

## Pure Minerals Limited

Technical Presentation - Webinar

October 2020

**HPA** AI Ni Fe Sc Mg Co Mn

ASX : PM1



Developing innovative processing technologies to produce nickel sulfate, cobalt sulfate and High Purity Alumina

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## Pure Minerals Limited

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#### **Re-Energising Nickel Production**





Pure Minerals and LG Chem agree to negotiate a binding offtake agreement for:

3-5 year term

10,000tpa contained nickel

1,000tpa contained cobalt

Consideration of prepayment by LG Chem

Refer to ASX announcement 15 October 2020

Significant milestone for Pure Minerals and the TECH Project

- World class partner who is bankable
- Culmination of months of relationship development and negotiation
- Facilitates potential to increase the scale of the TECH Project to what was previously contemplated in the PFS (6,000t Ni)

#### About LG Chem

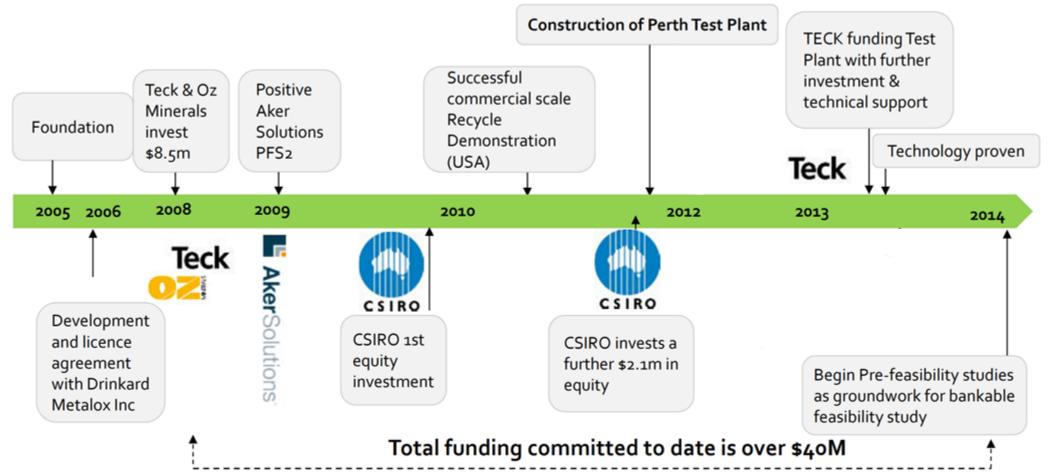
- Largest Korean chemicals company and 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the world
- Largest battery producer in the world
- Existing plants:
  - Poland
  - Nanjing, China
- Plants under construction:
  - Michigan, USA (5 GWh annually)
  - Ohio, USA (30 GWh annually) in joint venture with General Motors
  - China (10GWh annually) in joint venture with Geely Automobile Holdings
  - Poland expansion (increasing to 35 GWh annually)
  - 2nd Nanjing plant

LG Chem's aggressive expansion underpins their growing need for battery chemicals – the TECH Project has the opportunity to become part of the LG Chem supply chain

## **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

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The DNi Process<sup>™</sup> is not new – it has been extensively funded and developed for over a decade, but advancements in nickel pig iron prevented commercialisation of the technology...the emergence of the EV sector and requirement for class 1 nickel changes this

