustment of the PPA.

**FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Company's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, interest and other receivables, reclamation bonds, trade and other payables, senior and convertible debt and other liabilities. The recorded amounts of cash and cash equivalents, interest and other receivables, trade and other payables and other liabilities approximate their respective fair values due to their short-term nature. The carrying value of the reclamation deposit approximates its fair value, as it is cash-based. The carrying values of PPA and liability components of senior and convertible debt approximate their fair values since the increase in the market interest rates between the date of the debt inception (December 10, 2020) and March 31, 2022 is being offset by a decrease in the Company's overall risk profile, as Ascot now has all necessary permits for construction of the Project, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

***Credit risk***

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to a concentration of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents. The Company limits its exposure to credit loss by placing its cash and cash equivalents with high credit quality financial institutions. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure.

***Currency risk***

Foreign currency risk is the risk that a variation in exchange rates between the Canadian dollar and US dollar or other foreign currencies will affect the Company's operations and financial results. The Company's functional currency is the Canadian dollar and major purchases are transacted in Canadian dollars. The Company's significant financial instruments denominated in foreign currency (U.S. dollar) are the credit facilities and term deposits. A 10% decrease (increase) of the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar as at March 31, 2022 would result in an additional \$3,330 foreign exchange loss (gain) reported in the Company's statement of comprehensive loss (income) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 (quarter ended March 31, 2021: \$1,225).

***Interest risk***

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Company has interest-bearing assets in relation to cash at bank and GIC's carried at fixed interest rates. The Company's significant financial instruments valued using fluctuating risk-free interest rates are the derivative components of the senior and convertible debt. The Company's operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates. The Company has not used any financial instrument to hedge potential fluctuations in interest rates.

***Liquidity risk***

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. The Company's policy is to ensure that it will always have sufficient cash to allow it to meet its liabilities when they become due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Company's reputation. The key to success in managing liquidity is the degree of certainty in the cash flow projections. If future cash flows are fairly uncertain, the liquidity risk increases.

The Company endeavors to ensure that it has sufficient cash on demand to meet its obligations as they become due by preparing annual capital and administrative expenditure budgets, which are regularly monitored and updated as considered necessary. Further, the Company utilizes authorizations for expenditures on exploration projects to further manage

expenditure. The Company monitors its risk of shortage of funds by monitoring the maturity dates of existing trade and other accounts payable as well as the senior and convertible debt. Most of the Company's financial liabilities have contractual maturities of less than 30 days and are subject to normal trade terms. Refer to "**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**" section above.

#### **OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA**

As at May 13, 2022, the Company had 435,640,030 common shares outstanding, 21,141,635 stock options, 13,710,500 share purchase warrants, 627,250 deferred share units, 1,727,234 restricted share units and 162,162 performance share units outstanding.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE**

Our inaugural Sustainability Report released in March 2022 highlights the measures taken and successes thus far in community relations, employment, health and safety, environmental stewardship and governance. The Sustainability Report also outlines Ascot's future sustainable goals. Ascot's 2021 Sustainability Report can be found at <https://ascotgold.com/sustainability/sustainability-reports/>.

##### **Community Relations and Employment**

Ascot believes that working together with our communities is essential to making a positive and sustainable impact. The Company works closely with Nisga'a Nation and the District of Stewart to ensure the responsible development of our projects by actively building and maintaining open, respectful, and collaborative relationships with each other. These relationships will lead to capacity building, job creation and economic opportunities during and beyond the life of the mine. In 2020, during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ascot supported the towns by writing a letter to local government officials asking for members of these communities to be able to cross the border freely during this time so that children in Alaska could go to school and people could get the necessities they needed from the shops in Stewart. Ascot continues to proactively engage, both formally and informally, with the surrounding communities via townhalls, council meetings, face-to-face meetings, and virtual meetings. Ascot has contributed to a number of educational events, youth sporting activities and a local gym.

Ascot has established strong lines of communication to share information and a respectful engagement process to work together to manage and mitigate any potential impacts on Nisga'a Nation Treaty rights and interests. During 2021, Ascot and Nisga'a Nation reached a consensus on how to address Nisga'a Nation's key concerns about the Project. Ascot's plans for tailings and water management and legacy contamination remediation were adjusted based on input from Nisga'a Nation. Ascot sponsored several Nisga'a youth basketball teams, several of whom were participating in the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament, held in Kelowna B.C. from March 20-25, 2022. In May, Ascot and Nisga'a will work together through the committees outlined in the Benefits Agreement. Ascot plans to expand Nisga'a recruitment efforts in anticipation of moving into operations.

Ascot has contributed both directly and indirectly to the Stewart and Hyder economies during the development of PGP by staying at the local hotels, renting housing for employees and contractors, and shopping at the local grocery stores, bakery and gift shops. In February, Ascot donated to the Stewart Community Connections Society, which provides services to those in need, including providing hot meals as part of their Community Meals program. In-person community meetings and a public Information Session are planned for April in Stewart, BC.

In Q1 2022, Ascot published its inaugural Sustainability Report. As part of the Sustainability Report process, Ascot launched Nisga'a artist Ian Morven's original design, which shows Ascot's collaborative relationship with Nisga'a Nation and ongoing commitment to working together, particularly to caring for the environment.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Management and the Board recognize the value of good corporate governance and the need to adopt best practices. The Corporation is committed to continuing to improve its corporate governance practices in light of its stage of development and evolving best practices and regulatory guidance.

