



**Ascot Resources Ltd.**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**For the three and six months ended June 30, 2022**

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, except where indicated)

Report date: August 8, 2022

This Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") of Ascot Resources Ltd. ("Ascot" or the "Company") is dated August 8, 2022 and provides an analysis of our unaudited consolidated interim financial results for the three and six months ended June 30, 2022 compared to the three and six months ended June 30, 2021. The following information should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). Unless otherwise noted, all currency amounts are expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars. Additional information about the Company, including the audited financial statements and the notes thereto, for the year ended December 31, 2021, prepared in accordance with IFRS, can be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company's website at [www.ascotgold.com](http://www.ascotgold.com).

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

Ascot is a Canadian-based development and exploration company publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") in Canada (symbol AOT). The Company is also trading on the OTCQX market in the U.S. (symbol: AOTVF). The Company is focused on re-starting the historic past producing Premier gold mine located in British Columbia's Golden Triangle. Ascot received the Mines Act Permit amendment ("MAPA") to re-start Premier Gold Project in December 2021. The Silver Coin, Big Missouri, and Premier deposits, collectively being named the Premier Gold Project (PGP) are located near the processing facility on the historical Premier Mine site, and the Red Mountain Project (RMP) is located 23 km to the southeast in an adjacent valley. PGP together with RMP is defined as the "Project". In addition, the Company continues to drill a number of gold-silver discoveries on its 25,000 hectares of mineral concessions that benefit from their proximity to PGP and the towns of Stewart, BC and Hyder, Alaska.

The Company also has two other properties: Swamp Point, an aggregate mine in care and maintenance located in British Columbia on the Portland Canal, and Mt. Margaret, a porphyry copper-molybdenum-gold-silver deposit located in Washington State, USA.

## Q2 2022 AND RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- On April 4, 2022, the Company provided an update on construction financing and development plans for PGP, including an update on the availability of further drawdowns under the construction finance package of US\$105M (see News Release dated December 10, 2020), where the Company had secured a US\$80M senior credit facility (the "Senior Facility") with Sprott Private Resource Lending II (Collector), LP ("Sprott"). After drawing down the initial US\$20M tranche under the Senior Facility, Ascot was required to satisfy various conditions before drawing down the remaining US\$60M, which was available until June 30, 2022. However, the Company has been unable to reach an agreement with Sprott on the satisfaction of the drawdown conditions for the remaining US\$60M of the Senior Facility. Therefore, the initial US\$20M drawdown remains outstanding and Ascot is pursuing alternative financing options to replace the remainder of the Senior Facility.
- In April 2022, Ascot held a Public Information Session in Stewart, B.C. for the surrounding communities. In June 2022, Ascot attended the Nisga'a Business Forum in Gitwinksihlkw and supported the Prince Rupert Salmon Festival hosted by the Nisga'a Gitmaxmak'ay cultural dancers.
- On May 9, 2022, the Company announced the start of the 2022 exploration drilling program, which comprises approximately 18,000 metres and is equally split between exploration and in-fill holes. Exploration drilling is largely concentrated on the Sebakwe and Day Zones and in-fill drilling focuses exclusively on the Big Missouri deposit.
- On May 16, 2022, the Company announced the hiring of Vice President, Operations and General Manager, and the commencement of underground development work at PGP.
- On June 23, 2022, the Company provided an update on the development, financing, and exploration of PGP, noting that construction had been significantly advanced in many key project areas. The Company had been working with a number of potential financing partners including project lenders and streaming/royalty companies in order to secure sufficient financing to complete its project construction. These discussions are ongoing and the Company is confident a financing solution can be achieved in the foreseeable future. Until this funding is secured and in order to preserve Ascot's current cash balance, the Company began decelerating various construction activities and placing certain work packages on hold. Importantly, the underground mine development work and exploration

program remain on track. The deceleration of project construction provided more time for mine plan and sequencing optimization, and enabled exploration drilling to determine the size, extent and high-grade continuity of the emerging Sebakwe Zone at the Premier deposit. Given the delays in construction areas which require seasonal conditions, the target for first gold pour will be delayed from the first quarter of 2023 until between late 2023 and early 2024. Ascot is developing a more detailed construction sequence based on this new timeline and will continue to assess any potential cost implications associated with this delay.

- After completion of the portal preparation work in April 2022, underground mine development work and installation of surface infrastructure commenced in May 2022. To date, surface facilities including ventilation, water supply and handling, ventilation, gensets, compressor, material handling and stockpiles, offices, and satellite communications have all been established. Underground, approximately 320 metres have been developed in all headings, including muck bays, sumps, ore access drift, and the main ramp. Ground conditions have been excellent and heading advance and productivity have been going well. Development is now accessing initial ore in the A Zone of the Big Missouri deposit.
- As of June 30, 2022, the Company progressed detailed engineering to approximately 95% completion and overall construction to approximately 33% completion. Ascot has ordered approximately 95% of the remaining fixed equipment for the project. Key orders remaining in the plant relate mostly to piping, instrumentation, and bulk consumables.
- On July 14, 2022, the Company announced the first batch of assay results from the 2022 exploration drill program at PGP. These results were from surface exploration drilling at the emerging Sebakwe Zone near the Premier mill, and with assays of up to 193 g/t gold, they continue to highlight the high-grade tenor of the Sebakwe Zone. The second batch of drill results from Sebakwe is anticipated in the near term, and a corresponding update news release is planned for the upcoming weeks. The drill rig has been moved close to the S1 pit at Big Missouri, drill testing the early stopes in the area north of the S1 pit. Initial observations include quartz breccia with sulfide mineralization at or very near the expected location where high-grade mineralization has been wireframed from earlier drill holes. Assay results from the Big Missouri drill holes are pending. An assay lab is being set up in Stewart and it is anticipated to be operational in the first half of August coinciding with first access to ore in the underground development at Big Missouri. Ascot has signed a priority service contract with this new assay lab, and once it is in service, turnaround times are anticipated to be a fraction of what was experienced previously.

