

## CEO Presentation at the Alcore Open Day

In accordance with the requirements of Listing Rule 3.1 we submit the attached material being presented at the Alcore Open Day, 7 June 2022, 11:00 am at the Alcore Research Centre, 6 Craftsman Ave, Berkeley Vale NSW 2261

Mark Cooksey, CEO ABx Group Limited and 83% subsidiary Alcore Limited, will be making the presentation.

ASX Release authorised by Mark Cooksey, CEO.

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(ASX:ABX)



# Open Day Presentation

7 June 2022



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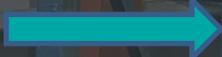
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Prices for aluminium fluoride (AlF<sub>3</sub>) were sourced from Asian Metals, China Customs and verified by comparison with prices from Bloomberg. The price actually achieved will depend upon market conditions at the time of sale.



# Agenda



Strategy

Technical Progress

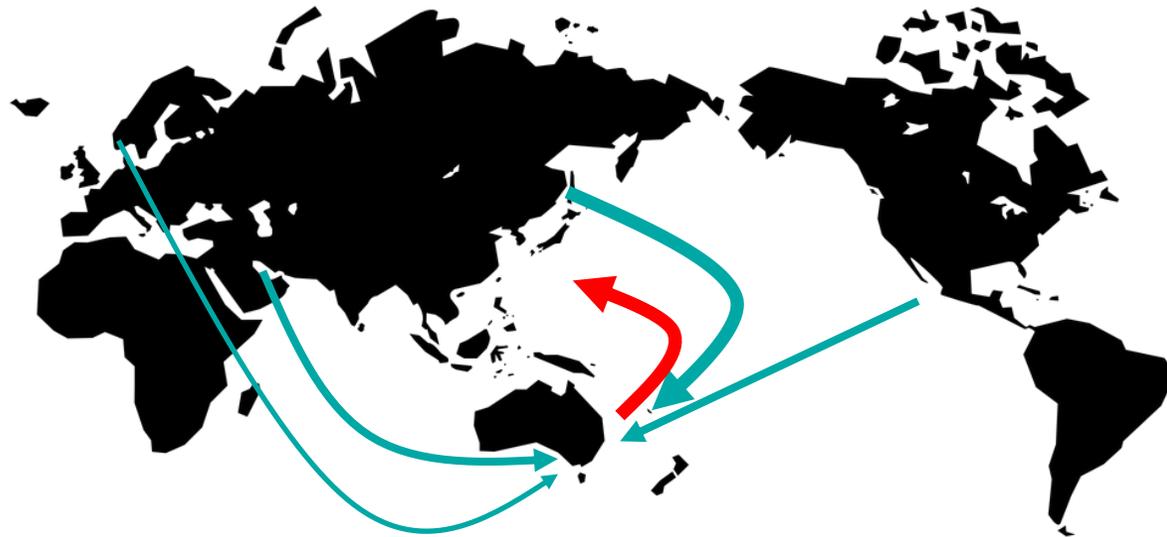
Technical Plan

Commercialisation

# Aluminium fluoride and aluminium smelter waste

Aluminium fluoride ( $\text{AlF}_3$ ): essential for aluminium smelting

- 1.2 million tonnes produced globally per year worth US\$1.5 billion (US\$1,000-1,800 per tonne)
- 50% produced in China, mainly for Chinese smelters
- Australia imports 100% of requirements, mostly from China



Current imports/exports

- Traditionally produced from high-cost aluminium hydroxide and fluorspar
- Achievable specification – product purity risk is low
- Mature market – dozens of customers globally

