



ASX Announcement

30 January 2012

APPOINTMENT OF EXPERIENCED MINERAL SANDS TEAM

Highlights

- Former Iluka Chief Geologist Geoff Richards to head an experienced mineral sands technical and operational team
- Expansive work program planned to build on JORC-compliant resource of 154.3 million tonnes of ore with a grade of 4.3% contained heavy minerals
- Astro well positioned to take advantage of the continued strong outlook for mineral sands

Astro Resources NL (“ARO” or “the Company” ASX: ARO) is pleased to announce the appointment of an experienced technical and operational team to advance its mineral sands project located within the Scott Coastal Plain east of Augusta in Southern Western Australia.

The Company has identified a major resource of titanium minerals and zircon used in the construction and manufacturing industries.

Demand for the mineral sands has increased significantly in the past three years with prices for principal commodities trebling since 2009.

Executive Director, Robert Hyndes, said that Astro is pleased to have secured the services of some of the mineral sands industry’s most experienced and successful professionals.

The team, led by former Westralian Sands and Iluka Chief Geologist, Geoff Richards, will start a new exploration program based on detailed resource evaluation undertaken by the team during the prior few months.

Exploration Manager Lindsay Cahill, Environmental Manager Dr. Nicole Mann, industry consultants Adrian Griffin and Patrick McManus, will support Mr. Richards and the Astro team. Key to their appointment is the team’s specific experience with the project area of both an environmental and exploration nature, and regional program expertise.

Astro has consolidated several previously identified prospects collectively known as Governor Broome to establish a JORC-compliant resource of 154.3 million tonnes of ore with a grade of 4.3% contained heavy minerals (*please refer Table a below*). Significant further exploration upside exists within the high-grade strandlines that extend from the current resource areas.

Mr Hyndes said the company was confident of building on the current resource base with a program of infill drilling as well as the drilling of extensions along strike, with drilling contractors already having been shortlisted.

“We are very confident in the potential of this industry and we are delighted with the team we have appointed to take us to the next stage,” he said.

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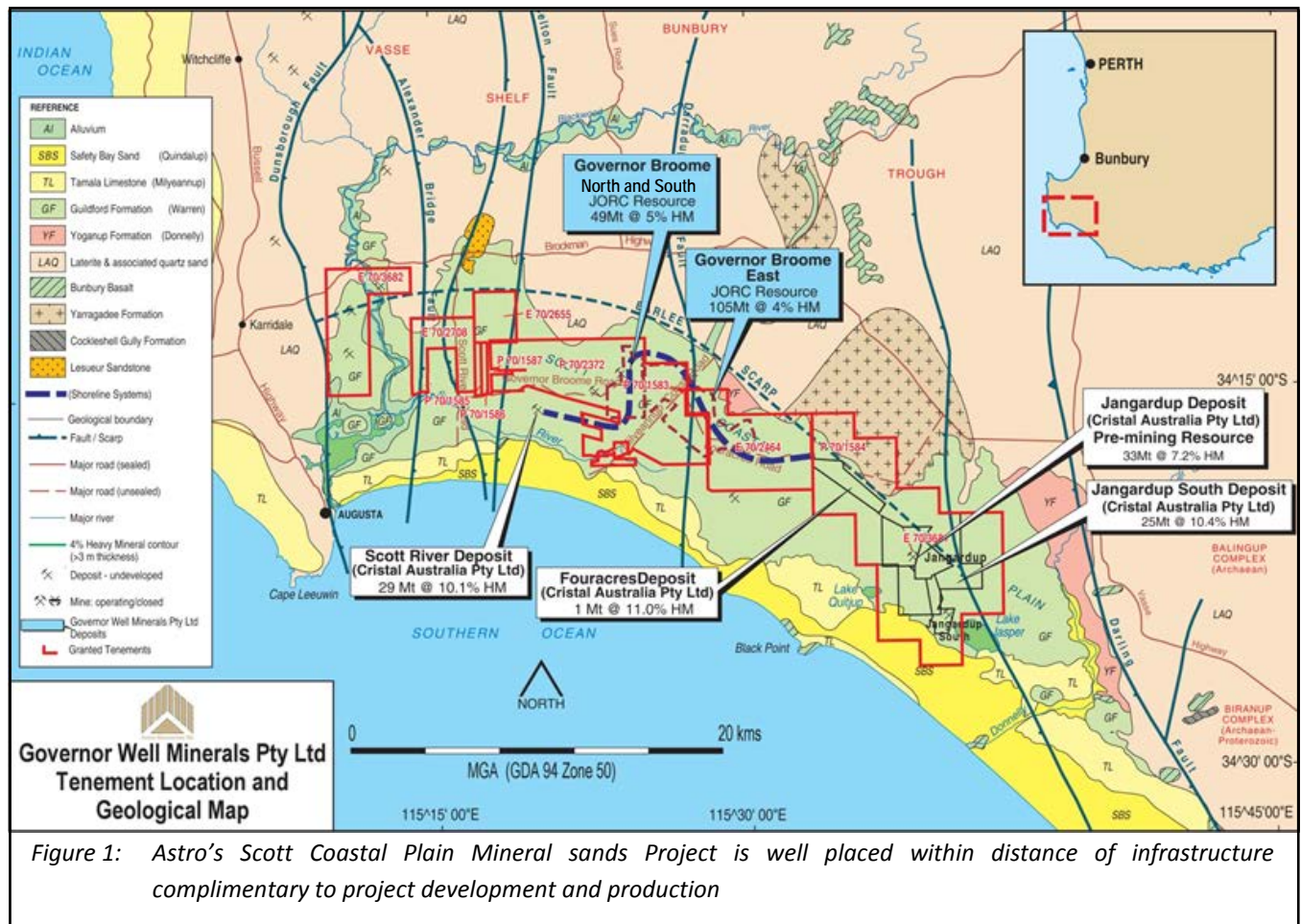
For enquiries, please contact:

