

Golden Minerals Co
Form 424B5
May 09, 2018

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Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-220461

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated September 29, 2017)

3,153,808 Shares

Common Stock

We are offering 3,153,808 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or common stock, to Lincoln Park Capital Fund, LLC, ("Lincoln Park") pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. This sale will be made in accordance with the Purchase Agreement, dated May 9, 2018, entered into between us and Lincoln Park (the "Purchase Agreement").

Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, we will sell to Lincoln Park 3,153,808 shares of our common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,300,000. We will pay all of the expenses incident to the registration, offering and sale of our shares of common stock under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus.

Lincoln Park may be deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE American ("NYSE American") under the symbol "AUMN" and on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") under the symbol "AUMN." The last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE American on May 8, 2018 was \$0.41 per share.

As of May 8, 2018, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates was approximately \$20.1 million, based on 91,929,709 shares of outstanding common stock, of which 49,045,781 shares are held by non-affiliates, and a per share price of \$0.41, based on the closing bid price of our common stock as quoted on the NYSE American on May 8, 2018. We have offered and sold shares of our common stock at an aggregate sales price of \$245,600 pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6. of Form S-3 during the twelve calendar months prior to and including the date of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus supplement is May 9, 2018.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are part of a "shelf" registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") using a "shelf" registration process. This prospectus supplement describes the specific terms of this offering. The accompanying base prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, provides general information about us, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, combined.

We urge you to carefully read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein and the additional information described in this prospectus supplement under the heading "*Where You Can Find More Information*" and "*Information Incorporated by Reference*" before buying any of the securities being offered under this prospectus supplement. These documents contain information you should consider when making your investment decision.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in the accompanying base prospectus. To the extent any information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. The information in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to modify or supersede the information in the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference therein, except for those documents incorporated by reference therein which we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement.

You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front cover of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus or on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, the securities described in this prospectus supplement only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the offering of the securities in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the securities and the distribution of this prospectus supplement outside the United States. This prospectus supplement does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities offered by this prospectus supplement by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

We further note that the representations, warranties and covenants made by us in any agreement that is filed as an exhibit to any document that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus were made solely for the benefit of the parties to such agreement, including, in some cases, for the purpose of allocating risk among the parties to such agreements, and should not be deemed to be a representation, warranty or covenant to you. Moreover, such representations, warranties or covenants were accurate only as of the date when made. Accordingly, such representations, warranties and covenants should not be relied on as accurately representing the current state of our affairs.

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As used in this prospectus supplement, the terms "Golden Minerals," "our," "we," or "us" refer to Golden Minerals Company, including its subsidiaries and predecessors, except where it is clear that the term refers only to Golden Minerals Company.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATE INFORMATION

Unless otherwise indicated, all references to "\$" or "dollars" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus refer to United States dollars. References to "Cdn\$" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus refer to Canadian dollars.

The noon rate of exchange on May 7, 2018, as reported by the Bank of Canada for the conversion of Canadian dollars to U.S. dollars, was Cdn\$1.00 equals \$0.778 and, for the conversion of U.S. dollars to Canadian dollars, was \$1.00 equals Cdn\$1.286.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING MINERALIZED MATERIAL

"Mineralized material" as used in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, although permissible under the SEC's Industry Guide 7, does not indicate "reserves" by SEC standards. We cannot be certain that any deposits at the Velardeña Properties, the El Quevar, Santa Maria or Rodeo properties or any deposits at our other exploration properties, will ever be confirmed or converted into SEC Industry Guide 7 compliant "reserves". Any investor is cautioned not to assume that all or any part of the disclosed mineralized material estimates will ever be confirmed or converted into reserves or that mineralized material can be economically or legally extracted.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), which statements involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements generally relate to future events or our future financial or operating performance. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements because they contain words such as "may," "likely," "will," "should," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "could," "intends," "target," "projects," "contemplates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential" or "continue" or the negative of these words or other similar terms or expressions that concern our expectations, strategy, plans or intentions. Forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement include, but are not limited to, statements about:

Lower revenue than anticipated from the oxide plant lease, which could result from delays or problems at the third party's mine or at the oxide plant, permitting problems at the third party's mine or the oxide plant, delays in constructing additional tailings capacity at the oxide plant, earlier than expected termination of the lease or other causes;

Higher than anticipated care and maintenance costs at the Velardeña Properties in Mexico or at El Quevar in Argentina;

Continued decreases or insufficient increases in silver and gold prices;

Whether we are able to raise the necessary capital required to continue our business on terms acceptable to us or at all, and the likely negative effect of continued low silver and gold prices or unfavorable exploration results;

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Unfavorable results from exploration at the Santa Maria, Rodeo, Yoquivo, Mogotes or other exploration properties and whether we will be able to advance these or other exploration properties;

Risks related to the El Quevar project in Argentina, including unfavorable results from our evaluation activities, the feasibility and economic viability and unexpected costs of maintaining the project, and whether we will be able to find a joint venture partner or secure adequate financing to further advance the project;

Variations in the nature, quality and quantity of any mineral deposits that are or may be located at the Velardeña Properties or the Company's exploration properties, changes in interpretations of geological information, and unfavorable results of metallurgical and other tests;

Whether we will be able to mine and sell minerals successfully or profitably at any of our current properties at current or future silver and gold prices and achieve our objective of becoming a mid-tier mining company;

Potential delays in our exploration activities or other activities to advance properties towards mining resulting from environmental consents or permitting delays or problems, accidents, problems with contractors, disputes under agreements related to exploration properties, unanticipated costs and other unexpected events;

Our ability to retain key management and mining personnel necessary to successfully operate and grow our business;

Economic and political events affecting the market prices for gold, silver, zinc, lead and other minerals that may be found on our exploration properties;

Political and economic instability in Mexico, Argentina, and other countries in which we conduct our business and future actions of any of these governments with respect to nationalization of natural resources or other changes in mining or taxation policies;

Volatility in the market price of our common stock; and

The factors set forth under "*Risk Factors*" on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.

We caution you that the forward-looking statements highlighted above do not encompass all of the forward-looking statements made in this prospectus supplement or in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

We have based the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement primarily on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. The outcomes of the events described in these forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results and experience to differ from those projected, including, but not limited to, the risk factors described herein and the risk factors set forth in Part I Item 1A, "Risk Factors", in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and elsewhere in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement. Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and challenging environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all risks and uncertainties that could have an impact on the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. We cannot assure you that the results, events and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements will be achieved or occur, and actual results, events or circumstances could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements.

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The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We do not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to such forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus supplement or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. We may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures, other strategic transactions or investments we may make.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the principal features of this offering and should be read together with the more detailed information and financial data and statements contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, in the accompanying prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider before investing in our securities and is qualified in its entirety by the information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein. You should carefully read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, including our historical financial statements and the notes to these financial statements in our most recently filed annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2018. You should also carefully consider the matters discussed under "Risk Factors," "Cautionary Note Regarding Mineralized Material," and "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements" in this prospectus supplement before deciding to invest in our securities.

Our Company

We are a mining company holding a 100% interest in the Velardeña and Chicago precious metals mining properties and associated oxide and sulfide processing plants in the State of Durango, Mexico (the "Velardeña Properties"), the El Quevar advanced exploration silver property in the province of Salta, Argentina, and a diversified portfolio of precious metals and other mineral exploration properties located primarily in or near historical precious metals producing regions of Mexico. The Velardeña Properties and the El Quevar advanced exploration property are our only material properties.

We are primarily focused on evaluating and searching for mining opportunities in North America (including Mexico) with near term prospects of mining, and particularly for properties within reasonable haulage distances of our Velardeña processing plants. We are also reviewing strategic opportunities, focusing primarily on development or operating properties in North America, including Mexico. We are also focused on evaluation activities at our El Quevar exploration property in Argentina, and are continuing our exploration efforts on selected properties in our portfolio of approximately 10 exploration properties located primarily in Mexico. Our management team is comprised of experienced mining professionals with extensive expertise in mineral exploration, mine construction and development, and mine operations. Our principal office is located in Golden, Colorado at 350 Indiana Street, Suite 800, Golden, CO 80401, and our registered office is the Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. We also maintain an office at the Velardeña Properties in Mexico and exploration offices in Argentina and Mexico.

We are considered an exploration stage company under SEC criteria since we have not yet demonstrated the existence of proven or probable mineral reserves, as defined by SEC Industry Guide 7, at the Velardeña Properties, or any of our other properties. Until such time, if ever, that we demonstrate the existence of proven or probable reserves pursuant to SEC Industry Guide 7 we expect to remain as an exploration stage company.

Recent Developments

Registered Offering Purchase Agreement

On May 9, 2018, we entered into the Purchase Agreement, pursuant to which we agreed to sell to Lincoln Park, and Lincoln Park agreed to purchase 3,153,808 shares of our common stock at a price of \$0.4122 per share for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,300,000.

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Private Placement Transaction

On May 9, 2018, we entered into a Purchase Agreement (the "Commitment Purchase Agreement") and a Registration Rights Agreement (the "Registration Rights Agreement") with Lincoln Park, pursuant to which we have the right to sell to Lincoln Park up to \$10,000,000 in shares of common stock, subject to certain limitations and conditions set forth in the Commitment Purchase Agreement.

Upon the satisfaction of the conditions in the Commitment Purchase Agreement, including that a registration statement, which we agreed to file with the SEC, pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, is declared effective by the SEC and a final prospectus in connection therewith is filed with the SEC, we will have the right, from time to time at our sole discretion over the 36-month term of the Commitment Purchase Agreement, to direct Lincoln Park to purchase up to 75,000 shares of common stock on any business day (subject to certain limitations contained in the Commitment Purchase Agreement), with such amounts increasing based on certain threshold prices set forth in the Commitment Purchase Agreement; however, not to exceed \$500,000 in total purchase proceeds per purchase date. The purchase price of shares of common stock that we elect to sell to Lincoln Park pursuant to the Commitment Purchase Agreement will be based on the market prices of the common stock at the time of such purchases as set forth in the Commitment Purchase Agreement.

