

Cardero Announces USD 5.7M Secured Note Financing and Payment of Luxor Debt

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VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(Marketwired - Aug 9, 2013) - **Cardero Resource Corp.** ("Cardero" or the "Company") (TSX:CDU)(NYSE MKT:CDY)(FRANKFURT:CR5) announces that it has closed a USD 5,700,000 private placement of senior secured notes and has paid in full the outstanding indebtedness (the "Indebtedness") to certain affiliates of Luxor Capital Group, LP. (collectively, "Luxor"), secured creditors of the Company, as demanded by Luxor on July 24, 2013.

"Management believes that the Carbon Creek deposit has significant value that it intends to ultimately deliver to shareholders," stated Henk Van Alphen, Cardero's Chief Executive Officer. "The metallurgical coal market is currently depressed but the Company does expect the market to rebound and fully recover over the next 12-18 months. In order to ultimately deliver value to its shareholders, Cardero needs sufficient time to assess all of the available options for the asset, including interest in the asset from strategic partners, and to ultimately proceed in the manner most beneficial to the Company and its shareholders. To that end, the Company is in advanced discussions with Mr. Kopple regarding a line of credit for purposes of stabilizing and moving the Company forward."

The Company has completed a private placement ("Placement") of senior secured notes ("Notes") in the aggregate principal amount of USD 5,700,000 with entities ("Lenders") controlled by Mr. Robert C. Kopple of Los Angeles, California. The net proceeds of the Notes were used to pay the Indebtedness owing to Luxor immediately following closing.

USD 3,700,000 of the Notes are due no later than December 31, 2013, while USD 2,000,000 of the Notes will be due on August 8, 2014. Interest will accrue at the rate of 10% per annum, payable quarterly. The Notes are secured by a general security agreement over the assets of the Company, as well as a specific pledge of the shares of Cardero Coal Ltd. ("CC"). CC also provided a corporate guarantee. The Notes may be redeemed by the Company at any time at par plus accrued interest. Should there be a change of control of the Company or CC while the Notes remain outstanding, other than a change of control caused by the Lenders or their associates or affiliates, the holders of the Notes will have the right to put the Notes to the Company for an amount equal to 110% of par plus accrued interest.

As additional consideration for purchasing the Notes, the Lenders were issued transferrable warrants to purchase an aggregate of 28,359,066 common shares of the Company (the "Warrants"). The Warrants have a term of seven years, and are exercisable at a price of \$0.095. The Warrants, and any shares issuable on the exercise thereof, will be subject to a hold period in Canada of four months from the date of issuance, plus additional restrictions under United States securities laws. Assuming the full exercise of the Warrants, the Lenders, together with their associates and affiliates, and including their current shareholdings, would then hold approximately 21.763% of the Company's then issued shares. As this exercise of Warrants represents a potential change of control, the Company has agreed, upon request by the Lenders, to seek shareholder approval to the full exercise of the Warrants and potential change of control arising therefrom. Until such time as the shareholders may approve such change of control, the Warrants may not be exercised if any such exercise would result in the holdings of the Lenders (and their associates or affiliates) going over 19.99%. In addition, the Warrants may not be exercised until approval to such exercise has been obtained from the NYSE MKT.

The Warrants contain standard anti-dilution provisions. In addition, for so long as any of the Warrants remain outstanding and are held by a Lender, the Lenders will have the right to participate in all future equity financings undertaken by Cardero as to their respective percentage equity holdings of Cardero as if the Warrants then held by the Lenders were fully exercised, subject to receipt of any necessary regulatory approvals/acceptances.

The TSX has conditionally accepted the transaction for filing, subject to certain restrictions on the exercise of

the Warrants until such time as the TSX has accepted Mr. Kopple as an insider and the filing of final documentation. The NYSE MKT has not yet approved the exercise of the warrants and therefore any exercise thereof is subject to such approval having been obtained.

The Company also advises that Messrs. Paul Matysek and Ryan Dunfield have resigned as directors of the Company, effective August 8, 2013. The Company would like to thank each of them for the long hours of service and valuable counsel provided to the Company over the past 2 years, and wishes each of them the best in their future endeavours. The board continues to be composed of a majority of independent directors. The board plans to implement a recruiting process to identify and recruit suitably qualified independent directors with appropriate skill sets to assist the Company in creating value for all its stakeholders.

About Carbon Creek

The Carbon Creek Metallurgical Coal Deposit is the Company's flagship asset. Carbon Creek is an advanced metallurgical coal development project located in the Peace River Coal District of northeast British Columbia, Canada. The project has a current reserve of 121 million tonnes, included within a 468 million tonne measured and indicated resource, of ASTM Coal Rank mvB coal. Mineral resources are not mineral reserves and there is no assurance that any of the additional mineral resources that are not already classified as reserves will ultimately be reclassified as proven or probable reserves. Mineral resources which are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. Having completed acquisition of the project in June 2011, the Company released results of an independent preliminary economic assessment in December 2011, followed by a Prefeasibility Study ("PFS") in September 2012. The PFS estimates an undiscounted cash flow of \$2.2 billion, an NPV₈ of \$633 million, and an IRR of 24% (all on a post-tax, 75% basis).

For details with respect to the work done to date and the assumptions underlying the current resource and reserve estimates and prefeasibility study, see the technical report entitled "Technical Report, Prefeasibility Study of the Carbon Creek Coal Property, British Columbia, Canada" dated November 6, 2012 with an effective date of September 20, 2012 and available under the Company's profile at www.sedar.com.

EurGeol Keith Henderson, PGeo, Cardero's Executive Vice President and a qualified person as defined by National Instrument 43-101, has reviewed the scientific and technical information that forms the basis for the technical disclosure this news release, and has approved the disclosure herein. Mr. Henderson is not independent of the Company, as he is an officer and shareholder.

