ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

26 March 2026

EXPANDED LINKA GEOPHYSICS IDENTIFIES LARGE-SCALE TUNGSTEN SYSTEM POTENTIAL

- **Expanded geophysical surveys identifies the substantial scale of the Linka intrusive system, providing a high-confidence roadmap for the June quarter drilling campaign.**
- **Interpretation of the contact zone identifies a multi-kilometre footprint for potential new skarn mineralisation, significantly increasing the Project's "blue sky" potential.**
- **Initial magnetic image processing reveals the interpreted source intrusion with a diameter of ~2km and circumference potentially exceeding ~7km.**
- **Only ~11% of the intrusion's interpreted contact are exposed (on the eastern flank), with 89% of the prospective contact zone remaining completely untested.**
- **Linka (Main) southern extensions beneath volcanic cover establish a new, high-conviction target horizon previously hidden from traditional exploration.**
- **Advanced 3D modelling is now being integrated with geophysical data to finalise targeted drill coordinates to maximise discovery opportunity.**
- **Nevada-based location and surging APT prices (US$2,650/mtu) position Linka as a critical domestic asset for the US strategic metal supply chain.[1]**

Viking Mines Ltd (ASX: VKA) ("**Viking**" or "**the Company**") is pleased to report that an expanded ground magnetics geophysical survey has greatly improved the understanding of the Linka Tungsten Project in Nevada, USA. The data indicates the Project is part of a significantly larger intrusive system than previously interpreted, providing a clear technical pathway for the Company's drilling programme planned for the June quarter.

Viking Mines MD & CEO, Julian Woodcock said:

"We have effectively established a strong insight into the Linka Project. These results indicate that what we previously considered the 'Project' is just the eastern flank of a much larger intrusive system. With the historical mines and drilling confirming mineralisation on the eastern flank, the discovery potential across the remaining ~89% of the contact is immense. We are now finalising drill positions to test both the southern continuation from Linka and initial traverses to confirm the extents of the interpreted intrusion beneath the volcanic cover. "

EXPANDED GEOPHYSICS SURVEYS

The primary objective of the geophysical survey was to expand beyond known surface mineralisation and identify the intrusions limits and contacts with the sedimentary host rocks to identify "blind" targets beneath the younger cover. By mapping the intrusive architecture utilising the high-resolution magnetic surveys, Viking has established a targeting model that aims to increase the success rate of the upcoming drilling programme. Three survey methods have been deployed to attain this objective.

[1] Reference: https://www.metal.com/tungsten.

