

SE Business  
 HD **Clock ticking on bid for Aquila**  
 BY Sarah-Jane Tasker  
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Takeovers: The clock is now ticking on Aquila Resources' official response to **China's** \$1.4 **billion** bid for the **iron ore** and **coal company**.

**China's** state-owned Baosteel and its joint bidder, Aurizon, officially "dispatched" the bidder's statement to Aquila's shareholders, setting a deadline for the target to formally respond.

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Baosteel teamed up with Brisbane-based freight giant Aurizon earlier last month to launch a \$3.40-a-share offer for Aquila, which is developing the \$7.4bn West Pilbara **iron ore** project in Western Australia and the Eagle Downs coking **coal** project in Queensland.

Shares in the **company** continue to trade comfortably above the offer price and closed at \$3.51 yesterday.

Given the bidder's statement has now been dispatched, Aquila has 15 days to respond with its target statement. The **company** said yesterday the independent board subcommittee it had formed to assess the offer had been working diligently with its advisers to ensure a "thorough and objective" assessment of the bid. Aquila also appointed an independent expert to assess the offer.

The **company** continued yesterday to tell its investors to take no action until it had completed the assessment and communicated its findings to all shareholders.

"We would like to reassure you that we have been working hard to assess the current offer on its merits and, as always, we will look at this objectively and with our focus on ensuring we deliver value to all Aquila shareholders," executive chairman Tony Poli said in a letter to shareholders yesterday.

"Important information will be contained in the target's statement, which you should carefully consider before you decide what to do in relation to the bidders' current offer. It will include an independent expert's report and the recommendation of the IBC on whether to accept or reject the offer." Baosteel and Aurizon last week received the all-clear from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board to progress their surprise bid for Aquila. **China's** Baosteel has a 20 per cent **stake** in Aquila and had outlined at the time it launched the bid that it had lost patience with the progress being made on the miner's key **iron ore** asset.

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aqres : Aquila Resources Ltd.

IN

i22 : Primary Metals | i221 : Iron/Steel/Ferroalloys | ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources | i211 : Metal Ore Mining | igoldm : Gold Ore Mining | imet : Mining/Quarrying

NS

ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE

austr : Australia | china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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