

Ticker: NCAU CN **Net cash:** C\$2m **Project:** Enchi
Market cap: C\$64m **Price:** C\$0.65/sh **Country:** Ghana
RECOMMEND. (unc): BUY **TARGET (up):** C\$1.70/sh **RISK RATING:** SPECULATIVE

We previously modelled a ~635koz @ 0.97g/t heap leach for a US\$248m NPV @ US\$910/oz AISC driven by US\$2.21/t mining and US\$5.18/t processing. With the next phase of inventory expansion now complete, the published **inventory lifts to 1.2Moz @ 0.57g/t** for a >20% lift NPV_{5%-1850} to US\$302m @ US\$1,066/oz predicated on mining costs of US\$1.99/sh and processing of US\$5.28/t. This is a good result given the majority of drilling is not yet factored in the resource, hence today's PEA simply represents a point in time. We see this as a 'base case', with twin advantages of protecting the downside, and de-risking exploration going forward as even ~200koz @ ~2g/t would revolutionise the economics. This is the real meat for Newcore – the 216km² of prime Ghanaian greenstone, a world-class belt for sure. We model Enchi per the PEA, driving an SCPe PEA case of US\$327m, in line with the published figures. Given that contractor mining is to be used and with some inter-pit haul, we conservatively lift mining costs to US\$2.20/t (which takes our AISC to US\$1,134/oz), leaving all other inputs unchanged. For exploration, we previously added a nominal C\$21m, which we maintain, equating to ~US\$100/oz for the 170koz of resources outside reserves, in line with peers. On that basis our NAV goes from C\$258m to C\$316m. With mine build dilution ahead and existing ounces now 'booked' (clearly growth ounces are key to the strategy), we apply a more conservative 0.6xNAV and **maintain our BUY rating, lifting our PT from C\$1.65/sh to C\$1.70/sh** putting the stock on 0.23xNAV. As the MRE / PEA excludes ~46,000m of drilling since the cut-off, today's PEA offers a 'base load' from which to grow heap-leach oxides, add smaller higher-grade oxide satellites, or 'catch a tiger-by-the-tail' on higher-grade sulphide shoots. We show examples of these styles of hits in Figure 1C, with **22m @ 1.9g/t and 24m @ 2g/t** drilled near surface at the Sewum extension target. Neighbouring Chriano along strike is a key example, currently mining much higher grade sulphide underground ores. Stepping back, the one aspect of Newcore we like the most is just this – an extremely large 216km² land package on one of the most prolific Archean gold belts in the world, with 25 targets already in the pipeline.

Table 1. Newcore PEA and SCP old vs. new key mining parameters and valuation

ENCHI GOLD PROJECT (90%)	NCAU PEA			SCP			ENCHI (100%)	NCAU PEA			SCP		
	2015	2021	Δ (%)	Old	New	Δ (%)		2015	2021	Δ (%)	Old	New	Δ (%)
Mining inventory (000t)	24.7	68.6	177%	20.4	68.6	237%	Gold price (US\$/oz)	1,300	1,650	27%	1,850	1,850	0%
Au grade (g/t)	0.91	0.57	-37%	0.97	0.57	-42%	Tax rate (%)	35%	35%	0%	35%	35%	0%
Mining inventory Au (000oz)	721	1,245	73%	638	1,254	96%	USD / CAD	0.75	0.77	3%	0.72	0.83	15%
Strip ratio (x)	3.2	2.1	-34%	3.2	2.1	-34%	Discount (%)	5.0%	5.0%	0%	5.0%	5.0%	0%
Au recovery (%)	75%	79%	6%	75%	79%	5%	LOM FCF (C\$m)	124	395	218%	308	458	49%
LOM throughput (Mtpa)	2.8	6.2	121%	2.8	6.2	122%	NPV post-tax (C\$m)	83	256	208%	248	322	30%
Production Au LOM (000oz)	538	983	83%	477	984	106%	IRR post-tax (%)	25%	42%	68%	60%	37%	-38%
Mining cost (US\$/t)	2.21	1.99	-10%	2.21	2.20	0%	Payback (years)	2.80	2.30	-18%	2.00	3.50	75%
Processing cost (US\$/t)	5.18	5.28	2%	5.18	5.28	2%	Source: SCPe; PEA inputs converted to from USD to CAD at 0.77;						
G&A (US\$/t)	1.09	1.73	59%	1.09	1.73	59%							
Royalty (%)	7.0%	7.0%	0.0%	7.0%	7.0%	0.0%							
LOM C1 costs (US\$/oz AuEq)	802	1,043	30%	798	1,096	37%							
LOM AISC (US\$/oz AuEq)	874	1,066	22%	910	1,134	25%							
Pre-production capex (US\$m)	84	97	15%	84	97	15%							
Total sustaining capex (US\$m)	38	23	-39%	38	24	-37%							