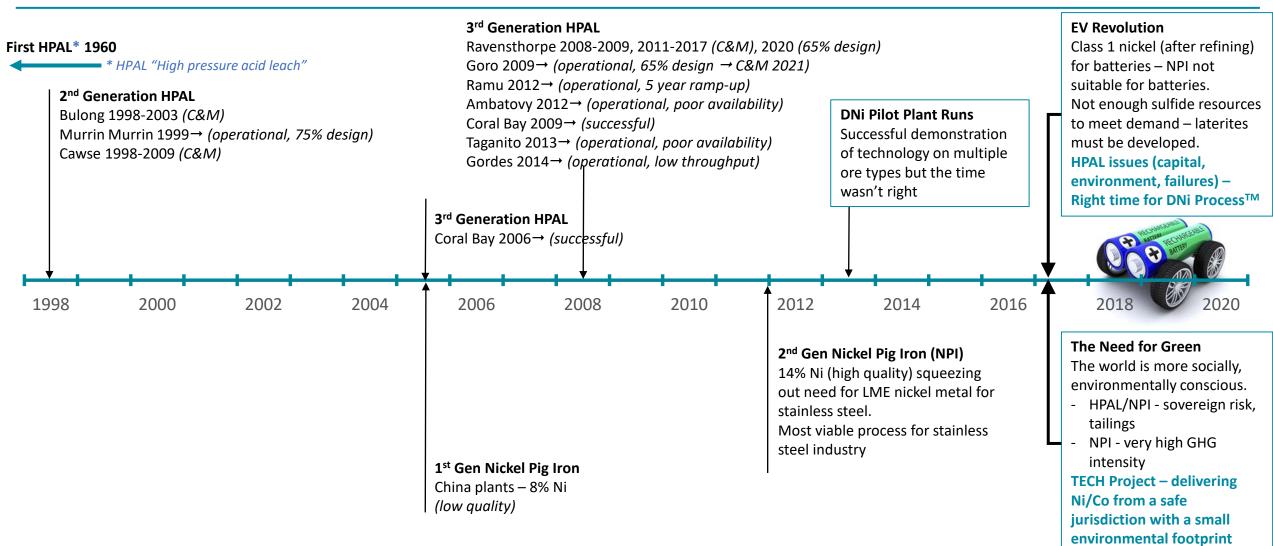


Source: Altilium Group (Formally Direct Nickel Holdings UK Ltd)

## **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

## Projected EV Nickel Demand – The Right Time for DNi Process™





#### **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

## DNi Process<sup>TM</sup> – Extensive Piloting Historically Undertaken



## The DNi Process<sup>™</sup> was extensively piloted at the CSIRO, Western Australia in 2013

- 19 continuous piloting runs throughout an 11 month period
- Successful demonstrated the integrated DNi Process<sup>™</sup> flowsheet
- A range of ore blends were tested in the pilot plant, using nickel ore from Indonesia.
- Successful production of high purity Mixed Hydroxide Precipitate ("MHP")
- Significant investment by Australian government via CSIRO
- Detailed Engineering study completed by Lycopodium for a nominal 1.4M (dry) tpa ore processing plant (20ktpa Ni) Based on the PT Antam Tanjung (Buli) Resource
- Commercial plant did not proceed because of nickel pig iron boom and no Lithium Ion Battery nickel market

The DNi Process<sup>™</sup> is comprised of long established, proven processing steps – it is well understood and has been extensively and successfully piloted



DNi Process™ pilot plant located at CSIRO, Western Australia

## **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

## **Piloting Activities**

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#### QPM's pilot plant activities will:

- Reconfirm flowsheet with representative ore
- Produce samples for potential customers
- Generate supplementary results to feed into a Bankable Feasibility Study
- Provide opportunities for investor visits (physical or virtual)
- Clear the path to start Definitive Feasibility study



Completed ✓ Bulk Sample sourced from New Caledonia partners has been transported to Perth



Q3/Q4 2020 Direct Nickel pilot plant to be assembled and operated at ALS Global

Aluminium

Hydroxide

High Grade Haematite



Q1→ 2021 MHP will be further refined to produce battery chemicals Nickel sulfate and Cobalt sulfate at CSIRO. Samples to be provided to potential offtakers



 $Q1/Q2 \rightarrow 2021$ Aluminium Hydroxide will be further refined to produce 4N HPA. Samples to be provided to potential offtakes



Q1/Q2 2021 Haematite will be used for iron collaboration with Sun Metals (wholly owned subsidiary of Korea Zinc)

## **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

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#### Completed:

- Pre-feasibility Study completed
  - Altilium DNi Process<sup>™</sup> design utilised
  - Detailed engineering and cost confirmed by Lycopodium
- Study Lead Manager Appointed
  - Highly experienced study lead has been bought onto Owner's team
  - Commenced discussions with potential EPC partners
- Bench scale testwork completed on representative ore samples from New Caledonia
- Bench scale testwork HPA Sulfate
- Made enhancements to DNi Process<sup>™</sup>