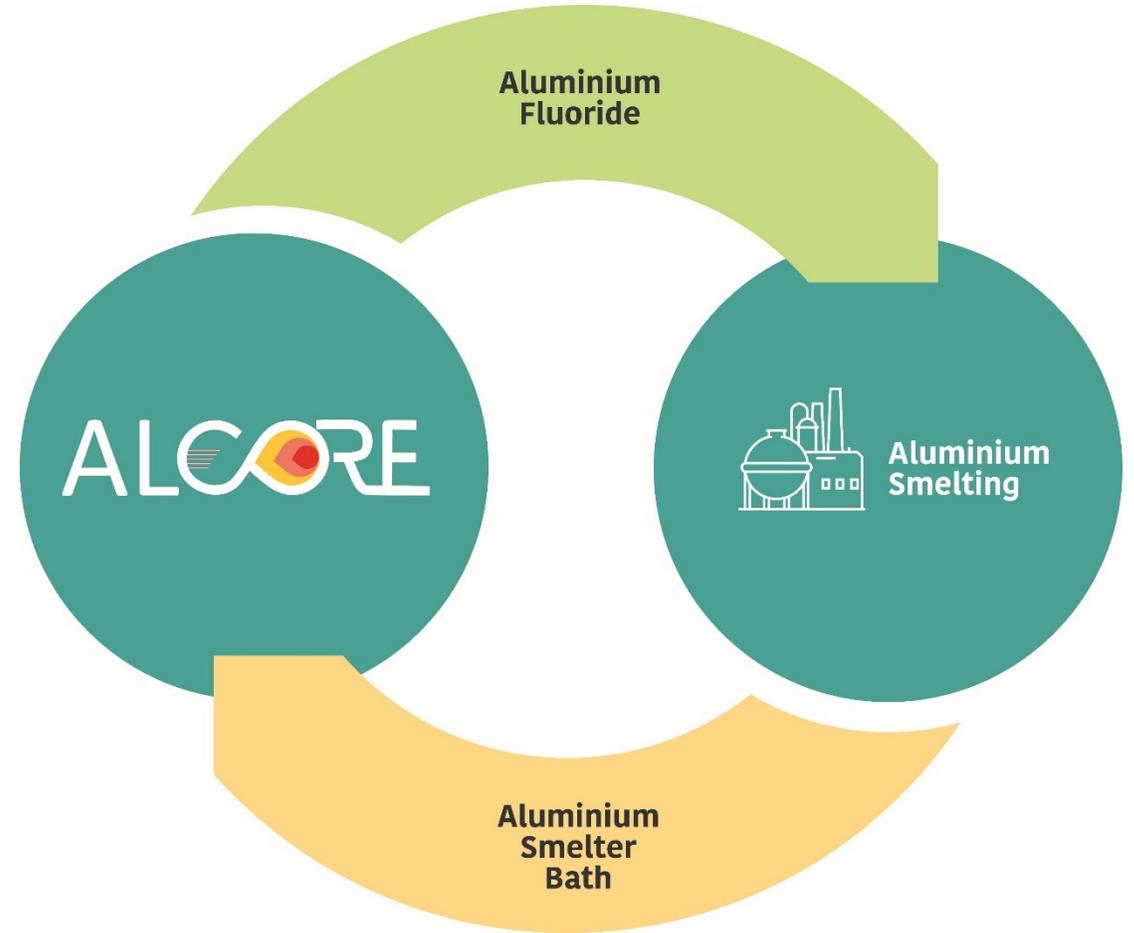
‘Tapped bath’: an aluminium smelter waste

- Fluorine is lost from smelter in ‘tapped bath’
- Only attractive market is new smelter construction; none in Australia
- Global market for tapped bath has moved into oversupply
- Tapped bath is a low-cost source of fluorine

