

"This also allows me to see the progress made by the great ZironTech team and to celebrate this major milestone with them."

Final commissioning

ASM's JV is advancing the final commissioning of the electro-refining plant and is progressing the production of other key metals including zirconium, praseodymium and dysprosium.

All of these essential for the new technologies and advanced manufacturing markets in Australia and globally.

Commissioning of the electrorefining section of the pilot plant is progressing well.

This process is expected to produce high purity (99.9%) titanium metal with results expected in August 2020.

Further pilot plant runs are planned to produce additional neodymium, dysprosium and praseodymium, as well as other Dubbo products, in metallic form.

"Clean metal production"

Woodall said: "Our strategy of integrating the products from our Dubbo Project into metals that can deliver to end use customers continues as we progress clean metal production and secure the financing needed for project development.

"It is possible that a standalone clean metal plant could be built in Korea to feed critical metals to Korean industry, but also possible that another clean metal plant could be located within Australia to feed critical metals for advanced Australian manufacturing."

Optimisation work

As well as the work in South Korea, ASM is progressing an optimisation study of Dubbo Project inclusive of flotation that has potential to positively impact the project's capital and operating costs.

This optimisation and a feasibility study on the metallisation plant is planned to be completed by the end of 2020.

Alkane's gold focus

The demerger of ASM completes the process that allows Alkane to focus exclusively on becoming Australia's next multi-mine gold producer.

Current gold production is from the Tomingley Gold Operations in Central West NSW, where it has been operating since 2014 and is currently expediting a development pathway to extend the mine's underground and open pit potential.

Alkane's recent exploration success includes the landmark porphyry gold-copper mineralisation discovery at Boda in 2019, also in Central West NSW.

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