# UCORE RARE METALS INC. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Ucore Rare Metals Inc. ("Ucore" or the "Company"), prepared as of April 29, 2013, provides analysis of the Company's financial results for the year ended December 31, 2012. The following information should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes thereto for the year ended December 31, 2012 which are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. All amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

This discussion includes certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements". All statements in this discussion, other than statements of historical facts, that address anticipated operating costs, possible future resource property expenditures, reserve potential, exploration drilling, exploitation activities and events or developments that the Company expects, are considered forward-looking because we have used what we know and expect today to make a statement about the future. Although the Company believes the expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements usually include words such as may, expect, plan, anticipate, budget, believe or similar words. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include market prices, exploitation and exploration successes, continued availability of capital and financing and general economic, market or business conditions. Additional details of the specific risks associated with the operations of the Company and such forward-looking statements are set out below under "Risks and Uncertainties". Investors are cautioned that any such statements are not guarantees of future performance and that actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements.

#### Overview

Ucore Rare Metals Inc. ("Ucore" or the "Company") is a junior exploration company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange (the "Exchange"), whose corporate strategy is to build shareholder value through the exploration and development of economically viable rare earth element ("REE") and uranium properties. Ucore is currently focusing its exploration activities on its Bokan Mountain/Dotson Ridge property in Alaska, while exploring various options for advancement of its other properties..

On November 28, 2012, the Company released a preliminary economic assessment, prepared by Tetra Tech on the Bokan property, which estimated an NPV of \$577 million at a 10% discount rate and an IRR of 43%. Further details of the assessment are disclosed below.

Until a decision is made to proceed with the commercial development of one of its properties, the annual level of exploration expenditures of the Company is dependent on the Company's ability to either raise capital through the sale of shares or to attract project financing to continue to finance its exploration programs.

#### **Resource Property Interests**

Ucore's primary focus during 2012 was, and continues to be the Bokan Mountain/Dotson Ridge REE property in Alaska, where the Company incurred the majority of its exploration expenditures in 2012. Ucore's strategy continues to be, to the extent possible, to progress its properties, to seek strategic opportunities for the advancement of its properties or to release the properties. A detail of the Company's deferred exploration costs for the year ended December 31, 2012 is included in Schedule "A".

#### Bokan Mountain/Dotson Ridge, Alaska

In 2006, the Company acquired the right to the Bokan Mountain property through five separate option agreements to acquire a 100% interest in a parcel of unpatented mineral claims from underlying owners and through staking a 100% interest in an additional parcel of prospective ground. The option agreements provide for the Company to acquire a 100% interest in the optioned claims in exchange for total remaining payments of US\$90,000. The five vendors will retain Net Smelter Royalties ("NSR") ranging from 2% to 4% on their specific claims. The Company has the right to purchase between 33% and 100% of the NSR for cash payments of US\$500,000 to US\$1,000,000 per vendor.

On November 28, 2012, the Company reported the results of the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) completed by Tetra Tech of Vancouver, BC, regarding the Dotson Ridge Zone of the Company's Bokan Mountain heavy rare earth property in Southeast Alaska.

#### **Highlights of the PEA Include:**

- Net Present Value (NPV): \$577M at a 10% discount rate, pre-tax.
- Internal Rate of Return (IRR): 43%.
- Payback Period: 2.3 years.
- Capital Cost: \$221M, including a complete on-site rare earth oxide (REO) separation plant, and a
  contingency provision in the amount of \$25M. Among the lowest capital outlays in the rare earth
  mining sector.
- Mining Rate: 1,500 tonnes per day (TPD), 75% of mill feed is eliminated via the use of Dual Energy X-Ray Transmission (DEXRT) sorting and magnetic separation, netting approximately 375 TPD to feed the leach circuit.
- Average Total Rare Earth Recoveries: 81.6%
- **Production of REOs at site:** Deployment of Solid Phase Extraction (SPE) technology to generate high purity individual rare earth oxides at the site.
- **REO Production:** Averaging 2,250 tonnes per year (TPY) during the first five years at full production, including 95 tonnes of dysprosium oxide, 14 tonnes of terbium oxide, and 515 tonnes of yttrium oxide.
- Mine Life: 11 years, based on existing Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate (April 21, 2011), excluding
  highly prospective expansion at depth, along strike, and other exploration targets at the I&L Zone and
  beyond.
- **Direct Employment:** 170 employees.
- **Ease of Shipping Access:** Only rare earth project with immediate deep water shipping facilities, resulting in prospective mine-mouth shipping rates among the lowest in the industry.
- Elimination of Tailings on Surface at Closure: Only known mine to eliminate tailings on surface at closure. All tailings will be placed underground via cemented paste backfill. The processing plant will generate approximately 735 TPD of tailings, significantly less than the mine requirement of approximately 1,030 TPD backfill.
- Recycling of Nitric Acid: Nitric acid that is not consumed in the leach circuit will be recycled through
  the use of diffusion dialysis, greatly reducing acid consumption by more than 75%, resulting in
  significant financial and environmental benefits.
- Near Term, High Value Production: Relative high percentage of rare earth metals strategically critical
  to the US defense, clean energy, aerospace, supercomputing and transportation sectors: including Tb,
  Dy and Y.
- **Excellent Geopolitical Support**: Offset of completion risk through strong legislative and financial support at state and federal levels.

