

Edleston Nickel Project Scoping Study Metallurgical Testwork Commences

Key Highlights

- Scoping study metallurgical work has commenced for Edleston Nickel Project
- Leading experts, Corem and Ausenco, managing testwork program
- 1.5 tonnes of core representing a broad cross section of mineralisation to be tested
- Nickel cobalt concentrate produced will be evaluated for the nickel smelter and nickel battery offtake industries
- Initial metallurgical testwork, completed in July 2022, demonstrated that the Edleston is a nickel sulphide deposit and amenable to industry standard flotation technology with good Ni/Co recoveries and concentrate grades¹

Aston Minerals Limited (**ASX: ASO**, 'Aston Minerals' or 'the Company') is pleased to announce that metallurgical testwork has commenced as a lead into a scoping study for Aston Minerals' 100% owned Edleston Nickel Project, Ontario, Canada.

As announced on 2 August 2023, Corem, a nickel-experienced metallurgical laboratory based in Quebec, has been appointed and has now commenced analysing drill core selected from mineralised zones from the Boomerang target at the Edleston Nickel Project. Corem were selected in part due to their knowledge in flowsheet development of nickel deposits of a similar nature to Boomerang.

The testwork program will be managed by Greg Lane, Chief Technology Officer at Ausenco, a global EPCM services business with offices in Toronto to service eastern Canada, as also announced on 2 August 2023.

The testwork program will focus on key process parameters that define metallurgical recovery and nickel concentrate grade using a lock cycle program. The outcome of the program will define the technical parameters relating to comminution, metal recoveries and costs which will feed into the capital and operating costs of the Scoping Study. Over 1.5 tonnes of core has been selected from across the mineralised deposit and shipped to Corem. The core represents a range of Ni, S, MgO and Fe grades, and was selected to represent the broad cross section of the mineralisation.

The work program will include:

- Mineralogy
- Comminution testwork to determine ore hardness and target grind size

¹ ASX Announcement 1 August 2022: *Metallurgical Testing at Bardwell Confirms Amenability of Beneficiating Lower Grade Mineralisation*

- Flotation testwork to assess flowsheet options and variability in process response
- Assessment of the inputs for cut-off grade determination and a basis for further economic assessment

Managing Director, Russell Bradford, commented: *“The nickel expertise and experience of the Corem team and Ausenco on similar ultramafic nickel orebodies, alongside that of the Aston Minerals’ board and management team, represents an unrivalled body of nickel knowledge. We have tapped into this to define the metallurgical testwork program for the Edleston Nickel Project. Up to 22 different sample compositions based on grade variation will be assessed to determine the processing requirements and variability in response based on the different grade profiles. Previous testwork on the Edleston nickel suggests that the flowsheet will be a simple mill rougher cleaner flotation circuit.”*

The full testwork program is expected to take seven months to complete, however, the Company will be able to report on nickel recovery and grade results as they become available. All the flowsheet development will feed into the scoping study which we anticipate will be published Q4 2024.

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Aston Minerals Limited.

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