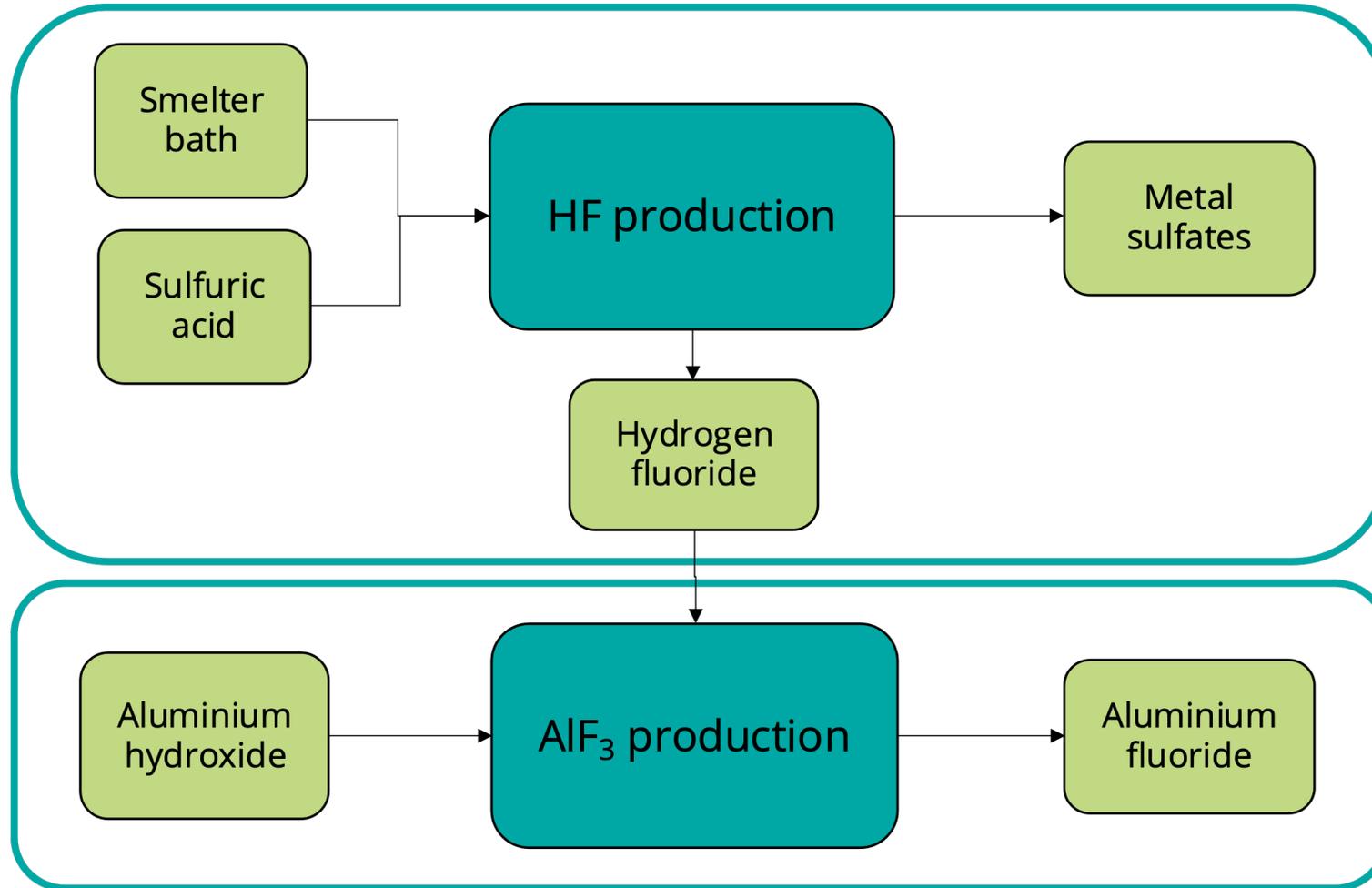
# Aluminium fluoride from aluminium smelter waste

Exemplary illustration of circular economy

- ABx's 83%-owned refining technology subsidiary
- Developing processes to produce aluminium fluoride using:
  - Fluorine from tapped bath
  - Aluminium from dross (an aluminium smelter waste) or bauxite