In addition to regular purchases, as described above, we may also direct Lincoln Park to purchase additional amounts as accelerated purchases or as additional purchases if the closing sale price of the common stock is not below certain threshold prices, as set forth in the Commitment Purchase Agreement. In all instances, we may not sell shares of our common stock to Lincoln Park under the Commitment Purchase Agreement if it would result in Lincoln Park beneficially owning more than 9.99% of the common stock.

There are no restrictions on future financings, rights of first refusal, participation rights, penalties or liquidated damages in the Commitment Purchase Agreement or Registration Rights Agreement other than a prohibition on entering into a "Variable Rate Transaction," as defined in the Commitment Purchase Agreement.

Lincoln Park has covenanted not to cause or engage in any manner whatsoever, any direct or indirect short selling or hedging of the common stock. There is no upper limit on the price per share that Lincoln Park could be obligated to pay for the common stock under the Commitment Purchase Agreement. The purchase price per share will be equitably adjusted for any reorganization, recapitalization, non-cash dividend, stock split, or other similar transaction occurring during the business days used to compute such price.

We have the right to terminate the Commitment Purchase Agreement at any time, at no cost or penalty. Actual sales of shares of common stock to Lincoln Park under the Commitment Purchase Agreement will depend on a variety of factors to be determined by us from time to time, including, among others, market conditions, the trading price of the common stock and determinations by us as to the appropriate sources of funding for our company and our operations. As consideration for Lincoln Park's commitment to purchase shares of common stock pursuant to the Commitment Purchase Agreement, we paid Lincoln Park a \$300,000 commitment fee.

The net proceeds under the Commitment Purchase Agreement to us will depend on the frequency and prices at which we sell shares of our common stock to Lincoln Park. We expect that any proceeds received by us from such sales to Lincoln Park will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes.

The common stock that has been and may be issued under the Commitment Purchase Agreement is being offered and sold in a transaction exempt from registration under the Securities Act, in reliance on Section 4(a)(2) thereof and Rule 506(b) of Regulation D thereunder. Lincoln Park represented that

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it was an "accredited investor," as defined in Regulation D, and was acquiring such shares under the Commitment Purchase Agreement for investment only and not with a view towards, or for resale in connection with, the public sale or distribution thereof. Accordingly, the shares of common stock that have been and may be issued to Lincoln Park under the Commitment Purchase Agreement have not been registered under the Securities Act or any applicable state securities laws and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an exemption from registration under the Securities Act and any applicable state securities laws, and such shares are not being registered on the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus form a part.

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SUMMARY OF THE OFFERING

Common stock offered by us	3,153,808 shares of our common stock
Common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering	95,083,517 shares of our common stock
Manner of Offering	Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, we will sell 3,153,808 shares of common stock to Lincoln Park for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,300,000. See " <i>Plan of Distribution</i> " on page S-11 of this prospectus supplement for a more complete description of the manner of offering.
Use of Proceeds	<p>We estimate that our net proceeds from this offering, after deducting estimated offering expenses of \$75,000 will be approximately \$1,225,000.</p> <p>We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for exploration and development expenditures for our El Quevar property or for acquisition, exploration, and development of other exploration or development properties in Mexico, and for other working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. See "<i>Use of Proceeds</i>" in this prospectus supplement.</p>
Trading market	Our common stock is traded on the NYSE American under the symbol "AUMN" and on the TSX under the symbol "AUMN."
Restriction on Resale to Residents in Canada	See "Restrictions on Resale to Residents of Canada" in this prospectus supplement for information regarding restrictions on resale to residents of Canada.
Risk Factors	An investment in our securities is subject to a number of risks. You should carefully consider the information under the heading " <i>Risk Factors</i> ," " <i>Cautionary Note Regarding Mineralized Material</i> " and " <i>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements</i> " and all other information included in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein before deciding to invest in our securities.

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RISK FACTORS

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, as well as our other filings with the SEC, include material risk factors relating to our business. Those risks and uncertainties and the risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks and uncertainties that we face. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial or that are not specific to us, such as general economic conditions, may also materially and adversely affect our business and operations. If any of those risks and uncertainties or the risks and uncertainties described below actually occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be harmed substantially. In such a case, you may lose all or part of your investment. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below and those risks and uncertainties incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, as well as the other information included in this prospectus supplement, before making an investment decision with respect to our common stock.

Risks Related to this Offering

Our management team may invest or spend the proceeds of this offering in ways with which you may not agree or in ways which may not yield a significant return.

We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering for exploration and development expenditures for our El Quevar property or for acquisition, exploration, and development of other exploration or development properties in Mexico, and for other working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. For a more detailed discussion, see "Use of Proceeds" below. Our management will have considerable discretion in the application of the net proceeds, and you will not have the opportunity, as part of your investment decision, to assess whether the proceeds are being used appropriately. The net proceeds may be used for corporate purposes that do not increase our operating results or enhance the value of our common stock.

Our stockholders may suffer dilution to their equity and voting interests as a result of future financing transactions.

We could require additional funding to support our business, including for general and administrative costs and other working capital needs to fund our continuing business activities as currently conducted. Because debt financing is difficult to obtain for early stage mining companies, it is likely that we will seek such financing in the equity markets. If we were to engage in any type of equity financing the current ownership interest of our stockholders would be diluted.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly.

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated and could fluctuate substantially in the future. This volatility may subject our stock price to material fluctuations due to the factors in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference, and other factors including market reaction to the estimated fair value of our portfolio; rumors or dissemination of false information; changes in coverage or earnings estimates by analysts; our ability to meet analysts' or market expectations; and sales of common stock by existing stockholders.

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On May 8, 2018, the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE American was \$0.41 per share. The following table sets forth, for our fiscal periods indicated, the high and low sale prices of our common stock as reported on the NYSE American.

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.37
Third Quarter	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.48
Second Quarter	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.45
First Quarter	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.55
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2016		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.58
Third Quarter	\$ 1.16	\$ 0.66
Second Quarter	\$ 0.94	\$ 0.31
First Quarter	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.13
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2015		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.19
Third Quarter	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.23
Second Quarter	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.32
First Quarter	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.39

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that our net proceeds from this offering, after deducting estimated offering expenses of \$75,000 will be approximately \$1,225,000.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for exploration and development expenditures for our El Quevar property or for acquisition, exploration, and development of other exploration or development properties in Mexico, and for other working capital requirements and general corporate purposes.

Our actual expenditures may vary from those described above, and will depend on a number of factors, including the results of exploration at our properties, and those risks described in the "*Risk Factors*" section of this prospectus supplement.

DILUTION

The purchaser of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus may experience immediate dilution in the net tangible book value of their common stock from the price paid in the offering. The net tangible book value of our common stock as of March 31, 2018 was approximately \$7,341,000, or \$0.08 per share. Net tangible book value per share is determined by dividing our total tangible assets, less total liabilities, by the number of shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2018.

Dilution per share represents the difference between the offering price per share of common stock and the adjusted net tangible book value per share of common stock after giving effect to this offering. After reflecting the sale in this offering of 3,153,808 shares of common stock at an offering price of \$0.41 per share (the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE American on May 8, 2018), less commissions and estimated offering expenses, the adjusted net tangible book value of our common stock as of March 31, 2018 would have been approximately \$8,641,000, or approximately \$0.09 per share. The change represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of common stock of

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\$0.01 per share to existing stockholders and an immediate dilution of \$0.32 per share to the investor purchasing the common stock in this offering.

The following table illustrates this per share dilution:

Offering price per share of common stock	\$ 0.41
Net tangible book value per share as of March 31, 2018	\$ 0.08
Increase per share attributable to this offering	\$ 0.01
Adjusted net tangible book value per share as of March 31, 2018	\$ 0.09
Dilution per share attributable to the investor participating in this offering	\$ 0.32

The foregoing calculations are based on 91,929,709 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2018 and exclude (i) 30,310 outstanding options to purchase our common stock at a weighted exercise price of \$8.06; (ii) 1,887,317 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the Amended and Restated 2009 Equity Incentive Plan in exchange for restricted stock units issued to our non-employee directors under the terms of our Non-Employee Directors Deferred Compensation and Equity Award Plan; (iii) 5,478,172 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of our currently outstanding 2014 warrants with an exercise price of \$0.87 per share; and (iv) 6,000,000 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of our warrants outstanding at an exercise price of \$0.75 per share.

To the extent that options or warrants are exercised, new options are issued under our equity incentive plans, or we issue additional shares of common stock in the future, there may be further dilution to the investor participating in this offering. Moreover, we may choose to raise additional capital because of market conditions or strategic considerations, even if we believe that we have sufficient funds for our current or future operating plans. If we raise additional capital through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, the issuance of these securities could result in further dilution to our stockholders.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We have entered into the Purchase Agreement with Lincoln Park on May 9, 2018, pursuant to which we will sell 3,153,808 shares of our common stock to Lincoln Park at a price of \$0.4122 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,300,000, pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus.

We will pay all of the expenses incident to the registration, offering and sale of our shares of common stock under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. We estimate that the total expenses for the offering will be approximately \$75,000.

The Purchase Agreement prohibits us from selling shares of common stock to Lincoln Park if those shares, when aggregated with all other shares of our common stock then beneficially owned by Lincoln Park and its affiliates, would result in Lincoln Park and its affiliates having beneficial ownership of more than 9.99% of the then total outstanding shares of our common stock, as calculated pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 13d-3 thereunder.

