iTECH MINERALS
ASX: ITM

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SUGARLOAF BATTERY ANODE MATERIAL PROJECT FUNDED BY CRC-PROJECTS GRANT

- **iTech progressing development of a process to produce battery anode material from the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect**
- Project funding of ~ $1,100,000 has been approved for this R&D project, with 46% grant allocation from CRC-Projects and 54% to be funded by iTech Minerals and partners on an equal contribution basis
- The project will initially focus on the production of a high-grade graphite concentrate from Sugarloaf and then progress to purification and spheroidization to produce uncoated purified spherical graphite
- iTech is pleased to be working with project partners, The Sustainable Minerals Processing Group at The Future Industries Institute, University of South Australia (UniSA) and metallurgical specialists METS Engineering
- iTech has recently completed a drilling program at the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect which produced samples for the R&D project and confirms a large exploration target 158 - 264 Mt @ 7 - 12 % TGC

"Our recent drilling program has proved that the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect contains a significant amount of graphite over its 4.3km strike. However, the simple flotation techniques for purifying the graphite at our nearby Campoona Deposit has not been as effective at Sugarloaf due to the microcrystalline nature of the graphite flakes.

iTech's challenge is to refine this metallurgical process and produce a high-grade concentrate with good recoveries. We believe this new partnership with The Sustainable Minerals Processing Group at The Future Industries Institute, University of South Australia (UniSA) and metallurgical specialists at METS Engineering can crack the code and convert Sugarloaf graphite into the in-demand spherical graphite that is used in battery anodes, unlocking a significant amount of value for iTech's Shareholders."

- Managing Director Mike Schwarz

WATCH *Managing Director Mike Schwarz answer investors questions about the differences between the Sugarloaf and Lacroma Graphite Prospects as well as the importance of the metallurgy in defining a resource.*

Investors should be aware that the potential quantity and grade of the Exploration Target reported are conceptual in nature, there has been insufficient exploration to estimate a Mineral Resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in the estimation of a Mineral Resource.

Introduction

Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P)

The CRC Program supports industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers, and the community. It's a proven way to link researchers with industry. The focus is on research and development that will have commercial uses.

iTech's Vertically Integrated Battery Anode Material Program

iTech Minerals Ltd is working to develop a vertically integrated Battery Anode Material (BAM) program. A component of the program is development of a flowsheet for production of BAM from the Sugarloaf Prospect within the Campoona Graphite Project.

This flowsheet will cover the:

- efficient recovery of microcrystalline flake graphite from ore
- spheroidization of the graphite allowing for greater efficiency in battery use
- purification to 99.95% graphite suitable for lithium-ion batteries

Once complete, the resulting flowsheet is intended to produce ultra-pure, spherical graphite to feed the growing renewable energy and battery materials market.

Research and Development Project

Graphite-based anodes are one of the key components in the development of lithium-ion batteries. Current standard industry techniques, equipment and knowledge have not yet yielded a process for concentrating fine flake for microcrystalline graphite from the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect.

While microcrystalline graphite is the ideal material for Battery Anode Material, it cannot be concentrated due to issues separating the very small micro graphite flake sizes (11 µm to 30 µm). In addition to this, existing methodology (flotation) used on conventional, large flake graphite deposits results in at least 20% waste ore due its inability to isolate fine flake graphite.

The project will produce a detailed flowsheet for the concentration, purification and spheroidization of microcrystalline and conventional graphite. This flowsheet will summarise and detail how to produce uncoated Purified Spherical Graphite (SpG) on a commercial scale and contribute significant new knowledge and expertise to both the research and industry sectors in which it is involved.

