

# With the price of tin skyrocketing, investors eye the high grades of Alphamin

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The tin price boom continues with the price now at [US\\$43,023/t](#), up ~3.5x from the 2020 low. The main drivers have been surging tin demand from the electronics and green energy sectors and a limited supply.

Tin is mostly used as solder, particularly in photovoltaic installations, electric vehicles, and electronics. The good thing about tin is that tin solder prices can go up, but that, so far, has had minimal impact on a company's costs. The biggest producers of tin are China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Peru, Thailand, Bolivia and Myanmar.

According to the International Tin Association ("ITA"), the global tin market [deficit is forecast to rise to 12,700t in 2022](#), from a 10,200t deficit in 2021. The ITA says that a [US\\$30,000/t](#) tin price is required to incentivize additional supply in response to demand growth.

Today's company is riding the wave of the tin price boom with increasing production from its Mpama North Mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC.

## Tin prices – 10 year chart



Source: [Trading Economics](#)

[Alphamin Resources Corp.](#) (TSXV: AFM) ("Alphamin") stock price is

up exactly [100%](#) in the past year thanks to booming tin prices and its growing production.

Alphamin is a high grade, low cost, tin concentrate producer at its Mpama North Mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Alphamin has the highest-grade tin resource, globally, with a Resource Reserve of [3.33MT @ 4.01% Sn \(tin\) resulting in 133.4 kt of contained tin](#). Alphamin's production equates to [~4%](#) of the world's mined tin.

Alphamin state:



Source: [Alphamin website](#)

Q4, 2021 results from Alphamin were a knockout. The Company [announced](#) the following:

- **“Contained tin production up 10% from the prior quarter to 3,114 tons**
- **Contained tin sales up 13% from the prior quarter to 3,056 tons**
- **Record Q4 EBITDA<sup>4</sup> guidance of US\$74 million, up 38% from prior quarter actual**
- **Net cash position increases to US\$68 million**
- **FY2021 dividend of CAD\$0.03 per share declared.”**

The 3,114 tons in Q4 2021 puts Alphamin on an annual run rate of 12,456 tons pa. At current spot prices of US\$43,023 Alphamin would be on track for another year of record revenues (~US\$535 million) in 2022. In the above Q4 release the Company guided cautiously for 12,000t of production in 2022. There was also mention of an ongoing drilling campaign with six rigs on-site.

On February 1, 2022, Alphamin [announced](#) the results of the

above-mentioned drilling campaign. Results were again spectacular and included:

- **“Mpama South high-grade assay results<sup>2</sup>** received, including BGH079 which is the best drillhole assayed to date at Mpama South by contained tin: BGH079: **15.6 metres @ 5.00% Sn** from 290.2 metres, **including 10.0 metres @ 6.1% from 291.1 metres.....**
- **Mpama North high-grade assay results<sup>2</sup>** received, including MND011 which is the second best drillhole assayed to date at Mpama North by contained tin: MND011: **19.6 metres @ 17.16% Sn** from 419.3 metres, **including 14.5 metres @ 23.0%.”**

Imagine the excitement drilling “14.5 metres @ 23.0% tin (“Sn”) when tin prices are at US\$43,023/t.

**Mpama South is shaping up to potentially be another large high-grade resource – Maiden Resource due soon**



Source: [Alphamin news Feb. 1, 2022](#)

### **Next steps**

The next step for Alphamin is the release of a Maiden Mineral Resource estimation for Mpama South due in Q1 2022. Following this will be quarterly results throughout 2022.

### **Alphamin investment highlights**



Source: [Alphamin company presentation](#)

### **Closing remarks**

It is a great time to be a tin producer. Even better if you are a high-grade, low-cost, tin producer expanding production. And even better again if you can drill into 23% tin grades and grow your resource.

2022 is shaping up to be another very good year for Alphamin Resources. The Company trades on a market cap of [~US\\$1.3 billion](#) up over 36% on when [I wrote on them](#) in Sept. 2021 on a then market cap of C\$953 million. Stay tuned for the Mpama South Maiden Resource release soon.

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## Maritz Smith on the global shortage of tin and Alphamin's record Q3 EBITDA

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In a recent InvestorIntel interview, Tracy Weslosky spoke with Maritz Smith, CEO of [Alphamin Resources Corp.](#) (TSXV: AFM) about Alphamin's recent [news release](#) on achieving record Q3 EBITDA, and about its net debt free position supported by rising tin prices and increased tin production at Alphamin's Mpama North Mine.

In this InvestorIntel interview, which may also be viewed on YouTube ([click here to subscribe to the InvestorIntel Channel](#)), Maritz Smith said that, primarily used for soldering circuit board connections, tin is the glue that holds our technology, as well as circuit boards, together, but that there is a global shortage of tin at the moment because of decades of limited

investment in tin exploration. Currently producing 4% of the world's tin, Maritz said that Alphamin is well-positioned to capitalize on the growth potential in the tin market and ultimately fill a substantial portion of the supply gap going forward.

To watch the full interview, [click here](#).