Lincoln Park represented to us that at no time prior to the date of the Purchase Agreement has Lincoln Park or its agents, representatives or affiliates engaged in or effected, in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, any short sale (as such term is defined in Rule 200 of Regulation SHO of the Exchange Act) of our common stock or any hedging transaction. Lincoln Park agreed that during the term of the Purchase Agreement, Lincoln Park and its agents, representatives or affiliates will not enter into or effect, directly or indirectly, any of the foregoing transactions.

We have agreed to indemnify Lincoln Park and certain other persons against certain liabilities in connection with this offering of our shares of common stock, including liabilities arising under the

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Securities Act and the Exchange Act or, if such indemnity is unavailable, to contribute amounts required to be paid in respect of such liabilities.

Lincoln Park may be deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

This is a summary of the material provisions of the Purchase Agreement and does not purport to be a complete statement of its terms and conditions. A copy of the Purchase Agreement will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus form a part. See "*Where You Can Find More Information*" and "*Information Incorporated by Reference*" on pages S-13-S-14 of this prospectus supplement.

RESTRICTIONS ON RESALE TO RESIDENTS OF CANADA

The Company is a "reporting issuer" (within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities laws) in each of the provinces of Canada. However, as the offering of shares of common stock under this prospectus supplement is being made solely outside of Canada, the Company is exempt from or otherwise not subject to the requirement under Canadian securities laws to prepare and file a prospectus with the securities regulatory authorities in each of the provinces of Canada to qualify the distribution of such shares of common stock. Accordingly, each purchaser of the shares of common stock distributed under this prospectus supplement acknowledges that such shares of common stock are subject to "hold period" resale restrictions under applicable Canadian securities laws and that such shares of common stock must not be traded or resold in or to a resident of Canada until four months and a day after the date of the purchase and sale of such shares, and each purchaser of shares of common stock distributed under this prospectus supplement agrees and is deemed to agree to comply with such restrictions. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement serves as notice to each purchaser of shares of common stock distributed under this prospectus supplement of the transfer and resale restrictions applicable to such shares of common stock under Canadian securities laws described in the following legend:

"UNDER CANADIAN SECURITIES LAWS, UNLESS PERMITTED UNDER SECURITIES LEGISLATION, THE HOLDER OF THIS SECURITY MUST NOT TRADE THE SECURITY IN CANADA BEFORE THE DATE THAT IS 4 MONTHS AND A DAY AFTER THE ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION DATE OF THE SHARES OF COMMON STOCK."

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. Lincoln Park is being represented in connection with this offering by Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Golden Minerals Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the Golden Minerals Company Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of EKS&H LLLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firms as experts in auditing and accounting.

The estimates of our mineralized material with respect to the Velardeña Properties and Santa Maria and Rodeo properties incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been included in reliance upon the technical report prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. The estimates of our mineralized material with respect to the El Quevar project included in

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this prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been included in reliance upon the technical report prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler E&C Services, Inc., a Wood Group PLC company.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, and in accordance therewith, we file periodic reports and proxy statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission, referred to in this prospectus supplement as the SEC. All reports, proxy statements and the other information that we file with the SEC may be inspected and copied at the Public Reference Room maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and our website at www.goldenminerals.com. Information on our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement (of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part) on Form S-3 under the Securities Act with respect to our securities. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, including the exhibits and schedules thereto, certain parts of which are omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

We also maintain an Internet website at www.goldenminerals.com, which provides additional information about our company and through which you can also access our SEC filings. Our website and the information contained in and connected to it are not a part of or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

We also file reports, statements or other information with the Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Ontario Securities Commissions. Copies of these documents that are filed through the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval, or "SEDAR," of the Canadian Securities Administrators are available at its web site <http://www.sedar.com>.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the termination of this offering (other than information in documents that is deemed not to be filed):

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017;

The information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 from our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 3, 2018;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018;

Our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 9, 2018; and

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The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed February 5, 2010 with the SEC under 12(b) of the Exchange Act (File No. 001-13627), including any subsequent amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents we file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus supplement and before the completion of the offering of the securities described in this prospectus supplement will also be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement from the date of filing of such documents. Upon request, we will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus supplement is delivered a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement but not delivered with this prospectus supplement.

Notwithstanding the preceding, unless specifically stated to the contrary, none of the information that we disclose under 2.02 or 7.01 or, if related to Items 2.02 or 7.01, Item 9.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K that we may, from time to time, furnish to the SEC will be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise included in, this prospectus supplement. The information contained in each of the documents incorporated by reference speaks only as of the date of such document. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, or contained in this prospectus supplement, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document or report that also is incorporated by reference or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus supplement.

We will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Requests should be directed to:

Golden Minerals Company
350 Indiana Street, Suite 800
Golden, Colorado 80401
Attention: Secretary
Telephone: (303) 839-5060

Except as provided above, no other information, including information on our internet site, is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

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PROSPECTUS

\$200,000,000

Senior Debt Securities
Subordinated Debt Securities
Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Warrants
Rights
Units
Depositary Shares

Golden Minerals Company ("Golden Minerals," "the Company," "we," "us," or "our") may offer and sell from time to time up to \$200,000,000 of our senior and subordinated debt securities, common stock, \$0.01 par value, preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, warrants to purchase any of the other securities that may be sold under this prospectus, rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or senior or subordinated debt securities, depositary shares, units consisting of two or more of these classes or series of securities and securities that may be convertible or exchangeable to other securities covered hereby, in one or more transactions.

We will provide specific terms of any offering in supplements to this prospectus. The securities may be offered separately or together in any combination and as separate series. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

We may sell securities directly to you, through agents we select, or through underwriters or dealers we select. If we use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from these sales will be described in the prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE American ("NYSE American") under the symbol "AUMN." On September 11, 2017 the last reported sales price of our common stock on the NYSE American was \$0.57 per share. Our common stock is also listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") under the symbol "AUMN." The closing price for our common stock on September 11, 2017 as quoted on the TSX, was Cdn\$0.70. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on any securities exchange of the securities covered by the prospectus supplement.

As of September 11, 2017, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates was \$28,065,666. We have previously sold \$720,000 of securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6 of Form S-3 during the prior twelve calendar month period that ends on, and includes, the date of this prospectus.

The securities offered in this prospectus involve a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" on page 5 of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities, or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 29, 2017.

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As used in this prospectus, the terms "Golden Minerals," "the Company," "we," "our," "ours" and "us" may, depending on the context, refer to Golden Minerals Company, to one or more of Golden Minerals Company's consolidated subsidiaries or to Golden Minerals Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, taken as a whole. When we refer to "shares" throughout this prospectus, we include all rights attaching to our common stock under any shareholder rights plan then in effect.

(1) NTD: DGS to update prior to filing.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), which we refer to as the SEC or the Commission, using a "shelf" registration process. Under the shelf registration, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time that we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information incorporated by reference in this prospectus before making an investment in our securities. See "Where You Can Find More Information" for more information. We may use this prospectus to sell securities only if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of such document.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file and furnish annual, quarterly and current reports and other information, including proxy statements, with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file or furnish with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are available to the public on the SEC's website at *www.sec.gov*. Our SEC filings are also available through the "Investor Relations" section of our website at *www.goldenminerals.com*.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered part of this prospectus, and information filed with the SEC subsequent to this prospectus and prior to the termination of the particular offering referred to in such prospectus supplement will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement the documents listed below (excluding any portions of such documents that have been "furnished" but not "filed" for purposes of the Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act")):

- (a) the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, as filed with the Commission on February 28, 2017;
- (b) the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2017, as filed with the Commission on May 9, 2017, and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2017, as filed with the Commission on August 8, 2017;
- (c) the Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K, as filed with the Commission on May 17, 2017 and August 3, 2017; and
- (d) the description of the Company's common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed February 5, 2010 with the Commission under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act (File No. 001-13627), including any subsequent amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

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We also incorporate by reference all documents we subsequently file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part (including prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement) and prior to the termination of the offering. Any statement in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent a statement contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement.

Unless specifically stated to the contrary, none of the information that we disclose under Items 2.02 or 7.01 or corresponding information furnished under Item 9.01 or related exhibits of any Current Report on Form 8-K that we may from time to time furnish to the SEC will be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise included in, this prospectus.

We will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Requests should be directed to:

Golden Minerals Company
350 Indiana Street, Suite 800
Golden, Colorado 80401
Attention: Secretary
Telephone: (303) 839-5060

Except as provided above, no other information, including information on our internet site, is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference herein, contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include statements relating to our plans, expectations and assumptions concerning our Velardeña Properties (as defined in this prospectus), including expectations regarding the oxide plant lease; anticipated plans and expectations regarding the El Quevar project; planned drill programs and other exploration and related spending and costs at exploration properties and anticipated timing of drill results from certain exploration properties; anticipated spending on general and administrative activities; planned spending and expected cash needs; and statements concerning our financial condition, operating strategies and operating and legal risks.

We use the words "anticipate," "continue," "likely," "estimate," "expect," "may," "could," "will," "project," "should," "believe" and similar expressions (including negative and grammatical variations) to identify forward-looking statements and information. Statements that contain these words discuss our future expectations, contain projections or state other forward-looking information. Although we believe the expectations and assumptions reflected in those forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure you that these expectations and assumptions will prove to be correct.

