

Owendale Master Alloy Development Program

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Platina Resources Limited (ASX: PGM) is pleased to announce that it has commenced a metallurgical testing program aimed at developing an aluminium-scandium master alloy using the scandium oxide produced from the Owendale pilot plant program.

The primary product produced from the proposed Owendale High Pressure Acid Leach operation is scandium oxide. Scandium oxide can be used directly in a variety of applications including ceramic fuel cells, high intensity lighting and in the production of light-weight aluminium alloys.

The aim of the development program is to develop a proprietary process for the production of value-added, aluminium-scandium master alloy. The program is also investigating options for making aluminium-scandium alloys from an intermediate product in the scandium oxide refining process. If this can be achieved, this would simplify the refining process and lower overall operating and capital costs.

Whilst the solid oxide fuel cell industry has been the dominant consumer of scandium in recent years, scandium's greatest value lies in the functional properties it imparts as an alloy in aluminium. When used in combination with other common aluminium alloys, scandium can produce stronger, more corrosion resistant, heat tolerant, weldable aluminium products. Aluminium products are being increasingly incorporated into transportation applications for light-weighting (electric vehicles) and lowering fuel efficiency requirements.

The first samples of master alloy shown in the photographs in Figure 1, are being analysed to determine their suitability for making scandium containing aluminium alloys.



Figure 1: The first batch of Platina aluminium-scandium alloy

Platina Managing Director, Corey Nolan, commented *“The master alloy development program will provide the Company with a number of benefits including the potential to produce a premium-priced, value added product, and alternative proprietary process that can enable other downstream alloy manufacturers to incorporate scandium into their product mix, and the potential to lower overall operating and capital costs in the refining process. This program is part of a broader analysis of potential by-product revenues that can be generated at Owendale including cobalt, nickel and high-purity alumina”*.

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About Platina Resources Limited

Platina Resources Limited (ASX: PGM) is an Australian-based exploration and development company focused on precious and specialty metals, particularly platinum group metals (“PGM”) and the strategic metal scandium.

The Company’s flagship project is Owendale in central New South Wales, one of the largest and highest-grade scandium deposits in the world, which has the potential to become Australia’s first scandium producer with cobalt, platinum and nickel credits. A Definitive Feasibility Study is underway and due for completion in late 2018.

The Company also has interests in two gold-platinum group metal projects, including:

- Skaergaard (100% interest) - One of the world’s largest undeveloped gold deposits and one of the largest palladium resources outside of South Africa and Russia, located in Greenland; and
- Munni Munni (30% interest) - Situated in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, the Munni Munni Complex is one of Australia’s most significant PGM occurrences. Munni Munni also has potential for conglomerate hosted gold and is a joint venture with Artemis Resources Limited.