#### Overview of Bokan Project and PEA

Ucore's Bokan Mountain project is located on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, approximately 60 km southwest of Ketchikan, Alaska and 140 km northwest of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, with direct ocean access to the western seaboard and the Pacific Rim. The project is situated in the Tongass National Forest, within an area set aside for natural resource development.

The PEA has been completed based on the Inferred Resource Estimate Technical Report filed on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 by Ucore, with the exclusion of the I&L Zone. The resource was estimated by R. J. Robinson of Aurora Geosciences. The resource incorporated into the current mine plan totals 5.3 million tonnes, with an average grade of 0.65% total rare earth oxides (TREO), at a cut-off grade of 0.4% TREO. Of the TREO, approximately 40% are comprised of heavy rare earth oxides. A summary of the operating assumptions and financial model for the project is as follows:

| Item             | Units | Year 1  | Year 2  | Annual for balance of |
|------------------|-------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
|                  |       |         |         | mine life             |
| Tonnes Mined     | Mt    | 198,000 | 470,900 | 540,000               |
| Tonnes Processed | Mt    | 198,000 | 470,900 | 540,000               |
| Mined Grade TREO |       | 0.416%  | 0.511%  | 0.473%                |
| Recovery         |       | 81.6%   | 81.6%   | 81.6%                 |

|   | (million \$US) |
|---|----------------|
| Total Revenue                             | \$2,546        |
| Initial Capital Expenditure               | \$221          |
| Sustaining Capital                        | \$145          |
| Total Before-Tax Cash Flow (undiscounted) | \$1,516        |
| Before-tax NPV @ 8%                       | \$697          |
| Before-tax NPV @ 10%                      | \$577          |
| Before-tax NPV @ 12%                      | \$478          |
| Before tax IRR (%)                        | 43%            |

## Geology

The Dotson Ridge deposit is a well delineated rare earth element (REE) mineralized vein-dike system related to the Mesozoic Bokan peralkaline granitic complex. The mineralized system is a tabular body exposed at the surface for a strike length of 3.5 km. The deposit was drilled to a depth of 450 m, and remains open both along strike and at depth. The system outcrops along the ridge so that it is readily accessible for drilling and bulk sampling. The REE-bearing veins can be visually identified from the surrounding host rock and the material is amenable to DEXRT sorting, as noted below. An existing road network provides access to all main target areas. There are a number of other occurrences of REE mineralization located within, or at the margins of the Bokan complex which remain highly prospective exploration targets.

## **Proposed Mining Plan**

The underground mine design was completed by Stantec of Tempe, AZ. The design contemplates trackless mining with adit access and blasthole stoping with paste backfill as the preferred mining method for the

project. This mining approach will result in a production rate of 1,500 tonnes per day, at a 0.4% TREO cut-off grade.

The mine plan proposes the use of mill tailings as cemented paste backfill to fill the mined out areas of the underground workings. At full production, the mill will produce approximately 735 TPD of tailings and the mine will require 1,030 TPD of backfill. This will result in all tailings being placed underground as backfill, thereby eliminating the need for a tailings facility at surface upon mine closure. Waste rock will be utilized for the remainder of the backfill.

#### **Proposed Beneficiation and Processing Plan**

The proposed processing flow sheet consists of three areas: physical beneficiation, leaching and downstream REO separation.

#### i) Physical Beneficiation

The mine will produce 1,500 TPD of mineralized material which will be crushed and split into four size ranges. The fines will by-pass the sorters and each of the other size ranges will feed one of three sorters utilizing dual energy x-ray transmission. This circuit will reject approximately 50% of the feed as waste. The concentrated mineralized material will then be further crushed and ground in a rod mill. The resultant material will be processed by magnetic separators, which will reject a further 50% of their feed as waste.

In total, approximately 75% of non-REE bearing material will be discarded through the physical beneficiation process. The remaining 375 TPD of concentrated mineralized material is further ground to -40 um and then fed to the leaching circuit.

The physical beneficiation circuit results in significant savings in terms of initial capital expenditure and ongoing operating costs, due to reduced power and acid consumption during the leaching and separation process.