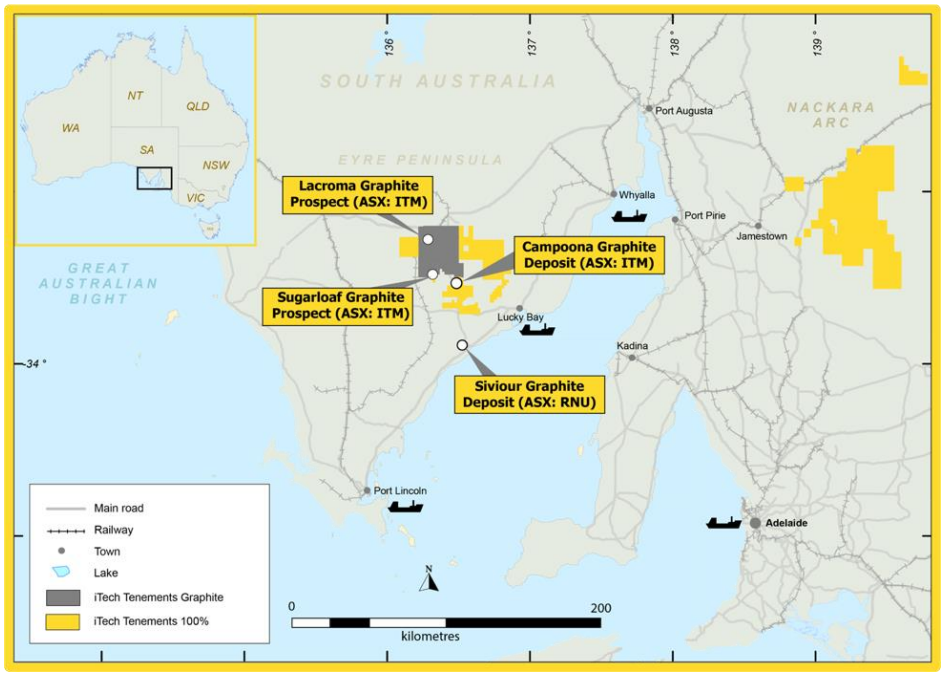

Figure 1. Location of iTech's graphite deposits and prospects – Eyre Peninsula, South Australia

Project Partners

The Sustainable Minerals Processing Group at The Future Industries Institute (FII), University of South Australia (UniSA), are an internationally recognised public research institute that specialises in solving unique minerals processing challenges. They will be the undertaking research into recovering microcrystalline graphite concentrate from the Sugarloaf Prospect (which forms part of the greater Campoona Graphite project). The Future Industries Institute will work towards developing an industry-focussed solution to separation and concentration of fine microcrystalline graphite. Producing consistently high graphite recovery and grade, from Sugarloaf feed ores is the primary objective of this research.

METS Engineering Pty Ltd (METS) are an independent specialist consulting group with extensive expertise and experience in the mineral processing sector. They have significant experience in developing commercial graphite concentration flow sheets and graphite concentrate purification and spheroidization for production of Battery Anode Material. METS will be collaborating with both parties to further develop the graphite concentration flowsheet at Sugarloaf and ensuring commercial viability. Additionally, METS will be developing the spheroidization and purification components of the project. This includes integration of concentrate production, purification and spheroidization to produce a vertically integrated flow sheet.

Supporting Activities - Sugarloaf Drilling Program

iTech undertook a drilling campaign at the Sugarloaf prospect in April 2023. The campaign comprised 17 drill holes at various locations across the prospect with the dominant purpose of obtaining samples for metallurgical test work.

Best, and most effective results to undertake the test work from the 17 drillholes include:

- SLRC23-006 – 28m @ 15.0% TGC from 75m and 18m @ 11.2% TGC from 114m, ended in mineralisation
- SLRC23-004 – 17m @ 6.4% TGC from 80m
- SLRC23-002 – 6m @ 5.3% TGC from 39m and 6m @ 7.8% TGC from 48m and 2m @ 12.6% TGC, ended in mineralisation
- SLRC23-003 – 10m @ 4.0% TGC from 5m
- SLRC23-017 – 27m @ 7.7% TGC from 8m and
  13m @ 26.1% TGC from 73m
- SLRC23-010 – 13m @ 17.2% TGC from 42m
- SLRC23-011 – 48m @ 7.2% TGC from 5m and
  49m @ 16.1% TGC from 68m
- SLRC23-016 – 29m @ 9.4% TGC from 23m including
  17m @ 13.1% TGC from 28m
- SLRC23-014 – 44m @ 12.3% TGC from 74m
- SLRC23-013 – 59m @ 9.4% TGC from 7m

Drilling demonstrates thick, high-grade mineralisation from surface to over 100m depth over a distance of 4.3km.

Drill hole SLRC23-016 has identified a new graphite mineralised horizon 400m to the west of the current trend (Figure 2.).

