

Plateau Energy Metals Inc.

(PLU-V: C\$1.15)

BUY Target: C\$2.70

October 4, 2018 Joseph Fars, MBA, P.Geo / (416) 350-5090 <u>jfars@viiicapital.com</u> David A. Talbot / (416) 350-3082 <u>dtalbot@viiicapital.com</u>

Lithium Processing Options Begin to Unfold

PLU-TSXV	New	Old
Rating		BUY
Target	-	C\$ 2.70
Projected Return	-	135%
DCF multiple (U3O8 only)	-	0.4x
Falchani Lithium	-	C\$ 1.82
10% DCF Corporate Value	-	C\$ 0.70
Cash and Debt	-	C\$ 0.02
Additional Resource Value	-	C\$ 0.17
NAV	-	C\$ 3.83
P/NAV	-	0.30x
Co	mpany Data	
Last Price		\$1.15
52-week Range	\$0.26 -	\$1.60

Last Price			\$1.15
52-week Range	\$0.26	-	\$1.69
Market Cap (\$MM)			\$82.4
Enterprise Value (\$MM)			\$80.2
Shares Outstanding - Basic (MM)			71.6
Shares Outstanding - FD (MM)			93.8
Avg Volume - 100d (000 shares/day)			155.5
Cash (est.) (\$MM)			\$2.2
Debt (\$MM)			\$0.0
Working Capital (est.) (\$MM)			\$2.0

Forecast	2018E	2019E	2020E	LT
Lithium Carbonate (US\$/t)	11,000	11,500	11,500	11,500
Uranium Spot (US\$/Ib)	28	34	40	60
Foreign Exchange US\$/C\$	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.85
EPS	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.04)	
EBITDA (\$MM)	-9	-12	-8	
CF	(8)	(12)	(8)	
CF/share	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.04)	
Capex (\$MM)	0.0	(0.7)	(225.1)	
FCF (\$MM)	(8.3)	(12.9)	(232.7)	
All Figures in C\$ Unless Otherwise No	oted			
Source: Company Reports, FactSet,	Eight Capital			

PLU-V: Price/Volume Chart



Source: Factset

Company Description

Plateau Energy Metals is a junior lithium and uranium development company with two distinct assets in Peru. An initial Falchani resource estimates 2.44MMt LCE and an average grade of 0.61% Li2O, placing it among the large lithium assets globally, with much potential for a much larger footprint. A uranium asset PEA suggests long-life, low cost production from multiple shallow deposits. Post tax NPV8% of US\$603MM yields a 40.6% IRR assuming 6.1 MM lbs U308 pa production over ten years.

We recommend Plateau Energy Metals with a BUY and C\$2.70/sh target price derived from a sum-of-all-parts valuation: 1) in-situ valuation applied to a 2.44 MMt LCE resource (worth \$1.80/sh); and 2) a 0.4x NAVPS multiple to our 12% DCF based on an updated uranium PEA (worth C\$0.28/sh).

Early metallurgical work was reported from three additional process options currently being testing on lithium-rich volcanic ash from the Falchani project in Peru. These options are being considered in parallel with a baseline sulphuric acid leach option (see our initiation piece for more detail on Falchani Li-rich Tuff processing). ANSTO's mineral business unit is well known for metallurgical consultancy in both brine and hard-rock projects, and will oversee each of the four processes. A local Peruvian lab, TECCMINE, will spearhead the preliminary test work for hydrochloric acid leach. We noted that a stronger metallurgical understanding was an important de-risking step and should be accretive to our valuation. We are beginning to see this pay off given the multiple trade-off studies being produced. While today's results are positive and demonstrate that lithium can be extracted using a variety of methods, they are preliminary and don't provide much insight into production costs or requirements on a commercial scale. A key take-away is that none of these options entertain proprietary methodologies, and all the upfront extraction and downstream processing steps are based on simple, conventional methods.

Hydrochloric Acid Leach might be an early preference due to both technical and economic considerations. Management suggests high lithium recoveries approaching 90% is similar to its baseline warm sulphuric acid approach. Precipitating metals from a chloride solution is easier than precipitating a sulphate solution, and the acid is 75-80% recyclable which could save on Opex. Furthermore, chloride end-products open many doors. Lithium, cesium and rubidium may be captured using chloride solution. Falchani tuff is known to host impressive cesium grades at the transition brecciated zone enveloping the lithium rich tuff. Management is confident that aluminum concerns are greatly reduced with this route and aluminum chloride can be used to produce aluminum oxides readily received by aluminum refineries/smelters.

