ASTUTEMETALSNL

10 October 2024

NEW PHASE OF GROWTH DRILLING COMMENCES AT RED MOUNTAIN LITHIUM PROJECT, USA

Drilling designed to extend mineralisation and advance interpretation

Key Highlights

- **True North Drilling Diamond Drill (DD) rig on site and new drilling campaign now underway.**
- **Campaign comprises two permitted holes for a planned 400m of drilling.**
- **Drilling designed to extend the mineralisation in the Project's north and establish a new horizon in the Project's south.**
- **Campaign scheduled to be completed by early November, with assay results expected by January 2025.**
- **Astute in attendance at the inaugural Nevada Lithium Summit, hosted by Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo.**
- **Astute commences engagement with Federal and State bodies to investigate potential funding opportunities for the Red Mountain Mountain Lithium Project.**

Astute Metals NL (ASX: ASE) ("ASE", "Astute" or "the Company") is pleased to advise that it has commenced its first-ever program of diamond drilling at the 100%-owned Red Mountain Lithium Project in Nevada, USA. Since staking the Project in 2023, the Company has completed multiple surface sampling campaigns, identifying widespread rock and soil lithium anomalism, and 11 Reverse Circulation (RC) drill-holes, confirming a significant lithium discovery with every hole intersecting mineralisation.

The current 2-hole, 400m diamond drilling campaign is designed to extend the mineralisation 375m further north of the current northernmost drill intersections of clay-hosted lithium mineralisation, and to test for a new horizon in the south of the project.

The holes are designed to enhance the Company's geological interpretation of the lithium-clay bearing stratigraphy in preparation for larger drill campaigns next field season to underpin an initial Mineral Resource Estimate. The campaign is expected to be completed during November, with assays returned to the Company by January 2025.

Astute Chairman, Tony Leibowitz, said:

"I am pleased to see this next phase of exploration drilling is underway at the Red Mountain Project. One aspect of the Project that is difficult to comprehend from reading alone is the sheer scale of the opportunity at Red Mountain. The technical team have traced lithium mineralisation in rock samples and drilling over a 6.4km extent, and it has been confirmed in RC drilling in the bedrock over 4.6km.

"The current phase of drilling is aiming to extend the mineralisation almost 400m further to the north and potentially discover a new horizon in the south. If successful, it will reinforce the fact that we have only just started to unlock the potential of this vast discovery for our shareholders."

Background

Located immediately adjacent to Route 6 near the township of Currant in central-eastern Nevada, the Red Mountain Project was staked in August 2023. The Project area has broad mapped tertiary lacustrine (lake) sedimentary rocks known locally as the Horse Camp Formation.

Elsewhere in the State of Nevada, equivalent rocks host large lithium deposits (see Figure 5) such as Lithium Americas' (NYSE: LAC) 16.1Mt LCE Thacker Pass Project[2], the American Battery Technology Corporation's (OTCMKTS: ABML) 16.9Mt LCE Tonopah Flats deposit[3] and the American Lithium (TSX.V: LI) 10.7Mt LCE TLC Lithium Project[4].

Astute has completed an 819-point soil sampling campaign and collected 118 rock chip samples at Red Mountain. These programs have revealed widespread lithium anomalism in soils and confirmed lithium mineralisation in bedrock with some exceptional grades of up to 4,150ppm Li[1,6].

The Company's maiden drill campaign at Red Mountain comprised 11 RC drill holes for 1,518m over a 4.6km strike length. This campaign was highly successful with[5]:

- Strong lithium mineralisation intersected in every hole drilled;
- Three holes intersecting lithium mineralisation starting from surface;
- Three holes ending in mineralisation, indicating greater potential beyond the drilled extents;
- Thick intersections included:
    - RMRC004: 83.8m @ 1,230ppm Li from 16.8m
    - RMRC001: 59.4m @ 1,300ppm Li from 73.2m
    - RMRC005: 80.8m @ 1,270ppm Li from 56.4m

Other attractive Project characteristics include close proximity to infrastructure, with the Project being immediately adjacent to the Grand Army of the Republic Highway (Route 6), which links the regional cities of Ely with Tonopah.

Figure 1. True North diamond drill rig set up at site RMS024.

