

28 November 2023

Purported withdrawal of Senegal licence

Astron Corporation Limited's (ASX: ATR) subsidiary in Senegal, Senegal Mineral Resources SA (**SMR**), had its small mine licence, issued under Order Number 09042/MIM/TMG, renewed for 5 years in April 2023.

The Ministry of Mines and Geology in Senegal (**Ministry**) has now issued an order purporting to withdraw the authorisation granted to SMR to operate the small mine licence.

SMR is of the view that the order issued by the Ministry is invalid on the basis that it does not comply with the procedures set out in the Mining Code of Senegal, as the requisite procedures (including certain requirements for formal notices) were not followed. Further, the basis of the withdrawal is in SMR's view is also invalid as one of the bases of the purported withdrawal is that the temporary resettlement of a small, localised population to allow mining activities to commence has not occurred. Under the mining code, resettlement, which has not occurred, depends on actions to be taken by the local and provincial officials in Senegal rather than by the holder of the licence.

SMR has resolved to commence a mediation process under which an independent mediator will be appointed to seek resolution with the Ministry. The independent mediator will meet with both the parties individually and will also facilitate a joint meeting of the parties. This is a mandatory process and, under the mediation process in Senegal, the mediator will make a decision based on his or her findings. This decision is subject to a right of appeal by either party under a more formal arbitration process.

The mediation process is expected to take around 2-3 months and will permit both parties to engage constructively to seek clarity of outcome regarding the small mine licence prior to the 2024 Senegal Presidential Election.

The cost of, and involvement of Astron's Australian personnel in, the mediation process is minimal.

Astron and SMR will work with the independent mediator and the Ministry to address this issue, as SMR believes the order and the process followed by the Ministry was erroneous and flawed. Astron will provide further updates once the mediation process has been completed, however the current intention is to seek to have the Ministry's order withdrawn.

This announcement has been authorised for lodgement to ASX by the Managing Director of Astron.

About Astron

Astron Corporation Limited (ASX: ATR) is an ASX listed company, with over 35 years of experience in mineral sands processing and downstream product development, as well as the marketing and sales of zircon and titanium dioxide products. Astron's prime focus is on the development of its large, long-life and attractive zircon assemblage Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project in regional Victoria. Donald has the ability to represent a new major source of global supply in mineral sands and rare earths. The company conducts a mineral sands trading operation based in Shenyang, China; operates a zircon and titanium chemicals and metals research and facility in Yingkou, China; and is the owner of the Niafarang Mineral Sands Project in Senegal.