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ASX Symbol

FGR, FGROA, FGROB

FGR to provide graphene for drilling fluid testing.

FGR will provide graphene samples for test work.

First Graphite Limited (ASX: FGR) is pleased to advise it has entered into an agreement to provide graphene samples to a large Australian based drilling fluids manufacturer and supplier. The samples will be provided from graphene produced from high-grade Sri Lankan graphite.

Successful testing may lead to potential future offtake agreements subject to meeting commercial requirements.

FGR's graphite has been found to be highly suitable for producing premium-priced graphene. Tests conducted by the University of Adelaide found the quality of the prepared graphene from FGR's graphite was outstanding and comparable with the quality of graphene prepared by synthetic routes.

They showed that FGR's graphite has very high crystalline carbon content not observed in any other previously tested graphite materials.

With an exfoliation process time of only 10 minutes, 50% of graphite is exfoliated and gave a graphene yield of >90%. The yield calculation of electrochemically exfoliated graphene from FGR's graphite will be optimised in future proposed studies.

About First Graphite Ltd (ASX: FGR)

First Graphite is aiming to develop an underground mining operation to extract high-grade, crystalline vein graphite, which is unique to Sri Lanka. The Company holds exclusive rights to exploration licenses covering approximately 39,500 hectares in area, with historical workings located within nearly all license grids.

About Graphene

Graphene, the well-publicised and now famous two-dimensional carbon allotrope, is as versatile a material as any discovered on Earth. Its amazing properties as the lightest and strongest material, compared with its ability to conduct heat and electricity better than anything else, mean it can be integrated into a huge number of applications. Initially this will mean graphene is used to help improve the performance and efficiency of current materials and substances, but in the future it will also be developed in conjunction with other two-dimensional (2D) crystals to create some even more amazing compounds to suit an even wider range of applications.

One area of research which is being very highly studied is energy storage. Currently, scientists are working on enhancing the capabilities of lithium ion batteries (by incorporating graphene as an anode) to offer much higher storage capacities with much better longevity and charge rate. Also, graphene is being studied and developed to be used in the manufacture of supercapacitors which are able to be charged very quickly, yet also be able to store a large amount of electricity.

Nature of vein graphite

Sri Lankan graphite deposition model is best described from the 'bottom up': tension fractures formed in the metamorphic sediments, caused by the folding of the sediments, creating 'conduits' for the hydrothermal deposition of high quality vein graphite. Historically, mining of these veins has found the veins generally increase in thickness and grade quality with increasing depth. Graphite veins generally dip steeply at -70° to near vertical, enabling 'narrow vein' extraction mining techniques similar to those used on narrow vein, high-grade gold deposits. The method commonly used is an overhead retreat stoping technique where the high-grade vein graphite is mined and hauled to surface without contamination. The graphite selvages, in contact with the surrounding waste, is hauled to surface and stockpiled for upgrading. The balance of the waste is used to fill the floor of the stope.

Due to the nature of the vein graphite, it is anticipated vein widths of ~25cm, using narrow vein mining techniques can be economically extracted from underground operations.

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