Our actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in these forward-looking statements and information as a result of the factors described under "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and other factors set forth in this prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference herein, including:

Lower revenue than anticipated from the oxide lease, which could result from delays or problems at the third party's mine or at the oxide plant, permitting problems at the third party's mine or the oxide plant, delays in constructing additional tailings capacity at the oxide plant, earlier than expected termination of the lease or other causes;

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Higher than anticipated care and maintenance costs at the Velardeña Properties in Mexico or at the El Quevar project in Argentina;

Continued decreases or insufficient increases in silver and gold prices;

Whether we are able to raise the necessary capital required to continue our business on terms acceptable to us or at all, and the likely negative effect of continued low silver and gold prices or unfavorable exploration results;

Unfavorable results from exploration at the Santa Maria, Rodeo or other exploration properties and whether we will be able to advance these or other exploration properties;

Risks related to the El Quevar project in Argentina, including whether we will be able to find a joint venture partner to advance the project, the feasibility and economic viability and unexpected costs of maintaining the project;

Variations in the nature, quality and quantity of any mineral deposits that are or may be located at the Velardeña Properties or the Company's exploration properties, changes in interpretations of geological information, and unfavorable results of metallurgical and other tests;

Whether we will be able to mine and sell minerals successfully or profitably at any of our current properties at current or future silver and gold prices and achieve our objective of becoming a mid-tier mining company;

Potential delays in our exploration activities or other activities to advance properties towards mining resulting from environmental consents or permitting delays or problems, accidents, problems with contractors, disputes under agreements related to exploration properties, unanticipated costs and other unexpected events;

Our ability to retain key management and mining personnel necessary to successfully operate and grow our business;

Economic and political events affecting the market prices for gold, silver, zinc, lead and other minerals that may be found on our exploration properties;

Political and economic instability in Mexico, Argentina, and other countries in which we conduct our business and future actions of any of these governments with respect to nationalization of natural resources or other changes in mining or taxation policies;

Volatility in the market price of our common stock; and

The factors set forth in "Risk Factors" on page 4 of this prospectus.

These factors are not intended to represent a complete list of the general or specific factors that could affect us. We may note additional factors elsewhere in this prospectus and in any documents incorporated by reference herein. Many of those factors are beyond our ability to control or predict. You should not unduly rely on any of our forward-looking statements or information. These statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus. Except as required by law, we are not obligated to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect future events or developments. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements and information attributable to us and persons acting on our behalf are qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained in this section and elsewhere in this prospectus.

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Although we believe that the expectations reflected in our forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such expectations may prove to be materially incorrect due to known and unknown risks and uncertainties.

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All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us, or persons acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which it is made or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events or circumstances.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING MINERALIZED MATERIAL

"Mineralized material" as used in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, although permissible under SEC Industry Guide 7, does not indicate "reserves" by SEC standards. We cannot be certain that any deposits at the Velardeña Properties, the Santa Maria and Rodeo properties, or at the El Quevar project or any deposits at our other exploration properties, will ever be confirmed or converted into SEC Industry Guide 7 compliant "reserves." Investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of the disclosed mineralized material estimates will ever be confirmed or converted into reserves or that mineralized material can be economically or legally extracted.

THE COMPANY

We are a mining company holding a 100% interest in the Velardeña and Chicago precious metals mining properties and associated oxide and sulfide processing plants in the State of Durango, Mexico (the "Velardeña Properties"). During November 2015, we suspended mining and sulfide processing activities at our Velardeña Properties in order to conserve the asset until we are able to develop mining and processing plans that at then current prices for silver and gold indicate a sustainable positive operating margin (defined as revenues less costs of sales) or we are able to locate, acquire and develop alternative mineral sources that could be economically mined and transported to the Velardeña Properties for processing. We have placed the mine and sulfide processing plant on care and maintenance to enable a re-start of either the mine or mill when mining and processing plans and metals prices support a cash positive outlook.

We retained a core group of employees, most of whom have been assigned to operate the oxide plant, which is leased to a third party and not affected by the shutdown. The oxide plant began processing material for the third party in mid-December 2015, and we expect to receive net cash flow under the lease of approximately \$4.7 million in 2017. During March 2017, the third party exercised its right to extend the lease through December 31, 2018. In August, 2017, we granted the third party an option to extend the lease for an additional period of up to two years ending no later than December 31, 2020 in exchange for a \$1.0 million cash payment and the purchase of \$1.0 million, or approximately 1.8 million shares of the Company's common stock (the "Hecla Share Issuance").

We remain focused on evaluating and searching for mining opportunities in North America (including Mexico) with near term prospects of mining, and particularly for properties within reasonable haulage distances of our Velardeña Properties. We are also reviewing strategic opportunities, focusing primarily on development or operating properties in North America, including Mexico. We are continuing our exploration efforts on selected properties in our portfolio of approximately 10 exploration properties located primarily in Mexico. We continue to hold our El Quevar advanced exploration property in Argentina on care and maintenance until we can fund further exploration or find a partner to further fund exploration. Our management team is comprised of experienced mining professionals with extensive expertise in mineral exploration, mine construction and development, and mine operations. Our principal offices are located in Golden, Colorado at 350 Indiana Street, Suite 800, Golden, CO 80401, and our registered office is the Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. We also maintain an office at the Velardeña Properties in Mexico and exploration offices in Argentina and Mexico.

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We are considered an exploration stage company under the SEC criteria since we have not demonstrated the existence of proven or probable mineral reserves at our Velardeña Properties or any of our other properties. In SEC Industry Guide 7, the SEC defines a "reserve" as that part of a mineral deposit which could be economically and legally extracted or produced at the time of the reserve determination. Proven or probable mineral reserves are those reserves for which (a) quantity is computed and (b) the sites for inspection, sampling, and measurement are spaced so closely that the geologic character is defined and size, shape and depth of mineral content can be established (proven) or the sites are farther apart or are otherwise less adequately spaced but high enough to assume continuity between observation points (probable). Mineral reserves cannot be considered proven or probable unless and until they are supported by a feasibility study, indicating that the mineral reserves have had the requisite geologic, technical and economic work performed and are economically and legally extractable.

Prior to suspending mining and processing at the Velardeña Properties in November 2015, we had revenues from the sale of silver, gold, lead and zinc products from the Velardeña and Chicago mines. We have not completed a feasibility study with regard to all or a portion of any of our properties to date. Any mineralized material discovered or extracted by us should not be considered proven or probable mineral reserves. As of December 31, 2016, none of our mineralized material met the definition of proven or probable mineral reserves. We expect to remain an exploration stage company for the foreseeable future, even though we were extracting and processing mineralized material. We will not exit the exploration stage until such time, if ever, that we demonstrate the existence of proven or probable mineral reserves that meet the guidelines under SEC Industry Guide 7.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the securities offered in this prospectus involves a high degree of risk.

We have historically incurred operating losses and operating cash flow deficits and we expect to incur operating losses and operating cash flow deficits through 2017; our potential profitability in the foreseeable future would depend on our ability to identify, acquire and mine properties to generate sufficient revenues to fund our continuing activities.

We have a history of operating losses and we expect that we will continue to incur operating losses unless and until such time as our Velardeña Properties, our El Quevar project, or another of our exploration properties, generates sufficient revenue to fund our continuing business activities. Although we have leased the oxide plant at the Velardeña Properties to a subsidiary of Hecla Mining Company, the cash that we expect will be generated from that lease may not be sufficient to fund all of our continuing business activities as currently conducted. In addition, the oxide plant lease may terminate sooner or produce less revenue than we anticipate. There is no assurance that we will develop additional sources of revenue.

In addition, the potential profitability of mining and processing at any of our properties would be based on a number of assumptions. For example, profitability would depend on metal prices, costs of materials and supplies, costs at the mines and processing plants and the amounts and timing of expenditures, including expenditures to maintain our Velardeña Properties, our El Quevar project and to continue exploration at other exploration properties, and potential strategic acquisitions or other transactions, in addition to other factors, many of which are and will be beyond our control. We cannot be certain we will be able to generate sufficient revenue from any source to achieve profitability and eliminate operating cash flow deficits, or to cease to require additional funding.

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We may require additional external financing to fund our continuing business activities in the future.

As of June 30, 2017, we had approximately \$2.7 million in cash and cash equivalents, and in August 2017 we received a further \$2.0 million in connection with the Hecla lease extension option. With anticipated costs during 2017, including exploration expenditures, care and maintenance costs at the Velardeña Properties, property holding costs at the El Quevar project, and general and administrative expenses, offset by anticipated revenue from the lease of the oxide plant, payment related to an exploration property farm out and receipt of a refund of prior years' value added taxes related to the El Quevar project, we expect our current cash and cash equivalent balance will be approximately \$4.0 million by the end of 2017. Even with these anticipated revenues throughout 2017, our cash balance in 2017 might not be sufficient to provide adequate cash reserves in the event of an unexpected termination of the Hecla lease, variations from anticipated care and maintenance costs at the Velardeña Properties and costs for continued exploration, project assessment and development at our other exploration properties, requiring us to seek additional funding from equity or debt or from monetization of non-core assets.

Other than our outstanding At-the-Market program (the "ATM Program"), which we launched in December 2016, and for which the amount of funds raised thereby is uncertain, we do not have a credit, off-take or other commercial financing arrangement in place that would finance our general and administrative costs and other working capital needs to fund our continuing business activities in the future, and we believe that securing credit for these purposes may be difficult given our limited history and the continuing volatility in global credit and commodity markets. In addition, commercial financing arrangements may not be available on favorable terms or on terms that would not further restrict our flexibility and ongoing ability to meet our cash requirements over a reasonable period of time. Access to public financing has been negatively impacted by the volatility in the credit markets and metals prices, which may affect our ability to obtain equity or debt financing in the future and, if obtained, to do so on favorable terms. We also may not be able to obtain funding by monetizing additional non-core exploration or other assets at an acceptable price. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain financing to fund our general and administrative costs and other working capital needs to fund our continuing business activities in the future on favorable terms or at all.

Hecla may terminate the oxide plant lease.