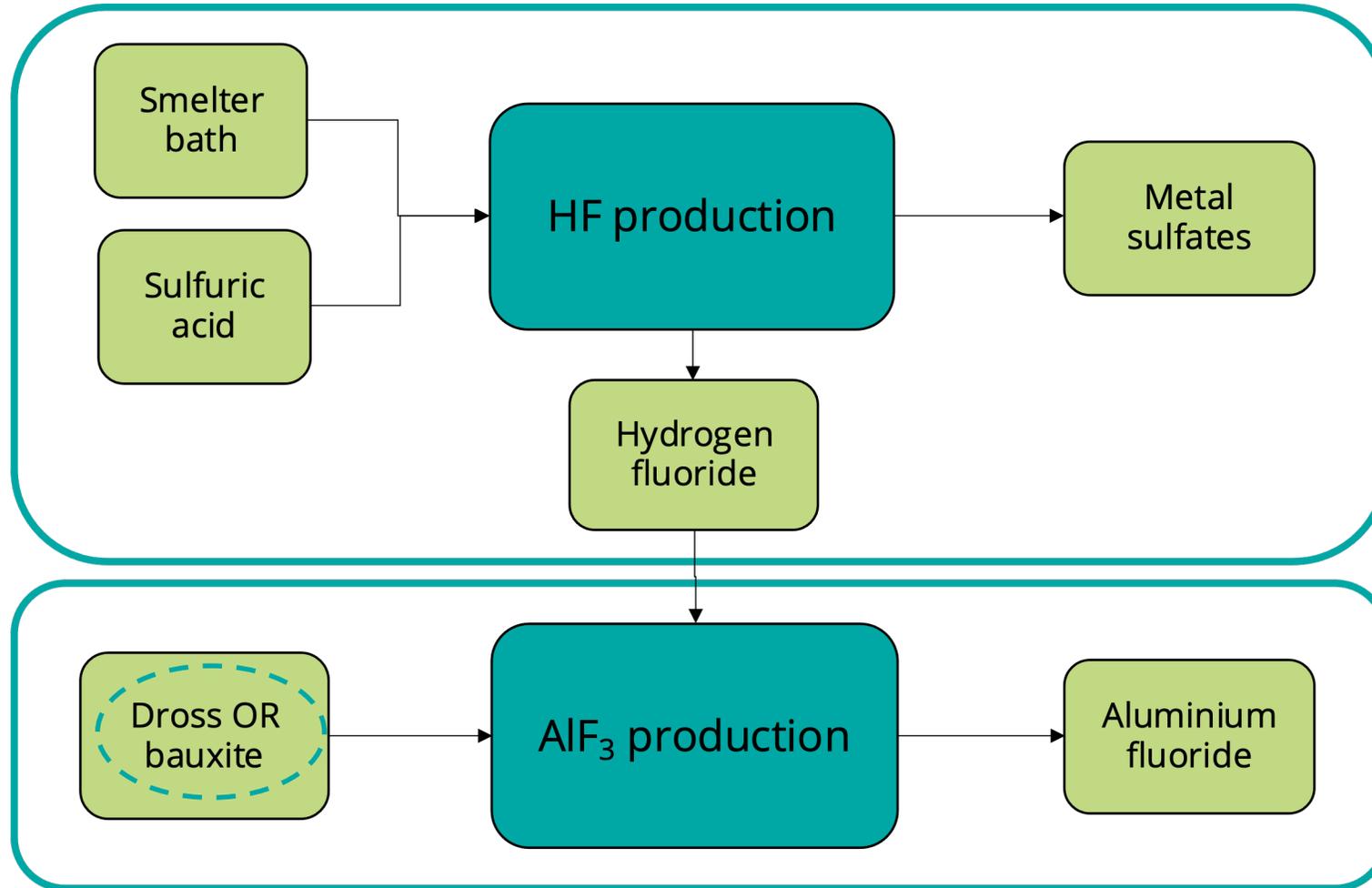
# Alcore process flowsheet (lower risk option)



Developed by Alcore

Existing commercial process

# Alcore process flowsheet (lower cost option)



Developed by Alcore

Developed by Alcore

# Customer and supplier engagement

## Aluminium smelters

Intensive engagement with Australian and international smelters:

- Commercial discussions on purchase of aluminium fluoride, and supply of bath and aluminium hydroxide
- Endorsement for grant applications
- Assessment of aluminium fluoride product quality
- Supply of bath and aluminium hydroxide for testing



## Other customers

- Engagement with customers for metal sulfates
- Assessment of metal sulfate product quality

## Other suppliers

- Engagement with suppliers of dross and sulfuric acid
- Supply of dross for testing

