



Fortescue shares dive

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Body

Fortescue shares slumped more than 5 per cent yesterday after The Australian Financial Review's Street Talk column reported that JPMorgan was marketing a \$1.1 billion block of shares in the company on behalf of an unknown institutional investor. Fund managers were being offered the shares at \$21.60 apiece, representing a 6 per cent discount to **Fortescue**'s share price on Monday before the sale. Shares fell \$1.19 in trade yesterday to close at \$21.78. It is their lowest point since October. **Fortescue** shares have fallen more than a quarter since the start of the year. It has been a tumultuous period for the Andrew Forrest-chaired iron ore and energy group, with a string of executive departures over the last year. Last week, Julie Shuttleworth, one of Dr Forrest's most trusted lieutenants and the executive in charge of **Fortescue**'s fledgling iron ore operations in Gabon, announced her departure. She had previously been the company's deputy chief executive and run **Fortescue** Future Industries, as the energy division was then known.

Tamboran eyes NY

Natural gas explorer Tamboran Resources has detailed plans for a \$US175.5 million (\$265.3 million) initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange. The company is offering 6.5 million shares at a price range of \$US24 to \$US27 apiece. Taboran told investors that it was seeking to raise capital to fund the drilling, completion and infrastructure requirements to reach plateau rates for its proposed Shenandoah South Pilot Project. The joint book-running managers on the IPO are Bank of America, Citi and RBC Capital Markets. "We are excited to be launching our IPO in the US to support funding of our proposed Shenandoah South Pilot Project in the Beetaloo Basin," Tamboran Resources chief executive Joel Riddle said. "The US market has deep knowledge of the development of shale gas resources and a long history of supporting gas companies to fund their developments." Mr Riddle added: "Our board of directors believe the US listing will deliver Tamboran shareholders a greater reflection of the value of Tamboran's assets." The company last raised money 12 months ago, taking a \$70 million capital raise to Australian investors following offtake agreements with Shell and BP. But the junior explorer faces an uphill task to secure the environmental approvals it needs and proceed into development amid staunch opposition from green groups and others due to the impact on emissions and worries about damage to land and water. Shares last traded at 19¢, down 10 per cent this year.

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