



Astron Limited

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Astron Limited is pleased to announce that the Preliminary Environmental Advice for the first stage of the development of its 100% owned Donald Heavy Mineral Sands Project in the Murray Basin in north-west Victoria has been submitted to the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment on the 22nd of August 2005.

Astron's Board has approved the necessary funding for the first stage, and the Company plans to bring the project to production in early 2007. It is proceeding with the Environmental Effects Statement and the necessary applications to the Victorian Government for Works Approval and a Mining Lease for the first 21 years of operations.

Astron is also pleased to confirm the engagement of two technical personnel to supervise the development of the Donald Heavy project.

Ron McCullough has commenced as a consultant, with a supervisory technical advisory role, for the purpose of taking the project through to initial operation.

Arno Kruger has been confirmed, after an introductory period, as the Project Manager

Arno, originally from South Africa, presently living in Queensland, will relocate to Donald during the project start-up phase

Dr. Mark Elliott, although stepping down from the role of chief operating officer of Astron's HMS subsidiary, will continue with the company as a consultant on the project.

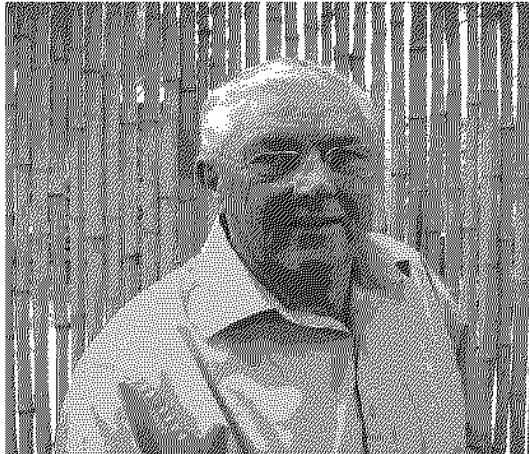
Principal (China) Office

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Ron McCullough
M.B.A., B.E.(Hons), FAustIMM

After graduation Ron was involved in civil engineering design and construction of various works including water supply dams, major water reticulation and suburban infrastructure projects.

In 1972 Ron moved into a career in mining firstly with Alcoa of Australia in bauxite mining and then with Western Collieries Ltd in coal mining.

Ron's participation in coal mining continued with his appointment as General Manager of Gunnedah Coal Company Ltd. Apart from operating both underground and open-cut coal mines the company investigated the development of a private power station and the exploitation of coal bed methane deposits in the Gunnedah basin.

With the sale by GCC of its coal mining assets Ron continued involvement in the mining industry with the development (and management) of a silica sand operation on behalf of Japanese corporations together with general consulting to the Coal mining industry.

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Arno Kruger

Baccalaureus Technologiae (B.Tech) Chemical Engineering (With Distinction) (Cape Technicon, Cape Town, South Africa, 1997)

Employment:

1996 – 1997: Chemical Operations Technician SASOL Chemical Industries

1997 -2002: Metallurgical Engineer/Production Manager, Namakwa Sands Limited, A Division of Anglo Operations Limited

2002 - 2005: Senior Project Metallurgist. Roche Mining (MT), A Division of Downer EDI Limited

Arno's experience has adequately trained him in the areas of identification of process requirements, technical test work, flow sheet design, computer simulation, equipment requirement calculations and simulation, pilot plant construction and optimization, plant construction and circuit optimization. He also has initiative achievements in workplace efficiencies, and production safety compliance.

As examples:

Roche Mining (MT) was commissioned by BeMax Resources to design a wet concentrator circuit making use of the newly developed high capacity spiral separator. Arno designed a metallurgical test work program, performed pilot scale test work, reported data and mathematically modeled the circuit for process design purposes. Test work was performed within budget and to the satisfaction of BeMax, and resulted in a significant reduction in the capital cost associated with this circuit.

Southern Titanium commissioned Roche Mining (MT) to design a wet concentrator plant. Arno designed a metallurgical test program, and performed pilot scale test work, which generated the required data to mathematically model the circuit. Test work was performed within budget, report was delivered on time and to the clients satisfaction

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BACKGROUND – TO DONALD PROJECT

Shareholders will recall that, in November 2003, Astron announced it had acquired the Jackson and Donald heavy mineral sands deposits. In that announcement, Astron said it had acquired “one of the largest zircon projects in the world (the contiguous Jackson and Donald deposits) located in the Murray Basin near Horsham in Victoria” and that “The deposits contain an indicated mineral resource estimated by CRA Exploration of 1,700 million tonnes of ore grading 5.8% heavy minerals”.

The November 2003 announcement went on “The deposits are among the largest tonnage and highest zircon grades (1270MT at 0.90% zircon and 430MT at 1.41% zircon) in the world and consist of ore bodies 4 to 10metres thick with overburden thickness of 11metres to 16metres” and “in addition to the zircon, these deposits contain 34 million tonnes of ilmenite, 12 million tonnes of rutile and 12 million tonnes of leucoxene.”

In its June 2005 update announcement, Astron reported that it had successfully completed a mine pit trial and pilot processing trial, and said then that the proposed mine will only mine a small part of the Donald deposit, which is large (approx 20 million tons zircon) The initial mining rate is planned at 100,000 tons of zircon per annum, to be expanded 2 years later to 200,000 tons per year.

The update also said initially a concentrate will be shipped to China and processed there, and that the company is exploring new chemical products and processes to take further advantage of the special characteristics of the particular products of the Donald mine.

MORE DETAIL

For more detail visit Astron’s website, at www.astronchem.com



Matthew Suttling
Company Secretary

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