## OPERATING OVERVIEW

### Premier Gold Project ("PGP")

The PGP comprises four claim groups, identified as the Premier, Big Missouri, Dilworth, and Silver Coin groups, and includes three mining leases totaling 392 hectares, 175 Crown grants totaling 2,354 hectares, and 107 mineral claims totaling 8,907 hectares. The total area is 8,133 hectares when overlaps are accounted for. The Company owns three mining leases, two of which expire on December 17, 2050, and the third expires on December 14, 2048.

In February 2020, the Company published an updated independent National Instrument 43-101 ("NI 43-101") mineral resource estimate for the PGP. The updated NI 43-101 resource estimate for the PGP reported 1.1 million ounces of gold and 4.7 million ounces of silver in the indicated category, and 1.2 million ounces of gold and 4.67 million ounces of silver in the inferred category. PGP mineral reserves established in the feasibility study in accordance with NI 43-101 technical report published in May 2020 are as follows:

### PGP Mineral Reserve Statement

	Tonnes	Grade		Contained Ounces	
		Au	Ag	Au	Ag
		g/t	g/t	koz	koz
<b>Total Probable</b>	3,632	5.45	19.1	637	2,231

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Notes for Table: CIM Definition Standards were followed for classification of Mineral Reserves

1. A mean bulk density of 2.85 t/m<sup>3</sup> is used for Premier and of 2.80 t/m<sup>3</sup> for all other deposit areas
2. The AuEq values were calculated using US\$1,400/oz Au and a US\$17/oz Ag and the following equation: AuEq(g/t) = Au(g/t)+ Ag(g/t) x 17 / 1,400
3. The following CoG based on AuEq grade were used to estimate the economic potential of the stopes: Longhole = 2.85 g/t, Inclined undercut Longhole = 3.44 g/t, cut and fill = 3.44 g/t, room & pillar = 3.82 g/t and development = 2.85 g/t

### Red Mountain Project ("RMP")

The RMP consists of 47 contiguous mineral claims for a total of 17,125 hectares. It is located approximately 18 km east-northeast of the town of Stewart and within Nisga'a Nation traditional territory. RMP mineral reserves established in the feasibility study in accordance with NI 43-101 technical report published in May 2020 are as follows:

#### RMP Mineral Reserve Statement

	Grade			Contained Ounces	
	Tonnes	Au	Ag	Au	Ag
	kt	g/t	g/t	koz	koz
<b>Proven</b>	2,194	6.68	21.7	471	1,530
<b>Probable</b>	351	5.51	13.8	62	155
<b>Total Proven and Probable</b>	<b>2545</b>	<b>6.52</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>1685</b>

Notes for Table: CIM Definition Standards were followed for classification of Mineral Reserves

1. The AuEq values were calculated using US\$1,300/oz Au and a US\$15/oz Ag and the following equation: AuEq(g/t) = Au(g/t) + Ag(g/t) x 15 / 1,300
2. The following CoG based on AuEq grade were used to estimate the economic potential of the stopes: Longhole = 3.11 g/t, Inclined undercut Longhole = 4.0 g/t, cut and fill = 4.1 g/t and development = 3.11 g/t

#### Qualified Persons and NI 43-101 Disclosure

John Kiernan, P.Eng., Chief Operating Officer of the Company is the Company's Qualified Person (QP) as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and has reviewed, approved and takes responsibility for all of the written scientific and technical disclosure of this MD&A.

On August 28, 2018, the Red Mountain Project was referred by the BC EAO to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Minister of Environment for consideration and granted an Environmental Assessment Certificate on October 5, 2018.

RMP is subject to a gold metal stream whereby Sprott Private Resource Streaming and Royalty (B) Corp. ("SRSR") may acquire up to 10% of the annual gold production from RMP at a price of the lower of US\$1,000/oz and spot price up to a maximum of 500,000 oz produced. Alternatively, SRSR may elect to receive a one-time cash payment of \$4 million at the commencement of production in exchange for a buy-back of the gold metal stream.

#### The Project development

Throughout the first half of 2022 and to date, the Company continued to advance detailed engineering on the mill refurbishment, tailings storage facility, water treatment plant, power substation, overland piping and pumping and other key areas at the project site as well as procurement of critical long lead time equipment required in the refurbishment of the Premier mill. As of June 30, 2022, the Company progressed detailed engineering to approximately 95% completion and overall construction to approximately 33% completion. Throughout 2021 and early 2022, the Company delivered and made significant progress on the installation of a number of critical long lead time equipment items, including the Ball and SAG mills, mill motors and liners, water treatment clarifier and the tailings thickener. Ascot has ordered approximately 95% of

the remaining fixed equipment for the project. Key orders remaining in the plant relate mostly to piping, instrumentation and bulk consumables.

After completion of the portal preparation work in April 2022, underground mine development work and installation of surface infrastructure commenced in May 2022. To date, surface facilities including ventilation, water supply and handling, gensets, compressor, material handling and stockpiles, offices and satellite communications have all been established. Underground, approximately 320 metres have been developed in all headings, including muck bays, sumps, ore access drift and the main ramp. Ground conditions have been excellent and heading advance and productivity have been going well. Development is now accessing initial ore in the A Zone of the Big Missouri deposit.

With the Mines Act permit amendment in hand, on January 24, 2022, Ascot announced an updated project capital estimate of \$224,000, reflecting an increase of 27% over the estimate announced in Q1 2021 of \$176,000. At a high level, the factors that have caused cost increases to the project, in order of influence, are: fixed indirect costs caused by schedule delays, weather impacts, piping and instrumentation labour productivity, indirect cost inflation, supply chain pressures, and COVID-19 protocols. With the recent announcement of delays in certain construction areas, the company is working on a revised construction schedule and assessing any potential cost implications.