High-temperature roast to produce LCE or LiOH. This calcining approach "flash" roasts a lithium concentrate in order to break the tuffaceous glass structure that hosts the lithium. This process is much like the steps taken to convert alpha to beta spodumene in the calcination of many other hard-rock lithium projects, although spodumene is absent here. Lithium recovery begins at +550°C and approaches 71% when roasting to between 900°C and 1000°C. Simple water leaching produces a liquid solution, thereby introducing a route to lithium hydroxide or lithium carbonate. A calciner may introduce a larger capital expense upfront, and require higher energy output, but a shorter time frame and premium end products may justify the expense. That said, extraction is notably lower than baseline sulphuric acid leach (~90%), but this method allows for upfront rejection of Al, F, Fe, and Si impurities.

Low temp baking may require more grinding. A low temperature "bake" at just 150°C was attempted. This method helps minimize Al and F that reports downstream to purification circuits. Lithium extraction of up to 74% may be attractive but future trade-off studies will assess impact of energy and reagent consumption and Capex. Finer grinding may be necessary to promote better recoveries and added filtration might be necessary.

Plateau Energy Metals Inc.

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Rating	BUY			C\$ Target	\$2.70
locoph Fare Are	ociato Apalunt Finht C-	nital		C\$ Close	\$1.15
oseph Fars, Asso fars@viiicapita	ociate Analyst, Eight Ca I.com	pitai	:	12-month return	135%
	unless stated otherwise				
ASSUMPTIONS		2018E	2019E	2020E	2021E
Lithium	US\$/t	US\$11000/t	US\$11500/t	US\$11500/t	US\$11500/t
Uranium	US\$/Ib	US\$27.9/lb	US\$33.5/lb	US\$40.0/Ib	US\$50.0/Ib
Exchange	US\$/C\$	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.83
ITHIUM RESERVE	ES & RESOURCES (as of S	Sept 2018)			
		Tonnes	Grade	Grade	Contrained LCE
	Ownership	MM t	Li (ppm)	Li2O (%)	(MMt)
	dicated Resources				
UBX LRT1	100% 100%	5.77	1,259	0.27%	0.04
LRT2	100%	6.89 19.75	3,667	0.79% 0.70%	0.13
LRT2 LRT3	100%	8.18	3,236 3,611	0.78%	0.16
Total M&I Resour		40.59	3,104	0.67%	0.10
Inferred Rsource		40.55	5,104	0.0770	0.07
UBX	100%	9.44	1,589	0.34%	0.08
LRT1	100%	14.17	3,681	0.79%	0.28
LRT2	100%	43.18	3,254	0.70%	0.75
LRT3	100%	20.45	3,551	0.77%	0.39
LBX	100%	34.46	1,486	0.32%	0.27
Total Inferred Re		121.7	2,724	0.59%	1.77
TOTAL LITHIUM R	RESOURCES	162.29	2,819	0.61%	2.44
URANIUM RESER	VES & RESOURCES (as of	Jan 2016) Tonnes	Crada	Cont U3O8	
	Ownership	MM t	Grade % U3O8	100% Basis	PLU Share
Measured and In	dicated Resources		// 0508	100% basis	PLOSIIare
Kihitian	100%	47.74	0.022%	27.44	27.44
Isivilla	100%	11.96	0.030%	3.52	3.52
Corani	100%	3.40	0.014%	1.25	1.25
Corachapi	100%	11.59	0.017%	5.02	5.02
Colibri	100%	27.89	0.020%	14.72	14.72
Total M&I Resou	rces	102.58	0.022%	51.95	51.95
Inferred Resourc	es				
Kihitian	100%	83.58	0.023%	50.33	50.33
Isivilla	100%	16.14	0.023%	10.43	10.43
Corani	100%	6.11	0.011%	1.76	1.76
Corachapi	100%	3.75	0.020%	1.90	1.90
Colibri	100%	20.43	0.014%	7.67	7.67
Total Inferred Re	sources	130.02	0.015%	72.09	72.09
TOTAL URANIUM	RESOURCES	232.60	0.018%	124.04	124.04
URANIUM PRODU	UCTION ESTIMATES (MIN	1 lbs)			
Year-end Dec.	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
Kihitian	0	0	2.45	5.73	3.27
Isivilla	0	0	0	0	0
Kihitian UG	0	0	0	0	0.43
Colibri 2 & 3	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	2.45	5.73	3.27
		16)			
Vear-end Dec.	COST ESTIMATES (US\$/ 2019E	1b) 2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E
Year-end Dec. Kihitian	0.0	0.0	US\$21.9/Ib	US\$19.7/lb	US\$16.9/lb
kinitian Isivilla	0.0	0.0	05521.9/ID 0	05\$19.7716	02216.9/10
Kihitian UG	0	0	0	0	US\$23.5/Ib
Colibri 2 & 3	0	0	0	0	03523.3710
Wt. Ave.	N/A	N/A	US\$21.9/lb	US\$19.7/lb	US\$20.0/lb
NET ASSET VALU	JE	0% NAV	C\$/share	12% NAV	C\$/share
Falchani Lithium		(C\$MM)	1.00	(C\$MM)	1.00
		170.69	1.82	170.69	1.82
Uranium Produc Cash and other	UOII DCF	142.78	1.29	76.77	0.70 0.02
Cash and other Exploration & Re		2.21 19.13	0.02 0.17	2.21 19.13	0.02
Corporate Adjust		78.51	0.17	124.00	1.12
			<i></i>		
		442.2	4.00	202.0	3.83
Total		413.3	4.02	392.8	3.65