In July 2015 we entered into a leasing agreement with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hecla Mining Company to lease our Velardeña oxide plant for an initial term of 18 months beginning July 1, 2015. The lease agreement contained several lease extension options, which Hecla exercised, extending the lease through December 31, 2018. In August 2017, we granted Hecla an option pursuant to an option agreement to extend the lease for an additional period of up to two years ending no later than December 31, 2020. Hecla must exercise this option to extend the lease no later than October 3, 2018. Hecla is responsible for ongoing operation and maintenance of the oxide plant and during the year ended December 31, 2016, Hecla's mining and processing activities resulted in a net margin of \$4.4 million for the Company. Although we intend the oxide plant lease to extend through December 2018, and then through December 2020 assuming exercise of the option, the lease may terminate sooner than we anticipate if Hecla experiences mining problems or delays at its nearby mine, if there are disputes between Hecla and us, or for other reasons. Moreover, the lease payment from Hecla is based, in part, on the amount of ore processed at the plant, and we have no control over their production. There is also no assurance that Hecla will exercise the option to extend the lease for an additional two years through December 31, 2020.

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One of our stockholders owns a significant percentage of our common stock and could block decisions or transactions that could be beneficial to other stockholders.

One of our stockholders, The Sentient Group ("Sentient"), owns approximately 45% of the Company's outstanding common stock. With this level of ownership, Sentient could exert significant control over the Company, including over the election of directors, changes in the size or the composition of the board of directors, and mergers and other business combinations involving the Company. Through greater control of the board of directors and increased voting power, including the potential to prevent a quorum at stockholders meetings, Sentient could control certain decisions, including decisions regarding qualification and appointment of officers, operations of the business including acquisition or disposition of our assets or purchases and sales of mining or exploration properties, dividend policy, and access to capital (including borrowing from third-party lenders and the issuance of equity or debt securities). Sentient's large share ownership will also make it difficult, if not impossible, for the Company to enter into a change of control transaction that may otherwise be beneficial for the Company's other shareholders.

If we commence mining in Mexico, we will likely enter into a collective bargaining agreement with a union that, together with labor and employment regulations, could adversely affect our mining activities and financial condition.

As was the case at our Velardeña Properties, mine employees in Mexico are typically represented by a union, and our relationship with our employees was, and we expect in the future will be, governed by collective bargaining agreements. Any collective bargaining agreement that we enter into with a union is likely to restrict our mining flexibility in and impose additional costs on our mining activities. In addition, relations between us and our employees in Mexico may be affected by changes in regulations or labor union requirements regarding labor relations that may be introduced by the Mexican authorities or by labor unions. Changes in legislation or in the relationship between us and our employees may have a material adverse effect on our mining activities and financial condition.

We may not mine the Velardeña Properties again.

In mid-November 2015, we shut down the mines and sulfide processing plant at our Velardeña Properties and placed them on care and maintenance. Commencing mining again is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including:

whether we are able to create mine plans or gold recovery improvements that can achieve sustainable cash positive results at current and future metals prices;

unexpected events, including difficulties in maintaining the properties on a care and maintenance basis, potential sabotage or damage to the assets related to the suspension of mining, and variations in ore grade and relative amounts, grades and metallurgical characteristics of oxide and sulfide ores;

continued decreases or insufficient increases in gold and silver prices to permit us to achieve sustainable cash positive results;

actual holding and care and maintenance costs resulting from the shutdown exceeding current estimates or including unanticipated costs;

loss of and inability to adequately replace skilled mining and management personnel;

strikes or other labor problems; and

our ability to obtain additional funding for general and administrative costs and other working capital needs to fund our continuing business activities as currently conducted and possibly for a potential restart of our Velardeña Properties.

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Based on these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that we will restart mining activities at the Velardeña Properties.

Our ability to successfully conduct mining and processing activities resulting in long-term cash flow and profitability will be affected by changes in prices of silver, gold and other metals.

Our ability to successfully conduct mining and processing activities in Mexico, Argentina or other countries, to establish reserves and advance our exploration properties, and to become profitable in the future, as well as our long-term viability, depend, in large part, on the market prices of silver, gold, zinc, copper and other metals. The market prices for these metals are volatile and are affected by numerous factors beyond our control, including:

global or regional consumption patterns;

supply of, and demand for, silver, gold, zinc, lead, copper and other metals;

speculative activities and hedging activities;

expectations for inflation;

political and economic conditions; and

supply of, and demand for, consumables required for extraction and processing of metals.

The declines in silver and gold prices in 2013, 2014 and 2015 have had a significant impact on our mining activities, resulting in shutdowns in 2013 and 2015 of mining at our Velardeña Properties, and negatively affect mining opportunities at our other properties. Additionally, future weakness in the global economy could increase volatility in metals prices or depress metals prices, which could also affect our mining and processing plans at our Velardeña Properties or make it uneconomic for us to engage in mining or exploration activities. Volatility or sustained price declines may also adversely affect our ability to build or continue our business.

If products are processed from our Velardeña Properties or other mines in the future, they could contain higher than expected contaminants, thereby negatively impacting our financial condition.

In 2015 we processed mined material to make gold and silver bearing lead, zinc and pyrite concentrates. Concentrate treatment charges paid to smelters and refineries include penalties for certain elements, including arsenic and antimony that exceed contract limits. In the future, if we process material from our Velardeña Properties or other mines, any such concentrates could include higher than expected contaminants, which would result in higher treatment expenses and penalty charges that could increase our costs and negatively impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. This could occur due to unexpected variations in the occurrence of these elements in the material mined, problems that occur during blending of material from various locations in the mine prior to processing and other unanticipated events.

The Velardeña Properties, the El Quevar project and our other properties may not contain mineral reserves.

We are considered an exploration stage company under SEC Industry Guide 7, and none of the properties at our Velardeña Properties, the El Quevar project, or any of our other properties have been shown to contain proven or probable mineral reserves. Expenditures made in mining at the Velardeña Properties or the exploration and advancement of our El Quevar project or other properties may not result in positive cash flow or in discoveries of commercially recoverable quantities of ore. Most exploration projects do not result in the discovery of commercially mineable ore deposits, and we cannot assure you that any mineral deposit we identify will qualify as an orebody that can be legally and economically exploited or that any particular level of recovery from discovered mineralization will in fact be realized.

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Tetra Tech completed technical reports on our Velardeña Properties and our Santa Maria and Rodeo properties, which indicated the presence of mineralized material, and RPMGlobal (formerly RungePincockMinarco) completed a technical report on our El Quevar property, which indicated the presence of mineralized material. Mineralized material figures based on estimates made by geologists are inherently imprecise and depend on geological interpretation and statistical inferences drawn from drilling and sampling that may prove to be unreliable or inaccurate. We cannot assure you that these estimates are accurate or that proven and probable mineral reserves will be identified at the Velardeña Properties, the Santa Maria and Rodeo properties, the El Quevar project or any of our other properties. Even if the presence of reserves is established at a project, the economic viability of the project may not justify exploitation. We have spent significant amounts on the evaluation of El Quevar prior to establishing the economic viability of that project.

Estimates of reserves, mineral deposits and mining costs also can be affected by factors such as governmental regulations and requirements, fluctuations in metals prices or costs of essential materials or supplies, environmental factors, unforeseen technical difficulties and unusual or unexpected geological formations. In addition, the grades of ore or material ultimately mined may differ from that indicated by drilling results, sampling, feasibility studies or technical reports. Short-term factors relating to reserves, such as the need for orderly development of ore bodies or the processing of new or different grades, may also have an adverse effect on mining and on the results of operations. Silver, gold or other minerals recovered in small-scale laboratory tests may not be duplicated in large-scale tests under on-site processing conditions.

The Velardeña Properties, the El Quevar project and our other properties are subject to foreign environmental laws and regulations which could materially adversely affect our business.

We have conducted mining activities in Mexico and conduct mineral exploration activities primarily in Mexico. Mexico and Argentina, where the El Quevar project is located, have laws and regulations that control the exploration and mining of mineral properties and their effects on the environment, including air and water quality, mine reclamation, waste generation, handling and disposal, the protection of different species of flora and fauna and the preservation of lands. These laws and regulations require us to acquire permits and other authorizations for conducting certain activities. In many countries, there is relatively new comprehensive environmental legislation, and the permitting and authorization process may not be established or predictable. We may not be able to acquire necessary permits or authorizations on a timely basis, if at all. Delays in acquiring any permit or authorization could increase the cost of our projects and could suspend or delay the commencement of extraction and processing of mineralized material.

Our Velardeña Properties are subject to regulation by SEMARNAT, the environmental protection agency of Mexico. In order to permit new facilities at or expand existing facilities, regulations require that an environmental impact statement, known in Mexico as a Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental (the "Manifestación"), be prepared by a third-party contractor for submission to SEMARNAT. Studies required to support the Manifestación include a detailed analysis of soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources and socio-economic impacts. The Manifestación is then published on SEMARNAT's web page and in its official gazette in a national and local newspaper. The Manifestación is discussed at various open hearings, including hearings in the local communities, at which third parties may voice their views. We would be required to provide proof of local community support of the Manifestación as a condition to final approval. We may not be able to obtain community support of future projects.

Environmental legislation in Mexico is evolving in a manner which will require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects, and a heightened degree of responsibility for companies and their officers, directors and employees. For example, in January 2011, Article 180 of the Mexican Federal General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection was amended. Among other things,

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this amendment extended the term during which an individual or entity having a legitimate interest may contest administrative acts, including environmental authorizations, permits or concessions granted, without the need to demonstrate the actual existence of harm to the environment, natural resources, flora, fauna or human health, making it sufficient to argue that harm may be caused. Further, the amendment permits the contesting party to challenge a Manifestación through a variety of administrative or court procedures. As a result of the amendment, more legal actions supported or sponsored by non-governmental groups interested in halting projects may be filed against companies operating in all industrial sectors, including the mining sector. Mexican operations are also subject to the environmental agreements entered into by Mexico, the United States and Canada in connection with the North American Free Trade Agreement. Further, in August 2011, certain amendments to the Civil Federal Procedures Code of Mexico ("CFPC") were published in the Official Daily of the Federation. The amendments establish three categories of collective actions by which 30 or more people claiming injury resulting from, among other things, environmental harm, will be deemed to have a sufficient and legitimate interest in seeking, through a civil procedure, restitution, economic compensation or suspension of the activities from which the alleged injury derived. These amendments to the CFPC may result in more litigation by plaintiffs seeking remedies for alleged environmental harms, including suspension of the activities alleged to cause harm. Future changes in environmental regulation in the jurisdictions where the Velardeña Properties are located may adversely affect our business, make our business prohibitively expensive, or prohibit it altogether.