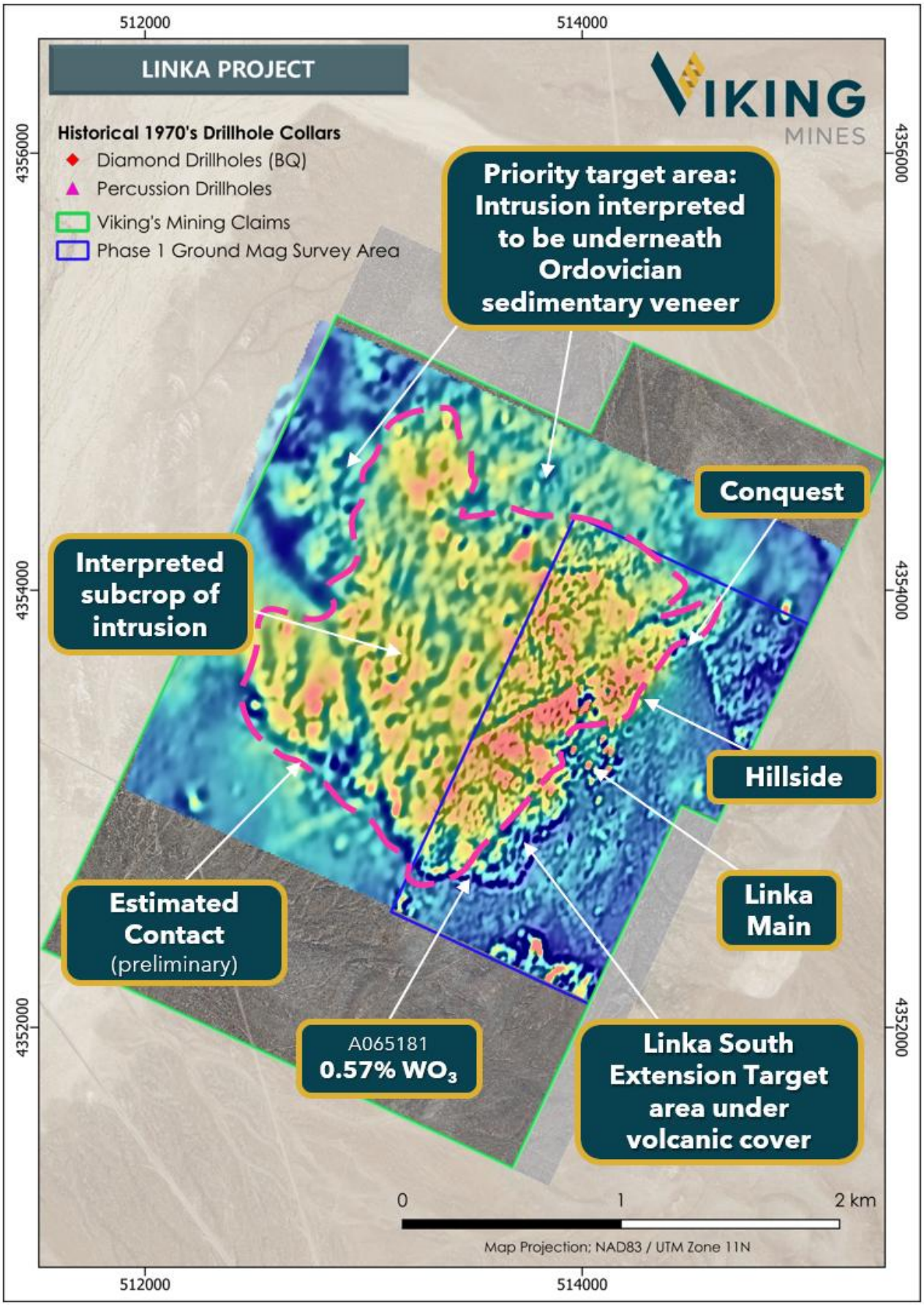

Figure 1; Final processed image of ground magnetics data. Greyscale 1VD RTP image overlain with colour RTP pseudo linear. Note interpreted outline of the potential burried intrusion and extensive limits to be tested by future drilling.

- **Ground Magnetics - 5.9km² survey area:** This survey has facilitated the interpretation of the boundaries of the source intrusion to the older sedimentary units. Understanding the shape of this contact is critical, as skarn mineralisation typically forms at the interface between the intrusion and limestone. By identifying the positions of the contacts, Viking can target these zones with high precision.
- **Ground Gravity – 1.2km² survey area:** Because tungsten-bearing skarns are high-density, the expanded gravity data provides a direct detection layer. When combined with magnetics, it allows the Company to prioritise drill holes that coincide with both the intrusive contact and high-density anomalies. The gravity survey data is still undergoing processing.
- **GAIP Trial – 4 test lines:** Testing GAIP method over the Conquest target has provided a preliminary dataset which is being evaluated as an additional method to map the subsurface lithology and structures, ensuring drill holes are orientated correctly to intercept mineralised layers. The GAIP data is still undergoing processing.

