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Iron Ore Developer Aard Metals Targets ASX Listing

Aard Metals could soon be Australia's third-largest initial public offering of 2012.

The iron ore explorer-developer has appointed Aura Capital to raise up to 25 million Australian dollars (US\$24.76 million) at 30 cents a share, a person familiar with the matter said.

Aard's flagship project – Warrego Tailings in Australia's Northern Territory – has potential to produce 1 million tons a year by 2013, the person said. The project's tailings also contain commercial grades of copper and gold, according to Aard's website.

An offtake agreement with one of Aard's cornerstone investors, Weifang Special Steel Group Co through its investment arm Weisteel International, exists whereby Weisteel has agreed to purchase all iron ore produced from Warrego Tailings.

In April, ASX-listed CWH Resources announced it was mulling an offer for Aard at 40 cents a share but a formal offer did not follow.

Aard intends to lodge a prospectus by the end of June, the person said.

The largest Australian IPO in 2012 to date is [Armour Energy](#) which has fallen 32% to 34 cents a share since its debut in April. Cuesta Coal has fallen 57% to 13 cents a share.

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