

SE Business  
HD **VDM's global ambitions**  
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**Chinese**-controlled VDM Group is on the verge of entering a new phase as an international miner through a deal to operate a project in Angola.

The **company** is understood to be in the final stages of negotiating the rights to mine at the **copper** project.

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The move is expected to require additional funding via VDM's biggest shareholders, executive chairman Dongyi Hua and director Hiuming Luk.

The capital raising would likely bolster the size of their combined **stake** in the **company** beyond its current 55 per cent.

VDM declined to comment about what it called speculation.

In a recent interview with WestBusiness , Dr Hua said he wanted to use VDM to export Australian **mining** expertise.

"We still believe and think the Australian **mining** industry has excellent knowledge and experience," he said, emphasising safety, environmental protection and performance record.

"We want to present the new VDM as a pure Australian **mining company** to bring those kinds of advantages, going to other continents to seek opportunities to develop resources projects there."

Dr Hua identified Africa and Latin America as the most likely locations.

While VDM might where possible engage **Chinese** contractors and equipment to save costs, he said the work would be carried out according to Australian **mining** standards.

**Mining** is one of four business divisions Dr Hua has introduced in revamping the contractor since taking control last year.

The others are procurement and trading, construction and services.

The former CITIC Pacific **Mining** boss' involvement rescued VDM from likely collapse after it had struggled to survive for several years.

Dr Hua's H&H Holdings and Mr Luk's Australia Kengkong Investments have sunk about \$15 **million** into the **company**. Dr Hua has a 35 per cent **stake** and Mr Luk 20 per cent.

In the **company**'s other businesses, supplier deals have been struck this year with **Chinese** manufacturers SANY Heavy Machinery, Dalian Huarui Heavy Industry Group (DHHI), Ansteel Construction and EDT Hydraulic Breakers.

The **company**'s major shareholders have tightened their grip on the board after last week's resignation of deputy chairman Michael Perrott. His departure leaves two independents. The two major shareholders are expected to bring in a third allied director.

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