Lithium Report 2017
Update 2

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Download our unique App for free!
Dear Readers,

On the following pages, we present to you with pleasure the second update of our Lithium special report. Swiss Resource Capital AG has made it its business to topically and comprehensively inform precious metals and commodity investors, interested parties and the individual wants to become an investor in various commodities and mining companies. On our website www.resource-capital.ch you will find 17 companies and information and articles about the topic commodities.

Our series of special reports started with lithium because we consider this metal to be one of the great future metals in the energy sector and in spite the already happened boom, see big chances and potentials in the long term. The battery development is only at the beginning of a long road and the electric automobile has to capture its place among consumers and in the automobile history. Lithium is the main component of all available large-scale production batteries and accumulators and therefore the crucial link in the electro mobility dream. The necessary charging infrastructure is pushed along and expanded in Germany which might accelerate the future trend.

The yearly occurring Paris Motor show has been dedicated to the electro mobility in recent years and the 2017 shows in Geneva as well as Tokyo should not be different. The issue of the short range should resolve itself with new accumulator technologies within the coming three to five years. This will drastically increase the demand for electric cars. According to experts the demand increase will be based on the formula “500+200” meaning 500 km range plus 200 km reserve. Then, it is believed, the die-hard driver of combustion engines will switch to electric cars. Mercedes is already working on a bus for clean local public transport with a range of over 300 km. Volkswagen wants to invest around € 10 billion in the electro mobility during the next five years and starting 2025 to sell more than one million electric cars per year.

All this will be enormous drivers for the lithium demand and in the interview with the expert and fund manager Tobias Tretter (interview also available on Rohstoff-TV) you will read how and in which directions the developments advance. Commodities are the base of our whole life. Without commodities there are no products and no technical innovations. New technologies need a variety of special metals which are mostly rare and difficult to extract.

With our special reports we would like to give you the necessary insights and inform you comprehensively. In addition, our two Commodity IPTV channels www.Commodity-TV.net & www.Rohstoff-TV.net are available to you free of charge. On the go we recommend our new Commodity-TV App for iPhone and Android which also provides real-time charts, share prices and the latest videos.

My team and I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the special reports and hope that we can provide you with much new information, impressions and ideas. Only the one who gets broadly informed and takes matters relating to investments in his own hand will be in the winners and preserve his wealth during these difficult times.

Jochen Staiger

Preface
Lithium – the substance of the 21st century is just gaining momentum!

Carbon was the past – Lithium is the future

Rarely was a chemical element of similar great importance be as lithium will be in in the coming decades. Since the announcement of Tesla Motors’ plans to build up to 500,000 electric vehicles per year in its mega-factory starting 2017, lithium, in connection with lithium-ion batteries, is on everyone’s lips. The metal in its future significance is comparable only with carbon that is not only important in daily life in the form of plastics but also as an energy source in form of coal and crude oil. Whereas carbon above all is an energy supplier and energy source, lithium will become more and more the energy storage medium of the future.

What is lithium?

Lithium is a light metal belonging to the alkali metal group. It is the least dense of all known solid elements. It has half the weight of water, is silver-gray and relatively soft. Lithium is highly reactive and therefore found in nature only as a lithium compound. Contact with air tarnishes the surface due to the formation of lithium oxide and lithium carbonate; the latter burns in pure oxygen. Lithium reacts with water violently forming lithium oxide and lithium hydroxide. The global lithium extraction is divided in several branches producing the following types of lithium compounds:

1. Lithium carbonate
2. Lithium hydroxide
3. Lithium chloride
4. Butyl lithium and
5. Lithium metal

Usually metallic lithium is produced in a multi-stage process starting from lithium carbonate, and is traded mostly with a purity of 99.5 %. The metallic lithium is used as a catalyst in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry as well as in the production of aluminum lithium alloys. The industry distinguishes three basic types or qualities of lithium compounds:

1. Industrial grade*, with a purity of over 96 % for glass, fluxing agent and lubricant;
2. Technical grade*, with a purity around 99.5 % for ceramics, lubricants and batteries; and
3. Battery grade*, with a purity of over 99.5 % especially for high end battery cathode materials.

Main application area: batteries and accumulators

The above mentioned specific and versatile properties make lithium a sought-after material in many application areas. It is not a surprise that the main application area of lithium was constantly changing in the past. Initially it was used primarily in medicine and in the 1950’s the element became commercially successful as an alloy component. Due to its low weight and the positive properties regarding to tensile strength, hardness and elasticity lithium became an inherent part of the aerospace technique. During the past 20 years the situation changed. In the course of the beginning of the electro revolution it was recognized that due to the low standard electrode potential of lithium the metal is almost perfectly suited as the anode in batteries. Lithium batteries are characterized by a very high energy density and can generate a very high voltage but they are not rechargeable. This property is found in lithium-ion accumulators where lithium metal oxides, like lithium cobalt oxide, are used as cathode material. For the production of accumulators and batteries purity grades above 99.5 % are needed. Industrial grade lithium hydroxide is used, among other things, as raw material for lubricants as well as coolants and technical grade lithium hydroxide is used in the production of accumulators and batteries. Lithium carbonate – crystalline, granulated or as powder – for example is used for the electrolytic production of aluminum, in the ceramic and pharmaceutical industry as well as in the alloy technique. For the production of lithium-ion accumulators lithium carbonate with a specific purity is used in the form of a very fine powder (battery grade powder). The extraction and processing of (especially high grade) lithium is considered to be very expensive.

