

# Australian Strategic Materials Ltd

13:13 15 Oct 2020

## Australian Strategic Materials higher on producing high-purity zirconium metal at Korean plant

Australian Strategic Materials Ltd (ASX:ASM) has produced 8.6 kilograms of high-purity zirconium metal at the commercial pilot plant of subsidiary Ziron Technology Corporation in South Korea.

Zirconium powder produced with the help of Ziron Tech has 98% purity and just 1.5% hafnium.

Successful production of high purity zirconium metal from commercial-grade zirconia is an important milestone for ASM with the company also receiving confirmation that the sample meets Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) standards.

### Shares at new high

Shares continue to rise on the back of strong newsflow from the Korean technology work and today are up more than 15% to \$4.17, a new record high while ASM's market cap is approximately \$325 million.

The planned flowsheet for ASM's Dubbo Project in Central West NSW incorporates the production of both industrial-grade zirconia and dehafniated zirconia (ZrO<sub>2</sub>) as well as hafnium oxide (HfO<sub>2</sub>).

This will be done using a process patented by Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO) with ASM having an exclusive global licence.

### "Significant" for Dubbo Project

ASM managing director David Woodall said: "The production of zirconium metal is a significant result for ASM and the potential development of the Dubbo Project.

"The successful production of zirconium and the other metals planned to be produced at Dubbo has enabled ASM to optimise the project flowsheet.

"In the 2018 FEED study, the plan was for the project to produce predominately zirconium oxychloride (ZOC), today's result will see the percentage of ZOC reduced significantly to focus on and meet the high-purity zirconium metal and hafnium production targets, with potential benefits in the capital and operating costs."

### Crucial for Korean market

ZironTech has received confirmation that the laboratory sample of dehafniated zirconium metal previously produced from Dubbo ore and submitted to KAERI meets its standards.

Approval of KAERI is crucial for the Korean market as the company has chalked out plans to produce 2 tonnes of high-purity dehafniated zirconium before the end of the year.

**Price:** 3.96

**Market Cap:** \$471.44 m

### 1 Year Share Price Graph



July 2020 September 2020 November 2020

### Share Information

**Code:** ASM

**Listing:** ASX

**52 week High Low**  
4.25 0.84

**Sector:** General mining & base metals

**Website:** asm-au.com

### Company Synopsis:

*Australian Strategic Materials Ltd (ASX:ASM) is progressing the Dubbo Project to become a key global supplier of specialty metals and rare earths.*

action@proactiveinvestors.com.au

ASM has now successfully produced key permanent magnet metals of neodymium, praseodymium, neodymium-praseodymium alloy, dysprosium, titanium metal, titanium alloy, titanium metal powder, and zirconium using its innovative metallisation process.

### **Focus on constructing new plant**

The company is now focusing on producing 250 kilograms of neodymium-praseodymium (NdPr) metal, to be turned into sintered permanent magnet samples in partnership with the Korean Institute of Rare Metals (KIRAM) for the Korean market.

Work on the production of ferro-dysprosium and ferroniobium is scheduled for the current quarter and this will mark the completion of the metallisation of the final products sourced from the Dubbo Project.

Woodall said: "I am returning to Korea to continue investment discussions, oversee the design and construction of a 250 kilograms per day continuous metal plant in Korea, and to continue advancing discussions for a potential partner in the metal business."

### **Dubbo Project**

ASM's cornerstone Dubbo Project has a long-term resource of 'critical materials' including zirconium, rare earth, niobium and hafnium.

These materials are used in a range of sustainable technologies and new manufacturing industries such as renewable energy and electric vehicle production.

ASM, together with its partners, is advancing oxide separation and metallisation technologies to create a range of value-added materials from the Dubbo Project.

Proactive Investors facilitate the largest global investor network across 4 continents in 4 languages. With a team of analysts, journalists & professional investors Proactive produce independent coverage on 1000's of companies across every sector for private investors, private client brokers, fund managers and international investor communities.

Contact us +61 (0)2 9280 0700 [action@proactiveinvestors.com.au](mailto:action@proactiveinvestors.com.au)

### No investment advice

The Company is a publisher. You understand and agree that no content published on the Site constitutes a recommendation that any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, or investment strategy is suitable or advisable for any specific person. You understand that the Content on the Site is provided for information purposes only, and none of the information contained on the Site constitutes an offer, solicitation or recommendation to buy or sell a security. You understand that the Company receives either monetary or securities compensation for our services. We stand to benefit from any volume which any Content on the Site may generate.

You further understand that none of the information providers or their affiliates will advise you personally concerning the nature, potential, advisability, value, suitability or profitability of any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, investment, investment strategy, or other matter.

You understand that the Site may contain opinions from time to time with regard to securities mentioned in other products, including Company-related products, and that those opinions may be different from those obtained by using another product related to the Company. You understand and agree that contributors may write about securities in which they or their firms have a position, and that they may trade such securities for their own account. In cases where the position is held at the time of publication and such position is known to the Company, appropriate disclosure is made. However, you understand and agree that at the time of any transaction that you make, one or more contributors may have a position in the securities written about. You understand that price and other data is supplied by sources believed to be reliable, that the calculations herein are made using such data, and that neither such data nor such calculations are guaranteed by these sources, the Company, the information providers or any other person or entity, and may not be complete or accurate.

From time to time, reference may be made in our marketing materials to prior articles and opinions we have published. These references may be selective, may reference only a portion of an article or recommendation, and are likely not to be current. As markets change continuously, previously published information and data may not be current and should not be relied upon.

The Site does not, and is not intended to, provide investment, tax, accounting, legal or insurance advice, and is not and should not be construed as providing any of the foregoing. You should consult an attorney or other relevant professional regarding your specific legal, tax, investment or other needs as tailored to your specific situation.

In exchange for publishing services rendered by the Company on behalf of Australian Strategic Materials Ltd named herein, including the promotion by the Company of Australian Strategic Materials Ltd in any Content on the Site, the Company receives from said issuer annual aggregate cash compensation in the amount up to Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000).