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MINING WEEKLY Online

Western Coal mulls 'opportunities' outside North America

By: Liezel Hill

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TORONTO (miningweekly.com) – Vancouver-based Western Coal is looking at potential deals that could increase its coal resources, according to a statement from the company on Monday.

Western Coal "is considering various value accretive opportunities outside of North America that, if successful, could further increase its resources and provide access to emerging markets", according to CEO **Keith Calder**.

Western Coal has mines in north-east British Columbia and West Virginia, and produces mainly high-quality metallurgical, but also some thermal coal from the US mines.

The company said that the market fundamentals for metallurgical coal remain strong, and that demand for its products will continue to grow.

The firm said is on track to produce six-million tons of coal in its 2011 financial year, which ends on March 31.

It is also still targeting 10-million tons by 2013, CFO Braam Jonker said.

Shares in Western Coal rose 7,45% on Monday, to C\$5,05 apiece by 16:00 in Toronto.

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