



29 June 2010

## **BLACKTHORN RESOURCES DELIVERS A 3<sup>RD</sup> DRILLING RIG AT MUMBWA**

### **KEY POINTS**

- **ADDITIONAL BOART LONGYEAR DRILLING RIG MOBILISED TO THE MUMBWA JV PROJECT SITE IN ZAMBIA.**
- **THREE DRILLING RIGS ARE NOW ONSITE FOR THE PLANNED 10,100m DRILLING PROGRAM.**
- **DRILLING OF 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLE WAS COMPLETED TO A DEPTH OF 851m, WHICH EXCEEDS THE ORIGINAL PLANNED DEPTH OF 800 METRES. SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF THIS HOLE IS UNDERWAY.**
- **THE INDUCED POLARISATION (IP) SURVEY IS CONTINUING FOLLOWING SOME INITIAL EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS. ALL EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN REPAIRED AND THE IP SURVEY IS PROGRESSING AS PLANNED.**



Blackthorn Resources Limited (ASX: BTR, “the Company” or “Blackthorn Resources”) is pleased to announce an additional drilling rig has arrived at the Mumbwa Joint Venture (JV) Project in Zambia to supplement the current Phase 4 drilling program. There are now three drilling rigs on site, which are planning to drill test 12 targets. The planned targets are situated along the north-south trending “Mushingashi-Mutoya” density anomaly, which has a 19 km strike length and extends from the Kitumba region in the south to the Mushingashi region in the north (FIGURE 1).

The area is being explored by the JV partners for an Iron-Oxide-Copper-Gold (IOCG) style of mineralisation similar to existing deposits at Olympic Dam, Ernest Henry and Prominent Hill in Australia.

The Phase 4 drilling program is progressing and has completed drilling the first hole on the ‘SM-01 Anomaly’ in the South Mushingashi area. The first hole ‘MUM-001’ was drilled to a final depth of 851m, which exceeds the initial planned depth of 800 metres. The decision to continue drilling beyond the proposed depth was based on the observation of interesting geology and possible mineralisation in the core.

Other targets currently being drilled include the SM-02, MU-01 and MU-02 targets as shown in FIGURE 2. These targets are situated at the southern end of the regional-scale gravity anomaly, which also includes some co-incident magnetic and radiometric anomalies. The current drill sites are located within 5km from the Kitumba resource area where Blackthorn Resources reported a maiden inferred mineral resource in October 2009.

#### **INDUCED POLARISATION SURVEY**

It is planned to drill holes along the *Mushingashi-Mutoya* anomaly while also conducting a geophysical IP survey over several lines across the planned drill sites to review the effectiveness of this type of survey and ensure site selection is optimal.

Some equipment problems were encountered during the initial survey. However, these problems have been rectified and the IP survey is now progressing as planned. Further orientation work is required to determine the effectiveness of the IP survey based on the current line spacing and configuration of sensors.

PRESS RELEASE

#### **PHASE 4 PROGRAM AND CONCEPT STUDY**

Joint venture partner BHP Billiton (40%) is currently funding and managing the Phase 4 program, which includes drilling 10,100m from 12 planned targets. The Phase 4 program also includes an agreed *Scope of Work* for a Concept Study, which will review the Mumbwa JV Project as a whole and determine if there is potential to develop an economically viable mining operation.

The JV partners have agreed on the Concept Study milestones, which will be periodically reviewed as the program continues and will include an independent peer review of the Concept Study outcomes.