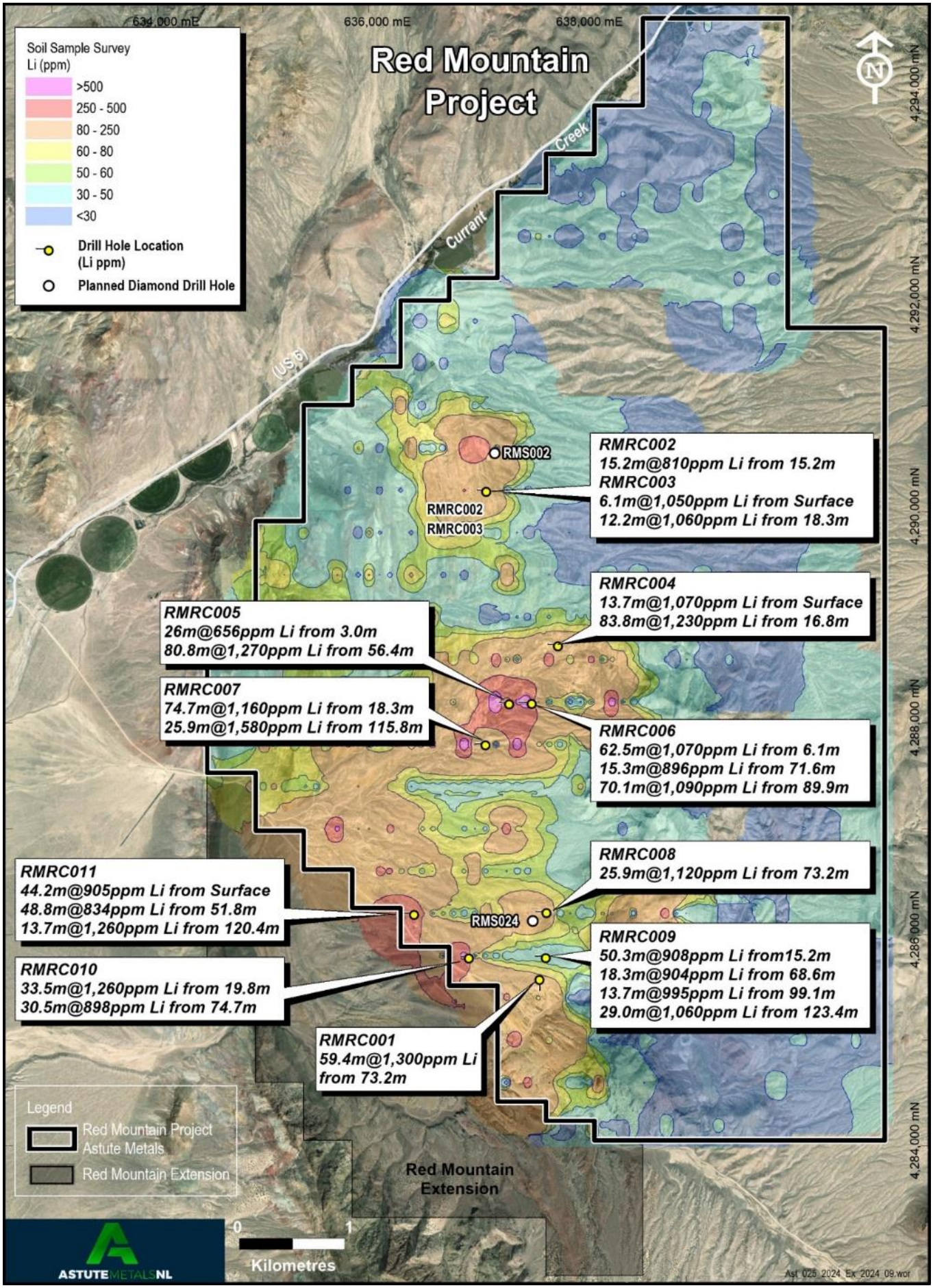

Figure 2. Existing and planned drill-hole locations over gridded lithium soil geochemistry.

Planned Drilling

The drilling campaign, utilising a True North Drilling small footprint Torque Drill TD900D rig, comprises two diamond drill holes for a combined 400m of drilling. The planned northern hole, RMS002, is designed to test for lithium mineralisation 375m north of the intersections in holes RMRC002 and 003, and beneath strong soil and rock-chip anomalies.

The planned southern hole, RMS024, is designed to test for an additional zone of mineralised stratigraphy west of the intersection in hole RMRC008 (25.9m @ 1,120ppm Li from 73.2m).

This drilling campaign will enhance the Company's geological interpretation of the Red Mountain Project, which will allow for the design and permitting of drill sites for drilling in the next field season (Q2-Q4 2025). It is envisaged that this next phase of drilling would comprise a larger number of both Reverse Circulation (RC) and diamond drill holes, with a view to calculating a maiden Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

Plan ID	Easting (NAD83)	Northing (NAD83)	Dip (°)	Azimuth (°)	Design Depth (m)
RMS024	637546	4286147	-50	270	200
RMS002	637186	4290569	-50	270	200

Table 1. Planned drill-hole details

Nevada Lithium Summit

Astute Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Matt Healy, recently represented the Company at the inaugural Nevada Lithium Summit, hosted by Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo.

Nevada is unique in North America in having the only operating commercial lithium mine (Albemarle's Silver Peak brine operation), substantial lithium clay and brine Mineral Resources, and is home to Tesla's only gigafactory, which produces electric motors, energy storage products, vehicle powertrains and batteries.

The Summit, held from 29-30th September, was attended by Federal, State and local government officials, industry leaders, and technical professionals with the ultimate goal of facilitating Nevada as a premier lithium miner, processor, battery producer and battery recycler.

Substantial Federal grant funding and loan program support is available to facilitate US critical metals independence, which includes miners seeking to mine and process lithium ores. The Company has engaged with Government representatives and Regional Development Authorities to investigate funding opportunities open to Astute as it advances the Red Mountain Project.