#### Decisions to be made:

- Scale of TECH Project
  - − PFS 6,000tpa  $\rightarrow$  LG Chem MOU for 10,000tpa
  - Larger plant much lower capital intensity, same engineering costs, lower scale-up risk (PFS plant was at the bottom edge of operable scale and vendor support)
  - Determine plant size with consideration given to capex/fundability, project approvals, scale-up risk and meeting the needs of customers
- Flowsheet
  - Ore → MHP: DNi Process<sup>TM</sup> flowsheet locked
  - MHP  $\rightarrow$  Sulfate: flowsheet to be finalised
  - Aluminium Hydroxide  $\rightarrow$  HPA: flowsheet to be finalised
  - Sulfate + HPA flowsheets will either be already proven or have a slight change from proven flowsheets

#### Technical workstreams to be completed:

- **Pilot Plant Operation** Data to be fed into BFS along with Altilium FS design
- Build owner's team expand from Study Lead Manager

## **Re-Energising Nickel Production**



#### Commercialisation for the TECH Project can be broadly split into two risk categories - Mechanical and Chemical

#### Mechanical - scale up can be difficult and is often empirical

- The level of risk depends on bulk flows and fundamental bulkscale parameters such as:
  - Rheology, settling rate, etc
  - Abrasion
  - Mixing and local shear conditions
  - Heat transfer
  - 3D flows and interactions
- Mechanical risk profile of TECH Project is lower because:
  - Equipment is simple
  - Atmospheric pressure conditions
  - Simple mechanical agitation
  - Standard heat exchange, distillation, settling, filtration, etc
  - Unit operations within flowsheet are commercially proven across 00's of operations
- Further measures to reduce mechanical risk:
  - Pilot testwork to date is extensive and is far, far greater than what is typically undertaken for new processes
  - Selection of world class EPC partner for BFS
  - Vendor testwork throughout BFS

#### Chemical – scale up is relatively easy and fundamental

- "Chemistry" scale up is straight-forward, well understood and based on universal and long proven rules (less so for "mechanical/physical" scale up)
- Depends mostly on local chemical environment
- Good "chemistry" work at small scale perfectly replicates at large scale
- Chemicals react the same in a test tube or a commercial size tank
- Chemical risk profile of TECH Project is lower because:
  - Downstream of the iron hydrolysis section of DNi
    Process<sup>™</sup>, everything is standard
  - Nitric acid processing is practiced at 000's of sites
  - Nitric acid dissolution and regeneration is practiced at 00's of sites in other processes

### **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

## Technology Scale Up



# Why the DNi<sup>™</sup> Process has a lower risk profile from scale up of pilot plant to first commercial plant:

- Over a decade of development and \$40+M spent
- Extensively piloted process (11 months, multiple ores all successful)
- New Caledonian ores are even simpler (100% limonite)
- Flowsheet consists of unit operations that are already commercialised
- Atmospheric conditions no pressure vessels or low availability
- No complex unit operations
- Short lead-time equipment

#### What we are doing to minimise risk of scale up:

- Confirmatory piloting of the process on New Caledonia ore
- Altilium support
- Formal independent technical and project risk studies (at a DD quality)
- Chemistry scale up relatively simple (chemicals don't care if they are in test tubes or tanks, vials or vessels)
- Equipment scale up address by:
  - Only use proven unit operations equipment
  - Vendor testing and guarantees
  - World class EPC

#### We are undertaking the requisite steps to de-risk scale-up, and we are further assisted by:

- The risk is not binary (i.e. not a "1 = success" or a "0 = fail"). It is a 0.8, a 1.0 or a 1.2
- The expected growth in demand for nickel for EV's (10x until 2030 alone) and the lack of supply (70% of world Ni production is not economical for batteries and 25% of the rest requires additional processing to battery grades. Nickel sulfide deposits are not available to meet this demand and is expensive to go through to nickel/cobalt sulfate
- The complexity in going from nickel sulphide concentrate through to sulfate battery chemicals
- The failures of the only significant (and still partial) alternative HPAL
- Short time to market
- Sustainability credentials (zero liquid discharge, low GHG emissions intensity, full conversion of ore to products little to no waste)

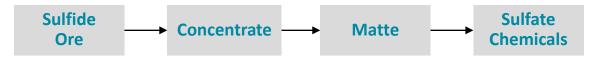
## **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

