

11 September 2018

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

SILEACH® PILOT PLANT TRIALS SUCCESSFULLY PRODUCE LITHIUM CHEMICALS

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Stage 1 of SiLeach® pilot plant trial achieved 94% lithium extraction on continuous run**
- **Stage 2 of SiLeach® pilot plant trial begins on time and produces lithium phosphate within 16 hours of start-up**
- **Lithium Australia aims to convert mine waste to lithium-ion batteries, a world-first**

SiLeach® is Lithium Australia's proprietary lithium processing technology. Stage 1 and 2 trials of the process commenced at the ANSTO's minerals piloting facility in NSW shortly after commissioning of the second generation, purpose built pilot plant.

In Stage 1 of the trial, SiLeach® succeeded in generating lithium solutions from mine waste to feed Stage 2 of the trial, designed to generate lithium chemicals from those solutions.

The Stage 2 trial began as planned on 10 September 2018. During that trial, SiLeach® was used to separate and remove calcium and fluorine impurities from the lithium solutions generated during Stage 1. The impurities were precipitated as solids prior to the subsequent precipitation of high-purity lithium phosphate, while the barren liquor from that process will be further vendor tested for the recovery of potassium sulphate.

COMMENT FROM LITHIUM AUSTRALIA MANAGING DIRECTOR ADRIAN GRIFFIN

"The success of the new pilot plant facility at ANSTO augurs well for our scale-up aspirations. It's encouraging to note the relative ease with which we've achieved targets to date, particularly in view of the feed material used – in this case, contaminated mine waste from the Kalgoorlie region. SiLeach® is ideal for recovering lithium from such materials. We're also enthusiastic about other applications for some of these process steps; in particular, the recovery of lithium from brine, which currently involves lengthy solar evaporation and is subject to the vagaries of the weather."

Adrian Griffin - Managing Director

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Second generation SiLeach® Stage 2 pilot plant in operation at ANSTO's mineral piloting facilities in NSW

About Lithium Australia

Lithium Australia aspires to 'close the loop' on the energy-metal cycle. Its disruptive technologies are designed to furnish the lithium battery industry with ethical and sustainable supply solutions. Lithium Australia's technology comprises the SiLeach® and LieNA® lithium extraction processes, along with superior cathode material production courtesy of VSPC Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Lithium Australia) and enhanced recycling techniques for battery materials. By uniting resources and the best available technology, Lithium Australia seeks to establish a vertically integrated lithium processing business.

For more information visit:

www.lithium-au.com

www.vspc.com

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