The Board has adopted a board mandate outlining its responsibilities and defining its duties. The Board currently has six board-appointed committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Governance and Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, the Disclosure Committee, and the Health, Safety, Environmental and Technical Committee. Each Committee (with exception of the Disclosure Committee which works from the Timely Disclosure, Confidentiality and Insider Trading Policy) has a committee charter, which outlines the committee's mandate, procedures for calling a meeting, and provides access to outside resources. The Audit, Compensation and Governance & Nominating Committees are comprised completely of independent directors while the other committees are comprised of a majority of independent directors with exception to the Disclosure Committee which is comprised of management and one independent director.

The Board has also adopted a Code of Ethics, which governs the ethical behavior of all employees, management, and directors. A separate Timely Disclosure, Confidentiality and Insider Trading Policy, Whistleblower Policy, Diversity Policy and Compensation Recovery Policy are also in place. For more details on the Corporation's corporate governance practices, refer to Ascot's website (<https://ascotgold.com/corporate/corporate-governance/>).

The Corporation's directors have expertise in exploration, metallurgy, mining, accounting, legal, banking, financing, and the securities industry. The Board and Audit Committee meets at least four times per year and the other committees on an as required basis (see the Company's Information Circular for more details).

## **DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES ("DC&P")**

The Company has disclosure controls and procedures in place to provide reasonable assurance that any information required to be disclosed by the Company under securities legislation is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the applicable time periods and that required information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management so that decisions can be made about the timely disclosure of that information.

## **INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING ("ICFR")**

### **Management's Report on ICFR**

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective ICFR as such term is defined in the rules of the National Instrument 52-109 in Canada ("NI 52-109"). The Company's ICFR are designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Company's financial reporting for external purposes in accordance with IFRS. The Company's ICFR include policies and procedures for:

- Maintaining records, that in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company;
- Providing reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary for preparation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS;
- Providing reasonable assurance that receipts and expenditures are made in accordance with authorizations of management and the directors of the Company; and
- Providing reasonable assurance that unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of Company assets that could have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements would be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

There have been no changes in the Company's ICFR during the three months ended March 31, 2022 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's ICFR.

#### **Limitation of Controls and Procedures**

The Company's management, including its CEO and CFO, believe that any DC&P or ICFR, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, they cannot provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been prevented or detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by unauthorized override of the controls. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

#### **RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Company's securities should be considered a highly speculative investment and investors are directed to carefully consider all of the information disclosed in the Company's regulatory filings prior to making an investment in the Company, including the risk factors discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's most recent Annual Information Form ("AIF") dated March 21, 2022 available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Resource exploration and project development are speculative businesses and involve a high degree of risk. There is a significant probability that the expenditures made by the Company in exploring and developing its properties will not result in discoveries of commercial quantities of minerals. A high level of ongoing expenditures is required to locate and estimate ore reserves, which are the basis for further development of a property. Capital expenditures to attain commercial production stage are also very substantial.

#### **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information**

All statements, trend analysis and other information contained in this MD&A about anticipated future events or results constitute forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are often, but not always, identified by the use of words such as "seek", "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "estimate", "expect" and "intend" and statements that an event or result "may", "will", "should", "could" or "might" occur or be achieved and other similar expressions. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein are forward-looking statements, including statements in respect of the plans and expectations in the Feasibility Study as well as the use of proceeds for the Offering. Although Ascot believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements and/or information are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements since Ascot can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results or events to differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements, including the risks, uncertainties and other factors identified in Ascot's periodic filings with Canadian securities regulators, and assumptions made with regard to: the estimated costs associated with construction of the Project; the timing of the anticipated start of production at the Projects; the ability to maintain throughput and production levels at the Premier Mill; the tax rate applicable to the Company; future commodity prices; the grade of Resources and Reserves; the ability of the Company to convert inferred resources to other categories; the ability of the Company to reduce mining dilution; the ability to reduce capital costs. Forward-looking statements are subject to business and economic risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results of operations to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from Ascot's expectations include risks associated with the business of Ascot; risks related to exploration and potential development of Ascot's projects; business and economic conditions in the mining industry generally; fluctuations in commodity prices and currency exchange rates; uncertainties relating to interpretation of drill results and the geology, continuity and grade of mineral deposits; the need for cooperation of

government agencies and indigenous groups in the exploration and development of properties and the issuance of required permits; the need to obtain additional financing to develop properties and uncertainty as to the availability and terms of future financing; the possibility of delay in exploration or development programs and uncertainty of meeting anticipated program milestones; uncertainty as to timely availability of permits and other governmental approvals; risks associated with COVID-19 including adverse impacts on the world economy, construction timing and the availability of personnel; and other risk factors as detailed from time to time and additional risks identified in Ascot's filings with Canadian securities regulators on SEDAR in Canada (available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com)). The timing of future economic studies; labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; delays in obtaining governmental approvals, financing or in the completion of Project as well as those factors discussed in the Annual Information Form of the Company dated March 21, 2022 in the section entitled "Risk Factors", under Ascot's SEDAR profile at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Forward-looking statements are based on estimates and opinions of management at the date the statements are made. Ascot does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements.