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04 September 2023

# **ASX Announcement**

## YTTRIA MET TESTWORK UPDATE AND CASH BALANCE BOOSTED

# **Highlights:**

- Initial Stage 1 sighter metallurgy test work nearing completion on selected drill samples from the Yttria clay hosted REE Deposit.
- Significantly stronger cash balance through sale of part of the Company's equity interests and repayments of Loans.
- Current cash balance of ~ \$2.40 million plus an additional ~ \$1.23 million\* potential value still held in equity interests.
- Asra exploration field teams continuing soil geochemistry and pXRF surveys at Mt
  Stirling and at Kookynie West, to evaluate anomalous REE, Gold and Lithium areas.

**Asra Minerals Limited (ASX: ASR)** is pleased to announce that the preliminary Stage 1 sighter metallurgical testwork and beneficiation is reaching completion for its Yttria clay hosted Rare Earth Element (REE) discovery, at its Mt Stirling Project, near Leonora, in Western Australia.

The Stage 1 test work is trialing weak acid (ammonium sulphate) leaching testwork at ambient temperature and pressure to determine if any easily extractable REE zones are indicated, before increasing temperature and pH acid regimes with ongoing Stage 2 REE metallurgical testwork.

Assay work on various particle size separations as part of Stage 1 will also focus future work on the optimal size clay fractions and determine where high value domains can be prioritised and potentially beneficiated to further optimise recovery. Stage 1 Sighter Met results expected during September, and ongoing with Stage 2.

Asra's Managing Director Rob Longley, commented:

"We are pleased the metallurgical test work for Yttria is well underway which coincides with our push on the ground at Yttria, Wishbone and at Kookynie West, to map out extensions of the REE and Critical Minerals footprint in the Leonora district.

We have also capitalised on the opportunity to unlock value from our shareholding in Loyal Lithium Limited (ASX: LLI) and firm up our cash position.

Asra will also benefit from an additional ~\$419,500 of loan repayments, scheduled to be completed at the end of November.

Asra maintains its holding of 3 million LLI options which currently have a market value of ~ \$1.23 million based on the closing share price of LLI on 1 September."

<sup>\*</sup> Based on ASX: LLI share price on 1 Sept 2023 of 71c and an option exercise price of 30c per share



The Metallurgical test work on Yttria drill samples will help determine the most effective process that will optimise the recovery of valuable heavy and magnet REE metals.

Ultimately, selection of the most economic flowsheet for extraction of REE's will depend on the cost of supply and ability to recover acid remaining in solution after leaching.

The Yttria Deposit at Mt Stirling has the benefit of a high REE basket value (*refer ASX announcement 3 July 2023*), uniquely high Scandium content from surface, and ideal Tier 1 location close to infrastructure.

Extremely low uranium and thorium values across the initial 3.5km of strike so far tested, and the close to surface nature of the clay hosted REE deposit, add to the attractiveness of the REE system at Mt Stirling.

Metallurgical work will provide meaningful input parameters data that will allow categorisation of the deposit potentially into Indicated and Measured JORC Code categories, as part of the Mineral Estimation process also underway.



Figure 1: Asra's MD Rob Longley checking on the progress of Metallurgical testwork

Asra has utilised representative samples spread across the Yttria REE deposit, for initial metallurgical test work and sizing analysis to provide valuable early insights to identifying the most promising areas and how different geological and mineralogical domains behave under varying processing laboratory conditions.

The next batch of representative samples is in readiness to commence Stage 2 metallurgy. This is aimed at allowing the Company to proceed with greater confidence into a more comprehensive Stage 3 program of ore characterisation and metallurgical test work to further advance economic parameters for the REE project.

With only the initial part of the REE-Corridor at Mt Stirling being drill tested, Asra has significant upside potential for extending the REE mineralisation footprint at the Mt Stirling project.

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board.



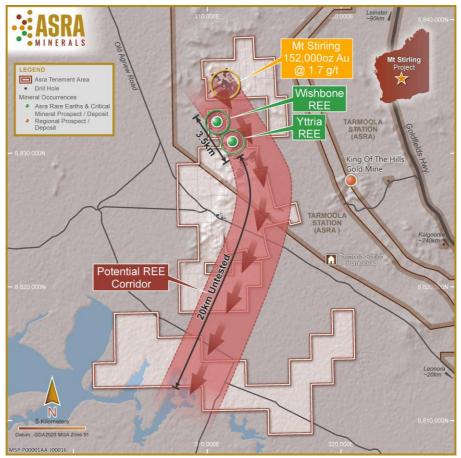


Figure 2: +20km long Corridor of REE prospectivity at Mt Stirling

#### **Further information:**

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### **About Asra:**

Asra Minerals is actively developing Gold, Lithium and REE projects, located in the well-endowed Eastern Goldfields mining jurisdiction of Leonora, Western Australia.