On March 8, 2022, the Company closed a previously announced bought deal financing (the "Offering"). The Offering consisted of (i) 28,610,000 common shares of the Company (the "Offered Shares") sold at a price of \$1.02 per Offered Share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$29,182; (ii) 12,831,000 hard dollar units of the Company (the "HD Units") at a price of \$1.02 per HD Unit for gross proceeds of \$13,088; (iii) 14,590,000 units of the Company that qualify as "flow through shares", as defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada) (the "CDE FT Units") at a price of \$1.255 per CDE FT Unit for gross proceeds of \$18,310; and (iv) 3,240,000 common shares of the Company that qualify as "flow-through shares" (the "CEE FT Shares", and together with the Offered Shares, HD Units and CDE FT Units, the "Offered Securities") as defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada) at a price of \$1.13 per CEE FT Share for gross proceeds of \$3,661. Each HD Unit and CDE FT Unit is comprised of one common share of the Company and one half of one common share purchase warrant (each whole common share purchase warrant, a "Warrant") with each Warrant entitling the holder to purchase one common share of the Company at a price of \$1.25 for a period of 24 months subject to acceleration. In aggregate, the gross proceeds to the Company totaled \$64,241.

The net proceeds from the sale of Offered Shares and HD Units are being used for capital costs at PGP and for general corporate purposes. The gross proceeds of the sale of CDE FT Units are being used to incur underground capital development expenditures at PGP in 2022. The gross proceeds of the sale of CEE FT Shares are being used to support PGP's exploration program in 2022.

The Company had a US\$60 million undrawn Senior Facility with Sprott. On April 4, 2022, the Company announced that it has been unable to reach an agreement with Sprott on the satisfaction of the drawdown conditions for the undrawn amount. Therefore, the initial US\$20M drawdown remains outstanding, the remaining US\$60M was cancelled at the end of availability period of June 30, 2022 and Ascot is pursuing alternative financing options to replace the remainder of the Senior Facility. The Company has been working with a number of potential financing partners including project lenders and streaming/royalty companies. These discussions are ongoing and the Company is confident a financing solution can be achieved in the foreseeable future. Until this funding is secured and in order to preserve Ascot's current cash balance, the Company began decelerating various construction activities and placing certain work packages on hold. Importantly, the underground mine development work and exploration program remain on track. The deceleration of project construction provided more time for mine plan and sequencing optimization, and enabled exploration drilling to determine the size, extent and high-grade continuity of the emerging Sebakwe Zone at the Premier deposit. Given the delays in construction areas which require seasonal conditions, the target for first gold pour will be delayed from the first quarter of 2023 until

between late 2023 and early 2024. Ascot is developing a more detailed construction sequence based on this new timeline and will continue to assess any potential cost implications associated with this delay.

### **Mt. Margaret Project**

The Mount Margaret porphyry copper-molybdenum-gold-silver deposit is located 22.5 kilometres southwest of Randle, Washington in Skamania county in Southwest Washington State.

Ascot obtained property title to the 50% undivided private mineral interests on the lands on a private land package MS-708 and the government of the United States owns the other 50% interest. Ascot has the right to earn a 100% interest in the property subject to a 1.5% NSR and a negotiated federal royalty.

In 2011, the Company applied for two hardrock mineral prospecting permits (the "Permits"). In December 2018, after many years of environmental analysis, the United States Forest Service and United States Bureau of Land Management (together, the "Federal Defendants") concluded the proposed prospecting activity would have no significant environmental impacts and released decisions allowing the applications to be granted. Cascade Forest Conservancy filed an action in federal court challenging those decisions; the Company intervened on the side of the Federal Defendants. On February 18, 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon (the "Court") released an opinion on the litigation. The court ruled in favor of the Federal Defendants and Ascot on most issues; however, the court held that the environmental analysis performed by the Federal Defendants was insufficient in two narrow respects — one related to potential recreational impacts, and one related to potential groundwater impacts. The court ordered the parties to brief the court on what remedies are necessary to address the insufficiencies in the environmental analysis.

On January 31, 2022, the Company received the court's order vacating the December 2018 Decision Record and December 2018 findings approving the issuance of the Permits by BLM and also vacating the February 2018 decision notice and findings consenting to the issuance of the Permits. The matter was remanded to the Federal Defendants for further action consistent with the court's February 2021 opinion and order. This court decision allows the Federal Defendants to proceed with the additional groundwater monitoring without direct oversight or involvement from the court. The most recent court decision does not prevent further exploration of Mt. Margaret, but gives the Federal Defendants more time to perform further groundwater analyses to address the deficiencies identified in the court's February 2021 decision. The Company requested from the Federal Defendants a proposed timeline and strategy to address the limited deficiencies identified by the court.

### **Swamp Point Project**

Ascot acquired the aggregate deposit in 2002 to access potential local markets such as the port expansions in Prince Rupert along with the California markets, which were quickly running out of readily available local supply. Surface transport costs are much higher than seaborne transport making BC sourced aggregate cost competitive. The property is subject to two royalties; one to the BC Provincial Government and one to a private company owned by the former management of Ascot. Swamp Point was put on care and maintenance in 2008 as a result of the economic downturn.

The site has some existing onsite infrastructure and a deep-water port which have been maintained by the Company, giving it the advantage of being able to re-start within a short lead time, with some further site preparation required. The Company continues to seek to divest Swamp Point, which it considers a non-core asset, and use proceeds from the sale for general working capital purposes.

