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UK Miner ECR Minerals Embraces Bitcoin Reserves

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ECR Minerals, a UK-listed gold exploration company (LSE: ECR), has announced a bold new treasury policy that may see up to 50% of its future free cash flow directed into bitcoin and select digital assets. The move positions the precious metals firm as one of the few in the natural resources sector stepping into cryptocurrency as a long-term financial strategy.

The company's board has approved a non-binding policy allowing the use of both surplus operational cash and cash reserves to invest in bitcoin. This policy applies specifically to funds remaining after operational costs, capital expenditures, and debt payments.

ECR described bitcoin as a digital gold asset, citing its fixed supply, global accessibility, and potential value as a hedge against inflation and monetary instability. By integrating bitcoin into its treasury mix, the company aims to strengthen its balance sheet while maintaining alignment with its core identity as a gold-focused business.

To manage potential risks, ECR made it clear that it will not use leverage or borrowed capital to fund any crypto purchases. The policy also prohibits speculative trading and the use of derivatives. Digital assets will be held under tight security protocols, including regulated custodians, multi-signature wallets with board-level signatories, and offline cold storage.

Up to 15% of the crypto allocation may be used for yield-generating assets such as Ethereum (ETH), though Bitcoin remains the central focus of the strategy. The company emphasized that no immediate purchases have been made, as implementation depends on the generation of excess cash, particularly from its Blue Mountain Gold Project in Queensland, Australia.

The announcement comes as ECR prepares for small-scale production at the Blue Mountain site. If cash flow targets are met, the new treasury approach is expected to take effect soon.

A newly formed treasury committee will monitor and review the policy every quarter, ensuring decisions align with the company's financial priorities and operational needs.

ECR now joins a growing group of public companies, such as Tesla and MicroStrategy, that have adopted bitcoin as part of their treasury reserves. However, unlike some early adopters in the tech sector, ECR's position as a traditional resource firm adds a new dimension to the trend.

While some analysts remain cautious about cryptocurrency's volatility, others see strategic potential for companies with surplus liquidity to diversify into digital assets. ECR's careful, debt-free approach marks a conservative but significant entry into this space.

With its dual focus on physical gold and digital assets, ECR Minerals appears to be charting a course that blends traditional value with modern financial tools. The long-term impact of

this strategy remains to be seen, but the company's leadership is betting on bitcoin to serve as more than just a passing trend.