Environmental legislation in many other countries, in addition to Mexico, is evolving in a manner that will likely require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects and a heightened degree of responsibility for companies and their officers, directors and employees. We cannot predict what environmental legislation or regulations will be enacted or adopted in the future or how future laws and regulations will be administered or interpreted. For example, in September 2010, the Argentine National Congress passed legislation which prohibits mining activity in glacial and surrounding areas. Although we do not currently anticipate that this legislation will impact the El Quevar project, the legislation provides an example of the evolving environmental legislation in the areas in which we operate. Compliance with more stringent laws and regulations, as well as potentially more vigorous enforcement policies or regulatory agencies or stricter interpretation of existing laws, may (i) necessitate significant capital outlays, (ii) cause us to delay, terminate or otherwise change our intended activities with respect to one or more projects, or (iii) materially adversely affect our future exploration activities.

The Velardeña Properties and many of our exploration properties are located in historic mining districts where prior owners, including ECU in the case of the Velardeña Properties, may have caused environmental damage that may not be known to us or to the regulators. At the Velardeña Properties and in most other cases, we have not sought complete environmental analyses of our mineral properties. We have not conducted comprehensive reviews of the environmental laws and regulations in every jurisdiction in which we own or control mineral properties. Insurance fully covering many environmental risks (including potential liability for pollution or other hazards as a result of disposal of waste products occurring from exploration and mining) is not generally available. To the extent environmental hazards may exist on the properties in which we currently hold interests, or may hold interests in the future, that are unknown to us at present and that have been caused by us, or previous owners or operators, or that may have occurred naturally, and to the extent we are subject to environmental requirements or liabilities, the cost of compliance with these requirements and satisfaction of these liabilities could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. If we are unable to fully fund the cost of remediation of any environmental condition, we may be required to suspend activities or enter into interim compliance measures pending completion of the required remediation.

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In addition, U.S. or international legislative or regulatory action to address concerns about climate change and greenhouse gas emissions could negatively impact our business.

Title to the Velardeña Properties and our other properties and rights may be defective or may be challenged.

Our policy is to seek to confirm the validity of our rights to, title to, or contract rights with respect to, each mineral property in which we have a material interest. However, we cannot guarantee that title to our properties will not be challenged. Title insurance is not available for our mineral properties, and our ability to ensure that we have obtained secure rights to individual mineral properties or mining concessions may be severely constrained. Accordingly, the Velardeña Properties and our other mineral properties may be subject to prior unregistered agreements, transfers or claims, and title may be affected by, among other things, undetected defects. In addition, we may be unable to conduct activities on our properties as permitted or to enforce our rights with respect to our properties, and the title to our mineral properties may also be impacted by state action. We have not conducted surveys of all of the exploration properties in which we hold direct or indirect interests and, therefore, the precise area and location of these exploration properties may be in doubt.

In most of the countries in which we operate, failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations relating to mineral right applications and tenure could result in loss, reduction or expropriation of entitlements, or the imposition of additional local or foreign parties as joint venture partners. Any such loss, reduction or imposition of partners could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Under the laws of Mexico, mineral resources belong to the state, and government concessions are required to explore for or exploit mineral reserves. Mineral rights derive from concessions granted, on a discretionary basis, by the Ministry of Economy, pursuant to the Mexican mining law and regulations thereunder. We hold title to the Velardeña Properties and our other properties in Mexico through these government concessions, but there is no assurance that title to the concessions comprising the Velardeña Properties and other properties will not be challenged or impaired. The Velardeña Properties and other properties may be subject to prior unregistered agreements, interests or native land claims, and title may be affected by undetected defects. There could be valid challenges to the title of any of the claims comprising the Velardeña Properties that, if successful, could impair mining with respect to such properties in the future. A defect could result in our losing all or a portion of our right, title, and interest in and to the properties to which the title defect relates.

Our Velardeña Properties mining concessions and our other mining concessions in Mexico may be terminated if our obligations to maintain the concessions in good standing are not satisfied, including obligations to explore or exploit the relevant concession, to pay any relevant fees, to comply with all environmental and safety standards, to provide information to the Ministry of Economy and to allow inspections by the Ministry of Economy. In addition to termination, failure to make timely concession maintenance payments and otherwise comply strictly with applicable laws, regulations and local practices relating to mineral right applications and tenure could result in reduction or expropriation of entitlements. Additionally, in 2014, new mining concessions became subject to additional review and approval by the Mexico Ministry of Energy.

Mining concessions in Mexico give exclusive exploration and exploitation rights to the minerals located in the concessions but do not include surface rights to the real property, which requires that we negotiate the necessary agreements with surface landowners. Many of our mining properties are subject to the Mexican ejido system requiring us to contract with the local communities surrounding the properties in order to obtain surface rights to land needed in connection with our mining exploration activities. In connection with our Velardeña Properties, we have contracts with two ejidos to secure surface rights with a total annual cost of approximately \$25,000. The first contract is a ten-year contract with the Velardeña ejido, which provides surface rights to certain roads and other infrastructure at the

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Velardeña Properties through 2021. The second contract is a 25-year contract with the Vista Hermosa ejido signed in March 2013, which provides exploration access and access rights for roads and utilities for our Velardeña Properties. Our inability to maintain and periodically renew or expand these surface rights on favorable terms or otherwise could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

Mining and processing activities are dependent on the availability of sufficient water supplies to support our mining activities.

Mining and processing at the Velardeña Properties, as at most mines, requires significant amounts of water. At the Velardeña Properties, our ability to have sufficient water is dependent on our ability to maintain our water rights and claims. Water is provided for all of the mines comprising our Velardeña Properties by wells located in the valley adjacent to the Velardeña Properties. We hold title to three wells located near the sulfide plant and hold certificates of registration to three wells located near the oxide plant. We are licensed to pump water from all six wells up to a permitted amount. We are currently only using water from the three wells associated with the oxide plant. We are required to make annual payments to the Mexican government to maintain our rights to these wells. We are required to pay a fine to the Mexican Government each year if we use too much water from a particular well or alternatively if we do not use a minimum amount of water from a particular well. In addition to these fines, the Mexican Government reserves the right to cancel our title to the wells for abuse of these rules.

We currently have a sufficient amount of water for the third-party processing activities at the oxide plant. However, if we began processing material from both the sulfide and oxide plants in the future, we may face shortages in our water supply, and therefore will need to obtain water from outside sources at higher costs. The loss of some or all water rights for any of our wells, in whole or in part, or shortages of water to which we have rights would require us to seek water from outside sources at higher costs and could require us to curtail or shut down mining and processing in the future. Laws and regulations may be introduced in the future which could limit our access to sufficient water resources in mining activities, thus adversely affecting our business.

There are significant hazards involved in underground mining and processing activities at our Velardeña Properties, not all of which are fully covered by insurance. To the extent we must pay the costs associated with such risks, our business may be negatively affected.

The mining and processing of the underground mines at our Velardeña Properties, as well as the conduct of our exploration programs that frequently require rehabilitation of and drilling in underground mine workings, are subject to numerous risks and hazards, including, but not limited to, environmental hazards, industrial accidents, encountering unusual or unexpected geological formations, formation pressures, cave-ins, underground fires or floods, power outages, labor disruptions, seismic activity, rock bursts, accidents relating to historical workings, landslides and periodic interruptions due to inclement or hazardous weather conditions. These occurrences could result in damage to, or destruction of, mineral properties or processing facilities, personal injury or death, environmental damage, reduced extraction and processing and delays in mining, asset write-downs, monetary losses and possible legal liability. Although we maintain insurance against risks inherent in the conduct of our business in amounts that we consider reasonable, this insurance contains, as in the case of our Velardeña Properties, exclusions and limitations on coverage, and will not cover all potential risks associated with mining and exploration activities, and related liabilities might exceed policy limits. As a result of any or all of the foregoing, particularly if the facilities are older, we could incur significant liabilities and costs that could adversely affect our results of operation and financial condition.

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Our Velardeña Properties and most of our exploration properties are located in Mexico and are subject to various levels of political, economic, legal and other risks.

Our Velardeña Properties are located in Mexico, and, as such, are exposed to various levels of political, economic, legal and other risks and uncertainties, including local acts of violence, such as violence from drug cartels; military repression; extreme fluctuations in currency exchange rates; high rates of inflation; labor unrest; the risks of war or civil unrest; expropriation and nationalization; renegotiation or nullification of existing concessions, licenses, permits and contracts; illegal mining; acts of political corruption; changes in taxation policies; restrictions on foreign exchange and repatriation; and changing political conditions, currency controls and governmental regulations that favor or require the awarding of contracts to local contractors or require foreign contractors to employ citizens of, or purchase supplies from, a particular jurisdiction. Furthermore, given the uncertainties surrounding the policies of the new US Administration, the political relationship between the United States and Mexico may deteriorate, creating further political risk of doing business in Mexico.

In the past, Mexico has been subject to political instability, changes and uncertainties, which have resulted in changes to existing governmental regulations affecting mineral exploration and mining activities. Mexico's status as a developing country may make it more difficult for us to obtain any required funding for our Velardeña Properties or other projects in Mexico in the future.