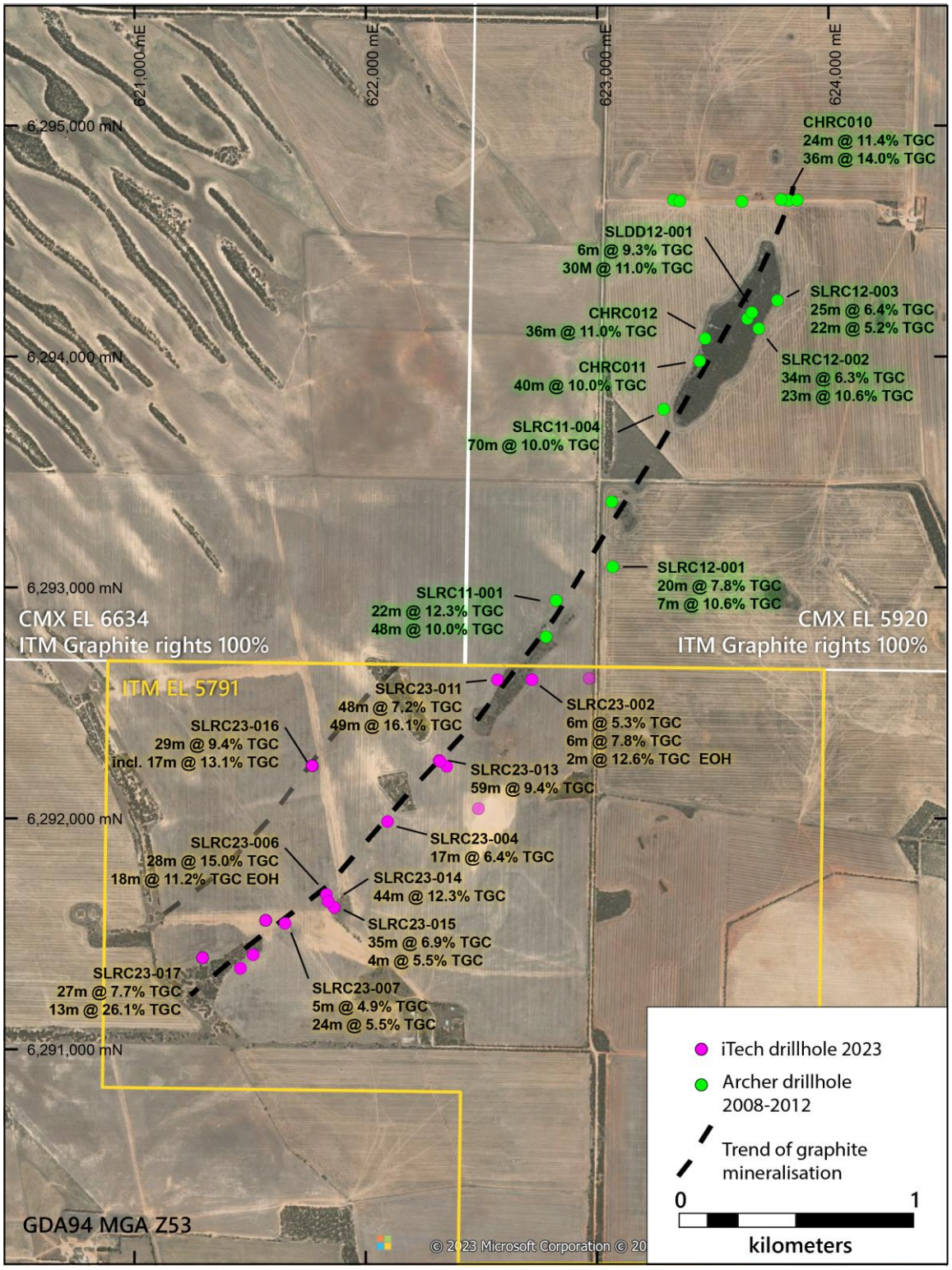

Figure 2. Drill collar plan of the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect showing historical graphite drilling undertaken by Archer Materials (ASX: AXE) over the northern part of the prospect, between 2008-2012, and the recently completed drilling by iTech Minerals, in the southern half.

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ABOUT iTECH MINERALS LTD

iTech Minerals Ltd (ASX: ITM, iTech or Company) is a listed mineral exploration company exploring for and developing battery materials and critical minerals within its 100% owned Australian projects. The Company is exploring for graphite, kaolinite-halloysite, regolith hosted clay rare earth element mineralisation and developing the Campoona Graphite Project in South Australia. The Company also has extensive exploration tenure prospective for Cu-Au porphyry mineralisation, IOCG mineralisation and gold mineralisation in South Australia and tin, tungsten, and polymetallic Cobar style mineralisation in New South Wales.

GLOSSARY

AEM = Airborne Electromagnetic
EM = Electromagnetic
TGC = Total Graphitic Carbon
R&D = Research and Development
CRC-P = Cooperative Research Centres Projects

This announcement contains results that have previously released as “Sugarloaf Graphite Exploration Target, Eyre Peninsula” on 19 September 2022, “Drilling doubles the strike length at the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect” on 23 March 2023, “First drill results from the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect” on 18 April 2023 and “Outstanding drill results from the Sugarloaf Graphite Prospect” on 28 April 2023. iTech confirms that the Company is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the announcement and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates continue to apply and have not changed.