

Magna Mining, 28 March 2024

Ticker: NICU CN3Q23 Cash: C\$16mProject: Crean HillMarket cap: C\$96mPrice: C\$0.59/shCountry: Canada, ONREC. (unc): BUYTARGET (unc): C\$1.60/shRISK RATING (unc): SPECULATIVE

The agreement with Vale is a solid win this week, bringing confidence to Magna's 'big picture' strategy and the team's ability to 'get it done', hence yesterday's +17% lift in share price. Importantly, this deal with Vale is not for commercial production. So, for investor's wary of UG restarts pre-feasibility level this is not the case, this simply provides the option of selling ore mined (up to 400kt) during Advanced Exploration (AdEx) to potentially self-fund high-grade nickel-copper-PGM growth and chase new discoveries, not dissimilar to how FNX became a massive success story. Notably this defers from the proposed toll milling scenario in the PEA which saw a small ~20kt sample mined during the proposed ~C\$48m AdEx (C\$33m capex + C\$16m opex). Hence, we think a logical next step for the company is to publish an economic study based on a refined LOM plan and potential long-term agreement.

Stepping back—as a nominal 'sense check' using yesterday's grades for reference, we estimate 400kt of in situ material to be mined and processed at Vale's mill could be worth C\$208m at spot prices, based on conservative grades reported here (that notably saw 'minority' 1% Cu and 1g/t PGE+Au). Factoring in recoveries disclosed in the PR, gross revenues move to C\$171m, or C\$125m using our estimated blended 74% payabilities — before grade/schedule optimization. While costs are difficult to estimate at this time, if we assume 20-40% gross margin, we could see between C\$25-50m EBITDA, useful for supporting AdEx and pre-production costs even if speculative at this juncture. For now, we leave our assumptions unchanged ahead of final permits/development decision and maintain our BUY rating and our C\$1.60/sh PT based on 0.4xNAV<sub>7%-9.50</sub> for a C\$715m Crean Hill only UG and OP scenario + nominal C\$56m resource excl. inventory + cash. Magna is uniquely positioned vs. peers - on-infrastructure, with permits, and surrounded by mines feeding big hungry mills in one of the best mining camps globally still ripe for discovery. Upcoming catalysts include: (i) final permits for UG dewatering in 2Q24, (ii) kicking-off surface advanced exploration/bulk sampling in 2Q24, (iii) a 2Q24 MRE update, and (iv) results from the ongoing/fully funded 25,000m drill program (incl. deep FW target testing).

# Vale off-take unlocks Crean Hill funding opportunity through advanced UG exploration

Magna Mining announced the signing of **Definitive Off-Take Agreement** with **Vale Canada** in Sudbury whereby initial production from Crean Hill will be shipped to Vale's Clarabelle Mill for processing. Magna carried out an extensive metallurgical test program on ore samples from the Crean Hill deposit, achieving predicted recoveries of 80.5% for nickel, 93.6% for copper, and around 70% for Cobalt, PGEs, and gold based on material from the 9400, 9400 FW and 101 FW Zones, and excludes 109 FW zone, which is set for processing through an alternative method to potentially enhance precious metal recovery during advanced exploration. Additionally, the advanced exploration estimated grades (1.5% Ni, 1.0% Cu, 1.0g/t 2PGE+Au) excludes 19km of drilling done by Magna in 2022 (updated MRE expected in 2Q24). Magna is exploring several non-equity sources of capital to fund the UG (final permits in 2Q24) and is fully funded for its 25,000m of exploration drilling in 2024 (drills are active).

