Cadence Minerals

Azteca hot commissioning complete

Project update

Metals and mining

4 November 2026

Cadence Minerals has completed hot commissioning of the Azteca processing plant at its 36.2%-owned Amapá iron-ore project within the permitted 45-day window. DEV Mineração has also completed the submissions requested by the Amapá state environmental authority (SEMA/AP) for the operating licence (LO), which is now the key milestone before production can start. Management continues to target commercial production and a first shipment before year-end, subject to receipt of the LO. Successful commissioning represents further progress in de-risking Amapá's staged redevelopment, with Azteca intended to establish an operating track record and generate cash flow to advance the wider project. We see receipt of the LO as the major near-term catalyst for the shares.

Year end	Revenue (£m)	PBT (£m)	EPS (£)	DPS (£)	P/E (x)	Yield (%)
12/23	0.0	(3.0)	(0.02)	0.00	N/A	N/A
12/24	0.0	(3.3)	(0.02)	0.00	N/A	N/A
12/25	0.0	(1.7)	(0.01)	0.00	N/A	N/A

Note: PBT and EPS as reported

Hot commissioning ran from 23 September to 23 October. The plant processed c 6,200 wet tonnes of feed and produced c 2,800 wet tonnes of concentrate, equivalent to c 45% mass recovery, while operating at around one-third of its estimated c 110tph feed capacity. Approximately five days were lost to water-supply leaks and a failed pump motor, both of which have since been repaired.

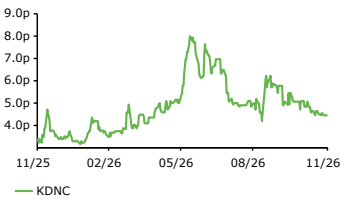
Commissioning used accessible material expected to grade below the c 48% Fe design feed, allowing DEV to progress the licensing process without waiting for access works to the higher-grade area. The c 45% mass recovery is therefore not expected to be representative of commercial operations and does not indicate concentrate grade or iron recovery. Previous testwork on design-grade feed produced c 65% Fe concentrate at c 53% mass recovery and 72.8% iron recovery. Commissioning samples are now being assayed, with optimisation testwork also underway and results expected within four to six weeks.

DEV submitted the remaining commissioning and installation licence compliance reports on 29 October, completing the requested submissions for the LO. Regulatory approval is now the key near-term milestone before commercial production can begin. In parallel, higher-grade feed access, bridge refurbishment and logistics preparations are progressing. Management continues to target c 380ktpa of c 65% Fe concentrate and a first shipment before year-end, subject to receipt of the LO.

Although Azteca is materially smaller than the planned full-scale Amapá redevelopment, its successful commissioning represents an important de-risking step for the wider project. It demonstrates DEV's ability to bring existing infrastructure back into operation and should provide an operating track record once commercial production begins. Azteca will also generate early cash flow to support further work on Amapá, while preparation for the definitive feasibility study is expected to begin in 2027. Receipt of the LO should therefore represent the next major catalyst, enabling the project to move into commercial production and towards first shipment.

Price	**4.50p**
Market cap	**£22m**
Pro-forma net cash/(debt)	£2.2m
Shares in issue	481.8m
Code	KDNC
Primary exchange	AIM
Secondary exchange	N/A

Share price performance



Business description

Cadence Minerals is an early-stage investment and development company in the mining space. Its main asset is a 36.2% interest in the integrated Amapá iron ore project in Brazil.

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