## ii) Leaching Circuit

The leaching circuit consists of a nitric acid leach process. The concentrated mineralized material is leached utilizing nitric acid heated to a temperature of 90° C. The resultant slurry is filtered, with solids then submitted to the backfill plant to be placed underground as cemented paste backfill. Prior to the pregnant solution continuing on to the separation circuit it is treated by diffusion dialysis in order to recover the unconsumed nitric acid. The recovered acid is then recycled into the leach circuit, resulting in significant operating cost savings.

#### iii) REO Separation Circuit

The separation of individual rare earth oxides is achieved through the use of Solid Phase Extraction (SPE), a technology developed by IntelliMet LLC of Montana, in conjunction with Ucore. The pregnant leach solution generated by the nitric acid leach is introduced into a series of purpose-built SPE columns. The first stage of this process removes nuisance materials such as thorium, uranium, and iron from the solution. A subsequent series of columns then separates the rare earths into the following lanthanide sub-classes, Ce-La; Pr-Nd; Y; Sm-Eu-Gd; Tb-Dy; and Ho-Er-Tm-Yb-Lu. The final circuit of columns then separates the subclasses into individual rare earth chlorides, which can then be precipitated to generate individual purified rare earth oxides.

The SPE process produces chemical transfers of selective elements from the pregnant solution to a solid phase within a matter of seconds, giving the columns the capacity to process a large volume of solution in relatively small flow-through extraction units. The result is a relatively low initial capital cost for the SPE circuits. Waste products from the separation process will be returned underground as part of the cemented backfill.

## **Capital Cost Estimate**

Initial capital cost estimates for the project are as follows:

| Item                               | Total Cost<br>(million \$US) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Direct Capital Cost                |                              |
| Site development                   | 6.1                          |
| Mine underground                   | 18.9                         |
| Mine surface facilities            | 23.8                         |
| Process                            | 62.9                         |
| Tailings and waste rock management | 10.1                         |
| Utilities                          | 3.4                          |
| Buildings                          | 3.0                          |
| Temporary facilities               | 5.2                          |
| Plant mobile equipment & misc.     | 1.4                          |
| Subtotal                           | 134.7                        |
| Indirect Capital Cost              |                              |
| Indirect construction costs        | 51.1                         |
| Owner's costs                      | 10.9                         |
| Contingency                        | 24.5                         |
| Subtotal                           | 86.5                         |
| Total Capital Cost                 | 221.3                        |

Initial capital costs include all costs required to bring the facility to production. The ongoing sustaining capital costs are estimated to be \$145M over the 11 year mine life.

## **Operating Cost Estimate**

|                      | Average<br>Unit Cost |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Item                 | (\$US/t mined)       |
| Mining               | 41.69                |
| Processing           | 54.83                |
| G&A                  | 13.56                |
| Power                | 11.78                |
| Misc.                | 0.93                 |
| Total Operating Cost | 122.78               |

## **REE Pricing Considerations**

In developing rare earth pricing assumptions, a number of sources were considered by both Ucore and Tetra Tech. Price forecasts generated by analysts and Ucore's rare earth peer group vary widely. In selecting pricing assumptions, efforts were made to incorporate assumptions that were independent, supportable, and conservative. As a result, Tetra Tech has used a three-year trailing average of China FOB prices from October,

2009 to October, 2012 to establish prices for the rare earth oxides, except Ho, Lu, Yb & Er oxides, where two-year trailing averages were used due to limited Chinese market data. These prices are displayed in "Scenario 1" below. The Company also considered the impact of pricing REO's based on a 6-month trailing average and a 3-month trailing average. These results are displayed in "Scenario 2" and "Scenario 3" below, respectively.

|                                | Pricing Scenario 1<br>3-Year trailing<br>average | Pricing Scenario 2<br>6-Month trailing<br>average | Pricing Scenario 3 3-Month trailing average |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| REO                            | \$US/kg  | \$US/kg   | \$US/kg                                     |
| La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 48.69  | 20.85   | 18.42                                       |
| Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 47.21  | 21.38   | 19.23                                       |
| Pr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 113.10   | 110.00  | 103.08                                      |
| $Nd_2O_3$                      | 126.70   | 108.96  | 101.58                                      |
| Sm <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 57.74  | 71.79   | 61.42                                       |
| Eu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 1,834.94   | 2,185.00  | 2010.00                                     |
| Gd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 81.70  | 99.42   | 96.35                                       |
| Tb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 1,520.83   | 1,907.12  | 1,840.38                                    |
| Dy <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 845.80   | 1,009.42  | 948.08                                      |
| Ho <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 211.39   | 107.25  | 107.05                                      |
| Er <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 88.20  | 153.61  | 140.08                                      |
| Tm <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | N/A  | N/A   | N/A   |
| Yb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 102.79   | 124.07  | 110.51                                      |
| Lu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 1,036.40   | 1,420.79  | 1,427.56                                    |
| Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  | 80.41  | 100.75  | 85.12                                       |
|                                |  |   |   |
| NPV @ 10% Discount             | \$577M   | \$620M  | \$513M                                      |

## **Economic Analysis and Sensitivity Analysis**

The economic analysis was based on the mineral resource estimate filed by Ucore in April of 2011, totalling 5.3 million tonnes at an average grade of 0.65% TREO in the Inferred category. This resource is adequate to allow for an 11 year mine life, based on current mining assumptions including a mining rate of 1,500 TPD. TREO recoveries are expected to average 81.6%.