Our Mexican properties are subject to a variety of governmental regulations governing health and worker safety, employment standards, waste disposal, protection of historic and archaeological sites, mine development, protection of endangered and protected species, purchase, storage and use of explosives and other matters. Specifically, our activities related to the Velardeña Properties are subject to regulation by SEMARNAT, the Comisión Nacional del Agua, which regulates water rights, and Mexican mining laws. Mexican regulators have broad authority to shut down and levy fines against facilities that do not comply with regulations or standards.

Our Velardeña Properties and mineral exploration activities in Mexico may be adversely affected in varying degrees by changing government regulations relating to the mining industry or shifts in political conditions that increase the costs related to our mining and exploration activities or the maintenance of our properties. For example, in January 2014, amendments to the Mexico federal corporate income tax law require titleholders of mining concessions to pay annually a 7.5% duty of their mining related profits and a 0.5% duty on revenues obtained from the sale of gold, silver and platinum that were effective March 2015. These additional duties applicable to Mexico mining concession titleholders will have a significant impact on the annual costs applicable to the Velardeña Properties if we have mining related profits or significant revenues in the future.

Changes, if any, in mining or investment policies, changes or increases in the legal rights of indigenous populations or in the difficulty or expense of obtaining rights from them that are necessary for our Velardeña Properties or shifts in political attitude may adversely affect our business and financial condition. Our mining and exploration activities may be affected in varying degrees by government regulations with respect to restrictions on extraction, price controls, export controls, currency remittance, income and other taxes, expropriation of property, foreign investment, maintenance of claims, environmental legislation, land use, land claims of local people, water use and mine safety. Restart of mining or use of both the oxide and sulfide plant may also require us to assure the availability of adequate supplies of water and power, which could be affected by government policy and competing businesses in the area. The occurrence of these various factors and uncertainties cannot be accurately predicted and could have an adverse effect on our mining and exploration activities and financial condition.

Future changes in applicable laws and regulations or changes in their enforcement or regulatory interpretation could negatively impact current or planned exploration or mining activities at our Velardeña Properties or in respect of any of our other projects in Mexico or with which we become

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involved in Mexico. Any failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations, even if inadvertent, could result in the interruption of mining and exploration or material fines, penalties or other liabilities.

Most of our costs are subject to exchange control policies, the effects of inflation and currency fluctuations between the U.S. dollar and the Mexican peso.

Our revenue and external funding are primarily denominated in U.S. dollars. However, mining, processing, maintenance and exploration costs at the Velardeña Properties and most of our exploration properties are denominated principally in Mexican pesos. These costs principally include electricity, labor, water, maintenance, local contractors and fuel. When inflation in Mexico increases without a corresponding devaluation of the Mexican peso, our financial position, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected. The annual inflation rate in Mexico was 3.2% in 2016, 2.1% in 2015 and 4.1% in 2014. At the same time, the peso has been subject to significant fluctuation, which may not have been proportionate to the inflation rate and may not be proportionate to the inflation rate in the future. The value of the peso decreased by 19% in 2016, decreased by 17% in 2015 and decreased by 13% in 2014. In addition, fluctuations in currency exchange rates may have a significant impact on our financial results. There can be no assurance that the Mexican government will maintain its current policies with regard to the peso or that the peso's value will not fluctuate significantly in the future. We cannot assure you that currency fluctuations, inflation and exchange control policies will not have an adverse impact on our financial condition, results of operations, earnings and cash flows.

If we are unable to obtain all of our required governmental permits or obtain property rights on favorable terms or at all, our business could be negatively impacted.

Future mining and current processing at our Velardeña Properties, the continued evaluation of the El Quevar project and other exploration activities will require additional permits from various governmental authorities. Our business is and will continue to be governed by laws and regulations governing mining, exploration, prospecting, exports, taxes, labor standards, occupational health, waste disposal, toxic substances, land use, environmental protection, mine safety, mining royalties and other matters. We may also be required to obtain certain property rights to access or use our properties. Obtaining or renewing licenses and permits, and acquiring property rights, can be complex and time-consuming processes. There can be no assurance that we will be able to acquire all required licenses, permits or property rights on reasonable terms or in a timely manner, or at all, and that such terms will not be adversely changed, that required extensions will be granted, or that the issuance of such licenses, permits or property rights will not be challenged by third parties. Delays in obtaining or a failure to obtain any licenses, permits or property rights or any required extensions; challenges to the issuance of licenses, permits or property rights, whether successful or unsuccessful; changes to the terms of licenses, permits or property rights; or a failure to comply with the terms of any licenses, permits or property rights that have been obtained could have a material adverse effect on our business by delaying, preventing or making future mining and processing at our Velardeña Properties and other continued processing activities economically unfeasible. U.S. or international legislative or regulatory action to address concerns about climate change and greenhouse gas emissions could also negatively impact our business. While we will continue to monitor and assess any new policies, legislation or regulations regarding such matters, we currently believe that the impact of such legislation on our business will not be significant.

We depend on the services of key executives.

Our business strategy is based on leveraging the experience and skill of our management team. We are dependent on the services of key executives, including Warren Rehn and Robert Vogels. Due to our relatively small size, the loss of any of these persons or our inability to attract and retain additional

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highly skilled employees may have a material adverse effect on our business and our ability to manage and succeed in our mining and exploration activities.

The exploration of our mineral properties is highly speculative in nature, involves substantial expenditures and is frequently non-productive.

Mineral exploration is highly speculative in nature and is frequently non-productive. Substantial expenditures are required to:

establish mineral reserves through drilling and metallurgical and other testing techniques;

determine metal content and metallurgical recovery processes to process metal from the ore;

determine the feasibility of mine development and production; and

construct, renovate or expand mining and processing facilities.

If we discover a deposit or ore at a property, it usually takes several years from the initial phases of exploration until production is possible. During this time, the economic feasibility of a project may change because of increased costs, lower metal prices or other factors. As a result of these uncertainties, we may not successfully acquire additional mineral rights, or our exploration programs may not result in proven and probable reserves at all or in sufficient quantities to justify developing the El Quevar project or any of our exploration properties.

The decisions about future advancement of exploration projects may be based on feasibility studies, which derive estimates of mineral reserves, operating costs and project economic returns. Estimates of economic returns are based, in part, on assumptions about future metal prices and estimates of average cash operating costs based upon, among other things:

anticipated tonnage, grades and metallurgical characteristics of ore to be mined and processed;

anticipated recovery rates of silver and other metals from the ore;

cash operating costs of comparable facilities and equipment; and

anticipated climatic conditions.

Actual cash operating costs, production and economic returns may differ significantly from those anticipated by our studies and estimates.

Lack of infrastructure could forestall or prevent further exploration and advancement.

Exploration activities, as well as any advancement activities, depend on adequate infrastructure. Reliable roads, bridges, power sources and water supply are important factors that affect capital and operating costs and the feasibility and economic viability of a project. Unanticipated or higher than expected costs and unusual or infrequent weather phenomena, or government or other interference in the maintenance or provision of such infrastructure, could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our exploration activities are in countries with developing economies and are subject to the risks of political and economic instability associated with these countries.

We currently conduct exploration activities almost exclusively in countries with developing economies, including Argentina and Mexico. These countries and other emerging markets in which we may conduct business have from time to time experienced economic or political instability. We may be materially adversely affected by risks associated with conducting exploration activities in countries with developing economies, including:

political instability and violence;

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war and civil disturbance;

acts of terrorism or other criminal activity;

expropriation or nationalization;

changing fiscal, royalty and tax regimes;

fluctuations in currency exchange rates;

high rates of inflation;

uncertain or changing legal requirements respecting the ownership and maintenance of mineral properties, mines and mining activities, and inconsistent or arbitrary application of such legal requirements;

underdeveloped industrial and economic infrastructure;

corruption; and

unenforceability of contractual rights.

Changes in mining or investment policies or shifts in the prevailing political climate in any of the countries in which we conduct exploration activities could adversely affect our business.

We conduct our business in countries that may be adversely affected by changes in the local government's policies toward or laws governing the mining industry.

We have exploration activities primarily in Mexico and Argentina. In these regions there exist uncertainties regarding future changes in applicable law related to mining and exploration. For instance, in January 2014, amendments to the Mexico federal corporate income tax law require titleholders of mining concessions to pay annually a 7.5% duty of their mining related profits and a 0.5% duty on revenues obtained from the sale of gold, silver and platinum that were effective March 2015. These additional duties applicable to Mexico mining concession titleholders will have a significant impact on the annual costs applicable to the Velardeña Properties if we have mining related profits or significant revenues in the future.

Additionally, effective January 2015, the Argentina National Mining Code was amended, increasing the annual canon payment by approximately four times. In 2015 and 2016, our annual canon fees payable to the Argentine government was \$40,000 and \$112,000 respectively, and we expect to pay approximately \$115,000 in 2017.

In addition to the risk of increased transaction costs, we do not maintain political risk insurance to cover losses that we may incur as a result of nationalization, expropriation or similar events in Mexico or Argentina where we explore or have mining and processing activities.

We compete against larger and more experienced companies.

The mining industry is intensely competitive. Many large mining companies are primarily makers of precious or base metals and may become interested in the types of deposits on which we are focused, which include silver, gold and other precious metals deposits or polymetallic deposits containing significant quantities of base metals, including zinc, lead and copper. Many of these companies have greater

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financial resources, experience and technical capabilities than we do. We may encounter increasing competition from other mining companies in our efforts to acquire mineral properties and hire experienced mining professionals. Increased competition in our business could adversely affect our ability to attract necessary capital funding or acquire suitable mining properties or prospects for mineral exploration in the future.

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We are dependent on information technology systems, which are subject to certain risks, including cybersecurity risks and data leakage risks.