### **2022 EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

The 2022 exploration program commenced in early May comprising a plan for approximately 18,000 metres of drilling. Exploration drilling is focused on the Sebakwe and Day Zones following up from the success of the 2021 drill program. Definition drilling will focus exclusively on the Big Missouri deposit where mining is scheduled to commence. Drilling initially is conducted from surface but is anticipated to shift to underground drill stations as development enables access and will allow for shorter drill holes and more precise targeting. At the end of June, the drilling at Sebakwe was completed and the rig was moved to Big Missouri close to the S1 pit. The drilling at Sebakwe consisted of 15 drill holes for a total of 6,091

metres. Visual mineralization was intercepted in every hole at predictable intervals with at least two breccia zones surrounded by strong stockwork. On July 14, results from the first six holes were published and included multiple very good intercepts inside the breccia and stockwork zones. The interval with very large visible gold particles yielded 193 g/t over one metre as determined by a metallic screen assay.

The drill rig has been moved close to the S1 pit at Big Missouri, drill testing the early stopes in the area north of the S1 pit. Initial observations include quartz breccia with sulfide mineralization at or very near the expected location where high-grade mineralization has been wireframed from earlier drill holes. Assay results from the Big Missouri drill holes are pending. An assay lab is being set up in Stewart and it is anticipated to be operational in the first half of August coinciding with first access to ore in the underground development at Big Missouri. Ascot has signed a priority service contract with this new assay lab, and once it is in service, turnaround times are anticipated to be a fraction of what was experienced previously.

## **MANAGEMENT'S OUTLOOK FOR 2022**

As noted in the Company's press release of April 4, 2022, the Company is undergoing a process to refinance its Senior Facility with Sprott. As a result, the Company made the decision to slow down certain work packages and the general project construction until the refinancing has been completed. Consequently, certain critical construction activities such as the construction of the tailings dam and the new water treatment plant will be deferred until the spring of 2023. The Company is now targeting the start of production between late 2023 and early 2024.

Management is planning a number of activities for the remainder of 2022, which include:

- Completion of an optimized life of mine plan
- Completion of refinancing of the Senior Facility
- Advancement of underground ramp development with target delivery of ore for pre commissioning by Q4 2023
- Completion of a site preservation plan for a construction restart in Spring 2023
- Surface exploration drilling with a focus on the Day and Sebakwe zones
- Stope definition drilling at Big Missouri both from surface and underground
- Underground diamond drilling to probe additional historical openings
- Health and safety initiatives related to health screening and construction protocols
- Permit amendments due to slow down of certain construction activities

## **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

### **Operations**

#### **Three months ended June 30, 2022 compared to three months ended June 30, 2021**

The Company reported a net loss of \$1,054 for Q2 2022 compared to \$3,751 for Q2 2021. The decrease in the net loss is attributable to a combination of factors including:

- A \$4,450 increase in the gain on valuation of the Company's derivatives, driven by fluctuations in the variables used to calculate the fair value of the embedded derivatives;
- A \$1,054 increase in flow-through premium recognition, as the premium on flow-through shares issued in 2022 was higher than the premium on flow-through shares issued in 2021,

Partially offset by:

- A \$1,492 increase in foreign exchange loss due to the strengthening U.S. dollar, and
- Senior debt deferred financing costs of \$1,121 expensed during the quarter due to cancellation of remaining US\$60 million of the Senior debt.

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**Six months ended June 30, 2022 compared to six months ended June 30, 2021**

The Company reported a net loss of \$2,424 for the first half of 2022 compared to \$1,078 for the first half of 2021. The increase in the net loss is attributable to a combination of factors including:

- A \$1,223 increase in foreign exchange loss due to the strengthening U.S. dollar;
- Senior debt deferred financing costs of \$1,121 expensed during the quarter due to the cancellation of the remaining US\$60 million of the Senior debt;
- A \$611 increase in stock-based compensation expense due to stock options and units granted in Q1 2022, which were deferred from December 2021;
- A \$309 increase in general and administrative expense due to higher insurance, legal and professional costs in 2022

Partially offset by:

- A \$1,041 increase in flow-through premium recognition, as the premium on flow-through shares issued in 2022 was higher than the premium on flow-through shares issued in 2021;
- A \$570 increase in the gain on valuation of the Company's derivatives, driven by fluctuations in the variables used to calculate the fair value of the embedded derivatives, and
- The absence of a loss on marketable securities (first half of 2021: loss of \$285).

Key financial results for the last eight quarters are provided in the table below:

<b>C\$000</b>	<b>Q2 2022</b>	<b>Q1 2022</b>	<b>Q4 2021</b>	<b>Q3 2021</b>	<b>Q2 2021</b>	<b>Q1 2021</b>	<b>Q4 2020</b>	<b>Q3 2020</b>
Exploration & evaluation cost capitalized	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,695
Mineral property, plant & equipment cost capitalized	34,380	25,088	38,430	24,732	11,330	85	5,371	21
G & A expense	1,455	1,509	1,132	1,183	1,340	1,315	1,174	1,186
Stock-based compensation	487	1,070	305	472	418	528	1,481	289
Property maintenance costs	158	72	86	38	99	86	23	305
Net (loss) income	(1,054)	(1,370)	(170)	(1,700)	(3,751)	2,673	(4,436)	682
(Loss) income per share								
- basic and diluted	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.00)	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.01	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.00