Total	413.3	4.02	392.8	3.83
Eight Capital DCF Target Multiple	(Uranium assets only)			0.4x
Share Price Target				2.70

Target Price Sensitivity to Long-term Uranium Pricing					
Target (C¢/chare)	Target (C\$/share) Long Term Uranium Price Assumption (US\$/Ib)				
Target (C\$/share)	US\$40/Ib	US\$50/lb	US\$60/lb	US\$70/Ib	US\$80/Ib
0% Discount	0.48	1.64	2.80	3.96	5.12
5% Discount	1.41	1.97	2.52	3.08	3.64
12% Discount	1.36	2.02	2.70	3.37	4.04
15% Discount	1.46	2.06	2.66	3.26	3.86

Source: Company Reports, FactSet, Eight Capital

Year-end September (C\$000s) BALANCE SHEET Assets Cash & ST Investments Other Current Assets Current Assets Mineral Properties Other non-current Assets Total Assets Liabilities	Basic Mkt. Capit	2019E 841	2020E	C\$ 82
Assets Cash & ST Investments Other Current Assets Current Assets Mineral Properties Other non-current Assets Total Assets	8,064 438 8,501	841		02/4
Cash & ST Investments Other Current Assets Current Assets Mineral Properties Other non-current Assets Total Assets	438 8,501	• • •	20202	Q3/1
Current Assets Mineral Properties Other non-current Assets Total Assets	8,501	344	77,167	2,209
Mineral Properties Other non-current Assets Total Assets		341	341	12
Other non-current Assets Total Assets	11	1,181	77,507	2,33
Other non-current Assets Total Assets	11			
Total Assets		733	225,867	12
		-	-	
Liabilities	8,513	1,915	303,375	2,34
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities	237	354	354	33
Capital lease / LT Debt	-	-	200,000	
Other non-current Liabilities	409	(56)	(17,556)	
Total Liabilities	646	298	182,798	33
Capital Stock	67,223	73,020	199,580	56,06
Retained Earnings	(59,356)	(71,403)	(79,003)	(54,05
Total Shareholder Equity	7,867	1,617	120,577	2,01
EARNINGS SUMMARY	2018E	2019E	2020E	Q3/1
Revenue	\$ 0.3 \$		2020E	Q3/1 0.1
	ş U.3 Ş		- ,	0.
Uranium Other	-	-	-	-
Other Total Revenue	- 0	-	-	-
Uranium Costs	0		-	-
Other Costs	-	-	-	-
DD&A				
Exploration	6,512	11,000	6,000	98
S, G&A	1,618	1,200	1,600	39
EBIT	(8,130)	(12,200)	(7,600)	(1,373
FX Gain	(48)	-	-	- (2)
Interest	-	-	-	(
Writedown of min. properties	2	1	-	(
EBT	(8,177)	(12,199)	(7,600)	(1,37
less Tax	-	-	-	-
Net Income (reported)	(8,292)	(12,201)	(7,600)	(1,42
Average shares (MM)	75.4	110.3	176.9	66991
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS				(000)
	2018E	2019E	2020E	Q3/1
Net Income (000's\$)	(8,292)	(12,201)	(7,600)	(1,41
D, D&A	-	-	-	
Future income taxes	-	-	-	
Writedown of min. properties	2	1	-	
FX Gain	-	-	-	
Change in working capital	(312)	-	-	
Other Operating	324	-	-	(1
Total Operating CF	(8,279)	(12,200)	(7,600)	(1,42
Short term investments	-	-	-	
Mineral Properties	-	(723)	(242,634)	
Acquisitions	-	-	-	
Increase in Investments	-	-	-	
Other Investing	-	-	-	
Total Investing CF	-	(723)	(242,634)	
Equity financing	16,521	5,700	126,560	2,50
Debt Issue	-	-	200,000	
Debt Repayment	-	-	-	14
Other financing	(59)	5,700	326 560	2,48
Other financing		5,700	326,560	2,48
Total Financing CF	16,462	-	- 76,326	1,05
Total Financing CF Foreign Exchange effect	235	12 2221	70,320	2,20
Total Financing CF Foreign Exchange effect Change in cash	235 8,183	(7,223) 841		
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Total Financing CF Foreign Exchange effect Change in cash Cash & ST Inv., end of year	235 8,183	841		- 25
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88% 78% 77% 66% 55% 44% 33% 24% 19% 22% 11% 4% 3% 0% 0% Buy Neutral Sell

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% of companies covered by Eight Capital in each rating category

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As at October 1, 2018 Source: Eight Capital