We are dependent upon information technology systems in the conduct of our business. Any significant breakdown, invasion, virus, cyber attack, security breach, destruction or interruption of these systems by employees, others with authorized access to our systems, or unauthorized persons could negatively impact our business. To the extent any invasion, cyber attack or security breach results in disruption to our business, loss or disclosure of, or damage to, our data or confidential information, our reputation, business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. Our systems and insurance coverage for protecting against cyber security risks may not be sufficient. Although to date we have not experienced any material losses relating to cyber attacks, we may suffer such losses in the future. We may be required to expend significant additional resources to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures or to investigate and remediate any information security vulnerabilities.

The existence of a significant number of warrants may have a negative effect on the market price of our common stock.

In connection with our financing in May 2016, we issued five year warrants to acquire 6,000,000 shares of our common stock at \$0.75 per share expiring in November 2021. In connection with our financing in September 2014, we issued five year warrants to acquire 4,746,000 shares of our common stock at \$1.21 per share expiring in September 2019. In connection with our financing in September 2012, we issued five year warrants to purchase 3,431,649 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$8.42 per share expiring September 2017. Pursuant to the anti-dilution clauses in the September 2012 and 2014 warrant agreements, the exercise price of the warrants has been adjusted downward as a result of the subsequent issuance of the Company's common stock in separate transactions, including pursuant to the Hecla Share Issuance (as defined herein), our ATM Program, the May 2016 financing, the September 2014 financing and the conversion of the Sentient Senior Secured Convertible Note. . As a result of these transactions, the number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the September 2012 warrants was increased from the original 3,431,649 shares to 6,258,080 shares (2,826,080 share increase) and the exercise price was reduced from the original \$8.42 per share to \$4.62 per share. The number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the September 2014 warrants was increased from the original 4,746,000 shares to 5,478,172 shares (732,172 share increase) and the exercise price was reduced from the original \$1.21 per share to \$0.87 per share. The existence of securities available for exercise and resale is referred to as an "overhang," and, particularly if the warrants are "in the money," the anticipation of potential sales could exert downward pressure on the market price of our common stock.

Failure to meet the maintenance criteria of the NYSE American may result in the delisting of our common stock, which could result in lower trading volumes and liquidity, lower prices of our common shares and make it more difficult for us to raise capital.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE American, and we are subject to its continued listing requirements, including maintaining certain share prices and a minimum amount of shareholders equity. The market price of our common stock has been and may continue to be subject to significant fluctuation. If we are unable to comply with the NYSE American continued listing requirements, including its trading price requirements, our common stock may be suspended from trading on and/or delisted from the NYSE American. Alternatively, in order to avoid delisting by the NYSE American, we may be required to effect a reverse split of our common stock. Although we have not been notified of any delisting proceedings, there is no assurance that we will not receive such notice in the future or that we will be able to then comply with NYSE American listing standards. The delisting of our common stock from the NYSE American may materially impair our stockholders' ability to buy and sell

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our common stock and could have an adverse effect on the market price of, and the efficiency of the trading market for, our common stock. In addition, the delisting of our common stock could significantly impair our ability to raise capital.

If our common stock were delisted and determined to be a "penny stock," a broker-dealer could find it more difficult to trade our common stock and an investor may find it more difficult to acquire or dispose of our common stock in the secondary market.

If our common stock were removed from listing on the NYSE American, it may be subject to the so-called "penny stock" rules. The SEC has adopted regulations that define a "penny stock" to be any equity security that has a market price per share of less than \$5.00, subject to certain exceptions, such as any securities listed on a national securities exchange. For any transaction involving a "penny stock," unless exempt, the rules impose additional sales practice requirements on broker-dealers, subject to certain exceptions. If our common stock were delisted and determined to be a "penny stock," a broker-dealer may find it more difficult to trade our common stock and an investor may find it more difficult to acquire or dispose of our common stock on the secondary market. These factors could significantly negatively affect the market price of our common stock and our ability to raise capital.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities hereunder for general corporate purposes and working capital. Each prospectus supplement will contain specific information concerning the use of proceeds from that sale of securities.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities under this prospectus and any relevant prospectus supplement to or through underwriters or dealers, directly to other purchasers or through agents. In addition, we may from time to time sell securities through a bidding or auction process, block trades, ordinary brokerage transactions or transactions in which a broker solicits purchasers. We may also use a combination of any of the foregoing methods of sale. We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices (which may be changed from time to time), at market prices prevailing at the times of sale, at prices related to these prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We may offer securities in the same offering or in separate offerings.

From time to time, we may exchange securities for indebtedness or other securities that we may have outstanding. In some cases, dealers acting for us may also purchase securities and re-offer them to the public by one or more of the methods described above.

Any person participating in the distribution of common stock registered under the registration statement that includes this prospectus will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and applicable SEC rules and regulations, including, among others, Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any of our common stock by any such person. Furthermore, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of our common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to our common stock. These restrictions may affect the marketability of our common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to our common stock.

Certain persons participating in an offering may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the offered securities. If any such activities may occur, they will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or a document incorporated by reference to the extent required.

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With respect to the sale of any securities under this prospectus, the maximum commission or discount to be received by any member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. or independent broker or dealer will not be greater than eight percent (8%).

We will provide required disclosure concerning the terms of the offering of the securities in a prospectus supplement or information incorporated by reference, including, to the extent applicable:

the name or names of underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds the issuer will receive from the sale;

any underwriting discounts, commissions, and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any commissions paid to agents;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

The distribution of securities may be effected, from time to time, in one or more transactions, including:

underwritten offerings;

block transactions (which may involve crosses) and transactions on the NYSE American or any other organized market where the securities may be traded;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker- dealer for its own account;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker- dealer solicits purchasers;

sales "at the market" to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise;

sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to purchasers; and

any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. Because the terms of a specific series of debt securities may vary from the general information

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that we have provided below, you should rely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement that varies from any information below.

We may issue senior notes under a senior indenture to be entered into among us and a trustee to be named in the senior indenture. We may issue subordinated notes under a subordinated indenture to be entered into among us and a trustee to be named in the subordinated indenture. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement which includes this prospectus. We use the term "indentures" to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the "Trust Indenture Act"). We use the term "trustee" to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable. We

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urge you to read the indenture applicable to your investment because the indenture, and not this section, defines your rights as a holder of debt securities.

The following summaries of material provisions of senior notes, subordinated notes and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical in all material respects.

General

The senior debt securities will have the same ranking as all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinated and junior to all senior indebtedness.

The debt securities may be issued in one or more separate series of senior debt securities and/or subordinated debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of debt securities being offered will specify the particular amounts, prices and terms of those debt securities. These terms may include:

the title of the debt securities;

any limit upon the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date or dates, or the method of determining the dates, on which the debt securities will mature;

the interest rate or rates of the debt securities, or the method of determining those rates, the interest payment dates and, for registered debt securities, the regular record dates;

if a debt security is issued with original issue discount, the yield to maturity;

the places where payments may be made on the debt securities;

any mandatory or optional redemption provisions applicable to the debt securities;

any sinking fund or analogous provisions applicable to the debt securities;

whether and on what terms we will pay additional amounts to holders of the debt securities that are not U.S. persons in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if so, whether and on what terms we will have the option to redeem the debt securities rather than pay the additional amounts;

any terms for the attachment to the debt securities of warrants, options or other rights to purchase or sell our securities;

the portion of the principal amount of the debt security payable upon the acceleration of maturity if other than the entire principal amount of the debt securities;

any deletions of, or changes or additions to, the events of default or covenants applicable to the debt securities;

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if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies in which payments of principal, premium and/or interest on the debt securities will be payable and whether the holder may elect payment to be made in a different currency;

the method of determining the amount of any payments on the debt securities which are linked to an index;

whether the debt securities will be issued in fully registered form without coupons or in bearer form, with or without coupons;

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or any combination of these, and whether they will be issued in the form of one or more global securities in temporary or definitive form;

whether the debt securities will be convertible or exchangeable into or for common stock, preferred stock or other debt securities and the conversion price or exchange ratio, the conversion or exchange period and any other conversion or exchange provisions;

any terms relating to the delivery of the debt securities if they are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants; and

any other specific terms of the debt securities.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, (1) the debt securities will be registered debt securities and (2) debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued, in the case of registered debt securities, in denominations of \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 and, in the case of bearer debt securities, in denominations of \$5,000. Debt securities may bear legends required by United States federal tax law and regulations.

If any of the debt securities are sold for any foreign currency or currency unit or if any payments on the debt securities are payable in any foreign currency or currency unit, the prospectus supplement will contain any restrictions, elections, tax consequences, specific terms and other information with respect to the debt securities and the foreign currency or currency unit.

Some of the debt securities may be issued as original issue discount debt securities. Original issue discount securities bear no interest during all or a part of the time that these debt securities are outstanding or bear interest at below-market rates and will be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount at maturity. The prospectus supplement will also contain special tax, accounting or other information relating to original issue discount securities or relating to other kinds of debt securities that may be offered, including debt securities linked to an index or payable in currencies other than U.S. dollars.

Exchange, Registration and Transfer

Debt securities may be transferred or exchanged at the corporate trust office of the security registrar or at any other office or agency maintained by our company for these purposes, without the payment of any service charge, except for any tax or governmental charges. The senior trustee initially will be the designated security registrar in the United States for the senior debt securities. The subordinated trustee initially will be the designated security registrar in the United States for the subordinated debt securities.

If debt securities are issuable as both registered debt securities and bearer debt securities, the bearer debt securities will be exchangeable for registered debt securities. Except as provided below, bearer debt securities will have outstanding coupons. If a bearer debt security with related coupons is surrendered in exchange for a registered debt security between a record date and the date set for the payment of interest, the bearer debt security will be surrendered without the coupon relating to that interest payment and that payment will be made only to the holder of the coupon when due.

In the event of any redemption in part of any class or series of debt securities, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange, debt securities of any series between the opening of business 15 days before any selection of debt securities of that series to be redeemed and the close of business on:

if debt securities of the series are issuable only as registered debt securities, the day of mailing of the relevant notice of redemption, and

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