

Rare high purity quartz discovered in Newfoundland

By Nilima Choudhury

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High purity quartz deposits of significant tonnage are very rare and can command market prices of over \$100/tonne

Canadian gold exploration company Bowmore has discovered a broad zone of high purity quartz averaging 99.4% silicon dioxide (SiO₂) on the La Scie Gold property, located on the eastern extremity of the Baie Verte peninsula in Newfoundland.

The high purity quartz zone is 2,500 metres-long and was sampled for gold but returned very low to nil gold values.

Bowmore's chief geologist observed that a portion of the silicified body was snow-white and showed potential for high purity quartz, used notably in the production of solar photovoltaics panels, high temperature lamp tubings and telecommunications. The zone as exposed on surface has a minimum length of 290 metres by 3.5 to 15 metres in apparent width.

"As far as we know, there are no other deposits of this type in the area. We just happened to discover silica on our property, and if possible our intention is to capitalize on the discovery," a spokesperson for Bowmore told IM.

Bowmore is presently conducting research to identify potential end users for this valuable industrial mineral.

"The good or optimistic thing with the discovery of the silica zone, is that if the deposit is deemed (based on the upcoming drilling results) to be significant in size, with constant purity (we have already seen with the sample results that the purity is very very good), then we can hope to find a buyer for this deposit," Bowmore said.

High purity quartz deposits of significant tonnage are very rare and the crushed material can command market prices of over \$100/tonne.

Furthermore, the La Scie silica zone is easily accessible and is located within 3km from the deep-water port facility of La Scie, currently being used for salt shipments, which is of critical importance to the potential development of the zone.

"The sale of this deposit or the production of the deposit by Bowmore would then mean that the company could then become self-financed, with this money in the bank, not having to go to market to raise additional working capital," the spokesperson explained.

"An auto-financed junior exploration company is rare in the market, and this would certainly increase shareholder value, and allow us to push important drill programs forward," the company added.

Bowmore has said demand for permitting is in progress and a first phase drill programme (~500 metres) is being planned for this winter in order to establish the size of the high purity quartz zone.