The company's Mt Stirling Project hosts a 152,000oz Gold Deposit<sup>1</sup> and a unique clay hosted REE deposit of clean, Heavy Rare Earth Elements and critical minerals, Scandium and Cobalt.

Asra has also recently entered into an option agreement to add the Kookynie West Project (refer ASX announcement 10 May 2023) to expand its exploration portfolio in the Leonora region of Western Australia.

- ✓ Existing Asra Tenement Portfolio at Mt Stirling: 187km²
- ✓ Kookynie West Tenements: 360km² (155km² Live and 206km² pending)

2,158,000t at 1.6 g/t Au for 111,000oz (Inferred) Stirling Well: 198,000t at 2.3 g/t Au for 15,000oz (Inferred)

198,000t at 2.3 g/t Au for 15,000oz (Inferred)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MS Viserion: 391,000t at 2.1g/t Au for 26,000oz (Indicated)



Located near the mining town of Leonora, 240km north of Kalgoorlie, Asra's Mt Stirling Project has:

- ✓ Gold a current 152,000oz JORC compliant Mineral Resource of gold alongside Red 5's (ASX; RED) King of the Hills mine. The region has recently produced approximately 14Moz of gold from mines such as Tower Hills, Sons of Gwalia, Thunderbox, Harbour Lights and Gwalia.
- ✓ REE A high ratio of heavy rare earths to total rare earths (0.57 to 1) and a lack of radioactivity distinguishes the Company's Yttria and Wishbone clay-hosted REE prospects. The Deposits contain a high proportion of the magnet REEs Dysprosium, Terbium, Praseodymium and Neodymium, as well as significant anomalous concentrations of Scandium.
- ✓ Property: The Company owns the 172,662-hectare Tarmoola Pastoral Lease underlying the Company's gold and REE deposits and infrastructure.
- ✓ Equity: Asra also has free-carried gold joint ventures in the WA Goldfields with Zuleika (ASX: ZAG) and Loyal Lithium (ASX: LLI) as well as an equity holding in LLI.

#### **Competent Person Statement**

Statements contained in this report relating to Rare Earth and Scandium exploration results and potential, are based on information compiled and evaluated by Robin Longley, a Geologist and current Managing Director of Asra Minerals. Mr Longley is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists with sufficient relevant experience in relation to Archaean regolith mineralisation, rare earth element geochemistry and critical metal mineralisation to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the Australian Code for Reporting of Identified Mineral resources and Ore reserves (JORC Code 2012). Mr Longley consents to the use of this information in this report in the form and context in which it appears.

Where the Company refers to Mineral Resources in this, it confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in that announcement and all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource estimate with that announcement continue to apply and have not materially changed. The Company confirms that the form and context in which the Competent Persons findings are presented have not materially changed from the original announcement.

# **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This news release contains "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Generally, any statements that are not historical facts may contain forward-looking information, and forward looking information can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget" "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or indicates that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will be" taken, "occur" or "be achieved." Forward-looking information is based on certain factors and assumptions management believes to be reasonable at the time such statements are made, including but not limited to, continued exploration activities, Gold and other metal prices, the estimation of initial and sustaining capital requirements, the estimation of labour costs, the estimation of mineral reserves and resources, assumptions with respect to currency fluctuations, the timing and amount of future exploration and development expenditures, receipt of required regulatory approvals, the availability of necessary financing for the Project, permitting and such other assumptions and factors as set out herein. apparent inconsistencies in the figures shown in the MRE are due to rounding.

Forward-looking information is subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking information, including but not limited to: risks related to changes in Gold prices; sources and cost of power and water for the Project; the estimation of initial capital requirements; the lack of historical operations; the estimation of labour costs; general global markets and economic conditions; risks associated with exploration of mineral deposits; the estimation of initial targeted mineral resource tonnage and grade for the Project; risks associated with uninsurable risks arising during the course of exploration; risks associated with currency fluctuations; environmental risks; competition faced in securing experienced personnel; access to adequate infrastructure to support exploration activities; risks associated with changes in the mining



regulatory regime governing the Company and the Project; completion of the environmental assessment process; risks related to regulatory and permitting delays; risks related to potential conflicts of interest; the reliance on key personnel; financing, capitalisation and liquidity risks including the risk that the financing necessary to fund continued exploration and development activities at the Project may not be available on satisfactory terms, or at all; the risk of potential dilution through the issuance of additional common shares of the Company; the risk of litigation.

Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended, there can be no assurance that such forward-looking information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such information. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. Forward looking information is made as of the date of this announcement and the Company does not undertake to update or revise any forward-looking information this is included herein, except in accordance with applicable securities law.