TARGETING BENEATH VOLCANIC COVER

A major outcome for future drilling is the identification of the system's southern extension, which is masked by the Bates Mountain volcanic cover. The new ground magnetics data "sees through" this cover, revealing the prospective contact between the intrusive and limestone. This establishes a high-value target horizon, with drill planning now focused on testing these positions to establish the true scale of the Linka system beyond the visible surface prospects.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK AND STRATEGIC METAL SUPPLY

By proving the scale of the system before the first drill rig arrives, Viking is ensuring that capital is deployed as efficiently as possible. This data-led approach positions the Company to maximise our exploration in an environment where tungsten is classified as a critical mineral for US national security. With tungsten prices (APT) testing all-time highs of US$2,650/mtu,[1] the strategic value of a large-scale Nevada-based Project continues to accelerate.

ONGOING WORK AND NEXT STEPS

- **Geophysics Data Processing:** Complete processing of the gravity and GAIP datasets and commence interpretation.
- **3D Target Generation**: Integrating geophysical datasets into the 3D geological models to precisely plan and target the broader exploration drilling programme.
- **Field investigation:** Field crew to be mobilised in April to conduct sampling and initial geological mapping and sampling and to ground truth observations and interpretation from the geophysics.
- **Drill Programme Finalisation:** Developing a drilling programme to test, advance and validate the findings from the geophysical data and to commence exploration throughout the untested ~89% of the intrusive contact zone.
- **Drill Permitting:** Complete drill permitting with the Federal Government and lock in drill contractors to commence drilling in the June Quarter.

DIRECTOR RESIGNATION

The Company wishes to advise that Mr Bevan Tarratt has tendered his resignation as Non-Executive Director of the Company, effective 31 March 2026, due to expanded Executive and Non-Executive commitments with other companies.

Mr Tarratt will continue to provide strategic advisory services to the Company via a consulting agreement on an as needs basis.

The Board thanks Mr Tarratt for his contribution to the Company and acknowledges his efforts in supporting the Company's strategy and development and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

END

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of the Company.



Julian Woodcock
Managing Director and CEO
Viking Mines Limited

For further information, please contact:
Viking Mines Limited
Michaela Stanton-Cook - Company Secretary
+61 8 6245 0870

Forward-Looking Statements

This document may include forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning Viking Mines Limited's planned exploration programme and other statements that are not historical facts. When used in this document, the words such as "could," "plan," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may", "potential," "should," and similar expressions are forward-looking statements. Although Viking Mines Limited believes that its expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, such statements involve risks and uncertainties and no assurance can be given that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statement.

Competent Persons Statement – Exploration Results

Information in this release that relates to Exploration Results is based on information compiled by Mr Julian Woodcock, who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (MAusIMM(CP) – 305446). Mr Woodcock is a full-time employee of Viking Mines Ltd. Mr Woodcock has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Woodcock consents to the disclosure of the information in this report in the form and context in which it appears.