Robert Hyndes
Executive Director
+61 8 6389 5777

John Nayton
Media Contact
+61 4 2241 4983

GOVERNOR BROOME AMALGAMATED JORC COMPLIANT RESOURCES						
2%HM reporting cut-off, 30% upper slimes cut-off						
DEPOSIT	JORC CATEGORY	RESOURCE AUTHOR	ORE TONNES (Mt)	HM%	OVERSIZE %	SLIMES%
Governor Broome South	Inferred	GRD Minproc	25.1	4.67	8.7	13.2
Governor Broome North	Inferred	Geostat	24.2	5.30	9.0	11.1
Governor Broome East	Inferred	Geostat	105	3.99	5.5	15.3
TOTAL			154.3	4.31	6.6	14.3

Table 1: Governor Broome resource estimation





About the Mineral Sands Industry

Historically, Western Australia has been one of the world’s major producers of mineral sands – particularly ilmenite, rutile and synthetic rutile used in paint pigments – and zircon used in ceramics.

Strong demand from China and other emerging markets combined with supply side constraints (predominantly from historic lack of investment in the development of new resources) mineral sands commodities are expected to remain strong.

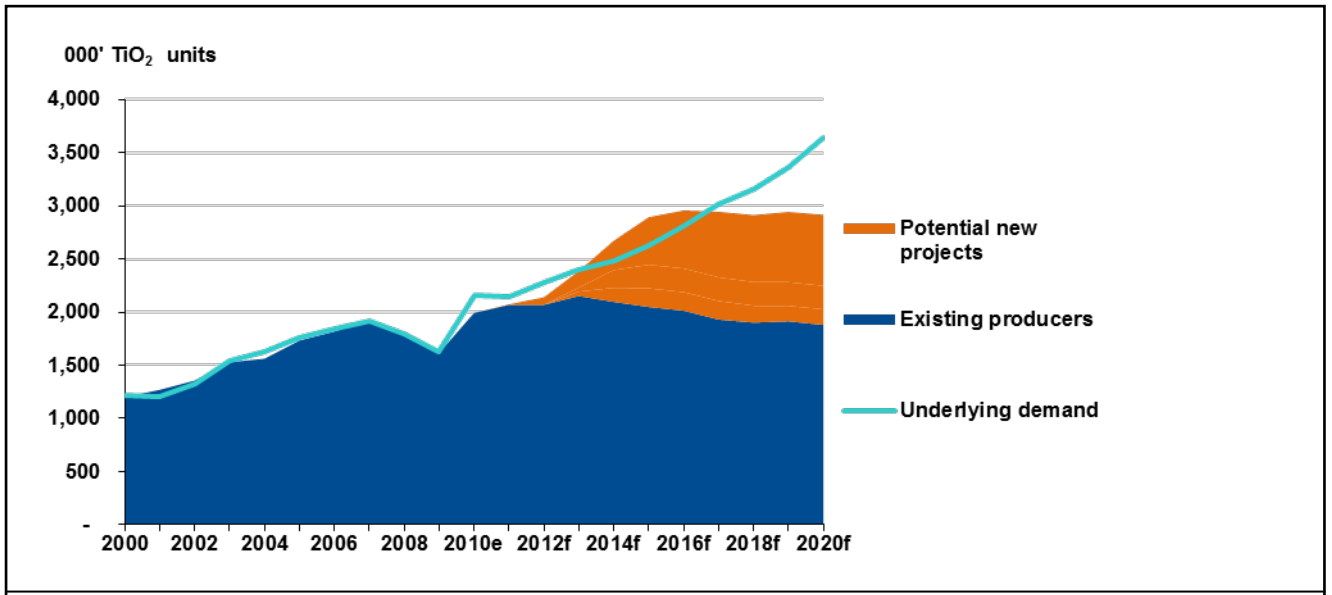


Figure 2: Sulphate ilmenite supply / demand balance (trend) to 2020 (source: TZMI)

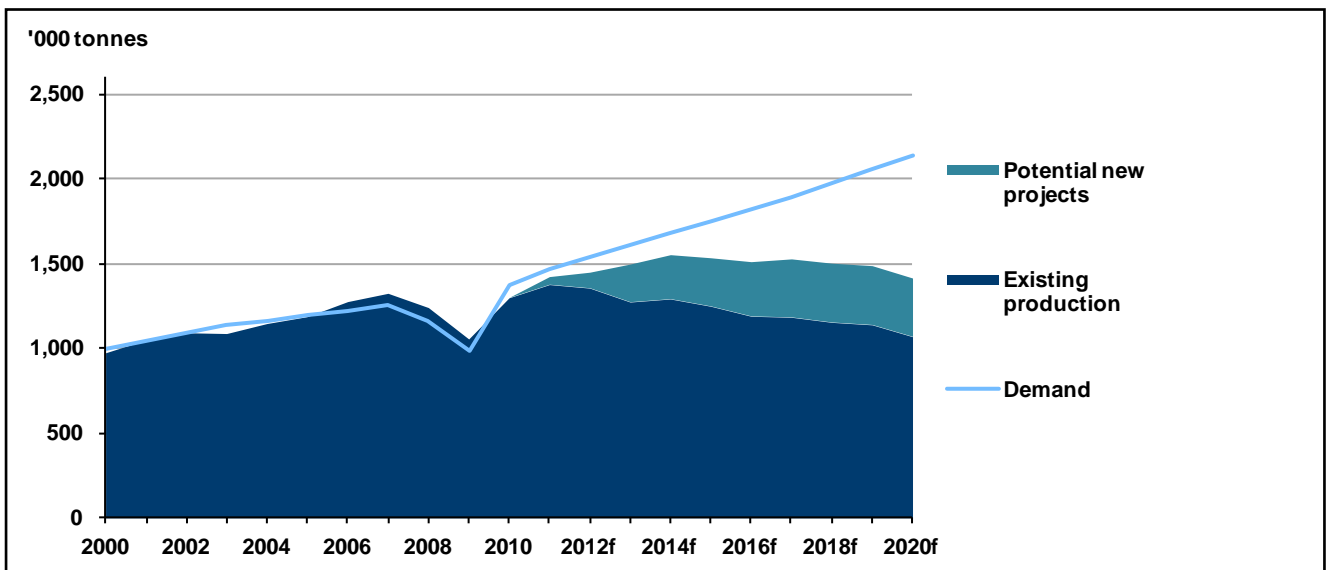


Figure 3: Base case global zircon supply / demand balance (trend) to 2020 (source: TZMI)

The information in this announcement that relates to Mineral Resources is based on information reviewed by Mr. Adrian Griffin, a Member of the Geological Society of Australia and of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and consultant to the Company. Mr. Griffin has sufficient experience that is relevant to the styles of mineralisation, types of deposits and exploration activities undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person, as defined in the 2004 edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr. Griffin consents to inclusion in the report of the information in the form and context in which it appears.