

Fountain Ridge changes hands

James Allan & Associates has bought the Fountain Ridge platinum project from Ridge Mining plc for R70m. Says James Allan: "While we are principally corporate advisors to the mining and related industries, we are prepared to take an equity position, usually as shares in lieu of fees. When we were advising a client on Ridge Mining, we noticed that Fountain Ridge appeared to have been overlooked in favour of Ridge's more advanced projects. We approached Ridge's Terence Wilkinson and told him we would like to buy it. It is now a done deal."

Says Wilkinson: "The sale of our interest in Fountain Ridge continues our strategy to concentrate on our development projects Blue Ridge and Sheba's Ridge."

Fountain Ridge is housed in Madibeng Platinum, in which Ridge Mining has a 51% interest. Madibeng encompasses the farm Hoekfontein 432JQ, close to Brits on the Western Limb of the Bushveld Complex. To date, Madibeng has undertaken an aeromagnetic survey and the drilling of one borehole. James Allan & Associates will begin drilling on the property as soon as permission has been obtained from the Department of Minerals and Energy.

"We have built an investment portfolio, and accrued the capital to undertake exploration drilling ourselves. Two years ago, we had no drills, now we have eight diamond-drilling rigs



René Hochreiter and James Allan.

– all fully committed – and more are on order."

Mining analyst René Hochreiter joined long-time colleague Allan in November after several years at Nedbank. "René and I go back a long way, and I am delighted that he has come aboard to participate in the growth of the company," says Allan. "We will shortly be changing our name to Allan Hochreiter (Pty) Ltd."

James Allan & Associates was instrumental in the revival of Diamond Core Resources and raised a healthy R232m on the JSE for Diamond Core for project development and exploration in South Africa. James Allan also advised BHP Billiton on the disposal of Koornfontein Mines in 2006. ○