Factors that can cause fluctuations in the Company's quarterly results include unrealized gains and losses on embedded derivatives, commitments and marketable securities, the nature and extent of exploration activities carried out under specific work programs, finance expenses, grant and vesting of stock options and units, and the issuance of shares. In Q4 2020, the Project was determined to be commercially viable and technically feasible. As a result, the exploration and evaluation costs on the Project were reclassified to mineral property, plant & equipment. Over the past eight quarters, the Company has been focused mainly on the exploration, engineering studies, permitting and construction of PGP. The Company carried out an exploration program on PGP in 2021, which started in May and wrapped up in October. Higher mineral property costs since Q2 2021 are a result of the Company commencing large-scale pre-construction activities at PGP in 2021. The 2022 exploration program commenced in May 2022. The fluctuations in net income (loss) from Q3 2020 to Q2 2022 were caused primarily by the changes in fair value of the Company's embedded derivatives, commitments and marketable securities.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

**Capital Resources**

In the first half of 2022, the Company issued 59,271,000 common shares (first half of 2021: 97,351,796), 13,710,500 warrants (first half of 2021: none), 3,732,284 stock options (first half of 2021: 403,190), 176,312 Deferred Share Units



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("DSU") (first half of 2021: 26,984), 721,432 Restricted Share Units ("RSU") (first half of 2021: none) and 162,162 Performance Share Units ("PSU") (first half of 2021: none). Also, 906,750 stock options expired and 17,902 RSUs were exercised during the first half of 2022.

The Company considers its capital structure to be primarily through shareholders' equity and Senior and Convertible Debt. Management's objective is to ensure that there is sufficient capital to minimize liquidity risk and to continue as a going concern. As an exploration and development stage company, the Company is unable to finance its operations from cash flow and has relied primarily on equity and debt financings.

Although the Company has been successful in the past in obtaining financing, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to obtain adequate financing in the future, or that the terms of such financings will be favourable.

**Liquidity**

In December 2020, the Company closed a project financing package with Sprott and Beedie for the development of the Project. The financing package consists of a) a US\$80 million Senior Debt; b) the Production payment agreement ("PPA"), and c) a US\$25 million Convertible Debt. Upon closing of the package, the Company made an initial draw-down of US\$20 million from the Senior debt for net proceeds of US\$13.2 million (CAD\$16.9 million) and received PPA consideration of US\$5.0 million (CAD\$6.4 million). The Company also made an initial draw-down of US\$10 million from the Convertible Debt. The proceeds were used to repay the existing convertible note. The availability of the Senior and Convertible Debt is subject to certain conditions and covenants, including the maintenance of minimum cash and working capital balances.

In April 2022, the Company announced that it had been unable to reach an agreement with Sprott on the satisfaction of the draw conditions for the remaining US\$60 million of the Senior Debt, which was available until June 30, 2022. Therefore, the Company is pursuing alternative financing options to replace the Senior Debt. At June 30, 2022, the US\$60 million undrawn Senior Debt was cancelled and Sprott waived the 5% cancellation fee. Until full project funding is secured, certain construction work packages have been put on hold to preserve the Company's current cash position. Given the delays in construction areas which require seasonal conditions, the target for the first gold pour will be delayed from the first quarter of 2023 until between late 2023 and early 2024, which resulted in a default on some of the covenants contained in the credit agreements with Sprott and Beedie. As of June 30, 2022, the Company obtained waivers from both Sprott and Beedie providing for limited suspension of covenant compliance requirements until November 30, 2022.

On April 9, 2021, the Company closed a bought deal financing. A total of 70,700,000 common shares of the Company were sold at a price of \$0.86 per common share for gross proceeds of \$60,802. The table below summarizes the expected use of proceeds as of the date of the financing:

Principal purposes	Expected use of proceeds C\$ in million	Actual use of proceeds (as of June 30, 2022) C\$ in million	Difference C\$ in million
Mineral property evaluation and detailed project engineering	8.0	8.5	(0.5)
Procurement and fabrication of equipment	12.0	12.8	(0.8)
Project construction	20.0	21.3	(1.3)
General, corporate and administrative expenses	17.2	14.6	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>-</b>

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On April 20, 2021, the Company closed a bought deal private placement. A total of 24,000,000 common shares of the Company were sold at a price of \$0.86 per common share for gross proceeds of \$20,640. The table below summarizes the expected use of proceeds as of the date of the financing:

Principal purposes	Expected use of proceeds C\$ in million	Actual use of proceeds (as of June 30, 2022) C\$ in million	Difference C\$ in million
Project construction	9.7	14.5	(4.8)
General, corporate and administrative expenses	9.6	-	9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>

The actual use of proceeds shown in the above table represents funds spent to date. The Company does not expect the final use of proceeds to differ materially from the expected use of proceeds.

On March 8, 2022, the Company closed a bought deal financing. A total of 59,271,000 common shares and 13,710,500 share purchase warrants were issued for gross proceeds of \$64,241. The table below summarizes the expected use of proceeds as of the date of the financing:

Principal purposes	Expected use of proceeds C\$ in million	Actual use of proceeds (as of June 30, 2022) C\$ in million	Difference C\$ in million
Procurement and fabrication of equipment	5.0	5.0	-
Project construction	31.2	31.2	-
Mine development	18.3	5.6	12.7
Exploration	3.7	1.2	2.5
General, corporate and administrative expenses	2.2	-	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>17.4</b>

The actual use of proceeds shown in the above table represents funds spent to date. The Company does not expect the final use of proceeds to differ materially from the expected use of proceeds.

In the first half of 2022, the Company spent \$6,838 on qualifying flow-through mining expenditures. As at June 30, 2022, the Company had a \$15,134 cash balance that is required to be spent on flow-through expenditures by December 31, 2022 (\$12,687) and 2023 (\$2,447).

As at June 30, 2022, the Company had working capital of \$37,855 (December 31, 2021: \$47,001) and a cash & cash equivalents balance of \$60,211 (December 31, 2021: \$59,129). The increase in cash & cash equivalents was due to the net proceeds of \$60,357 from the Offering partially offset by expenditures on mineral properties, plant and equipment of \$54,221; cash outflows from operating activities of \$4,455; deferred financing costs of \$232, and payment for lease liabilities of \$354.