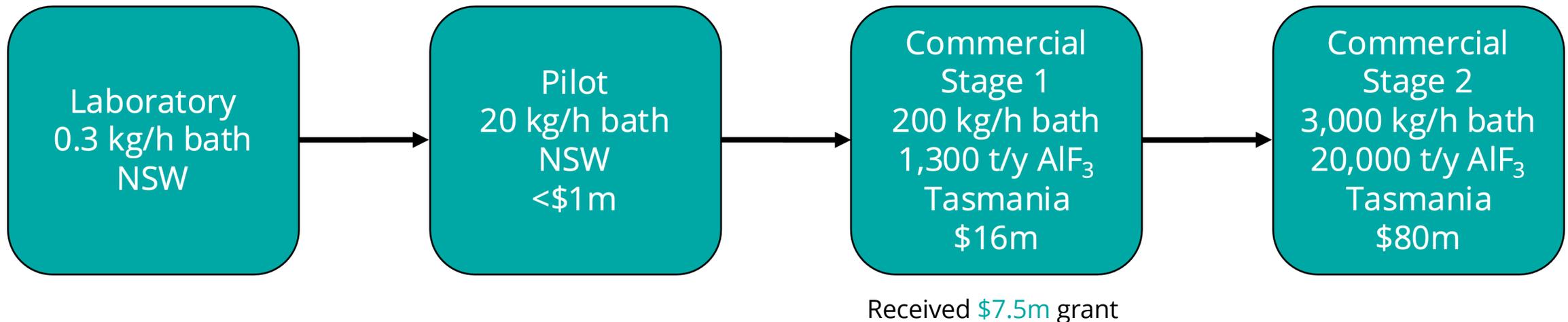
# Process economics

- Based on long term aluminium fluoride prices and exchange rates, and estimated costs
- For 20,000 t/y aluminium fluoride
- Attractive margins under all scenarios

Aluminium source	Scenario	AlF <sub>3</sub> price (US\$/t)	FX rate USD:AUD	AlF <sub>3</sub> price (A\$/t)	Operating cost (A\$/t AlF <sub>3</sub> )	Operating margin (A\$/t AlF <sub>3</sub> )	EBITDA (A\$m)
Aluminium hydroxide	Baseline	\$1,220	0.75	\$1,630	\$1,250	\$1,130	\$23m
Dross	Baseline	\$1,220	0.75	\$1,630	\$1,050	\$1,330	\$27m
Aluminium hydroxide	Optimistic	\$1,400	0.70	\$2,000	\$930	\$1,880	\$38m
Dross	Optimistic	\$1,400	0.70	\$2,000	\$770	\$2,040	\$41m

# Process scale-up

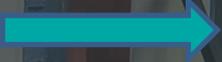
- Rigorous scale-up to reduce technical risk
- First aluminium fluoride plant planned for Bell Bay, Tasmania, near existing hydro-powered aluminium smelter





