

Tier 1 Consultants Engaged to Advance the Ta Khoa Refinery

Wood Awarded Contract for the Ta Khoa Refinery DFS ALS to Lead Pilot Plant Phase 1

Blackstone Minerals Limited ("Blackstone" or the "Company") is pleased to announce the appointment of Tier 1 engineering, minerals processing and metallurgical consultants Wood and ALS to perform critical roles in the delivery of the Definitive Feasibility Study ("DFS") at the Ta Khoa Refinery (TKR), Vietnam.

Wood - Lead Engineering Consultant for the Ta Khoa DFS

- Wood is recognised in the industry as a leading hydrometallurgical group with vast experience in the project delivery of pressure oxidation (POX) technology
 - *Çöpler Gold process plant, Turkey (2019)* - Engineering, Procurement, Construction & Management (EPCM) of a 5,000t/day refractory gold sulfide through POX (project value ~\$US750m)
 - Other relevant hydrometallurgical projects include *Macraes, Anglo Platinum's Rustenburg Base Metal Refinery, Chelopech, Corrego do Sítio, Cawse, Ravensthorpe, Niqueldo Vermelho and Kansanshi*.
- Wood has experience delivering throughout South-East Asia, and with offices in Vietnam and Thailand will ensure compliance with regulations in Vietnam
- Wood provides full life-cycle engineering services from scoping studies through to DFS and extending to project execution.

ALS - Lead for Pilot Plant Phase 1

- ALS is a global leader in metallurgical testing and has been selected based on completing numerous hydrometallurgical piloting campaigns similar to that required for the TKR
- ALS will perform a hydrometallurgical test work program, which will provide design criteria support and generate engineering data required for the TKR Refinery DFS design
- Blackstone will provide concentrate samples from the Ban Phuc mine as well as third party concentrate for piloting across two campaigns
 - *Campaign 1* - continuous pilot plant to produce a MHP intermediate product from blended concentrate
 - *Campaign 2* - continuous pilot plant campaign to produce battery grade NCM811 from MHP intermediate product
- Pilot Plant Phase 1 will be performed in Perth Western Australia using ALS laboratories and equipment (refer Image 1).

Blackstone Minerals' Managing Director Scott Williamson commented:

"Blackstone has engaged world class engineering consultants Wood and ALS to build on the compelling Pre-feasibility Study for the TKR completed in July. We are excited to be working with Wood and ALS, and their impressive credentials are validation of the quality of the TKR project. Blackstone is confident in delivering a DFS that boasts the highest technical rigour, ready by the middle of next year to align with critical financing milestones including supply & customer offtakes, as well as debt financing."

Wood is a Tier-1 engineering consultancy providing consulting, project delivery and asset management solutions to the resources, energy and infrastructure sectors. As lead engineer to BSX, Wood will be responsible for providing project management, project controls, engineering, cost estimating and execution planning services for the TKR plant design, including auxiliary services and utilities.

ALS is a global leader in providing laboratory testing, inspection, certification and verification solutions. In addition to performing pilot test work, ALS will also conduct a peer review on the TKR PFS process flow sheet, including bench scale confirmatory test work to confirm pilot plant operating parameters ahead of piloting. ALS Metallurgy Services is the market leader in the provisions of process flowsheet development metallurgical testwork from bench right through to pilot and demonstration plants. With a full-service delivery business model backed by state-of-the-art comprehensive facilities, ALS Metallurgy covers all aspects of process flowsheet development testwork and associated services.



Image 1 - Autoclave for Pilot Plant Phase 1

Authorised by the Managing Director on behalf of the Board of Blackstone Minerals Limited.