### **About Alphamin Resources Corp.**

Alphamin Resources is a low cost tin concentrate producer from its high grade deposit at Mpama North. This is on its mining license and it has an additional five exploration licenses covering a total of 1,270km<sup>2</sup> in the North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Alphamin is headquartered in Mauritius and listed both on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSXV: AFM) and on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange AltX (JSE AltX: APH). At a tin grade of roughly 4.5%, Mpama North is the world's highest-grade producing tin resource – about four times higher than most other operating tin mines in the world. The Mpama North mine is in production. It has an output of ~10 000 tonnes of contained tin per annum, amounting to ~3% of the world's mined tin supply. Alphamin is aiming to increase annual tin output and life of mine through incremental production from Mpama South and by adding more mines in close proximity to the current production and from within its licensed footprint. The management team has successfully developed and brought the Bisie tin mine into production and is focused on taking the business to the next level as they pursue their objective of realizing the full value potential of this extraordinary tin complex.

To learn more about Alphamin Resources Corp., [click here](#)

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If you have any questions surrounding the content of this interview, please email [info@investorintel.com](mailto:info@investorintel.com).

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# Alphamin Resources is producing the glue of technology

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When last we looked at [Alphamin Resources Corp.](#) (TSXV: AFM) in early May the stock was [up 177% in 5 months](#). It was a cash flow machine with exploration upside of a critical material – Tin. Since then not a lot has changed, the company is still generating massive amounts of cash flow and is using much of that free cash to expand its resource base with the goal of extending mine life out by decades. Interestingly though, tin prices are up another 12% since then while Alphamin's stock price is actually down a little bit, closing yesterday at \$0.69/share versus it's May 11<sup>th</sup> close of \$0.72.

Before we have a look at what's currently going on at Alphamin let's talk a little more about tin first. Why are tin prices continuing to rock 'n' roll even when we've seen many other commodities (like copper and lumber) retreat from their recent highs? As noted, tin is a critical material, making the U.S. Department of the Interior's 2018 list of [35 mineral commodities considered critical](#) to the economic and national security of the United States. The reason it's so important is because tin is the glue of technology (a great quote I borrowed from Alphamin's CEO Maritz Smith in an [interview with InvestorIntel's Tracy Weslosky](#) earlier this week). Half of the world's tin demand is from solder, which is used in all circuit boards and will be a critical component of future technological developments. It's

also [a relatively scarce element](#) with an abundance in the earth's crust of about 2 parts per million (ppm), compared with 94 ppm for zinc, 63 ppm for copper, and 12 ppm for lead. And lastly, any near term supply additions from the likes of Indonesia, China and Myanmar require an estimated price of roughly US\$30,000/tonne to make economic sense to bring incremental production online.

Perhaps that's why tin closed at US\$33,510/tonne yesterday. Things look pretty good from both a supply and demand perspective. So who better to talk about in this environment than the company that owns the world's highest grade tin resource, about four times higher than most other operating tin mines in the world, responsible for approximately 4% of global tin production. It should come as no surprise that the latest guidance from Alphamin is for [EBITDA of \\$34 million](#) for the quarter ending June 2021 which has led to a debt reduction of 50% from the start of the financial year to \$29.9 million. Granted the EBITDA number is slightly lower than Q1 but that's due to the previous quarter benefitting from significant catch-up sales following logistical bottlenecks during Q4.

Naysayers may also focus on slightly lower tin grades and plant recovery rates versus Q1 but the variable nature of tin mineralisation in the orebody can cause material fluctuations in delivered grade. Ultimately, the overall resource estimate at Mpama North is a tin grade of 4.5% versus the latest quarter achieving a grade of only 3.2%. My simplistic view is that over time this number should revert to the mean but I'm not sure if that's how geology and resource estimates work. The positive is that the plant processed 12% more ore quarter over quarter and the fine tin recovery plant is fully commissioned and producing effective June 26<sup>th</sup>, which has the potential to increase contained tin production by 5%-10%. Also, the average Q2 tin



price was US\$28,326/tonne, well below current prices. My takeaway is far more positives than negatives but the market will ultimately decide, regardless of my opinion.

Those are all the tangible numbers you can sink your teeth into but the exciting part (to me at least) is the anticipation of a massive exploration program. In early June, Alphamin [announced results](#) from the first 29 of their 70-hole drill programme. Drill results at Mpama South (which account for 46 holes of the overall plan) showed continued presence and orientation of high-grade samples pointing to the potential for another high-grade deposit 750m south of current operations. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so rather than ramble on about various drill highlights I'll let you look at a picture.



Source: [Alphamin Resources June 8, 2021 Press Release](#)

Results are still pending on the last 17 holes drilled at Mpama South. Drilling at the Mpama North orebody commenced on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with an initial 15,000 metre (22 holes) drilling campaign over the next 4 months. Drilling is planned to test the strike and dip extension of the current producing orebody with the aim to extend the life-of-mine. In addition, the Company is planning to drill on the highly prospective Bisie ridge (13km strike length), which falls within the Company's mining licence. This is expected to commence in August, with access roads having been established and initial drill targets being developed.

There's nothing better than a story that has lots of cash flow, potentially debt free in the foreseeable future and lots of exploration upside in a commodity with a pretty good supply/demand outlook. The one caveat is that it's a single mine asset in a potentially challenging geographic and geopolitical location (Democratic Republic of Congo). To me that's what makes

investing so interesting.

*Disclosure: The author is long Alphamin Resources Corp. (TSXV: AFM).*