ABOUT CARDERO RESOURCE CORP.

The common shares of the Company are currently listed on the TSX (symbol CDU), the NYSE MKT (symbol CDY) and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (symbol CR5). For further details on the Company readers are referred to the Company's web site (www.cardero.com), Canadian regulatory filings on SEDAR at www.sedar.com and United States regulatory filings on EDGAR at www.sec.gov.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors of **CARDERO RESOURCE CORP.**

Hendrik Van Alphen, President & Chief Executive Officer

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements and forward-looking information (collectively, "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable Canadian and US securities legislation. All statements regarding the discovery and delineation of mineral deposits/resources/reserves, the terms of, the potential negotiation and implementation of an operating line of credit to the Company by entities associated with Mr. Kopple, the potential for the Company to deliver value to the shareholders with respect to the Carbon Creek asset, the potential for the metallurgical coal market to recover, whether in the next 12 to 18 months, or at all, the completion of a strategic review of options regarding the Carbon Creek asset, the potential for the Company to involve or enter into transactions with strategic partners regarding the Carbon Creek asset, the potential for the recruitment and appointment of additional independent directors, the

potential for the making of a production decision to proceed with a mine at Carbon Creek, the potential commencement of any development of a mine at the Carbon Creek deposit following a production decision, the potential for any production from the Carbon Creek deposit, business and financing plans and business trends, are forward-looking statements. Information concerning mineral resource/reserve estimates and the economic analysis thereof contained in the prefeasibility study may also be deemed to be forward-looking statements in that it reflects a prediction of the mineralization that would be encountered, and the results of mining it, if a mineral deposit were developed and mined. Although the Company believes that such statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Forward-looking statements are typically identified by words such as: believe, expect, anticipate, intend, estimate, postulate and similar expressions, or are those, which, by their nature, refer to future events.

The Company cautions investors that any forward-looking statements by the Company are not guarantees of future results or performance, and that actual results may differ materially from those in forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, variations in the nature, quality and quantity of any mineral deposits that may be located, variations in the market for, and pricing of, any mineral products the Company may produce or plan to produce, significant increases in the amount or cost of any of the machinery, equipment or supplies required to develop and operate a mine at Carbon Creek, a significant change in the availability or cost of the labor force required to operate a mine at Carbon Creek, significant increases in the cost of transportation for the Company's products, the Company's inability to obtain any necessary permits, consents or authorizations required for its activities, the Company's inability to produce minerals from its properties successfully or profitably, to continue its projected growth, to raise the necessary capital or to be fully able to implement its business strategies, and other risks and uncertainties disclosed in the Company's 2013 Annual Information Form filed with certain securities commissions in Canada and the Company's 2013 annual report on Form 20-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), and other information released by the Company and filed with the appropriate regulatory agencies. All of the Company's Canadian public disclosure filings may be accessed via www.sedar.com and its United States public disclosure filings may be accessed via www.sec.gov, and readers are urged to review these materials, including the technical reports filed with respect to the Company's mineral properties.

Cautionary Note Regarding References to Resources and Reserves

National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("NI 43-101") is a rule developed by the Canadian Securities Administrators which establishes standards for all public disclosure an issuer makes of scientific and technical information concerning mineral projects. Unless otherwise indicated, all resource estimates contained in or incorporated by reference in this press release have been prepared in accordance with NI 43-101 and the guidelines set out in the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (the "CIM") Standards on Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserves, adopted by the CIM Council on November 14, 2004 (the "CIM Standards") as they may be amended from time to time by the CIM, and in the Geological Survey of Canada Paper 88-21 entitled "A Standardized Coal Resource/Reserve Reporting System for Canada" originally published in 1988 (the "GSC Paper").

United States shareholders are cautioned that the requirements and terminology of NI 43-101, the CIM Standards and the GSC Paper differ significantly from the requirements and terminology of the SEC set forth in the SEC's Industry Guide 7 ("SEC Industry Guide 7"). Accordingly, the Company's disclosures regarding mineralization may not be comparable to similar information disclosed by companies subject to SEC Industry Guide 7. Without limiting the foregoing, while the terms "mineral resources", "inferred mineral resources", "indicated mineral resources" and "measured mineral resources" are recognized and required by NI 43-101 and the CIM Standards, they are not recognized by the SEC and are not permitted to be used in documents filed with the SEC by companies subject to SEC Industry Guide 7. Mineral resources which are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability, and US investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of a mineral resource will ever be converted into reserves. Further, inferred resources have a great amount of uncertainty as to their existence and as to whether they can be mined legally or economically. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of the inferred resources will ever be upgraded to a higher resource category. Under Canadian rules, estimates of inferred mineral resources may not form the basis of a feasibility study or prefeasibility study, except in rare cases. The SEC normally only permits issuers to report mineralization that does not constitute SEC Industry Guide 7 compliant "reserves" as in-place tonnage and grade without reference to unit amounts. In addition, the NI 43-101 and CIM Standards definition of a "reserve" differs from the definition in SEC Industry Guide 7. In SEC Industry Guide 7, a mineral reserve is defined as a part of a mineral deposit which could be economically and legally extracted or produced at the time the mineral reserve determination is made, and a "final" or "bankable" feasibility study is required to report reserves, the three-year historical price is used in any reserve or cash flow analysis of designated reserves and the primary environmental analysis or report must be filed with the appropriate

governmental authority.

The securities described herein have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any state securities laws. Such securities may not be offered or sold in the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, a U.S. person, except pursuant to such registration or available exemptions therefrom. This press release is not, and is not to be construed in any way as, an offer to buy or sell securities in the United States.

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