APPENDIX 2 – JORC CODE, 2012 EDITION – TABLE 1

JORC Table 1, Section 1 – Sampling Techniques and Data

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Sampling techniques	*Nature and quality of sampling (e.g. cut channels, random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the minerals under investigation, such as downhole gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc.). These examples should not be taken as limiting the broad meaning of sampling.*	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
	Include reference to measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used.	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
	Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report. In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (e.g. 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g charge for fire assay'). In other cases more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (e.g. submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
Drilling techniques	*Drill type (e.g. core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc.) and details (e.g. core diameter, triple or standard tube, depth of diamond tails, face-sampling bit or other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by what method, etc.).*	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
Drill sample recovery	*Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed.*	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
	Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples.	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
	Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material.	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
Logging	*Whether core and chip samples have been geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies.*	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc.) photography.	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
	The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged.	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
Subsampling techniques and sample preparation	*If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken.*	Not applicable, no sampling being reported.
	If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc. and whether sampled wet or dry.	Not applicable, no sampling being reported.
	For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique.	Not applicable, no sampling being reported.
	Quality control procedures adopted for all subsampling stages to maximise representivity of samples.	Not applicable, no sampling being reported.
	Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in-situ material collected, including for instance results for field duplicate/second-half sampling.	Not applicable, no sampling being reported.
	Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.	Not applicable, no sampling being reported.
Quality of assay data and laboratory tests	*The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total.*	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
	For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc., the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc.	GEM GSM-19W Overhauser, DGPS upgraded, rapid sampling magnetometers (2x Rover unit and Base station) 0.5s Sampling Rate.
	Nature of quality control procedures adopted (e.g. standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (i.e. lack of bias) and precision have been established.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
Verification of sampling and assaying	*The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel.*	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
	The use of twinned holes.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
	Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
	Discuss any adjustment to assay data.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Location of data points	*Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drillholes (collar and downhole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation.*	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.
	Specification of the grid system used.	All data is reported and acquired into the adopted grid system of NAD83/UTM Zone 11N.
	Quality and adequacy of topographic control.	A high-resolution 1 m digital elevation model (DEM) sourced from the USGS was used as the base topographic surface for all survey control. Positions for geophysical measurement stations were recorded using a Leica GS15 Base and Rover GNSS system, providing sub-centimetre positional accuracy and ensuring high-quality spatial control across the survey area.
Data spacing and distribution	*Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results.*	The ground gravity survey was completed at a high resolution 20 m x 40 m station spacing The ground magnetic survey was acquired along 20m spaced lines with a 0.5s sampling rate along line.
	Whether the data spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
	Whether sample compositing has been applied.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
Orientation of data in relation to geological structure	*Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type.*	The ground magnetic and gravity survey lines were orientated perpendicular to the lithological strike
	If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material.	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
Sample security	*The measures taken to ensure sample security.*	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
Audits or reviews	*The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.*	Data from both the gravity and ground magnetic surveys were averaged from multiple readings at each station to improve measurement reliability. Daily QA/QC checks were undertaken to confirm data accuracy and consistency. Repeat stations were collected throughout the survey to verify data stability and ensure that acquisition standards were maintained.

JORC 2012 Table 1, Section 2 – Reporting of Exploration Results

<table>
<tr><th>Criteria</th><th>JORC Code explanation</th><th>Commentary</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Mineral tenement and land tenure status</td><td>Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships, overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings.</td><td>Tenements and location
The USA Tungsten Project Lode Mineral Claims are located in the state of Nevada in the USA. Details of the Mineral Claims are presented in the table below:

<table>
<tr><th>Project</th><th>State</th><th>County</th><th>Type</th><th>Holder</th><th>Quantity</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Linka</td><td rowspan="2">Nevada</td><td rowspan="2">Lander</td><td rowspan="2">Unpatented</td><td>BLK Group LLC</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Viking Tungsten LLC</td><td>91</td></tr>
<tr><td>Alpine</td><td>Nevada</td><td>Pershing</td><td>Unpatented</td><td>BLK Group LLC</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Long</td><td rowspan="2">Nevada</td><td rowspan="2">Pershing</td><td rowspan="2">Unpatented</td><td>BLK Group LLC</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>Viking Tungsten LLC</td><td>12</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Ragged Top</td><td rowspan="2">Nevada</td><td rowspan="2">Pershing</td><td rowspan="2">Unpatented</td><td>BLK Group LLC</td><td>8</td></tr>
<tr><td>Viking Tungsten LLC</td><td>30</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Terrell</td><td rowspan="2">Nevada</td><td rowspan="2">Nye</td><td rowspan="2">Unpatented</td><td>BLK Group LLC</td><td>10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Viking Tungsten LLC</td><td>56</td></tr>
<tr><td>Victory</td><td>Nevada</td><td>Nye</td><td>Unpatented</td><td>Kircher Mine Development LLC</td><td>8</td></tr>
</table>

