

GOLDEN STAR RESOURCES LTD

Form 8-A12B

September 14, 2004

Table of Contents

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

GOLDEN STAR RESOURCES LTD.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Canada

98-0101955

(State of incorporation or
organization)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

10901 West Toller Drive, Suite 300
Littleton, Colorado

80127-6312

(Address of principal executive
officers)

(Zip Code)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class
to be so registered

Name of each exchange on which
each class is to be registered

Common Share Purchase Rights

American Stock Exchange

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box. x

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box. o

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates:

(if applicable)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered

Item 2. Exhibits

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX

Table of Contents

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

On April 8, 2004, the Board of Directors (the Board) of Golden Star Resources, Ltd. (the Company) adopted, and on May 20, 2004, the shareholders of the Company ratified and approved, an Amended and Restated Shareholder Protection Rights Plan (the 2004 Rights Plan), the terms of which are contained in an Amended and Restated Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement (the 2004 Rights Agreement) dated as of May 20, 2004 between the Company and CIBC Mellon Trust Company, as rights agent, to continue the rights (Rights) granted under the shareholder protection rights plan dated April 24, 1996 (the Original Rights Plan) pursuant to a Rights Agreement dated as of April 24, 1996 between the Company and The R-M Trust Company, as rights agent, which Rights Agreement was amended pursuant to an Amending Agreement dated as of June 30, 1999 between the Company and CIBC Mellon Trust Company (formerly The R-M Trust Company), as rights agent (the Original Rights Agreement). The Original Rights Agreement was to expire on June 30, 2004, unless earlier terminated or extended.

The following is a summary of the terms and conditions of the Rights granted under the 2004 Rights Plan. The summary is qualified in its entirety by, and is subject to, the full text of the 2004 Rights Agreement, which is filed as Exhibit 4.1 to this Registration Statement.

All capitalized terms, where used in this summary without definition, have the meanings attributed to them in the 2004 Rights Agreement.

Issuance of Rights

Under the 2004 Rights Plan, Rights granted by the Company under the Original Rights Plan and which were outstanding as of 5:00 p.m. (Vancouver time) on May 20, 2004, were reconfirmed on the terms set out in the 2004 Plan, and the Company is authorized to continue to issue Rights for each Voting Share (which includes the Common Shares and any other shares in or interests of the Company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors) issued thereafter and prior to the Separation Time (as defined below), subject to the earlier termination or expiration of the Rights as set out in the 2004 Rights Agreement.

Exercise Price

Until the Separation Time, the exercise price (Exercise Price) of each Right is three times the market price, from time to time, of the Common Shares. From and after the Separation Time, the Exercise Price is three times the market price, as at the Separation Time, per Common Share. The Exercise Price is subject to adjustment as set out in the 2004 Rights Agreement.

Term

The 2004 Rights Plan took effect at the termination of the shareholder meeting on May 20, 2004 (the Effective Date), and will expire at the close of business on the date upon which the annual meeting of shareholders of the Company to be held in 2007 terminates, subject to earlier termination or expiration of the Rights as set out in the 2004 Rights Agreement.

Table of Contents

Trading of Rights

Until the Separation Time, the Rights will be evidenced by the certificates representing the associated Common Shares and will be transferable only together with the associated Common Shares. After the Separation Time, separate certificates evidencing the Rights will be mailed to holders of record of Voting Shares (other than any shareholder or group of shareholders making a take-over bid) as of the Separation Time and such separate Rights certificates alone will evidence the Rights.

The Rights will be listed on the TSX subject to the Company complying with the requirements of the TSX.

Separation Time

The Rights are not exercisable and do not trade separately from their associated Voting Shares until the Separation Time. The Separation Time is the close of business on the tenth trading day after the earliest of (i) the Stock Acquisition Date, which is the first date of public announcement of facts indicating that a person has become an Acquiring Person (as defined below); (ii) the date of the commencement of, or first public announcement of the current intention of any person (other than the Company or any subsidiary of the Company) to commence, a take-over bid (other than a Permitted Bid or a Competing Permitted Bid, each as defined below); and (iii) the date upon which a Permitted Bid ceases to be one. The Separation Time can also be such later date as may from time to time be determined by the Board.