For more information, please contact

Scott Williamson

Managing Director
+61 8 9425 5217
scott@blackstoneminerals.com.au

Dhanu Anandarasa

Manager Corporate Development
+61 8 9425 5217
dhanu@blackstoneminerals.com.au

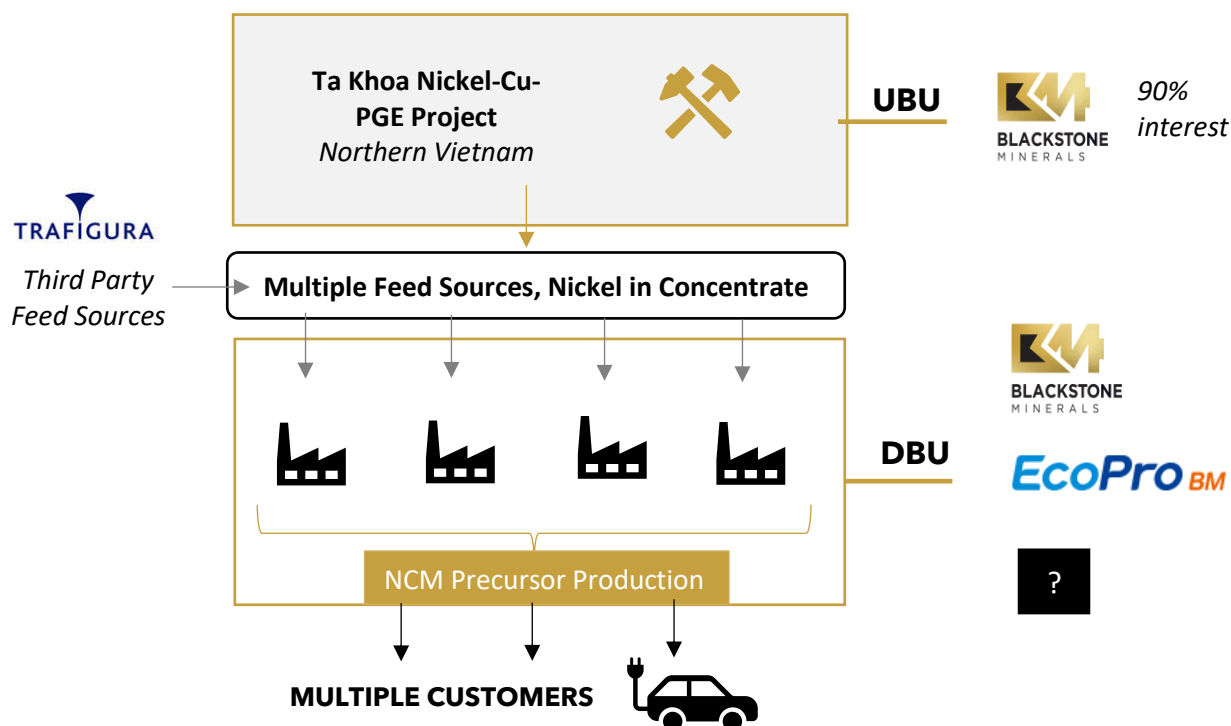
Patrick Chang

Head of Corporate Development
+61 8 9425 5217
patrick@blackstoneminerals.com.au

About Blackstone

Blackstone Minerals Ltd (ASX: BSX / OTCQX: BLSTF / FRA: B9S) is focused on building an integrated upstream and downstream battery metals processing business in Vietnam that produces Nickel: Cobalt: Manganese (NCM) Precursor products for Asia's growing Lithium-ion battery industry (refer Figure 1)

Figure 1 -Ta Khoa Project Snapshot



The Company owns a 90% interest in the Ta Khoa Nickel-Copper-PGE Project. The Ta Khoa Project is located 160km west of Hanoi in the Son La Province of Vietnam and includes an existing modern nickel mine built to Australian standards which is currently under care and maintenance (refer Figure 2). The Ban Phuc nickel mine successfully operated as a mechanised underground nickel mine from 2013 to 2016.

In October 2020, the Company completed a Scoping Study which investigated mining the Ban Phuc Disseminated nickel sulfide ore body (upstream) and the construction of a 200kpta downstream refinery (refer to ASX announcement of 14 October 2020, including for the full details of the Company's Mineral Resource Estimate at Ban Phuc).