These assumptions, together with capital cost and operating cost estimates noted above, result in a before tax NPV, at a 10% discount rate, of \$577 million. The payback period for the project is 2.3 years from the start of production. The project generates a pre-tax IRR of 43%.

A sensitivity analysis was performed, to test the impact of changes to several key assumptions included in the economic model, with the following results:

| Changes to selling price of REOs | NPV at 10%,<br>\$US million | IRR, % |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                                  |                             |        |
| Increase of 20%                  | 802                         | 52%    |
| Increase of 10%                  | 690                         | 47%    |
| Base Case                        | 577                         | 43%    |

| Decrease of 10% | 464 | 38% |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Decrease of 20% | 352 | 33% |

| Changes in operating costs | NPV at 10%, \$<br>US million | IRR, % |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
|                            |                              |        |
| Increase of 20%            | 519                          | 40%    |
| Increase of 10%            | 548                          | 42%    |
| Base Case                  | 577                          | 43%    |
| Decrease of 10%            | 606                          | 44%    |
| Decrease of 20%            | 635                          | 45%    |

| Change in initial capital expenditure | NPV at 10%, \$<br>US million | IRR, % |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
|                                       |                              |        |
| Increase of 20%                       | 526                          | 37%    |
| Increase of 10%                       |                              | 40%    |
|                                       | 552                          |        |
| Base Case                             | 577                          | 43%    |
| Decrease of 10%                       | 602                          | 46%    |
| Decrease of 20%                       | 627                          | 51%    |

#### **Environmental Assessment**

Ucore is currently conducting environmental baseline studies to prepare for the forthcoming permitting process at the Dotson Ridge Project. The project plan is being developed in consultation with local stakeholders as well as state and federal regulators. A Plan of Operations, which will be based upon engineered facility designs advanced from the concepts presented in the PEA, will be submitted to the US Forest Service (USFS) to initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Permitting advantages for the project include the elimination of a permanent surface tailings storage facility, due to the use of x-ray sorting technology, which will allow for 100% of the mill tailings to be placed in mined out areas underground as cemented paste backfill. The study includes cost estimates for site water management and treatment.

## **Qualified Persons**

The technical disclosures in this press release have been reviewed and approved by Kenneth W. Collison, P. Eng. a consultant to and COO of Ucore together with the following independent qualified persons;

- R. J. Robinson, consultant, Aurora Geosciences Inc. for geology and mineral resource
- S. Annavarapu, consultant, AMEC (formerly Stantec) for mine planning.
- E. Bentzen, consultant, Lyntek for physical benefication processes.
- R. Hammen, consultant, IntelliMet for leaching and SPE processes.
- H. Ghaffari, consultant, Tetra Tech for cost estimating.
- S. Hafez, consultant, Tetra Tech for economic analysis.

#### **Cautionary Notes**

Please note that the PEA is preliminary in nature, that it includes inferred mineral resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have the economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves, and there is no certainty that the PEA will be realized. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.

#### **Expenditure on Bokan**

The Company's main focus during the 2012 fiscal year was on the Bokan property. During 2012, the Company incurred expenditure totalling \$491,000 with respect to the preliminary economic assessment discussed above. In addition, \$783,000 of expenditures were incurred with respect to metallurgical research during the year, which includes the completion of the metallurgical flow-sheet used in the preliminary economic assessment. The Company also spent approximately \$210,000 on environmental and permitting activities. The remaining \$1.1 million was spent on geological activities.

In total, the Company incurred expenditures totalling \$2.6 million on the project during the year ended December 31, 2012.

#### Lost Pond, Newfoundland and Labrador

The Company holds a 100% interest in the Lost Pond uranium and rare earth element property, located east of Stephenville, Newfoundland. The Company's 100% interest is subject to a 2% NSR (1% on contiguous claims optioned from third parties), 50% of which can be purchased by the Company for cash payments of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to each of three different vendors.

The Company had entered into a Letter Agreement with Kirrin Resources Inc. ("Kirrin") pursuant to which Kirrin had the ability to earn up to a 50% interest in the Lost Pond property by completing work commitments of \$2,045,000 on the property by December 31, 2014 and by issuing 300,000 Kirrin common shares (split adjusted) to the Company.

A minimum of \$1,200,000 of this work was required to be completed by December 31, 2012. Kirrin did not reach this level of expenditure by December 31, 2012 and as a result, the Letter Agreement was terminated.