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Included in accounts payable and accruals at June 30, 2022 is \$254 (December 31, 2021: \$384) due to the Company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Chief Operating Officer (COO) and directors.

**Ascot Resources Ltd**  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
**For the three and six months ended June 30, 2022**  
(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, except where indicated)

Key management personnel are persons responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of an entity, and include executive and non-executive directors as well as the Company's CEO, CFO and COO. Key management personnel compensation comprised:

	Three months ended June 30, 2022	Three months ended June 30, 2021	Six months ended June 30, 2022	Six months ended June 30, 2021
Salaries, short-term benefits and management fees	\$ 334	\$ 295	\$ 669	\$ 592
Project development costs	26	30	53	55
Share-based payment transactions	243	178	1,015	413
	<b>\$ 603</b>	<b>\$ 503</b>	<b>\$ 1,737</b>	<b>\$ 1,060</b>

During the first half of 2022, key management personnel were granted 2,304,036 stock options at a weighted average exercise price of \$1.11. Using the Black-Scholes model, the fair value of the options granted to key management personnel was determined at \$1,315.

During the first half of 2022, the Company granted 176,312 DSUs to its directors. Based on the Company's share price on grant dates, the total fair value of the DSUs was \$168. During the first half of 2022, the Company granted 381,327 RSUs to the Company's CEO, CFO and COO. Using the Black-Scholes model, the fair value of the RSUs granted to key management personnel was determined at \$423.

Share-based and option-based awards for 2021 were not granted until February 2022 as there was a Company-imposed blackout in December 2021, the time at which the annual grant is normally made. Therefore, the compensation for related parties in the first half of 2022 is higher than in the first half of 2021 due to the postponed equity grants.

#### COMMITMENTS, CONTRACTUAL AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

As at June 30, 2022, the Company's contractual and other obligations are as follows:

	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years	Total
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 23,165	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,165
Long-lead time equipment engineering and procurement	6,589	-	-	-	6,589
Senior and convertible debt principal, interest and fees (a)	2,536	44,980	6,037	-	53,553
Production payment agreement (b)	502	3,295	3,386	355	7,538
Reclamation liabilities (c)	329	1,166	686	37,383	39,564
Benefits agreement - PGP and RMP	500	700	675	800	2,675
Pre-production royalty - Red Mountain project	50	100	100	100	350
Minimum lease payments	443	588	62	-	1,093
	<b>\$ 34,114</b>	<b>\$ 50,829</b>	<b>\$ 10,946</b>	<b>\$ 38,638</b>	<b>\$ 134,527</b>

- (a) Interest on the Senior Debt from December 10, 2020 until June 30, 2022 (the "Availability Period") is capitalized and added to the principal loan amount. At all times following the last day of the Availability Period, all interest shall be payable in cash. At June 30, 2022, Sprott provided a waiver to the company to waive the cash payment of interest until November 30, 2022, so interest is capitalized and added to the principal until then. Principal and accrued interest are payable quarterly from September 30, 2023 to December 31, 2025, with quarterly repayments equal to 10% of the total amount outstanding at the end of the Availability Period.

Interest on the Convertible Debt is compounded quarterly and is added to the principal loan amount prior to the date which will occur when construction is complete and PGP has successfully completed an agreed completion test ("Completion Date"). All interest incurred after the Completion Date is payable in cash quarterly. Principal and capitalized interest are payable on December 10, 2023 (the maturity date, which may be extended by one year if all material permits, contracts and authorizations for PGP are in place). Any undrawn balance of the Convertible Debt incurs a standby fee of 3% beginning on December 10, 2020.

- (b) Under the PPA, the Company has agreed to pay Sprott monthly production payments equal to US\$13 multiplied by the number of ounces of gold from which the Company receives payment from December 10, 2020 until 450,000 ounces of gold have been produced.
- (c) The amount in reclamation liabilities are undiscounted cash expenditures.

### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires the use of certain accounting estimates. These estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the relevant facts and circumstances taking into account previous experience, but actual results may differ from amounts included in the financial statements.

Areas requiring estimates that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in the financial statements are:

#### ***Stock-based compensation***

Compensation expense for options granted to employees, directors and certain service providers is determined based on estimated fair values of the options at the time of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, which takes into account, as of the grant date, the fair market value of the shares, expected volatility, expected life, expected forfeiture rate, expected dividend yield and the risk-free interest rate over the expected life of the option. The use of the Black-Scholes option pricing model requires input estimation of the expected life of the option, volatility, and forfeiture rate which can have a significant impact on the valuation model, and resulting expense recorded.

Compensation expense for RSUs and PSUs granted to employees and consultants of the Company is calculated based on the fair value of RSUs or PSUs awarded, measured on their grant date. The fair value of RSUs and PSUs is based on the quoted market price of the Company's common shares on the day prior to the RSU or PSU grant date. Compensation expense for DSUs granted to directors is based on the fair value of DSUs awarded, calculated based on the quoted market price of the Company's common shares on the DSUs grant date.

#### ***Provision for decommissioning and site restoration***

The future obligations for site closure activities are estimated by the Company based on the laws and regulations of the countries in which it operates, with due consideration to the fact that the requirements could change as a result of amendments in the laws and regulations relating to environmental protection and other legislation affecting resources companies. Management's estimation of the Company's decommissioning and rehabilitation provision is based on the reclamation and closure activities it anticipates as being required and its estimate of the probable costs and timing of such activities and measures.

