

PRESS RELEASE

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DALRADIAN HIRES EIGHT LOCAL WORKERS FOR DRILLING PROGRAMME

Dalradian, the firm planning to develop an underground gold and silver mine at Curraghinalt in West Tyrone, has announced details of its latest drilling programme.

The drill programme has created eight jobs for locally based drillers and drill assistants who have previous experience of working on Dalradian's project.

The drilling, which involves three rigs, is taking place near the existing gold and silver deposit at Curraghinalt. It will provide further information on the extent and grade of the mineral deposit.

The Curraghinalt deposit is one of the world's top undeveloped gold deposits by grade and Dalradian's project is expected to create 1,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs when the proposed mine is operational.

Peter McKenna, Dalradian's Community Relations Manager, said:

"Dalradian is required by its licence to provide a detailed understanding of the Curraghinalt deposit and we have drilled more than 500 boreholes in the area since 2010.

"The current drill programme will support eight jobs locally and help deepen the area's mining skill set. It's important for Dalradian to employ local people as it provides an opportunity to enhance their skills and provide training in anticipation of the mine opening.

"Dalradian already employs 40 people in its Omagh and Gortin offices, but we have plans to directly employ 350 people locally with an average salary of £40,000 should the mine become operational. While many of these roles will be non-technical, we will also be drawing upon the region's rich engineering and industrial know-how, and providing extensive training programmes.

"Exploratory drilling provides further understanding of the deposit and is an ongoing process that typically continues even while mining is taking place.

"The drill programme is permitted based on an extensive environmental submission that details protection for flora and fauna. As with all aspects of Dalradian's operations the drilling is carried out under strict environmental regulations and with the approval of regulatory bodies such as the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Health & Safety Executive, the Department for Economy, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and NI Water.

“Once the drilling has been completed the site will be fully remediated and returned to normal agricultural use.”

Modern mineral exploration has been taking place in West Tyrone since the 1970s. Dalradian acquired the project in 2009.

The company offers ‘Tunnel Tours’ to members of the public who want to find out more about how the proposed underground mine will operate and to experience first-hand how it feels to go underneath the Sperrins. The tours can be arranged through Dalradian’s Gortin office at 028 816 48012.

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For further information please contact MCE Public Relations

Jonathan King or Matthew Morrison

T: 028 9026 7099