# Agenda

Strategy



Technical Progress

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Commercialisation

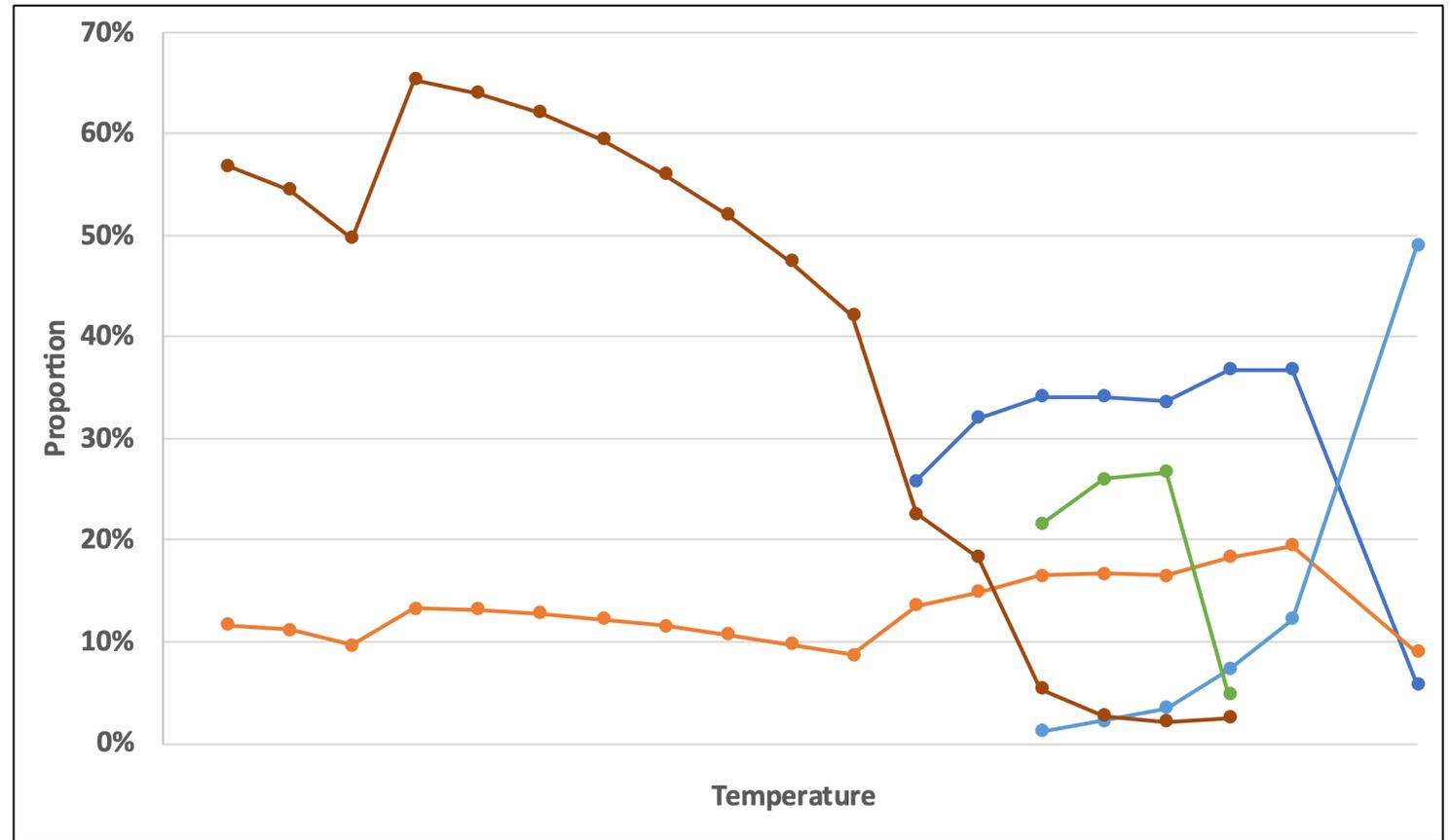
# Technical progress

- Critical processing steps have been demonstrated in laboratory

Objective	Number of experiments	Outcomes	Actions
Hydrogen fluoride from bath	50	HF quality satisfactory Moderate HF yield	Construct improved reactor
AlF <sub>3</sub> from aluminium hydroxide	75	AlF <sub>3</sub> equivalent to commercial AlF <sub>3</sub>	None required
AlF <sub>3</sub> from dross	50	AlF <sub>3</sub> impurities slightly higher than commercial AlF <sub>3</sub> Moderate AlF <sub>3</sub> yield	Further experiments
AlF <sub>3</sub> from bauxite	45	Appreciable impurities (e.g. iron)	Pause

# Modelling

- Thermodynamic modelling conducted by international process engineers
- Consistent with experimental laboratory results
- Provides guidance to optimum reaction conditions, which will be investigated experimentally

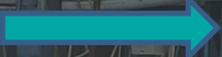




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Strategy

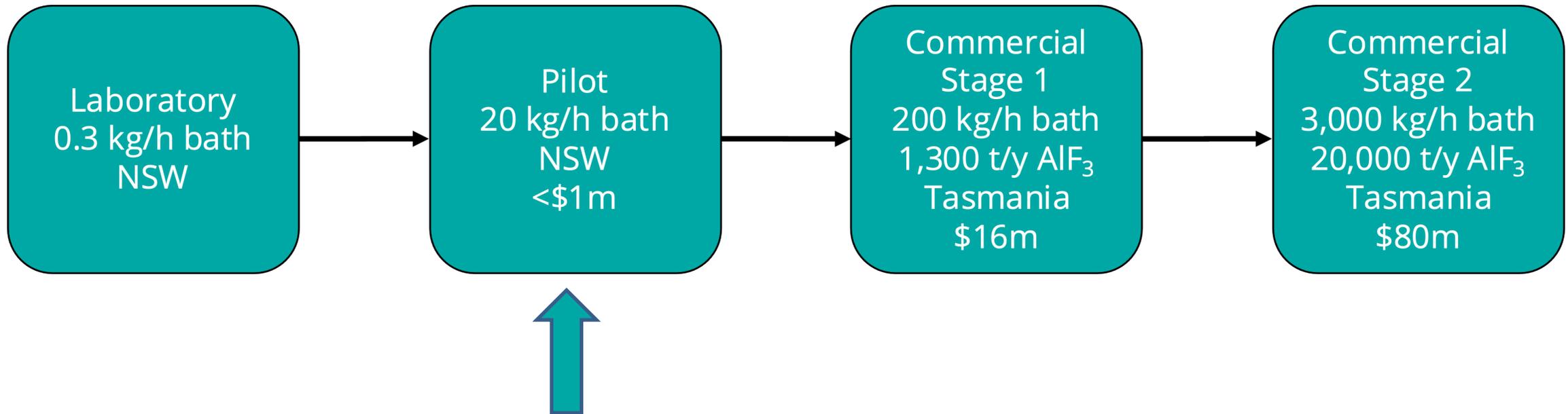
Technical Progress



Technical Plan

Commercialisation

## Process development strategy



- Large enough to provide reasonable scale up factor and validated engineering data
- Small enough to provide sufficient flexibility and space allowing improvements