## Why we like Magna Mining Inc

- 1. High grade UG > 2% NiEq complimented by permitted pits for scale
- 2. Vale Off Take agreement enables fast tracked production / advanced exploration
- 3. Tier-1/globally significant Ni sulphide district near hungry mills/smelters
- 4. Best in class Sudbury based technical team (formerly FNX Mining)

## **Catalysts**

- 2024: 25,000m drill program and results
- 2Q24: Final permits
- 2024: Crean Hill bulk sample



# • 2Q24: MRE update

## Research

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Ticker: NICU CN	Price / mkt		C\$0.59/sh,			P/NAV today:			Country:	Canada, Or	
Author: B Gaspar	Rec / PT:		BUY, C\$1.4	.5/sh		1xNAV7%: 1	C\$3.59/sh		Asset:	Crean Hill /	Shakespe
Commodity price	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E	Resource/Inventory	Mt	NiEq %	Sudbury	Mt	NiEq %
Ni price (US\$/t)	20,944	20,944	20,944	20,944	20,944	Shakespeare pit reserve	12 Mt	0.7%			
Ni price (US\$/t, payable)	11,352	11,352	11,352	11,352	11,352	SCPe Crean Hill OP inventy	6 Mt	0.7%	Pit M&I&I	34 Mt	0.8%
Share data (m)	Basic	FD	FF FD			SCPe Crean Hill UG inventy	11 Mt	2.1%	UG M&I&I	22 Mt	1.6%
Shares (m)	163.4	209.500	452.0			Total	29 Mt	1.2%	Total	56 Mt	1.1%
SOTP <i>project</i> valuation*		C\$m	o/ship	NAVx	C\$/sh	Funding: uses			Funding: 8	ources	
Crean Hill NPV (build start)		659	100%	1.00x	3.15	Staged build capex Y3 (C\$m)	304	Cash+	pre prod'n IT	M op (C\$m)	17
Resources ex inventory @ 1% insitu		59	100%	1.00x	0.28	Exploration (C\$m)	5	Ass	et level SCPe	debt (C\$m)	198
Cash 3Q23		16	100%	1.00x	0.07	UG dev. capex (C\$m)	56	SCP	e expansion e	quity (C\$m)	107
Cash from ITM options/warrants		19	100%	1.00x	0.09	SCPe G&A+fin. cost (C\$m)	6	SCI	Pe pre-build e	quity (C\$m)	65
1XNAV C\$		752			3.59	SCPe FCF Y1-2 (C\$m)	(21)		Total sou	urces (C\$m)	386
*Build start, ex fin. cost + G&A, dil. for optns	not build		P	/NAV today:	0.16x	Total uses: group (C\$m)	351	-	Buffer:	35	
Asset value: 1xNPV project (C\$m, unge	eared)*					Ratio analysis	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
Asset NPV (C\$m)	14,944	17,944	20,944	23,944	26,944	Shares out (m)	146.9	163.4	255.3	255.3	405.9
9.0% discount	338	436	534	631	729	EPS (Cc/sh)	-	-		5.7	5.3
7.0% discount	430	545	659	773	888	CFPS before w/c (C\$/sh)	-	-	-	(2.4)	1.2
5.0% discount	547	682	818	953	1,088	EV (C\$m)	80.5	84.6	129.8	128.4	105.7
Ungeared project IRR:		36%	42%	48%	54%	FCF yield (%)	-	-	-	1%	2%
Asset NPV (C\$/sh)	14,944	17,944	20,944	23,944	26,944	Income statement	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
9.0% discount	1.62	2.08	2.55	3.01	3.48	Revenue (C\$m)		-		51.6	68.8
7.0% discount	2.05	2.60	3.15	3.69	4.24	COGS (C\$m)	_	_	_	19.5	26.1
5.0% discount	2.61	3.26	3.90	4.55	5.19	Gross profit (C\$m)	•	-		32.1	42.8
*Project level NPV, excl finance costs and c				4.55	3.13	G&A (C\$m)	0.9	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.0
Group valuation over time^	Mar-24	Mar-25	Mar-26	Mar-27	Mar-28	Exploration (C\$m)	1.1	9.3	2.0	2.0	2.0