As a result of the termination of the Letter Agreement, the Company assessed the property for indicators of impairment. This assessment identified an indicator of impairment, and as such, the Company was required to write down the property by the excess of the carrying value over the recoverable amount. The recoverable amount was determined based on the fair value of the property less costs to sell. The fair value was based on the amount of a recent third party offer for a 70% interest in the property, which represented the best information available. Based on this, the recoverable amount of the asset was \$800,000 resulting in an impairment of \$2,000,000. The assumptions used to estimate the recoverable value are subject to further change which could lead to further write-downs or the reversal of the previously recognised impairment.

#### Ray Mountains, Alaska

During 2012, the Company acquired through physical staking and claim recording approximately 11,400 acres located in the Ray Mountains, Alaska. Limited work was completed on the project during the year, primarily consisting of initial geochemical analyses of mineral samples obtained in the region. The Company intends to conduct further testing on the property during the summer of 2012. In total, \$215,000 of expenditures were incurred on the property during 2012, consisting of initial staking costs, and the aforementioned sample collection and geochemical analyses.

## Sandybeach Lake, Nunavut

Ucore holds a 100% interest in the Sandybeach Lake property, located in southwestern Nunavut. The 18-square kilometre property is centered on Sandybeach Lake, located five kilometres northeast of the northern extents of Neultin Lake in Manitoba. The carrying value of the property was written down to nil in 2010, however, the Company intends to maintain the claims in good standing and is considering alternatives for the advancement of this property.

#### **Greater Newfoundland and Labrador**

In addition to the Lost Pond property, Ucore holds a portfolio of uranium properties spanning current and prospective uranium districts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2007, the Company entered into a Letter Agreement with Bayswater Uranium Corporation to provide for, on a 50/50 basis, the joint ownership and exploration of their mutual uranium properties in the Central Mineral Belt, now referred to as the Makkovik River Project. During 2011, Bayswater terminated this agreement. As a result, the Company conducted an impairment review with respect to this property and the carrying value of the property was reduced to nil. The associated impairment charge totaled \$431,193. The Company has maintained a number of claims in the area which contain prospective exploration targets and is currently considering alternatives for the advancement of the project.

## **Selected Annual Information**

The following annual information is prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. Amounts are reported in thousands of Canadian dollars, except for per share amounts.

|                                    | For the year<br>ended<br>December 31,<br>2012<br>\$ | For the year<br>ended<br>December 31,<br>2011<br>\$ | For the year<br>ended<br>December 31,<br>2010<br>\$ |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Net loss                           | 5,601   | 3,535   | 2,857   |
| Loss per share – basic and diluted | 0.04  | 0.02  | 0.03  |
| Total assets                       | 26,872  | 31,699  | 29,634  |

## **Results of Operations**

The Company has no operating revenues and is dependent on equity financings and/or project financing alternatives to fund its operations. As a result, the Company expects to incur operating losses until such time as an economic resource is identified, developed and exploited on one or more of the Company's properties.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company incurred a net loss before income taxes of \$5.6 million compared to a net loss before income taxes of \$3.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. The increase in the loss without considering the \$431k impairment charge from 2011 and the \$2m impairment charge from 2012 is approximately \$578k. The increase in the loss was mainly the result of a general increase in activities at the Company, including additional employees, engagement of outside consultants and an increase in share-based payments expensed during the year, as well as less interest income received during the year.

The Company earned approximately \$37k less interest income during the year ended December 31, 2012 than during the same period in fiscal 2011. This decrease was due to higher cash balances on hand during 2011 as the most recent equity offering was a \$10 million private placement completed in December of 2010.

Operating expenses in 2012 totalled \$5.7 million, compared with \$3.6 million for the prior year. The majority of this increase is due to increased use of professional services, an increase in number of employees, and variances in share based payments. Salaries and consultants' expenditures of approximately \$1,269,000 were incurred during the period, an increase of \$311,000 as a result of hiring three new employees in 2012 and one in late 2011. Professional services totalled approximately \$735,000 an increase of \$257,000 compared to fiscal 2011 as the Company greatly increased its use of outside consultants during the year. Consultants were

engaged during the year to provide general business consulting, advice with respect to the worldwide rare earth market, and government relation services.

The Company recorded non-cash stock-based compensation expense of approximately \$809,000 attributable to the estimated value of stock options earned during the period, an increase of approximately \$158,000 as compared to the prior year, as well as non-cash amortization expense of approximately \$28,000, representing depreciation of the Company's equipment. In addition, the Company capitalized approximately \$117,000 of non-cash stock-based compensation expense during the period to resource properties, attributable to the value of stock options earned by the Company's exploration personnel. The increase in non-cash stock-based compensation expense was largely the result of the timing of vesting periods related to different options grants. The most significant grant being expensed in 2012 was issued in November of 2011 versus to most significant grant expensed in 2011 which was issued in September of 2010.