# Process Optimisation

## Chemistry

- Reaction kinetics and thermodynamics
- Optimised reaction conditions
- Product distribution, separation, and purification

## Engineering

- Transfer from batch to continuous process
- Process behavior and operation data
- Material handling and process safety
- Process optimisation and improvements

## Project Management Philosophy

Strategically, always considering alternative choices and making best decisions to minimise cost, time, and risks of the OVERALL project

# Laboratory Rotary Kiln

## Investigate range of controlled process conditions

- Stainless steel reactor tube
- Up to 1000 °C
- Capable of rotation and tilt
- Vacuum and gas product capture system
- Easy to maintain and troubleshoot
- Custom modifications can be made
- Low-cost operation and rapid turnaround



# Oleum Production Plant

## What is oleum?

- Sulfuric acid with additional dissolved  $\text{SO}_3$

## Why use oleum?

- Standard concentrated sulfuric acid can cause corrosion issues and lower yield

## Why produce oleum on site?

- Oleum not produced in Australia, and difficult to import
- To obtain insights into process performance
- To develop Alcore operational experience





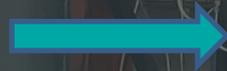
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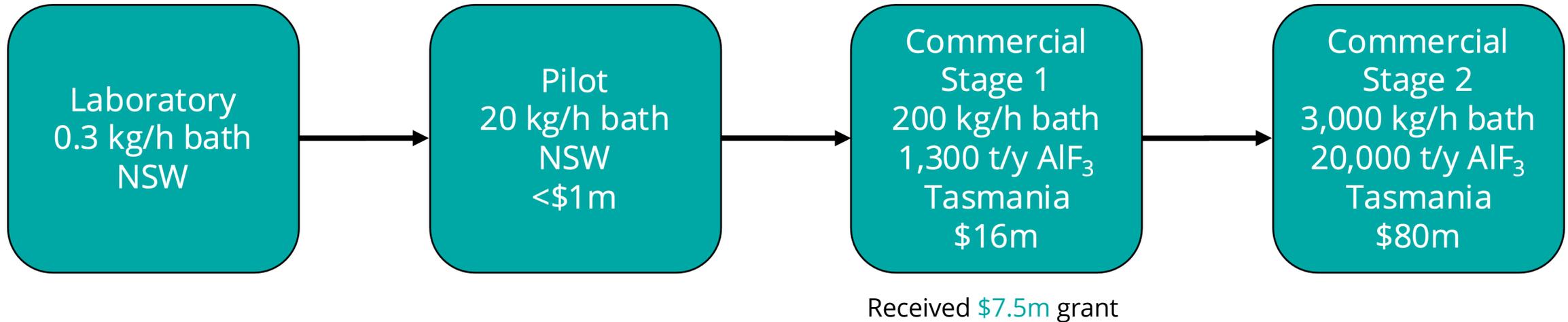
Technical Plan

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# Alcore aluminium fluoride plants

- First aluminium fluoride plant planned for Bell Bay, Tasmania, near existing hydro-powered aluminium smelter. Currently assessing specific site locations
- Partner with leading international engineering companies
- High potential for plants in other major aluminium smelting regions



# ALCORE Progress and schedule

**PHASE 1**  
2018-19

## ESTABLISHMENT

Create Alcore. ✓  
Construct high technology laboratory ✓

**PHASE 2**  
2019-21

## PROOF OF CONCEPT

Demonstrate novel chemistry for transforming industrial waste into valuable chemicals. ✓

**PHASE 3**  
2021-22

## PILOTING

Establish pilot plant facility.  
Finalise commercial plant design.

**PHASE 4**  
2022-24

## COMMERCIAL

Construct commercial plant.  
Commence production.

**PHASE 5**  
2025

## GROWTH

Increase production.  
Commence exports.  
Utilise additional industrial wastes in process.



Pilot

Commercial



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