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# AGUIA SELECTS ENGINEERING FIRMS FOR TRÊS ESTRADAS BANKABLE FEASIBILITY STUDY

# **Highlights:**

- Millcreek Mining Group selected to oversee Três Estradas Bankable Feasibility Study
- Millcreek supported by local Brazilian engineering firm that has participated in construction of every phosphate mine operating in Brazil
- EIA passes initial review stage by Rio Grande Environmental Agency
- Collection of bulk samples for upcoming pilot plant test is progressing
- Four diamond rigs have commenced infill drilling with a fifth starting next week

Brazilian fertiliser developer Aguia Resources Limited (ASX: AGR) ("Aguia" or "Company") is pleased to announce the appointment of key engineering consulting firms to oversee the Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS) of its flagship Três Estradas Phosphate Project in southern Brazil.

Aguia conducted an exhaustive tender process with a wide range of engineering consulting firms, issuing a Requests for Proposals to complete a full BFS of Três Estradas. The winning tender was presented by Millcreek Mining Group from Salt Lake City, Utah. Mill Creek recently completed the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) of the Três Estradas project.

Millcreek's work will be supported by supplementary work from ECM Engenharia (ECM) and Walm Engenharia (Walm), both based in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. ECM brings specific experience in the areas of plant process and site infrastructure, with a track record that includes participation in the engineering and construction of every phosphate mine operating in Brazil. Walm has consulted previously to Aguia and will be responsible for geotechnical and hydrological studies.

Aguia is also please to confirm that the Rio Grande Environmental Agency (FEPAM) has advised the Company that the first pass review of the Três Estradas Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was positive, with no fatal flaws evident and the guidelines of the Terms of Reference have been met.

FEPAM will proceed with a detailed assessment of the EIA which will include community consultations and public hearings. The Company has engaged Via Mosaico, a communications firm out of Porto Alegre, to assist management with these activities.

On site, four diamond rigs have commenced the infill drilling and collection of bulk samples for the upcoming pilot plant test to be conducted at the Eriez Flotation Division in Pennsylvania. A fifth reverse circulation rig is expected to arrive on site next week to conduct shallow infill drilling of the oxidized zone of the deposit.

## **Management commentary**

**Head of Engineering Guilherme Jacome commented,** "The three professional firms we have selected for the BFS have the necessary mix of project knowledge, local market expertise, a track record of operating in Brazil, and exceptional technical and operational skills. Our team has worked with all three groups which gives us added confidence."

**Technical Director Fernando Tallarico added,** "We have set the stage to substantially reduce the risk of the Três Estradas Project by refining the processing and engineering data. I am confident that the high-quality team of consultants that we have engaged are the best choice to assist us to complete the BFS and obtain the Preliminary Environmental License within the next 12 months. These companies bring a combination of global experience and local project development and operating experience."

**Justin Reid, Managing Director of Aguia concluded,** "Our Bankable Feasibility Study is progressing to schedule with a number of key elements well underway. We are witnessing great support from all of our local stakeholders including the State and Municipal governments, local residents and industrial partners. We have set an aggressive timeline and we have the best team in place to achieve it."

Aguia expects to update shareholders on infill drilling results, exploration results from surrounding projects that could add to the scale of Três Estradas, and other progress on the BFS on an ongoing basis.

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## **About Aguia:**

Aguia is a fertiliser company focused on the exploration and development of phosphate and potash projects in Brazil to supply the Brazilian agriculture sector. Brazil is Latin America's biggest economy and is heavily reliant on imports of up to 50 per cent of its phosphate and 90 per cent of its potash needs. Aguia is well positioned to capitalise on the growing demand for phosphorus and potash based fertilisers in the expanding agriculture sector in Brazil and controls three large projects, located close to existing infrastructure. The Company is committed to its existing projects whilst continuing to pursue other opportunities within the fertiliser sector.

#### **Forward Looking Statements:**

This news release contains forward looking statements, which relate to future events or future performance, including, but not limited to, the completion of the size of the Placement, receipt of regulatory approvals and timing thereof, the Company's business strategies and plans for the use of such Placement proceeds, capital expenditure programs and estimates relating to timing and costs, and reflect management's current expectations and assumptions, including, but not limited to the timing and receipt of necessary regulatory approvals and completion of the Placement and stability of general economic and financial market conditions. The use of any of the words "anticipate", "continue", "estimate", "expect", "may", "will", "project", "should", "believe", and similar expressions is intended to identify forward looking statements. Such forward looking statements reflect management's current beliefs and are based on assumptions made by and information currently available to the Company. Readers are cautioned that these forward looking statements are neither promises nor guarantees, and are subject to risks and uncertainties, including imprecision in estimate capital expenditures and operating expenses, stock market volatility, general economic and business conditions, risks associated with liquidity and capital resource requirements, that may cause future results to differ materially from those expected and the forward looking statements included in this news release should not be unduly relied upon. These forward looking statements are made as of the date hereof and the Company does not assume any obligation to update or revise them to reflect new events or circumstances save as required under applicable securities legislation. This news release does not constitute an offer to sell securities and the Company is not soliciting an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of such jurisdiction.