Acquiring Person

An Acquiring Person is a person who is the Beneficial Owner (as defined below) of 20% or more of the outstanding Voting Shares. Excluded from the definition of Acquiring Person are the Company and its subsidiaries and any person who becomes the Beneficial Owner of 20% or more of the outstanding Voting Shares as a result of one or any combination of a Voting Share Reduction, a Pro Rata Acquisition, a Permitted Bid Acquisition, an Exempt Acquisition or a Convertible Security Acquisition. In general:

- (i) a Voting Share Reduction means an acquisition or a redemption by the Company of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities, which by reducing the number of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities outstanding, increases the percentage of Voting Shares Beneficially Owned by any person;
- (ii) a Pro Rata Acquisition means an acquisition by a person of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities as a result of a stock dividend, a stock split or a rights offering issued on the same *pro rata* basis to all the holders of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities of the same class or series; provided that such person does not thereby become the Beneficial Owner of a greater percentage of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities than the percentage of Voting Shares Beneficially Owned by such person immediately prior to such acquisition;
- (iii) a Permitted Bid Acquisition means an acquisition by a person of Voting Shares and/or

Table of Contents

Convertible Securities made pursuant to a Permitted Bid or a Competing Permitted Bid;

- (iv) an Exempt Acquisition means an acquisition by a person of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities (i) in respect of which the Board has waived the application of the 2004 Rights Plan, (ii) pursuant to a dividend reinvestment plan, (iii) pursuant to a distribution of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities made by the Company (a) to the public pursuant to a prospectus; provided that such person does not thereby become the Beneficial Owner of a greater percentage of Voting Shares so offered than the percentage of Voting Shares Beneficially Owned by such person immediately prior to such distribution, or (b) by way of a private placement; provided that, among other things, such person does not thereby become the Beneficial Owner of Voting Shares equal in number to more than 25% of the Voting Shares outstanding immediately prior to the private placement and, in making this determination, the securities to be issued to such person on the private placement shall be deemed to be held by such person but shall not be included in the aggregate number of Voting Shares outstanding immediately prior to the private placement, or (iv) pursuant to an amalgamation, merger, arrangement or other statutory procedure requiring shareholder approval (which is a new provision that has been included on the basis that transactions approved by shareholders do not require the protections afforded by shareholder protection rights plans); and
- (v) a Convertible Security Acquisition means an acquisition of Voting Shares by a person upon the purchase, exercise, conversion or exchange of Convertible Securities acquired or received by such person pursuant to a Permitted Bid Acquisition, an Exempt Acquisition or a Pro Rata Acquisition.

Also excluded from the definition of Acquiring Person are underwriters or banking or selling group members acting in connection with a distribution of securities and any Grandfathered Person (generally, any person who is the Beneficial Owner of 20% or more of the outstanding Voting Shares at the Record Time). To the Company's knowledge, there are no Grandfathered Persons.

Beneficial Ownership

In general, a person is deemed to Beneficially Own securities actually held by others in circumstances where those holdings are or should be grouped together for purposes of the 2004 Rights Plan. Included are holdings by the person's Affiliates (generally, a person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a specified corporation) and Associates (generally, relatives sharing the same residence).

Also included are securities that the person or any of the person's Affiliates or Associates has the right to acquire within 60 days (other than customary agreements with and between underwriters and banking group or selling group members with respect to a distribution of securities and other than pursuant to pledges of securities in the ordinary course of business). A person is also deemed to Beneficially Own any securities that are Beneficially Owned (as described above) by any other person with which, and in respect of which security, such person is acting jointly or in concert. A person is acting jointly or in concert with any other person who is a party to an

Table of Contents

agreement, commitment or understanding with the first person for the purpose of acquiring or offering to acquire Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities.