The Company conducted an impairment review with respect to the Lost Pond property during the year, which resulted in an impairment of \$2,000,000. During the prior year, the Company conducted an impairment review with respect to the Makkovik River project, which resulted in a write-down in the carrying value of this project of \$431,193. Each of these impairment charges are discussed in greater detail in the corresponding property section above.

Ucore will continue to review its portfolio of resource properties and write-down the carrying costs of any properties considered to be impaired in value, which could have a material impact on the Company's net loss in future periods.

The Company recognized deferred income tax recoveries of approximately \$82,000 during 2012 as non-capital losses carried forward were used to offset capital gains generated by the expiry of warrants. No income tax expense was recognised during the prior year as there were no warrant expiries in that year, and the benefits of losses carried forward are not recognised as an asset in the financial statements.

The Company realised a currency exchange gain of approximately \$23,000 during the year relating to its foreign currency translation, as compared to a gain of approximately \$3,000 for the prior year. As the Company continues to deal in both the Canadian and United States currencies, the Company may continue to incur foreign exchange gains and losses arising from changes in the value of the United States dollar relative to the Canadian dollar.

## **Summary of Quarterly Results**

| Expressed in thousands of dollars, except per share amounts | 12/31/12<br>\$ | 09/30/12<br>\$ | 06/30/12<br>\$ | 03/31/12<br>\$ | 12/31/11<br>\$ | 09/30/11<br>\$ | 06/30/11<br>\$ | 03/31/11<br>\$ |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Net loss before provision for taxes                         | 2,942          | 882            | 804            | 1,055          | 1,307          | 641            | 703            | 810            |
| Loss per share – basic and diluted                          | 0.02           | 0.01           | 0.01           | 0.01           | 0.01           | 0.00           | 0.01           | 0.01           |
| Total Assets  | 26,872         | 28,972         | 29,368         | 30,409         | 31,698         | 33,251         | 31,512         | 32,627         |

The Company added a number of employees between Q4 2011 and Q3 2012 increasing salaries expense for each quarter in 2012 compared to the same quarter in 2011. Salaries expense in Q1 of 2012 also includes

bonuses paid to executives of the Company, increasing the net loss for that period. Share-based payments varied depending on the quarter in question based on the vesting periods of those share-based payments being expensed. General corporate activities increased significantly during 2011, with the Company bringing on additional employees and outside consultants, as well as obtaining larger office space to accommodate these increased levels of activity. During the fourth quarter of 2012 the Company incurred an impairment loss on its Lost Pond property in the amount of \$2,000,000, which is partially offset by the 2011 impairment loss on its Makkovik River project in the amount of \$431,193. All of these factors contributed to higher operational losses in the 2012 year.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

At December 31, 2012, the Company had working capital of \$2.1 million, with a cash and short-term deposit balance of \$2.1 million. Short-term deposits consist of Guaranteed Investment Certificates that are cashable at any time with no penalty or loss of interest.

The Company used approximately \$2.8 million of working capital to fund operating expenses for the year ended December 31, 2012. Net cash expenditures on resource properties and related deferred costs totalled \$2.9 million during the year. This was funded from working capital and the receipt of funds from the exercise of warrants and options, as noted below.

The Company generated \$468,408 from the exercise of warrants and stock options during the year ended December 31, 2012.

The Company has used, and intends to use the remainder of the funds generated by these financing activities to continue its exploration program on its Bokan Mountain/Dotson Ridge project in Alaska (see section entitled "Bokan Mountain/Dotson Ridge, Alaska") and to fund ongoing working capital requirements.

The Company has filed a short-form prospectus as discussed below in subsequent events; that if closed, in management's view, will enable the Company to meet its resource property obligations, fund its administration costs, and fund its planned exploration programs beyond the next twelve months. The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern and to realize the carrying value of its assets and discharge its liabilities when due is dependent on the successful completion of this financing, which management believes will mitigate the adverse conditions and events which raise doubt about the validity of the going concern assumption used in preparing these financial statements. There is no certainty that these and other strategies will be sufficient to permit the Company to continue beyond December 31, 2013.

#### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

At December 31, 2012, the Company had no material off-balance sheet arrangements such as guarantee contracts, contingent interest in assets transferred to an entity, derivative instruments obligations or any obligations that trigger financing, liquidity, market or credit risk to the Company.

## **Critical Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and notes. Critical accounting estimates used in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements include the Company's estimate of recoverable value of its mineral properties and related deferred expenditures, non-cash stock-based compensation and deferred income tax assets and liabilities.