Building on the outcomes of the Scoping Study, the Company has since completed a technically and economically robust Pre-feasibility Study for its Downstream Business Unit (DBU) which sees expanded downstream capacity. This is based on the Ta Khoa refinery being designed to process 400ktpa of nickel concentrate, supplied from the Ta Khoa Nickel - Cu - PGE mine as well as third party concentrate.

The Company is continuing to advance a PFS for the UBU. The UBU PFS will contemplate the option to mine several higher-grade massive sulfide vein (MSV) deposits, which has the potential to reduce initial upfront capital requirements for the UBU by enabling the Company to restart the existing Ban Phuc Concentrator (450ktpa).

By combining the Company's existing mineral inventory (Ban Phuc Disseminated Sulfide - DSS), exploration potential presented by high priority targets such as Ban Chang, King Snake, Ta Cuong and Ban Khoa, and the ability to source third party concentrate, Blackstone will be able to increase the scale of its downstream business to cater to the rising demand for downstream nickel products.



Figure 2. Ta Khoa Nickel-Cu-PGE Project Location

Competent Person Statement

The information in this report that relates to Exploration Results and Exploration Targets is based on information compiled by Mr Andrew Radonjic, a Director and Technical Consultant of the company, who is a Member of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Mr Andrew Radonjic has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposits under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Andrew Radonjic consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.

The information in this report that relates to Mineral Resource Estimation in respect of the Ta Khoa Nickel Project is based on information compiled by BM Geological Services (BMGS) under the supervision of Andrew Bewsher, a director of BMGS and Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists with over 21 years of experience in the mining and exploration industry in Australia and Vietnam in a multitude of commodities including nickel, copper and precious metals. Mr Bewsher has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Mr Bewsher consents to the inclusion of the Mineral Resource Estimate in this report on that information in the form and context in which it appears.

The Company confirms that all material assumptions and parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource Estimates as reported within the Scoping Study in market announcement dated 14 October 2020 continue to apply and have not materially changed, and that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information that has been included in this announcement.

Forward Looking Statements

This report contains certain forward-looking statements. The words "expect", "forecast", "should", "projected", "could", "may", "predict", "plan", "will" and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward looking statements. Indications of, and guidance on, future earnings, cash flow costs and financial position and performance are also forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements, opinions and estimates included in this announcement are based on assumptions and contingencies which are subject to change without notice, as are statements about market and industry trends, which are based on interpretations of current market conditions. Forward looking statements are provided as a general guide only and should not be relied on as a guarantee of future performance. Forward looking statements may be affected by a range of variables that could cause actual results or trends to differ materially. These variations, if materially adverse, may affect the timing or the feasibility of the development of the Ta Khoa Nickel Project.

The project development schedule assumes the completion for the Downstream Business Unit of a Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) by mid-2022. A PFS & DFS for the Upstream Business Unit is assumed to be completed in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Development approvals and investment permits will be sought from the relevant Vietnamese authorities concurrent to studies being completed. Delays in any one of these key activities could result

in a delay to the commencement of construction (planned for early 2023). This could lead on to a delay to first production, currently planned for 2024. It is expected that the Company's stakeholder and community engagement programs will reduce the risk of project delays. Please note these dates are indicative only.

The JORC-compliant Mineral Resource estimate forms the basis for the Scoping Study in the market announcement dated 14 October 2020. Over the life of mine considered in the Scoping Study, 83% of the processed Mineral Resource originates from Indicated Mineral Resources and 17% from Inferred Mineral Resources; 76% of the processed Mineral Resource during the payback period will be from Indicated Mineral Resources. The viability of the development scenario envisaged in the Scoping Study therefore does not depend on Inferred Mineral Resources. There is a low level of geological confidence associated with Inferred Mineral Resources and there is no certainty that further exploration work will result in the determination of Indicated Mineral Resources or that the production target itself will be realised. The Inferred Mineral Resources are not the determining factors in project viability. Please refer to the Cautionary Statement in the Scoping Study market announcement dated 14 October 2020.