Exclusions from the Definition of Beneficial Ownership

The definition of Beneficial Ownership contains several exclusions whereby a person is not considered to Beneficially Own a security. There are exemptions from the deemed Beneficial Ownership provisions for institutional shareholders acting in the ordinary course of business and the performance of their duties. These exemptions apply to (i) an investment manager (Manager) which holds securities in the performance of the Manager s duties for the account of any other person (a Client); (ii) a licensed trust company (Trust Company) acting as trustee or administrator or in a similar capacity for the estates of deceased or incompetent persons (each an Estate Account) or in relation to other accounts (each an Other Account); (iii) a Crown agent or agency (a Crown Agent), (iv) a person established by statute (a Statutory Body), the ordinary business or activity of which includes the management of investment funds for employee benefit plans, pension plans and insurance plans (other than insurance plans administered by insurance companies) of various public bodies, and (v) the administrator (Administrator) of one or more pension funds or plans (a Plan) registered under applicable law. The foregoing exemptions apply only so long as the Manager, Trust Company, Crown Agent, Statutory Body, Administrator or Plan is not then making or has not then publicly announced an intention to make a take-over bid, other than pursuant to a distribution by the Company or by means of ordinary market transactions.

Also, a person will not be deemed to Beneficially Own a security because such person (i) is a Client of the same Manager, an Estate Account or an Other Account of the same Trust Company, or a Plan with the same Administrator as another person or Plan on whose account the Manager, Trust Company or Administrator, as the case may be, holds such security; or (ii) is a Client of a Manager, Estate Account, Other Account or Plan, and the security is owned at law or in equity by the Manager, Trust Company, Administrator or Plan, as the case may be.

A person will not be deemed to Beneficially Own any securities that are the subject of a Permitted Lock-Up Agreement. A Permitted Lock-Up Agreement is an agreement (the Lock-Up Agreement) between a person and one or more holders of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities (each a Locked-Up Person) (the terms of which are publicly disclosed and reduced to writing and a copy of which is made available to the public (including the Company) not later than the date the Lock-Up Bid (as defined below) is publicly announced or, if the Lock-Up Bid has been made prior to the date on which such agreement is entered into, not later than the date of such agreement), pursuant to which such Locked-Up Person agrees to deposit or tender Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities to a take-over bid (the Lock-Up Bid) made or to be made by the person, any of such person s Affiliates or Associates or any other person with which, and in respect of which security, such person is acting jointly or in concert, provided that:

- (i) the Lock-Up Agreement permits such Locked-Up Person to terminate its obligation to deposit or tender to or not to withdraw Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities from the Lock-Up Bid in order to deposit or tender such securities to another take-over bid or support another transaction where:

Table of Contents

- (A) the price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security offered under such other take-over bid or transaction exceeds the price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security offered under the Lock-Up Bid; or
 - (B) the price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security offered under such other take-over bid or transaction exceeds by as much as or more than a specified amount (the Specified Amount) the price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security offered under the Lock-Up Bid, provided that such Specified Amount is not greater than 7% of the price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security offered under the Lock-Up Bid; or
 - (C) the number of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities to be purchased under such other take-over bid or transaction exceeds by as much as or more than a specified number (the Specified Number) the number of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities that the Offeror has offered to purchase under the Lock-Up Bid at a price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security that is not less than the price or value per Voting Share or Convertible Security offered under the Lock-Up Bid, provided that the Specified Number is not greater than 7% of the number of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities offered under the Lock-Up Bid; and, for greater certainty, such Lock-Up Agreement may contain a right of first refusal or require a period of delay to give the offeror under the Lock-Up Bid an opportunity to match a higher price, value or number in such other take-over bid or transaction, or other similar limitation on a Locked-Up Person's right to withdraw Voting Shares from the Lock-Up Agreement, so long as the limitation does not preclude the exercise by the Locked-Up Person of the right to withdraw Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities in sufficient time to deposit or tender to the other take-over bid or to support the other transaction; and
- (ii) no break-up fees, top-up fees, penalties, expenses or other amounts are to be paid that exceed in the aggregate the greater of:
- (A) the cash equivalent of 2.5% of the price or value payable under the Lock-Up Bid to a Locked-Up Person; and
 - (B) 50% of the amount by which the price or value payable under another take-over bid or other transaction to a Locked-Up Person exceeds the price or value of the consideration that such Locked-Up Person would have received under the Lock-Up Bid, shall be payable by a Locked-Up Person pursuant to the Lock-Up Agreement in the event a Locked-Up Person fails to deposit or tender Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities to the Lock-Up Bid, or withdraws Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities previously tendered thereto in order to tender to another take-over bid or support another transaction.