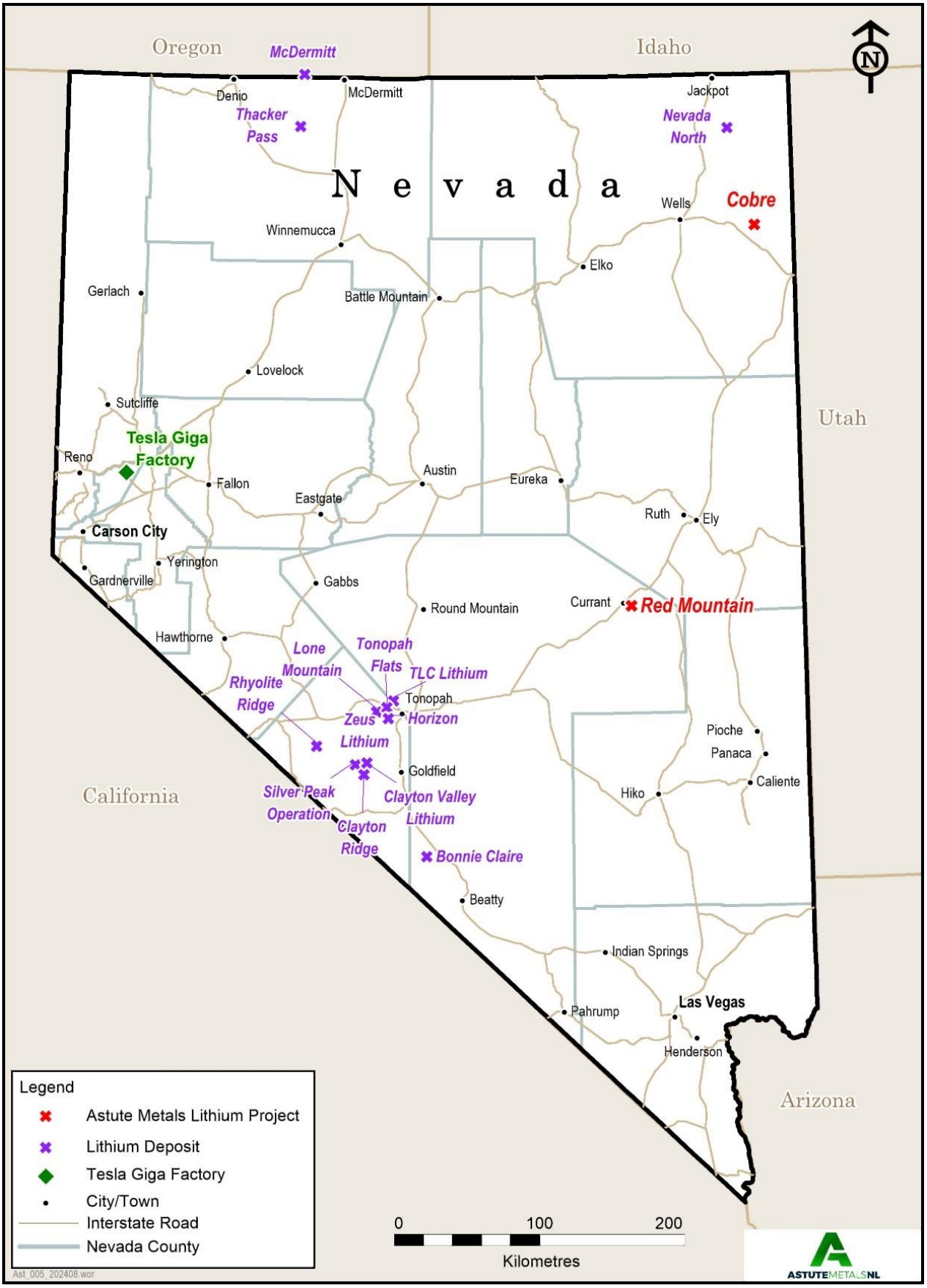

Figure 5. Location of Astute Lithium Projects and Nevada lithium deposits.

1 ASX: ASE 8 July 2024 'High-Grade Rock Chip Assays at Red Mountain Project'
2 NYSE: LAC 2 November 2022 Feasibility Study NI 43-101 Technical Report for the Thacker Pass Project
3 NASDAQ: ABAT Updated Resource Estimate and Initial Assessment… 21 December 2023..'
4 TSX.V: LI 17 March 2023 'Tonopah Lithium Claims project NI 43-101 technical report – Preliminary Economic Assessment'
5 ASX: ASE 7 August 2024 'Receipt of Final Assays for the Red Mountain Project'
6 ASX: ASE 20 November 2023 'Large Lithium Soil Anomalies Discovered at Red Mountain'

Authorisation

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Astute.

More Information

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Competent Persons

The information in this report is based on information compiled by Mr Matthew Healy, a Competent Person who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM Member number 303597). Mr Healy is a full-time employee of Astute Metals NL and is eligible to participate in a Loan Funded Share incentive plan of the Company. Mr Healy has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Healy consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears