

Aquila Resources Ltd has almost doubled the resource at its Avontuur manganese project in South Africa's Northern Cape Province.

The company announced last month that the Avontuur resource had increased by 96% to 66.7mt @ 39.3% manganese, with the measured and indicated resource categories increasing to 26%.

The vast bulk of the resource – nearly 65mt – is in the Gravenhage deposit. The Eersberg deposit resource stands at an inferred 1.8mt @ 39.3% manganese.

The company said that "significant potential" existed to extend the Gravenhage re-

Avontuur boost for Aquila

source along the 5km of the deposit's strike and down dip.

It also said that strong exploration potential still existed within the remaining 10km edge of the Avontuur Basin within Aquila's tenements, which lay immediately north-west of the Kalahari Manganese Field.

The Gravenhage resource consists of upper and lower lodes. Aquila has already said that the resource is open to initial open pit mining followed by underground operations.

The project would be capable of producing up to 1 mtpa, depending on South African export capacity, during a mine life of up to 30 years.

A further drilling programme is planned for the Avontuur Basin edge, where historic drilling has intercepted mineralisation grading up to 46.7% manganese.

A scout drilling programme is also planned, to look for extensions of the Kalahari Manganese Field.