

24 April 2026

PLS commences commissioning of Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant with ARENA grant funding secured and offtake in place

PLS Group Limited (ASX: PLS) (PLS or the Company) has reached a key milestone in its Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant Project (Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant), with commissioning commencing following completion of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant ownership restructure, securing of ARENA grant funding and execution of an offtake agreement with Ningbo Ronbay New Energy Technology Co. Ltd (Ronbay).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **ARENA Grant Funding Secured:** Up to \$38.1M Australian Government ARENA grant secured to support operation of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant.
- **Offtake Agreement Executed:** Offtake agreement executed with Ronbay for lithium phosphate produced from the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant.
- **Ownership Restructure Completed:** Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant restructure completed, with PLS acquiring Calix's ownership interest.
- **Commissioning Commences:** Commissioning of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant to commence immediately, with first product expected in the September Quarter 2026.

Strategic aim – onshore value capture and supply chain innovation

PLS' Mid-stream Demonstration Plant represents a deliberate step to test more efficient and lower-carbon processing pathways for hard-rock lithium. It is designed to test whether additional value can be realised at the resource by moving beyond spodumene concentrate production toward intermediate chemical products, including potential improvements in margins, product positioning and participation in emerging battery supply chains.

This builds on PLS' broader chemicals strategy, including its downstream integration through the P-PLS joint venture with POSCO and study pathways with Ganfeng.

Located at PLS' Pilgangoora Operation, the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant is designed to validate the production of a lithium-enriched mid-stream product using electric flash calcination technology, with the potential to reduce the carbon intensity of hard-rock lithium processing when powered by renewable energy. Once fully operational, the plant is designed to process approximately 27kt of spodumene concentrate per annum to produce approximately 3kt of lithium phosphate, a key material used in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and energy storage applications.

The project is a validation initiative. Any future development beyond the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant will be informed by technology performance, product market development and prevailing market conditions.

ARENA Grant

PLS has secured up to \$38.1M in grant funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) under its Advancing Renewables Program.

The funding is structured to support operating costs during the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant's validation phase and is subject to agreed milestones and performance conditions.

ARENA's support reflects the project's alignment with the development of lower-emissions processing capability and increased onshore value-add in critical minerals.

Offtake agreement

PLS has executed a lithium phosphate offtake agreement with Ronbay, a leading global cathode active material manufacturer with a strong position in lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode materials. This

engagement provides PLS with direct exposure to the cathode end of the battery supply chain as part of its evaluation of future mid-stream pathways.

The agreement supports allocation of lithium phosphate volumes from the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant. It establishes a direct technical relationship at the cathode manufacturing interface and provides insight into the potential for Mid-Stream products to shorten the conventional battery supply chain between spodumene concentrate and cathode production. Pricing is indexed to established lithium chemical market indices, reflecting the value-add nature of lithium phosphate relative to spodumene concentrate.

Completion of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant restructure

PLS has completed the restructure of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant ownership, following the previously announced agreement with Calix Limited (Calix)¹. Completion occurred on 17 April 2026.

As a result of the restructure, PLS now has full ownership and operational control of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant, simplifying governance and aligning funding, risk and execution. This provides a more streamlined and capital-efficient basis to progress the development and potential commercialisation of the mid-stream technology.

Calix remains a key technology partner to the project and will continue to support the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant through technical services and ongoing collaboration. The parties' shared objective to advance and commercialise the underlying technology for broader application in primary lithium processing remains unchanged.

Commissioning



Image: Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant as at 2 April 2026.

¹ For more information see ASX announcement "PLS and Calix agree revised structure to advance Mid-Stream lithium technology" released 19 February 2026.

PLS will commence commissioning of the Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant immediately, with first product expected in the September Quarter 2026.

Commissioning and ramp-up through FY27 will be undertaken in a staged and controlled manner, with operating rates increasing progressively as the plant moves through testing and optimisation.

This phase is intended to generate operating data and inform future development pathways. It will also incorporate feedback from the Ronbay offtake relationship to assess downstream requirements and support validation of both the technology and market pathway.

The Demonstration Plant will be powered by Pilgangoora's integrated on-site energy system, which includes gas-fired generation, solar power and battery storage. This system forms part of PLS' power strategy², designed to improve energy reliability, reduce emissions intensity and lower operating costs over time.

PLS Managing Director and CEO, Dale Henderson, said:

"Global battery supply chains are still taking shape in this high-growth market, and over time the most competitive and technologically viable pathways will determine where long-term value is captured.

The Mid-Stream Demonstration Plant is a deliberate step by PLS to test whether more value can be captured at the resource by moving further along the lithium value chain.

We acknowledge the Australian Government's continued support through ARENA grant funding, which reflects the potential of this project to deliver lower-emissions processing and increased onshore value-add in critical minerals. Together with our offtake relationship with leading LFP cathode producer Ronbay, this provides a strong foundation as we move into commissioning.

This is a disciplined validation and optimisation phase. If the technology performs and the product is accepted by the market, it creates a meaningful strategic option for PLS. If it does not, we will have tested it in a controlled and capital-efficient way."

Release authorised by Dale Henderson, PLS Managing Director and CEO.

Contact

Investors/shareholders

James Fuller

T: +61 (0) 488 093 763

E: james.fuller@pls.com

Media

Michael Vaughan

Fivemark Partners

T: +61 (0) 422 602 720

About PLS

PLS is a leading global producer of lithium materials, with a diversified portfolio of assets and strategic partnerships in the rapidly growing battery materials sector. The Group owns 100% of the world's largest, independent hard-rock lithium operation, the Pilgangoora Operation in Australia, and the Colina Lithium Project in Brazil. PLS is also integrated into the lithium value chain through its joint venture with POSCO in South Korea, which manufactures battery-grade lithium hydroxide. With significant scale, high-quality assets, and a strong commitment to advancing the global energy transition, PLS has established enduring partnerships with leading international companies in the sector including POSCO and Ganfeng.

ARENA disclaimer

The views expressed in this announcement are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government, and the Australian Government does not accept responsibility for any information or advice contained herein.

² For more information see ASX announcement "Pilbara Minerals' Power Strategy to reduce emissions intensity and cost" released 21 December 2023 and the "June Quarterly Activities Report" dated 30 July 2025.