#### ***Derivative liabilities***

When debt includes an embedded derivative component, its fair value is estimated using a financial pricing model. The Company estimates the fair value of its interest rate floor derivative using Black's formula. The key assumptions used in the estimate are forward interest rates, discount rates and interest rate volatility. The Company estimates the fair value of its conversion option derivative using the Finite Difference method. The key assumptions used in the model are risk free rates, expected volatility and credit spread. The expected volatility assumption inherent in the pricing model is based on the historical volatility of the Company's stock over a term equal to the remaining term of the corresponding debt instrument. The credit spread assumption in the model is based on the Company's cost of unsecured debt.

#### ***Changes in estimate on timing of cash flows associated with PPA***

The value of the Company's PPA was initially calculated based on Ascot's anticipated future gold production schedule using discounted cash flows. When there is a significant change in the production schedule, the PPA's value is recalculated using discounted cash flows, which may result in a measurement adjustment of the PPA.

## FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, interest and other receivables, reclamation bonds, trade and other payables, senior and convertible debt and other liabilities. The recorded amounts of cash and cash equivalents, interest and other receivables, trade and other payables and other liabilities approximate their respective fair values due to their short-term nature. The carrying value of the reclamation deposit approximates its fair value, as it is cash-based. The carrying values of PPA and liability components of senior and convertible debt approximate their fair values since the increase in the market interest rates between the date of the debt inception (December 10, 2020) and June 30, 2022 is being offset by a decrease in the Company's overall risk profile, as Ascot now has all necessary permits for construction of the Project, which is expected to be completed in 2023.

### *Credit risk*

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to a concentration of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents. The Company limits its exposure to credit loss by placing its cash and cash equivalents with high credit quality financial institutions. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure.

### *Currency risk*

Foreign currency risk is the risk that a variation in exchange rates between the Canadian dollar and US dollar or other foreign currencies will affect the Company's operations and financial results. The Company's functional currency is the Canadian dollar and major purchases are transacted in Canadian dollars. The Company's significant financial instruments denominated in foreign currency (U.S. dollar) are the credit facilities and term deposits. A 10% decrease (increase) of the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar as at June 30, 2022 would result in an additional \$3,655 foreign exchange loss (gain) reported in the Company's statement of comprehensive loss (income) for the six months ended June 30, 2022 (six months ended June 30, 2021: \$2,706).

### *Interest risk*

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Company has interest-bearing assets in relation to cash at bank and GIC's carried at fixed interest rates. The Company's significant financial instruments valued using fluctuating risk-free interest rates are the derivative components of the senior and convertible debt. The Company's senior debt is carried at a floating interest rate. The Company has estimated that a one percentage point increase in the interest rate on its senior debt would have an annual impact on net earnings of approximately \$104 for the six months ended June 30, 2022. The Company's operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates. The Company has not used any financial instrument to hedge potential fluctuations in interest rates. The exposure to interest rates for the Company is considered minimal.

### *Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. The Company's policy is to ensure that it will always have sufficient cash to allow it to meet its liabilities when they become due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Company's reputation. The key to success in managing liquidity is the degree of certainty in the cash flow projections. If future cash flows are fairly uncertain, the liquidity risk increases.

The Company endeavors to ensure that it has sufficient cash on demand to meet its obligations as they become due by preparing annual capital and administrative expenditure budgets, which are regularly monitored and updated as considered necessary. Further, the Company utilizes authorizations for expenditures on exploration projects to further manage expenditure. The Company monitors its risk of shortage of funds by monitoring the maturity dates of existing trade and other accounts payable as well as the senior and convertible debt. Most of the Company's financial liabilities have

contractual maturities of less than 30 days and are subject to normal trade terms. Refer to “**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**” section above.

#### **OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA**

As at August 8, 2022, the Company had 435,640,030 common shares outstanding, 21,641,708 stock options, 13,710,500 share purchase warrants, 667,463 deferred share units, 1,727,234 restricted share units and 162,162 performance share units outstanding.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE**

Our inaugural Sustainability Report released in March 2022 highlights the measures taken and successes thus far in community relations, employment, health and safety, environmental stewardship and governance. The Sustainability Report also outlines Ascot's future sustainable goals. Ascot's 2021 Sustainability Report can be found at <https://ascotgold.com/sustainability/sustainability-reports/>.

##### **Community Relations and Employment**

Ascot believes that working together with our communities is essential to making a positive and sustainable impact. The Company works closely with Nisga'a Nation and the District of Stewart to ensure the responsible development of our projects by actively building and maintaining open, respectful, and collaborative relationships with each other. These relationships will lead to capacity building, job creation and economic opportunities during and beyond the life of the mine. Ascot continues to proactively engage, both formally and informally, with the surrounding communities via townhalls, council meetings, face-to-face meetings, and virtual meetings. Ascot has contributed to a number of educational events, youth sporting activities and a local gym.

Ascot has established strong lines of communication to share information and a respectful engagement process to work together to manage and mitigate any potential impacts on Nisga'a Nation Treaty rights and interests. During Q2 2022, Ascot and Nisga'a established oversight committees in accordance with the benefits agreement. Ascot attended the Nisga'a Business Forum in Gitwinksihlkw in June and supported the Prince Rupert Salmon Festival hosted by the Nisga'a Gitmaxmak'ay cultural dancers.

Ascot has contributed both directly and indirectly to the Stewart and Hyder economies during the development of PGP by staying at the local hotels, renting housing for employees and contractors, and shopping at the local grocery stores, bakery and gift shops. In Q2 2022, Ascot donated to the Stewart Museum, and assisted with development of an educational activity for members of the community. Ascot also contributed funds to the Bear Valley School (PAC event). A public information session was held in April 2022 in Stewart for all members of the surrounding communities.

##### **Corporate Governance**

Management and the Board recognize the value of good corporate governance and the need to adopt best practices. The Corporation is committed to continuing to improve its corporate governance practices in light of its stage of development and evolving best practices and regulatory guidance.