Flip-In Event

A Flip-In Event occurs when any person becomes an Acquiring Person. If a Flip-In Event occurs prior to the Expiration Time that has not been waived by the Board (see Waiver, below), each Right (except for Rights Beneficially Owned or which may thereafter be Beneficially Owned by an Acquiring Person (or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person,

Table of Contents

or any person acting jointly or in concert with an Acquiring Person) or a transferee of any such person, which Rights will become null and void) shall constitute the right to purchase from the Company, on payment of the Exercise Price, Common Shares having an aggregate market price equal to twice the Exercise Price, for an amount in cash equal to the Exercise Price, subject to anti-dilution adjustments.

Permitted Bid and Competing Permitted Bid

A take-over bid will not trigger a Flip-In Event if it is a Permitted Bid or Competing Permitted Bid. A Permitted Bid is a take-over bid made by way of a take-over bid circular to all holders of Voting Shares (other than the Offeror) and which complies with the following additional provisions:

- (i) no Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities shall be taken up or paid for pursuant to the take-over bid prior to the close of business on a date which is not less than 60 days following the date of the take-over bid;
- (ii) unless the take-over bid is withdrawn, Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities may be deposited or tendered pursuant to the take-over bid at any time prior to the close of business on the date of first take-up or payment for Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities and all Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities deposited or tendered pursuant to the take-over bid may be withdrawn at any time prior to the close of business on such date;
- (iii) more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities held by Independent Shareholders must be deposited or tendered to the take-over bid and not withdrawn at the close of business on the date of first take-up or payment for Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities; and
- (iv) in the event that more than 50% of the outstanding Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities held by Independent Shareholders have been deposited or tendered to the take-over bid and not withdrawn as at the date of first take-up or payment for Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities under the take-over bid, the Offeror will make a public announcement of that fact and the take-over bid will remain open for deposits and tenders of Voting Shares and/or Convertible Securities for not less than 10 business days from the date of such public announcement.

A Competing Permitted Bid is a take-over bid that is made after a Permitted Bid has been made but prior to its expiry, termination or withdrawal and that satisfies all the requirements of a Permitted Bid as described above, except that a Competing Permitted Bid is only required to remain open until a date that is not less than the later of 35 days (increased from 21 days to conform to changes in Canadian securities laws) after the date of the take-over bid constituting the Competing Permitted Bid and 60 days after the date of the take-over bid of the prior bid.

Redemption

Redemption of Rights on Approval of Holders of Voting Shares and Rights. With the prior consent of the holders of Voting Shares or Rights, the Board may at any time prior to the

Table of Contents

occurrence of a Flip-In Event that has not been waived, elect to redeem all but not less than all of the outstanding Rights at a redemption price of \$0.00001 per Right (the Redemption Price), subject to adjustment for anti-dilution as provided in the 2004 Rights Agreement.

Deemed Redemption. If a person who has made a Permitted Bid, a Competing Permitted Bid or an Exempt Acquisition in respect of which the Board has waived or has been deemed to have waived the application of the 2004 Rights Plan consummates the acquisition of the Voting Shares, the Board shall be deemed to have elected to redeem the Rights for the Redemption Price.

Redemption of Rights on Withdrawal or Termination of Bid. Where a take-over bid that is not a Permitted Bid or Competing Permitted Bid expires, is withdrawn or otherwise terminates after the Separation Time and prior to the occurrence of a Flip-In Event, the Board may elect to redeem all the outstanding Rights at the Redemption Price. Upon the Rights being so redeemed, all the provisions of the 2004 Rights Plan shall continue to apply as if the Separation Time had not occurred and Rights Certificates had not been mailed, and the Separation Time shall be deemed not to have occurred.