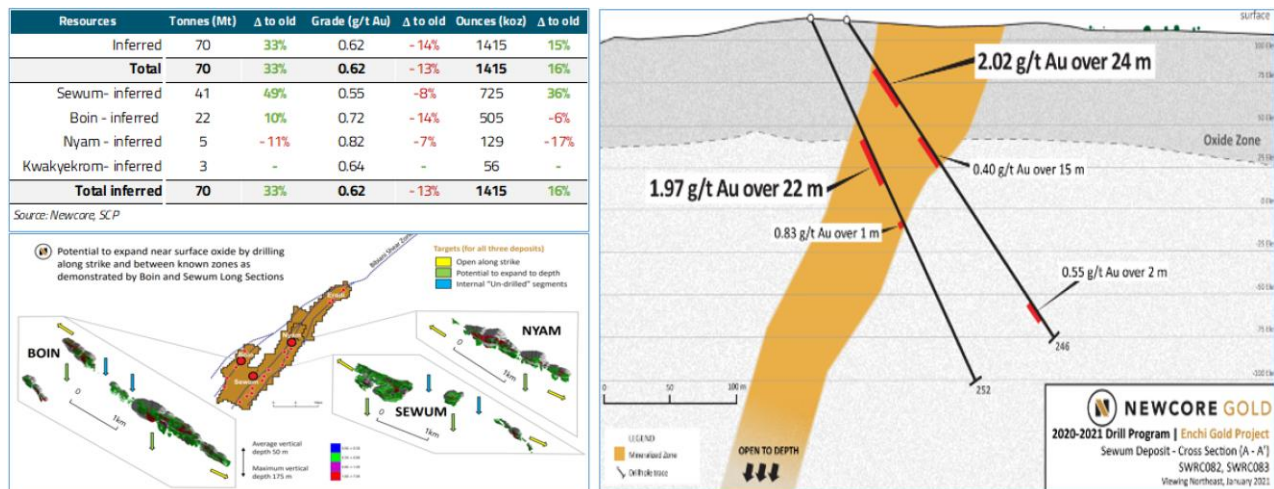
Updated PEA and MRE lifts Enchi's production capacity to 100koz pa; lifting PT to \$1.70/sh

Today's PEA is a step change from the previous 2015 PEA, lifting ounce production and throughput to **100koz pa from a 6.2Mtpa heap leach at low 2.1:1 strip**, offsetting lower grades and higher costs of US\$1,066/oz AISC using higher \$1650/oz gold price assumptions and lower \$1.99/t mining costs. Pre-production capital is up slightly to US\$97m (+15%) with a 15m construction timeline. The changes in Table

1 above drive a reported C\$256m NPV_{5%-1650} or C\$302m and 54% IRR at \$1850/oz gold. Forming the basis of the PEA is a **larger inferred resource** (Figure 1A) that saw a **16% lift in ounces to 1.4Moz @ 0.62g/t** and +33% lift in total tonnes driven by successful expansion focused drilling, offset slightly by a lower cut off grade resulting in -13% compared to previous 3Q20 MRE for a larger mine inventory of 1.2Moz @ 0.57g/t (~85% conversion).

New additions came from extensions along strike, down dip but also from the first contribution from the shallow oxides delineated at KwakyeKrom, adding 56koz from only a small number of holes so far. **Looking ahead**, ~46,000m of resource expansion drilling was not included in today's updated MRE and PEA, including recent oxide gold intercepts of **9m @ 5.4g/t, 7m @ 5.8g/t and 6m @ 6.3g/t**. Drilling is ongoing with 66,000m focused on extending resources along strike and down dip as well as testing new grassroots targets across Newcore's large 216km² land package (Figure 1B).

Figure 1. (A) Enchi 'old vs new' MRE table, (B) resource expansion map / long sections (C) Sewum x-sec



Source: Newcore

Why we like Newcore

1. Existing 1.4Moz @ 0.62g/t oxide resource underpins low-cost heap leach
2. Large position in one of the most prolific orogenic gold belts globally
3. Ounce growth from strike, depth and greenfield targets
4. Management team with track-record of value creation (Calibre, Integra, Newmarket, Terrane)

Catalysts

1. 2Q21: SCPe completion of 58,000m Stage 1 and 2 drilling
2. 1Q21: Phase 2 drilling with up to six rigs
3. 3Q22 / 3Q23: SCP modelled build start

Brock Salier (London) M: +44 7400 666 913 bsalier@sprott.com

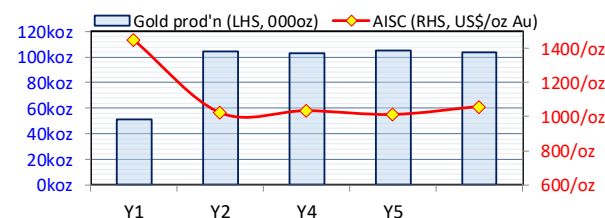
Justin Chan (London) M: +44 7554 784 688 jchan@sprott.com