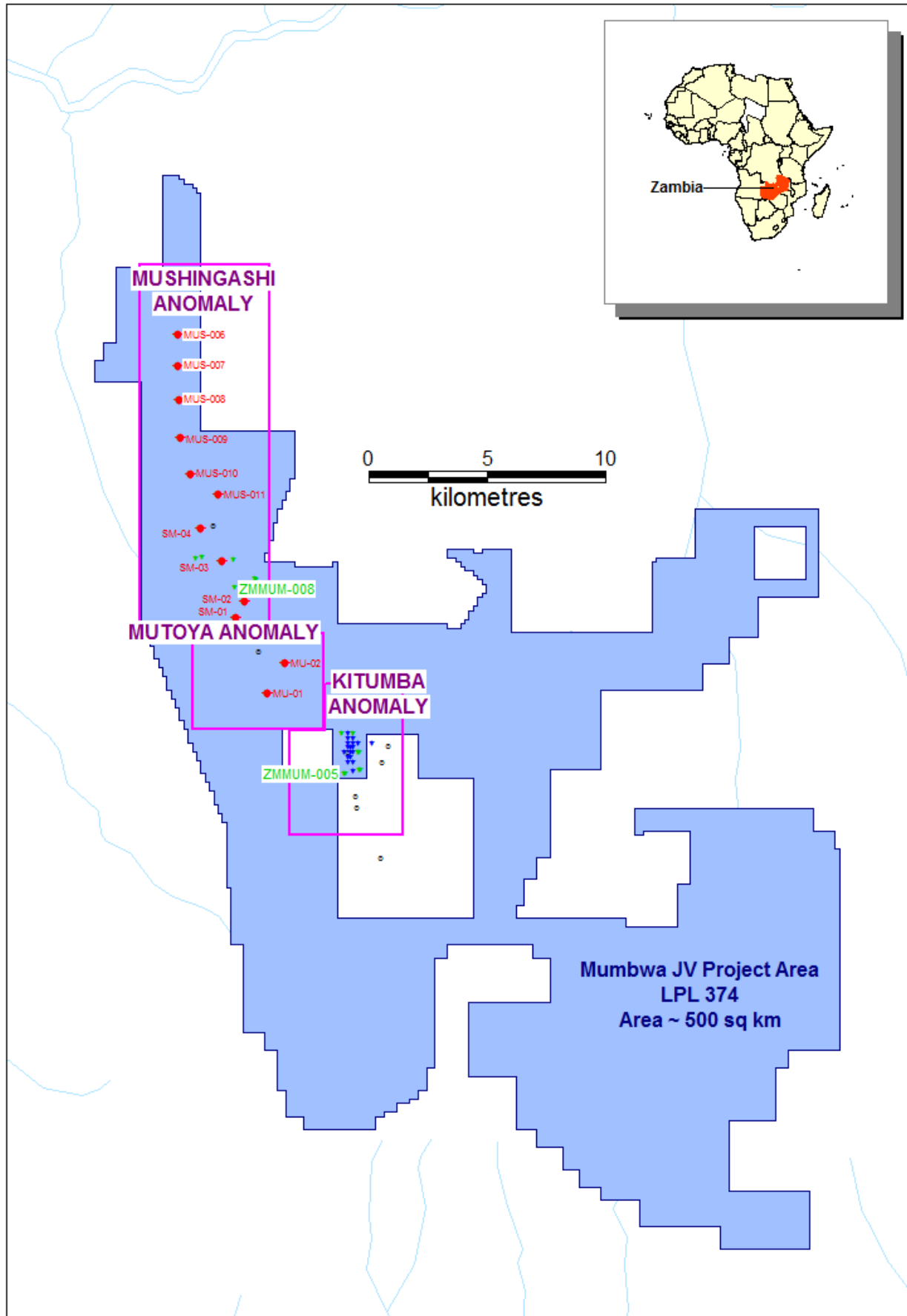
Managing Director Scott Lowe said

*“The allocation of an additional drilling rig to the Project is a very positive development and will allow the JV to more readily assess the scale and potential of the geology at Mumbwa. Blackthorn Resources remains optimistic about the potential of this project and will continue to work closely with BHP Billiton to review the progress and outcomes of the drilling.*

*The following few months will be an exciting time for the Company and its Shareholders as the real scale of the Mumbwa Project is uncovered.”*

**Should you require further information please contact:**

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**FIGURE 1** – Tenement Plan for the Mumbwa JV Project showing the extent of the Mushingashi-Mutoya anomaly and Kitumba area.



