



## **Crusader boosts Brazil iron ore deposit**

Shares in Crusader Resources Ltd lifted after the junior mineral explorer announced a four-fold increase in the size of the iron ore resource at its Posse project in Brazil.

The Perth-based company's shares were up half a cent, or five per cent, at 10.5 cents after hitting an intraday high of 12 cents.

Crusader said the resource now totalled 36.02 million tonnes at an average grade of 43.5 per cent.

This compares with the previous estimate in May last year of 7.7 million tonnes at a median grade of 45 per cent.

The new resource comprises 4.83 million tonnes at average grade of 47.39 per cent in the indicated category of Australia's mineral reporting code plus 31.18 million tonnes at a median grade of 42.89 per cent in the inferred category.

"The increase is largely due to the remodelling of the geology and the extension of the inferred resource boundary," Crusader said.

The company said the mineralisation was easily upgradeable to smelter grade of higher than 60 per cent iron.

Crusader aims to conclude a scoping study, secure an offtake agreement and finalise permitting before it can begin mining at the project.

Crusader said near-surface mineralisation would be available during the initial mining period.

"The large upgrade to the resource inventory at Posse highlights the potential for a viable mining operation with a much longer life," chief executive Rob Smakman said in a statement on Monday.

"A larger resource means we can expand the longer-term potential of the project."

Crusader said the project was close to several major customers including large smelters.

The company is also exploring for gold, tin and tungsten in Brazil and uranium, gold and nickel in Australia.

San Francisco-based investment firm Passport Capital reduced its stake in Crusader for the second time in a week on Monday.

Its interest has been pared back from 12.55 per cent to 8.24 per cent.