Waiver

Discretionary Waiver Respecting Acquisition Not by Take-Over Bid Circular. With the prior consent of the holders of Voting Shares the Board may, prior to the occurrence of a Flip-In Event that would occur by reason of an acquisition of Voting Shares otherwise than pursuant to a take-over bid made by means of a take-over bid circular sent to all holders of Voting Shares or by inadvertence when such inadvertent Acquiring Person has then reduced its holdings to below 20%, waive the application of the 2004 Rights Plan to such Flip-In Event.

Discretionary Waiver Respecting Acquisition by Take-Over Circular and Mandatory Waiver of Concurrent Bids. The Board may, prior to the occurrence of a Flip-In Event that would occur by reason of an acquisition of Voting Shares pursuant to a take-over bid made by means of a take-over bid circular sent to all holders of Voting Shares, waive the application of the 2004 Rights Plan to such a Flip-In Event, provided that if the Board waives the application of the 2004 Rights Plan to such a Flip-In Event, the Board shall be deemed to have waived the application of the 2004 Rights Plan in respect of any other Flip-In Event occurring by reason of any such take-over bid made by means of a take-over bid circular sent to all holders of Voting Shares prior to the expiry of the take-over bid for which a waiver is, or is deemed to have been, granted.

Waiver of Inadvertent Acquisition. The Board may waive the application of the 2004 Rights Plan in respect of the occurrence of any Flip-In Event if (i) the Board has determined that a person became an Acquiring Person under the 2004 Rights Plan by inadvertence and without any intent or knowledge that it would become an Acquiring Person; and (ii) the Acquiring Person has reduced its Beneficial Ownership of Voting Shares such that at the time of waiver the person is no longer an Acquiring Person.

Table of Contents

Supplements and Amendments

The Company may make changes to the 2004 Rights Agreement prior to or after the Separation Time to correct any clerical or typographical error or to maintain the validity of the 2004 Rights Agreement as a result of any change in any applicable legislation, rules or regulation without the approval of the holders of the Voting Shares or Rights. The Company may also make changes to the 2004 Rights Agreement prior to the Meeting without the approval of the holders of the Voting Shares or the Rights.

The Company may, with the approval of the holders of Voting Shares, at any time prior to the Separation Time, make changes to or rescind any of the provisions of the 2004 Rights Agreement and the Rights (whether or not such action would materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of Rights generally).

The Company may, with the approval of the holders of Rights, at any time after the Separation Time, make changes to or rescind any of the provisions of the 2004 Rights Agreement and the Rights (whether or not such action would materially adversely affect the interests of the holders of Rights generally).

Anti-Dilution Adjustments

The Exercise Price of a Right, the number and kind of shares subject to purchase upon exercise of a Right, and the number of Rights outstanding, will be adjusted in certain events, including:

- (i) if there is a dividend payable in Common Shares or Convertible Securities (other than pursuant to any optional stock dividend program, dividend reinvestment program or dividend payable in Common Shares in lieu of a regular cash dividend) on the Common Shares, or a subdivision or consolidation of the Common Shares, or an issuance of Common Shares or Convertible Securities in respect of, in lieu of or in exchange for Common Shares; or
- (ii) if the Company fixes a record date for the distribution to all holders of Common Shares of certain rights, options or warrants to acquire Common Shares or Convertible Securities, or for the making of a distribution to all holders of Common Shares of evidences of indebtedness or assets (other than regular periodic cash dividends or stock dividends payable in Common Shares) or rights or warrants.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Exhibits.

- 4.1 Amended and Restated Shareholder Rights Plan Agreement dated as of May 20, 2004 between Golden Star Resources Ltd. and CIBC Mellon Trust Company, as rights agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Form 8-K filed on June 3, 2004)

Table of Contents

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

GOLDEN STAR RESOURCES LTD.

Dated: September 13, 2004

By: /s/ Allan J. Marter
Allan J. Marter
Senior Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer

10

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
4.1	Amended and Restated Shareholder Rights Plan Agreement dated as of May 20, 2004 between Golden Star Resources Ltd. and CIBC Mellon Trust Company, as rights agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Form 8-K filed on June 3, 2004)