Brandon Gaspar (Toronto) M: +1 437 533 3142 bgaspar@sprott.com

Eleanor Magdzinski (Toronto) M: +1 705 669 7456 emagdzinski@sprott.com

Ticker: NCAU CN		Price / mkt cap: C\$0.65/sh, C\$64m				Project PNAV today: 0.23x		Asset: Enchi			
Author: B Salier / B Gaspar		Rec / 0.6xNAV PT: BUY, C\$1.7/sh				1xNAV _{1Q21} FF FD: C\$2.73/sh		Country: Ghana			
Commodity price		CY20E	CY21E	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	Resources and resevs		Tons (Mt)	Au (koz)	Au (g/t)
Gold price		1,779	1,894	1,873	1,854	1,850	2Q21 Inferred resource:		70Mt	1415koz	0.62g/t
SOTP project valuation*							SCP & 2Q21 PEA Inventory		69Mt	1245koz	0.57g/t
		C\$m	O/ship	NAVx	C\$/sh		Funding: uses		Funding: sources		
Ungeared proj. @ build start (3Q22)		322	90%	1.00x	2.63		PEA including cont. capex C\$117m		SCPe cash + options		C\$6m
Cash		1.6	100%	1.00x	0.01		SCPe G&A + fin. cost to 1st Au C\$10m		Mine debt @ 60% gearing		C\$70m
Cash from options		4.1	100%	1.00x	0.04		SCPe working capital C\$14m		Build equity @ 0.5xNAV		C\$75m
Exploration 170koz @ US\$100/oz		20	100%	1.00x	0.19		Total uses C\$140m		Total proceeds		C\$151m
Asset NAV5% US\$1850/oz		316			2.86		*Cash from options expiring pre first pour		Buffer: C\$11m		
*Shares diluted for options not mine build						Market P/NAV5 ₁ 3Q20 0.23x					
Asset value: 1xNPV project @ build start (C\$m, ungeared)*											
Project NPV (C\$m)*		\$1650oz	\$1750oz	\$1850oz	\$1950oz	\$2050oz					
10.0% discount		144	187	230	272	315					
7.5% discount		176	224	271	319	367					
5.0% discount		216	269	322	375	428					
Ungeared project IRR:		27%	32%	37%	42%	47%					
1xNAV5% (C\$/sh)		\$1650oz	\$1750oz	\$1850oz	\$1950oz	\$2050oz					
10.0% discount		1.41	1.76	2.11	2.46	2.81					
7.5% discount		1.68	2.06	2.45	2.84	3.23					
5.0% discount		2.00	2.43	2.86	3.30	3.73					
NPV5 vs mining cost (C\$m)*		\$1650oz	\$1750oz	\$1850oz	\$1950oz	\$2050oz					
Mining (US\$/t): 3.50		46	105	158	211	264					
Mining (US\$/t): 2.20		216	269	322	375	428					
Mining (US\$/t): 1.99		242	295	348	402	455					
*Project level NPV, excl finance costs and central SGA, discounted to build start											
Group val'n over time^		2Q21	2Q22	2Q23	2Q24	2Q25					
Enchi NPV (C\$m)		289.8	308.6	420.5	464.0	433.4					
G&A and finance costs (C\$m)		(19.5)	(17.6)	(16.3)	(8.7)	0.5					
Net cash prior qtr (C\$m)		1.6	72.1	(28.7)	(56.5)	(20.4)					
Cash from options (C\$m)		4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1					
Expl'n 310koz @ US\$50/oz		20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5					
NAV FF FD (C\$m)		269	359	360	378	395					
Shares in issue (m)		98.7	99.0	162.7	162.7	162.7					
1xNAV5%/sh FF FD (C\$/sh)		2.73	3.62	2.21	2.32	2.43					
Equity ROI from spot (% pa)			457%	84%	53%	39%					
Geared company NAV diluted for build, net G&A and finance costs											
2Q22 1xNAV FF FD (C\$/sh)^		\$1650oz	\$1750oz	\$1850oz	\$1950oz	\$2050oz					
10.0% discount		0.92	1.23	1.56	1.90	2.24					
7.5% discount		1.13	1.49	1.85	2.23	2.61					
5.0% discount		1.39	1.79	2.21	2.63	3.06					
Geared project IRR:		23%	28%	32%	37%	41%					
2Q22 1xNAV FF FD (\$/sh)^		0Mt	1Mt	3Mt	5Mt	7Mt					
Grade: 0.00g/t		2.21	2.12	2.00	1.91	1.82					
Grade: 0.80g/t		2.21	2.41	2.66	2.88	3.06					
Grade: 1.33g/t		2.21	2.61	3.11	3.54	3.91					
Grade: 2.00g/t		2.21	2.86	3.69	4.38	4.99					
^Project NPV incl grp SG&A & fin. cost, +net cash; *diluted for mine build equity											
Production		Y1	Y2	Y4	Y5	Y6					
Gold production (000oz)		51	104	103	105	104					
AISC cost (US\$/oz)		1,449	1,022	1,034	1,012	1,059					
AISC = C1 + ug sustaining capex, Y1 = 12M to Jun 2023											
Gold prod'n (LHS, 000oz) AISC (RHS, US\$/oz Au) <											

Source: SCP estimates



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TENDER:	0
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TOTAL	41

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