The Board has adopted a board mandate outlining its responsibilities and defining its duties. The Board currently has six board-appointed committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Governance and Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, the Disclosure Committee, and the Health, Safety, Environmental and Technical Committee. Each Committee (with exception of the Disclosure Committee which works from the Timely Disclosure, Confidentiality and Insider Trading Policy) has a committee charter, which outlines the committee's mandate, procedures for calling a meeting, and provides access to outside resources. The Audit, Compensation and Governance & Nominating Committees are comprised completely of independent directors while the other committees are comprised of a majority of independent directors with exception to the Disclosure Committee which is comprised of management and one independent director.

The Board has also adopted a Code of Ethics, which governs the ethical behavior of all employees, management, and directors. A separate Timely Disclosure, Confidentiality and Insider Trading Policy, Whistleblower Policy, Diversity Policy and Compensation Recovery Policy are also in place. For more details on the Corporation's corporate governance practices, refer to Ascot's website (<https://ascotgold.com/corporate/corporate-governance/>).

The Corporation's directors have expertise in exploration, metallurgy, mining, accounting, legal, banking, financing, and the securities industry. The Board and Audit Committee meet at least four times per year and the other committees convene on an as required basis (see the Company's Information Circular for more details).

#### **DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES ("DC&P")**

The Company has disclosure controls and procedures in place to provide reasonable assurance that any information required to be disclosed by the Company under securities legislation is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the applicable time periods and that required information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management so that decisions can be made about the timely disclosure of that information.

#### **INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING ("ICFR")**

##### **Management's Report on ICFR**

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective ICFR as such term is defined in the rules of the National Instrument 52-109 in Canada ("NI 52-109"). The Company's ICFR are designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Company's financial reporting for external purposes in accordance with IFRS. The Company's ICFR include policies and procedures for:

- Maintaining records, that in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company;
- Providing reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary for preparation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS;
- Providing reasonable assurance that receipts and expenditures are made in accordance with authorizations of management and the directors of the Company; and
- Providing reasonable assurance that unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of Company assets that could have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements would be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

There have been no changes in the Company's ICFR during the six months ended June 30, 2022 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's ICFR.

##### **Limitation of Controls and Procedures**

The Company's management, including its CEO and CFO, believe that any DC&P or ICFR, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, they cannot provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been prevented or detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by unauthorized override of the controls. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

## **RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Company's securities should be considered a highly speculative investment and investors are directed to carefully consider all of the information disclosed in the Company's regulatory filings prior to making an investment in the Company, including the risk factors discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's most recent Annual Information Form ("AIF") dated March 21, 2022 available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Resource exploration and project development are speculative businesses and involve a high degree of risk. There is a significant probability that the expenditures made by the Company in exploring and developing its properties will not result in discoveries of commercial quantities of minerals. A high level of ongoing expenditures is required to locate and estimate ore reserves, which are the basis for further development of a property. Capital expenditures to attain commercial production stage are also very substantial.

### **Russia-Ukraine military conflict**

In February 2022, Russian forces launched a military operation in Ukraine and in response, many countries have imposed significant economic sanctions against Russia and certain Russian individuals and institutions. The ongoing conflict and the related sanctions have resulted in considerable uncertainty in the global financial system, increased fuel prices, supply chain challenges and escalating cybersecurity disruptions and threats. To date, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict has not had a direct impact on the Company, as it does not have any significant exposure in either Russia or Ukraine from a business or personnel perspective. However, the conflict in Ukraine and the global response to it keep evolving, and future developments related to the conflict are difficult to predict. As such, the developing conflict may have a significant adverse impact on the Company's assets, liabilities, and overall financial condition as well as on the Company's project development and operational costs.

### **Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information**

All statements and other information contained in this MD&A about anticipated future events may constitute forward-looking information under Canadian securities laws ("forward-looking statements"). Forward-looking statements are often, but not always, identified by the use of words such as "seek", "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "estimate", "expect", "targeted", "outlook", "on track" and "intend" and statements that an event or result "may", "will", "should", "could" or "might" occur or be achieved and other similar expressions. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein are forward-looking statements, including statements in respect of the use of proceeds of the Offering, the advancement and development of the PGP and the timing related thereto, the exploration of the Company's properties and management's outlook for the remainder of 2022. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results or events to differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements, including risks associated with the business of Ascot; risks related to exploration and potential development of Ascot's projects; business and economic conditions in the mining industry generally; fluctuations in commodity prices and currency exchange rates; uncertainties relating to interpretation of drill results and the geology, continuity and grade of mineral deposits; the need for cooperation of government agencies and indigenous groups in the exploration and development of properties and the issuance of required permits; the need to obtain additional financing to develop properties and uncertainty as to the availability and terms of future financing; the possibility of delay in exploration or development programs and uncertainty of meeting anticipated program milestones; uncertainty as to timely availability of permits and other governmental approvals; risks associated with COVID-19 including adverse impacts on the world economy, construction timing and the availability of personnel; and other risk factors as detailed from time to time in Ascot's filings with Canadian securities regulators, available on Ascot's profile on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) including the Annual Information Form of the Company dated March 21, 2022 in the section entitled "Risk Factors". Forward-looking statements are based on assumptions made with regard to: the estimated costs associated with construction of the Project; the timing of the anticipated start of production at the Project; the ability to maintain throughput and production levels at the Premier Mill; the tax rate applicable to the Company; future commodity prices; the grade of Resources and Reserves; the ability of the Company to convert inferred resources to other categories; the ability of the Company to reduce mining dilution; the ability to reduce capital costs; and exploration plans. Forward-looking statements are based on estimates and



opinions of management at the date the statements are made. Although Ascot believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements and/or information are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements since Ascot can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Ascot does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements. The forward-looking information contained in this news release is expressly qualified by this cautionary statement.