## **Sources of Nickel**



#### **Nickel Sulfides**

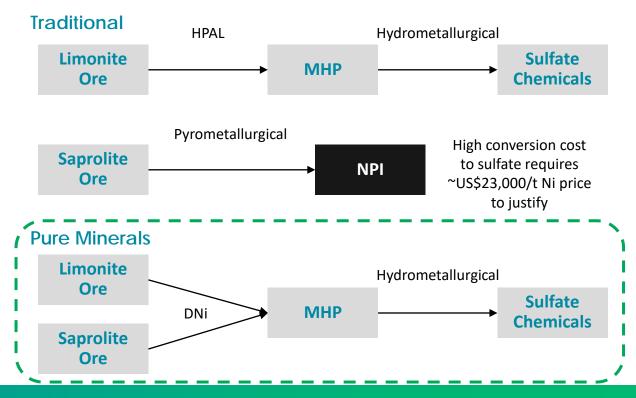
- Existing reserves are being depleted and make up <30% of the world's nickel reserves (contained metal basis)
- Sulfide ore is typically processed through to a concentrate and then smelted through to a nickel sulfide matte
- Matte must then be further refined through to nickel metal or sulfate
- New exploration finds will take considerably longer to come to market than the TECH Project



 Processes to convert concentrate straight to sulfate chemicals are in the early stages of development (high risk and expensive)

#### **Nickel Laterites**

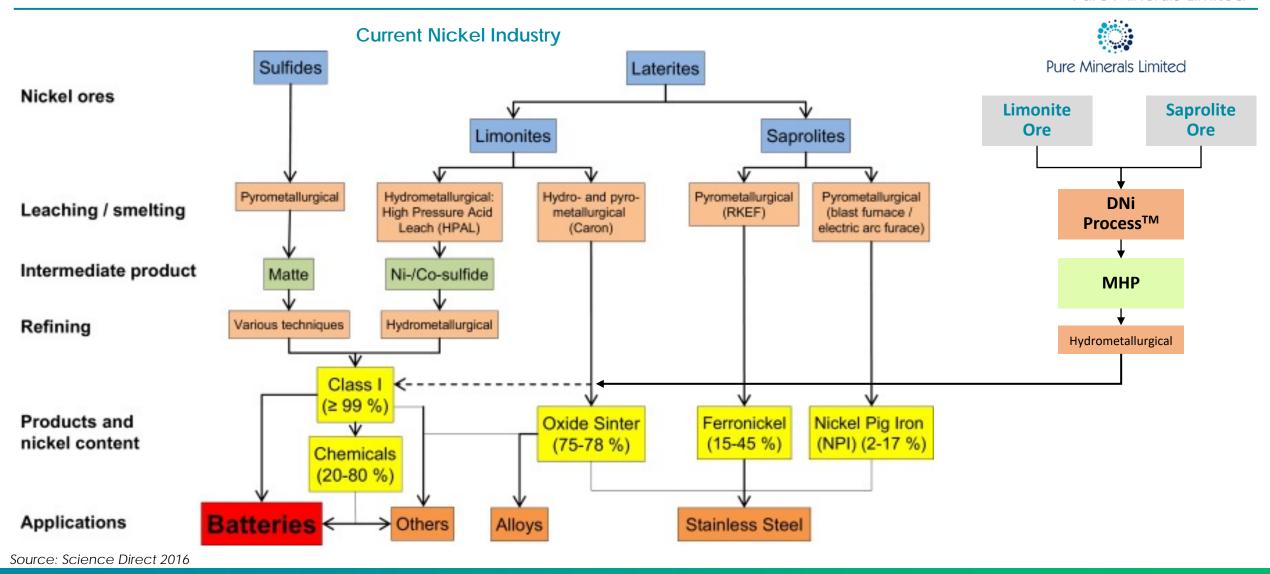
- Limonite (high iron) and Saprolite (low iron, high magnesium)
- Limonite ore is typically processed through to MHP, which can then go straight to sulfate chemicals
- Saprolite ore is typically processed into nickel pig iron for stainless steel



### **Re-Energising Nickel Production**

## **Overview of nickel ore processing options** (summary)

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#### **Re-Energising Nickel Production**