The Company's recoverability of the recorded value of its resource properties and associated deferred expenses is based on market conditions for minerals, underlying mineral resources associated with the properties and future costs that may be required for ultimate realization through mining operations or by sale. The Company

operates in an industry that is subject to a number of risk factors, including legal and political risks, the existence of economically recoverable reserves, and the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to complete the development and future profitable production or the proceeds of disposition thereof.

The factors affecting non-cash stock-based compensation include estimates of when stock options might be exercised and the stock price volatility. The timing for exercise of options is out of the Company's control and will depend on a variety of factors including the market value of the Company's shares and the financial objectives of the stock-based instrument holders.

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are computed based on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities on the balance sheet and their corresponding tax values. Deferred income tax assets also result from unused losses carried forward and other deductions. The valuation of deferred income tax assets is adjusted, if necessary, by use of a valuation allowance to reflect the estimated realizable amount.

## **Future Changes in Accounting Policies**

IFRS 9 Financial instruments ("IFRS 9") was issued by the IASB on November 12, 2009, addresses classification and measurement of financial assets and replaces the multiple category and measurement models in IAS 39 ("IAS 39") for debt instruments with a mixed measurement model having only two categories: amortized cost and fair value through profit and loss. IFRS 9 also replaces the models for measuring equity instruments, and such instruments are either recognized at fair value through profit and loss or at fair value through other comprehensive income. IFRS 9 is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2015. The Company has not early adopted IFRS 9 and is currently evaluating the impact on its financial statements.

IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements, was amended to revise the presentation of other comprehensive income. The amendments to IAS 1 are effective for annual periods beginning on or after July 1, 2012. The Company has not early adopted the amendments to IAS1 and is currently evaluating the impact on its financial statements.

IFRS 10, Consolidated Financial Statements was issued by the IASB on May 12, 2011 and replaces the current IAS 27, Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements. The new standard identifies the concept of control as the determining factor in whether an entity should be included within the consolidated financial statements of the parent company. This new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning January 1, 2013. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this new standard.

IFRS 11, Joint Arrangements was issued by the IASB on May 12, 2011 and replaces the current IAS 31, Interests in Joint Ventures. The new standard classifies joint arrangements as either joint ventures or joint operations. Interests in joint ventures will be accounted for using equity accounting, eliminating the proportionate consolidation option currently available under IAS 31. This new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning January 1, 2013. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this new standard.

The IASB issued IFRS 12, Disclosure of Interest in Other Entities on May 12, 2011. This standard establishes disclosure requirements for interests in other entities, including joint arrangements, associates, special purpose entities and other off balance sheet entities. This new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning January 1, 2013. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this standard.

IFRS 13, Fair Value Measurement was issued by the IASB on May 12, 2011. This is a comprehensive standard for fair value measurement and disclosure of fair value measurements across various IFRS standards. IFRS 13 provides a definition of fair value, sets out a single IFRS framework for measuring fair value, and outlines requirements for disclosure of fair value measurements. The new standard is effective for fiscal years beginning January 1, 2013. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this new standard.

IAS 19, Employee Benefits was issued by the IASB and introduced changes to the accounting for defined benefit plans and other employee benefits. The amendments to other employee benefits include modification of the

accounting and termination benefits and classification of other employee benefits. The Company does not anticipate the application of IAS 19 to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

## **Related Party Transactions**

As at December 31, 2012 the Company has recorded an advance, for corporate expenses, to an Officer of the Company in the amount of \$20,833 (December 31, 2011 - \$13,095), which is non-interest bearing with no fixed terms of repayment.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company paid consulting fees of \$59,875 (2011: \$81,750) to a company owned by a Director of the Company.

All related party transactions were in the normal course of operations and were valued at the exchange amount agreed to between the parties.

## **Outstanding Share Data**

The following is the Company's issued and outstanding share data as of the date of this report. Each stock option is exercisable for one common share of the Company.

| Securities   | Number      | Weighted average exercise price \$ | Weighted average remaining life (years) |
|--|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Common shares                                      | 152,633,402 | n/a                                | n/a                                     |
| Stock options under plans approved by shareholders | 6,240,000   | 0.51                               | 2.91                                    |

Between December 31, 2012 and the date of this report no shares have been issued, however, the Company has filed a final short form prospectus as discussed in subsequent events.

## **Subsequent Events**

(a) Subsequent to year end the Company has filed a final short form prospectus for an offering of units of the Company. The Company has entered into an agency agreement with Byron Capital Markets Ltd. as Canadian agent, and Knight Capital Americas LLC, as United States agent, in respect of the offering. Under the terms of the agency agreement, the agents will offer, on a best effort basis, units for gross proceeds of up to a maximum of \$5,000,000. Each unit is comprised of one common share in the capital of the Company, and one common share purchase warrant, at a price of \$0.25 per unit. Each whole purchase warrant will entitle the holder to purchase one common share at a price of \$0.35 for a period of 36 months following the closing of the offering.