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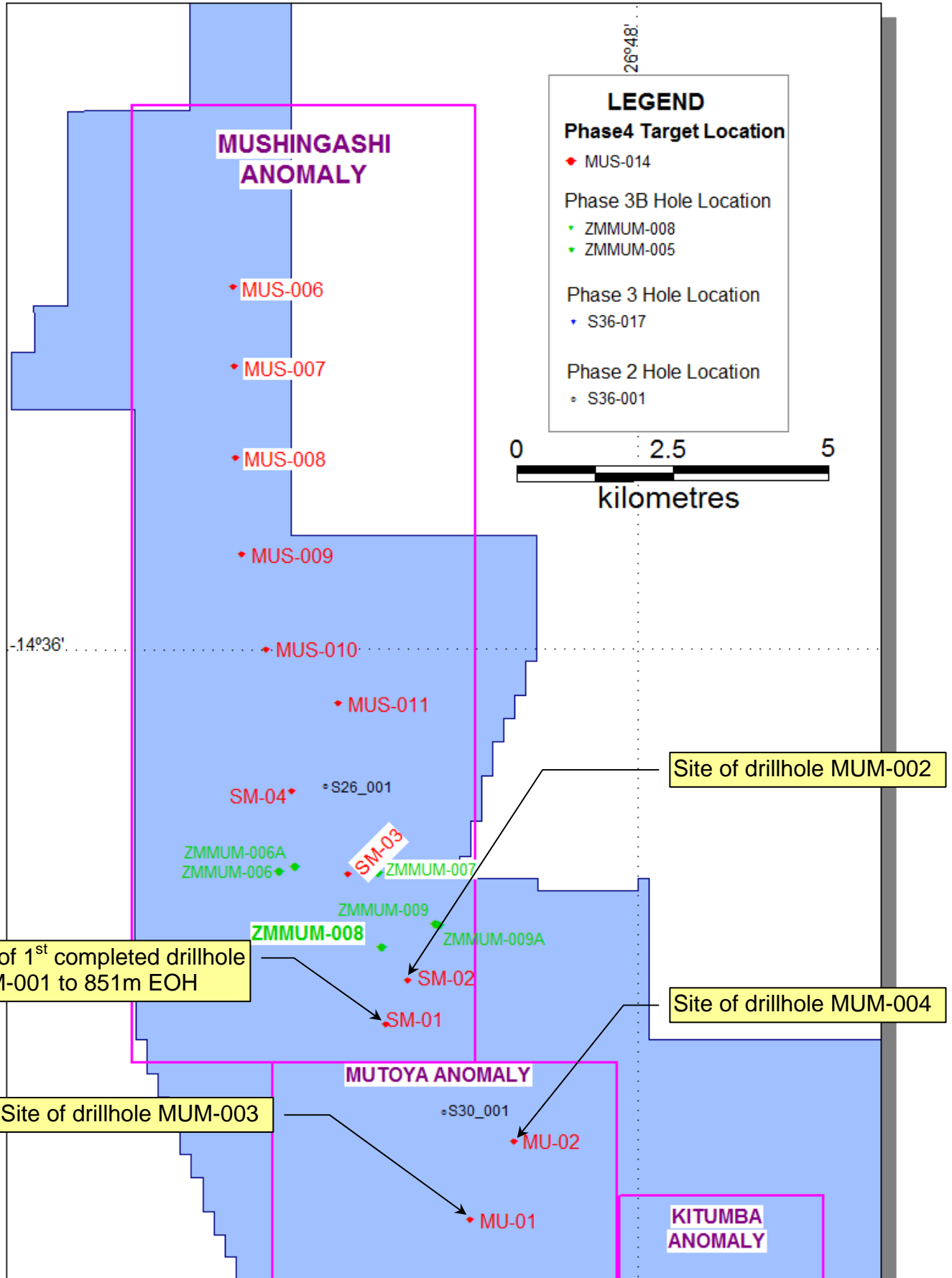


FIGURE 2 – Drillhole location plan showing sites for 12 planned targets over the Mutoya and Mushingashi anomalies