· ·		757	803				1.1		0.4	0.4	0.8
Project NPV (C\$m)	659			847	970	Finance costs (C\$m)		0.4			
Resources ex inventory @ 1% insitu	59	59	59	59	59	Tax (C\$m)	- (0.0)	- (4.6)	-	9.3	12.3
Central G&A and finance costs	(73)	(71)	(70)	(68)	(55)	Other (C\$m)	(0.0)	(1.6)	1.4	2.1	2.3
Net cash prior quarter	12	21	22	134	55	Net income (C\$m)	(2.0)	(11.4)	(7.4)	14.6	21.4
Cash from ITM options/warrants	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	Cash flow statement	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
Total NAV (C\$m)	676	785	833	991	1,048	EBITDA (C\$m)	(1.9)	(11.6)	(7.1)	25.0	35.4
FD share count (m)	301	301	301	452	452	Add share based (C\$m)	0.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4
1xNAV7%/sh FF FD (C\$/sh)	2.24	2.60	2.76	2.19	2.32	Net change wkg cap (C\$m)	0.2	0.6	-	7.6	-
Exit value: 1xNAV/sh company @ 2025	first produc	tion (C\$, ge	ared)^			Cash flow ops (C\$m)	(2.2)	(12.6)	(6.0)	9.2	23.9
1xNAV (C\$m)	14,944	17,944	20,944	23,944	26,944	PP&E - build + sust. (C\$m)	(0.0)	(0.1)	(50.0)	(7.8)	(18.9)
9.0% discount	470	594	717	839	959	PP&E - expl'n (C\$m)	(0.1)	-	-	-	-
7.0% discount	555	695	833	971	1,107	Cash flow inv. (C\$m)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(50.0)	(7.8)	(18.9)
5.0% discount	661	819	977	1,134	1,289	Share issue (C\$m)	-	18.3	65.1	-	106.6
1xNAV (C\$/sh)	14,944	17,944	20,944	23,944	26,944	Debt draw (repay) (C\$m)	-	-	-	-	49.5
9.0% discount	1.56	1.97	2.38	2.78	3.18	Cash flow fin. (C\$m)	(0.0)	18.3	65.1	-	156.0
7.0% discount	1.84	2.30	2.76	3.22	3.67	Net change in cash (C\$m)	(2.1)	5.6	9.1	1.4	161.0
5.0% discount	2.19	2.72	3.24	3.76	4.28	Balance sheet	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	CY26E
Production (Y1 from 2Q25)	CY25	CY26	CY27	CY28	CY29	Cash (C\$m)	6.2	11.7	20.9	22.2	183.2
SCPe production (000kt NiEq)^	2.5	3.3	11.8	11.8	14.8	Acc rec. + invet. (C\$m)	1.4	1.9	1.9	10.2	10.2
AISC Co-prod. (US\$/lb Ni)*	8	8	8	8	8	PP&E & expl'n (C\$m)	0.1	0.1	50.1	57.2	75.1
CY25-28 toll milling; CY29 owner-operate		-		•	<u> </u>	Total assets (C\$m)	7.7	13.7	72.9	89.7	268.6
Sudbury prod'n (LH		) ->-/	AISC (RHS, 0	C\$/t NiEa)		Debt (C\$m)	0.0	-	-	-	49.5
20kt	.,	, • ,	(	. ,//	20	Accounts payable (C\$m)	1.7	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.1
						Others (C\$m)	6.9	12.9	22.0	31.7	192.7
15kt					15	Total liabilities (C\$m)	5.1			9.3	58.8
10kt					10			8.6	8.6		
<b>→</b>	•		<b>*</b>	-		Shareholders' equity (C\$m)	32.5	45.8	112.4	113.8	221.8
5kt					5	Reserves (C\$m)	3.2	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
0kt					1.	Retained earnings (C\$m)	(33.0)	(44.4)	(51.8)	(37.2)	(15.8)
					1 -	Liabilities + equity (C\$m)	7.7	13.7	72.9	89.7	268.6

Source: SCP estimates, \*AISC done on ore selling NSR

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HOLD:	0
SELL:	0
UNDER REVIEW:	0
TENDER:	1
NOT RATED:	0
TOTAL	58

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