Third Party Interests
Viking Mines Ltd has signed a binding term sheet to acquire a 100% interest in the project BLK Group LLC Mineral Claims and currently holds no ownership. Viking can acquire 100% interest in the claims by paying a total of US$2.88M over a staged 7 year period. BLK group will retain a 2% NSR on all minerals recovered from mineral claims, and Viking retains the option to buy down 1% of the NSR for US$2M.
Native Title, Historical sites and Wilderness
There are no known registered historical sites over the Project Mineral Claims. The Mineral Claims are registered with the Bureau of Land Management. The Linka Project has split federal agency responsibility with the Bureau of Land management managing all claims located due west of the Linka Shaft and the US Forestry Service due east. All the remaining projects fall under the jurisdiction of the BLM.</td></tr>
<tr><td>The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area.</td><td>The tenements are held in good standing by BLK Group LLC. To the best of Vikings knowledge, all annual claim payments are up to date. There are no known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area. The US process is to file either a notice of intent or Plan of Operations to the responsible Federal Agency to obtain permits for drilling. The Company does not know of any reason why these permits would not be granted once the process if followed and the required bond payment made.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exploration done by other parties</td><td>Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.</td><td><u>Linka Mine:</u> The area was staked in 1941 by Steve Linka of Austin, NV. In 1943-44, the mine produced 2,420 tons of ore averaging 0.69% WO_3. Consolidated Uranium Mines purchased the property in 1953, sunk a vertical shaft to 210 feet and drove approximately 1,000 feet of drifts and cross-cuts on the 150′ level. Additional production included; 4,000 tons of ore averaging 0.98% WO_3 between 1951 and 1956 and 60,000 tons averaging 0.40% WO_3 between 1955 and 1956. The mine closed when the Government buying program ended. Mine workings include a 100′ X 50′ open-pit 25 feet deep, a 210′ shaft with approximately 1,500 feet of drifts and cross-cuts. Shrinkage stopes extend from the 150′ level to the surface (Stager and Tingley, 1988).
In 1951, the Linka Mine was optioned to Hugh Chesser, Reno, NV. Hugh Chesser estimates shipments to Metals Reserve Corporation during WWII totalled 2,673 tons averaging 0.72 percent WO_3.
Cache Creek Exploration held the properties in the early 1970′s and conducted geological and geophysical programs. Duval Corporation optioned the properties in the mid-1970′s, did geological studies but no drilling. Min-Ex drilled the property in 1977-78, with a total of 73 drillholes recorded (eight DDH and 64 wide-spread percussion drillholes). Note: Not all drillhole locations</td></tr>
</table>

