

**Rusina cautious over Acoje results**  
Rebecca Lawson  
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**INITIAL results at Rusina Mining's saprolite drilling at its Acoje project in the Philippines have returned nickel widths of over 10m, but the company has warned that drilling of the saprolite nickel zone is "notoriously difficult".**

Rusina said the difficulty in drilling the saprolite was that the nickel is mostly associated with softer weathered material.

"Poor drilling or sample preparation procedures can result in unrepresentative results," the company said.

"If too much soft material is sampled, there will be a higher nickel grade reported, conversely if the soft material is washed away as may be the case in poor recovery drilling, the nickel grade will be understated."

Rusina explained that it had spent considerable time working with the drilling contractor to ensure maximum recovery of drill samples and said it is satisfied that the assays from drilling produces "reliable and repeatable results for measuring the saprolite".

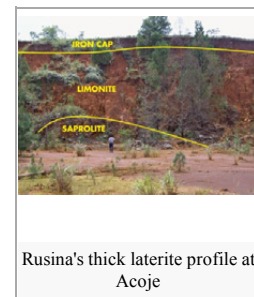
Better saprolite results include 17m at 1.97% nickel from 3m, 15m at 1.5% nickel from 6m, 14m at 1.99% nickel from 11m and 4m at 2.25% nickel from 4m.

"These initial drilling results show the potential for a significant saprolite resource at Acoje," Rusina said.

"It should be noted that the lower horizon of saprolite is very uneven, and no concrete conclusions can be drawn as to an average thickness at this stage."

The company said drilling will now increase following the proposed funding from European Nickel announced earlier this month, with the program to gain another drill rig.

Full-scale nickel production is expected to take place at Acoje by the third quarter of this year – a year earlier than expected.



Additionally, Rusina has also secured a mining joint venture with DMCI Holdings where one of their properties, Sodaco, lies inside Xstrata-Indophil's Tampakan project, which hosts an 11.6 million tonne copper resource and 14.6 million ounce gold resource, with plans to develop into a 210,000t per annum copper and 218,000ozpa gold operation.

According to Rusina, Sodaco is some 900m away from the Tampakan deposit.

"Wide zones of silification are developed at Sodaco in association with numerous high level dioritic intrusives known to be associated with the Tampakan deposit," Rusina said.

Rusina will manage the process to approve the current mineral production sharing agreement application and together with DMCI, evaluate the numerous options available to progress Sodaco.

Shares in Rusina have climbed 0.5c to 49c in trading this morning.

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