The agents have been granted an option, exercisable at any time until 30 days following the closing of the offering, to purchase additional units equal to 15% of the number of units sold pursuant to the offering at the issue price of the units, to cover over-allotments, if any and for market stabilization purposes.

In consideration for the services to be rendered by the agents under the offering, the agents will receive a cash commission of 6% of the gross proceeds of the offering (including any units issued as a result of the exercise of the over-allotment option). The agents will also receive broker warrants to purchase an aggregate number of common shares equal to 6% of the number of units issued under the

offering (including units issued upon exercise of the over-allotment option). Each broker warrant will entitle the holder thereof to acquire one common share at an exercise price of \$0.25 for a period of 36 months following the completion of the offering.

(b) On March 31, 2013, a total of 11,674,999 warrants expired unexercised.

## **Risks and Uncertainties**

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash, short-term deposits, marketable securities, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Management does not believe these financial instruments expose the Company to any significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair market values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

In conducting its business, the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Company relate to exploration and development success of the Company's mineral properties as well as metal prices and market sentiment to a lesser extent.

Exploration for minerals and development of mining operations involve many risks, many of which are outside the Company's control. In addition to the normal and usual risks of exploration and mining, including the possibility that resource properties may not in fact contain mineral deposits that can be exploited on an economical basis, the Company may be required to work in remote locations that lack the benefit of infrastructure and easy access.

The prices of metals fluctuate widely and are affected by many factors outside of the Company's control. The relative prices of metals and future expectations for such prices have a significant impact on the market sentiment for investment in mining and mineral exploration companies. The Company will be reliant on equity financing for its long-term working capital requirements and to fund its exploration programs. The Company does not generate any revenue and does not have sufficient funds to put any of its resources interests into production from its own financial resources. There is no assurance that such financing will be available to the Company, or that it will be available on acceptable terms.

## Disclosure Controls and Procedures and Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

Disclosure controls and procedures ("DC&P") are intended to provide reasonable assurance that material information is gathered and reported to senior management to permit timely decisions regarding public disclosure. Internal controls over financial reporting ("ICFR") are intended to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

TSX Venture-listed companies are not required to provide representations in their annual and interim filings relating to the establishment and maintenance of DC&P and ICFR, as defined in Multinational Instrument MI 52-109. In particular, the CEO and CFO certifying officers do not make any representations relating to the establishment and maintenance of (a) controls and other procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the issuer in its annual filings, interim filings or other reports filed or submitted under securities legislation is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in securities legislation, and (b) processes to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with the issuer's GAAP.

## **Other Information**

Additional information regarding the Company is available on SEDAR at  $\underline{www.sedar.com}$  and on the Company's website at  $\underline{www.ucore.com}$ .

UCORE RARE METALS INC. Schedule "B"

Schedule of Resource Properties For the year ended December 31, 2012

| Details of Resource Properties and Related Deferred Costs |                                 |                          |              |                               |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
|   | Bokan Mountain/<br>Dotson Ridge | Ray Mountains,<br>Alaska | Lost Pond    | Total<br>December 31,<br>2012 |
| Mineral Properties  |                                 |                          |              |                               |
| Balance, beginning of period                              | \$ 3,922,656                    | \$ 52,413                | \$ 1,213,757 | \$ 5,188,826                  |
| Expenditures during period                                | -                               | -                        | -            | -                             |
| Change in foreign exchange rates                          | (76,258)                        | -                        | -            | (76,258)                      |
| Impairment  | -                               | -                        | (2,000,000)  | (2,000,000)                   |
| Balance, end of period                                    | 3,846,398                       | 52,413                   | (786,243)    | 3,112,568                     |
| Deferred Exploration expenditures:                        |                                 |                          |              |                               |
| Geology   | 1,124,555                       | 214,931                  | _            | 1,339,486                     |
| Drilling  | -                               | -                        | -            | -                             |
| Environmental & permitting                                | 210,302                         | -                        | -            | 210,302                       |
| Preliminary economic assessment                           | 490,806                         |                          |              | 490,806                       |
| Metallurgy  | 783,228                         | -                        | -            | 783,228                       |
| G,  | 2,608,891                       | 214,931                  | -            | 2,823,822                     |
| Balance, beginning of period                              | 16,756,347                      | 38,847                   | 1,586,243    | 18,381,437                    |
|   | 19,365,238                      | 253,778                  | 1,586,243    | 21,205,259                    |
| Change in foreign exchange rates Impairment               | (270,146)                       | <del>-</del>             | -            | (270,146)                     |
| Balance, end of period                                    | 19,095,092                      | 253,778                  | 1,586,243    | 20,935,113                    |
| Mineral properties and deferred                           |                                 |                          |              |                               |
| exploration expenditures, end of period                   | \$ 22,941,490                   | \$ 306,191               | \$ 800,000   | \$ 24,047,682                 |