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
		have been established, with 69 holes digitised and 1 hole estimated (total 70) and three percussion holes with unknown location. Exploration activity completed by Minex included drilling, surface and underground geological mapping and sampling, minor geophysical magnetic survey with 10,400 linear feet collected (inconclusive results), 6,500ft of bulldozer trenching and mapping. Stager and Tingley, 1988 estimate total production at the Linka mine at 25,670 units WO_3 (1943-56). **Linka-Conquest Mine**: The mine was discovered in 1941 but did not start production until 1943 when Gale Peer sunk a two-compartment inclined shaft to 130 feet. Workings off the shaft were at the 50 and 100 foot levels. During WW II mined and shipped 390 tons of ore averaging 2.7% WO_3. Additional shipments after the War averaged over 1.0% WO_3, but the tonnage is unknown. Last work on the 100' level exposed a zone 40' long, 12' to 20' wide, open to the northeast with a grade of <0.4% WO_3. Stager and Tingley, 1988, estimate total production at 5,208 units WO_3 (1944-56). Stager and Tingley, 1988 estimate total production at the Conquest mine to be 5,208 units WO_3 (1944-56)
Geology	*Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation*	**Linka Project:** The area is underlain primarily by sedimentary rocks; it includes an outcrop of massive limestone of Ordovician age (Upper Plate) overlain in thrust contact by chert and shale of Ordovician Vinini Formation (Lower Plate). The limestone is intruded locally by granitic rocks of Jurassic age, and the tungsten deposits occur in the limestone along the granite contact (Stager and Tingley, 1988) Linka-Conquest Mine - Granite intrusive rocks (Jg) and aplite dikes intrude cherts, shales and limy members of the Vinini Formation (Ov) in the Upper Plate of the Roberts Mountain Thrust. Scheelite-bearing skarn formed at the contact. Miocene age Bates Mountains tuff (Tbm) covers any extension of the mineralization to the northeast. Linka Mine – Scheelite occurs in lenses and tabular masses of skarn at the contact between Ordovician Antelope Valley Limestone (Lower Plate of the Roberts Mountain Thrust) and granitic intrusive rocks. The contact zone is cut by igneous dykes and high-angle faults. Exposures are poor. Granite rocks west of the contact zone are covered by post-mineral volcanic rock and sediments of Big Smokey Valley. Antelope Valley limestone east of the contact zone is nearly vertical. The contact zone is about 40 feet wide. Drilling in the 1970's shows that, at depth, the contact zone may flatten to the east, then steepen. Scheelite, with traces of chalcopyrite and molybdenite are the only ore minerals recognized. Linka-Hillside - The Hillside incline shaft is about half way between the Conquest and Linka Mines. The shaft is inclined at ~47° and is approximately 100 feet deep. In 1978, when the area was visited by Richard Jones and Harold Bonham, geologists at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, there were no drifts or cross-cuts off the shaft. Here the rocks are more thinly bedded and contain more hornfels then sediments at the Linka shaft. Lenses of scheelite-bearing skarn in the Hanson Creek Fm are at the surface and a lens of mineralized skarn within the Antelope Valley Limestone occurs in the shaft (Stager and Tingley, 1988).
Drill hole Information	*A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration results including a tabulation of the following information for all Material drill holes:* • *easting and northing of the drill hole collar* • *elevation or RL (Reduced Level – elevation above sea level in metres) of the drill hole collar* • *dip and azimuth of the hole* • *down hole length and interception depth* • *hole length.* *If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not Material and this exclusion does not detract*	Not applicable, no drilling being reported.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case.	
Data aggregation methods	*In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (e.g., cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated.* *Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high-grade results and longer lengths of low-grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail.* *The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated.*	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths	• *These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results.* • *If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported.* • *If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (eg 'down hole length, true width not known').*	Not applicable, no assay results being reported.
Diagrams	*Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views*	All appropriate maps and plans and sections are included in the body of the report including maps of the survey areas and the processed images.
Balanced reporting	*Where comprehensive reporting of all Exploration Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be*	All appropriate information is included in the report.

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	practiced to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.	
Other substantive exploration data	*Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples – size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances*	**Ground Magnetic Survey** Survey type – Ground magnetic survey on 20 m-spaced lines for 111-line km and 40m-spaced lines for 93-line km Instrumentation – GEM GSM-19W Overhauser rapid-sampling magnetometers. Acquisition parameters – 0.5-second sampling rate. Base station control – Diurnal variations corrected using a co-located base-station magnetometer. Data processing – Magnetic data processed and filtered using proprietary geophysical software to produce final datasets suitable for interpretation. **Data Quality and Reliability** Daily QA/QC checks were undertaken to confirm data accuracy and consistency. High sensitivity magnetometers (0.01nT) and GPS (sub 1 cm) units were used in data acquisition. Data was averaged to remove effect of any erroneous measurements.
Further work	*The nature and scale of planned further work (eg tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling). Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive.*	Linka Project: Metallurgical testwork is underway on samples collected as previously reported to the ASX (see reference in main report). Ground gravity and magnetics to be extended as described in this report.vData processing and interpretation is ongoing. Combination of the new and historical datasets will lead to the development of a 3D geological model which in turn will be used to plan future drilling programmes and the submission of a Notice of Intent to the relevant government agencies. Other projects: A primary focus is to identify and source any and all available historical data on the projects to allow planning of future sampling and drilling programmes. On planning of any drilling programmes a Notice of Intent or Plan of Operations will be prepared and submitted to the relevant Federal authority.