Lithium-ion accumulators are considered the non-plus-ultra

Currently research is conducted and works done globally on increasing the power of accumulators for electric cars. In the meantime it has become evident that the lithium-ion accumulator is a clear favorite. One reason among others is that inside a lithium-ion accumulator the voltaic voltage is generated through the exchange of lithium ions. Due to the high energy density lithium-ion accumulators deliver – in contrast to conventional mercury or nickel based batteries – a constant performance throughout the discharge period and not subjected to any memory effect - that is, the gradual capacity loss throughout their service life due to many partial discharges. Therefore lithium-ion accumulators have a clear advantage over conventional nickel-cadmium accumulators.

The production requires large quantities of lithium

The “disadvantage”: the production of lithium-ion accumulators requires large quantities of lithium. According to a recent BMW study depending on the model around 80 to 130 grams of metallic lithium per kilowatt hour storage capacity is needed. Initially, that doesn’t sound like much but it adds up to a significant amount. For example, the Mini E, a BMW built electric car within a prototype study, has a lithium-ion accumulator with a total capacity of 35 kilowatt hours. The range with one charge is 200 to 250 km. It is clear that such a range does not meet the desired expectations of the producers as well as all of the (future) customers. They would like to have a range of at least 500 km, but best would be 1,000 km.

Application in the area of regenerative energies

The application of lithium in lithium-ion batteries or accumulators in car manufacturing is only one of many possible uses. Corresponding energy storage systems will be increasingly used for the storage of electricity derived from alternative energy sources. The phenomenal expansion of the power generation in wind farms or solar cells is a giant advantage for the environment but an enormous challenge for the power grids. The reason for this is the extreme fluctuations during power generation by regenerative energy sources. When the wind blows or the sun shines, the production requirements increase and the storage systems have to store energy, thus serving as a buffer.
shines large quantities of electric energy are “pumped” into the grid in a very short time creating enormous short lived over-capacities that are not used. According to calculations of the Bundesverband Windenergie (Federal Association of Wind Energy) 20 percent of the annual return of a wind farm is lost due to turbine shutdown during power grid overload.

The biggest future field of application for lithium-ion accumulators: Decentralized Energy Storage

Smart-Grid-Systems should prevent a power grid overload but need a large number of short and middle term energy storage systems to store the surplus energy and feed into the grid when there is a lack of wind and solar power. Lithium-ion accumulators could be the solution to this problem by buffering the surplus energy and feeding it into the grid on demand. Many producers already build efficient lithium-ion accumulators that will be used decentralized in a family home with a photovoltaic system on the roof. An example is the Tesla Powerwall, a solar battery for private homes which is produced in the Tesla mega-factory in Nevada, USA, since October 2015. The electric energy storage systems consist of accumulators, charge control and a liquid cooling system. It is possible for private customers to connect up to 9 batteries to reach a total capacity of 57.6 kWh. With this, Tesla got the ball rolling and by doing so is making the decentralized energy storage cheaper as well as efficient and this area to be the most important driver for the lithium market.

Supply Situation

Two types of lithium deposits

In general lithium is derived from two different sources.

1. Brine deposits: Lithium carbonate is primarily derived by evaporating the lithium bearing brines with addition of sodium carbonate in salt lakes. For the production of metallic lithium the lithium carbonate is dissolved in hydrochloric acid which produces carbon dioxide that escapes as gas and lithium chloride in solution. This solution is reduced in the vacuum evaporator until crystallisation of the lithium chloride.

2. “Hard rock spodumene” deposits: In this case the lithium compounds are not derived from the salt of salt lakes but from spodumene, a lithium bearing aluminum silicate mineral. The spodumene is mined using conventional techniques and processed to a concentrate that is often transformed to lithium carbonate with a purity of more than 99.5 %. The necessary intensive thermal and hydrometallurgical processes are considered as very expensive. This type of deposit is almost exclusively mined in Australia and the processing takes place primarily in Chinese facilities.

Lithium is abundant

In the past it was wrongly assumed that a global switch from conventional combustion engines to electric motors is impossible due to lack of lithium. That is not quite right. Lithium is not that rare in the earth, accounting for approximately 0.006 % of the earth’s crust, therefore rarer than zinc, copper and tungsten but a bit more common than cobalt, tin and lead. According to estimates of the US Geological Survey, there are 40 million tonnes of lithium mineable globally, 85 % of that alone in the South American countries of Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. Currently the biggest lithium carbonate production takes place in the Salar de Atacama, a salt lake in the northern Chilean province of Antofagasta. Approximately 40 % of the global lithium production originates in this region.

Currently lithium production is focused primarily in four countries and by four companies

Currently, around 80 % of the total lithium production worldwide originates in these three South American countries plus Australia and production is split between four companies. As a result, the whole lithium market is lacking transparency. This is the reason the big battery and accumulator producers like Panasonic and the leading electric car manufacturers, above all Tesla Motors, are looking for long-term supply contracts with relatively small development companies that in part are not producing before 2020. As a result of this supply oligopoly, lithium carbonate prices are strictly confidential. One reason often mentioned by the supplier is that the available and produced lithium qualities are too different for a standardized market place.

Lithium production will increase sharply

In 2015 the global lithium production (for standardization reasons LCE = “lithium carbonate equivalent” a universal conversion factor for all above mentioned lithium compounds) was approximately 175,000 tonnes LCE. According to projections, this number will increase to 360,000 tonnes by 2025 and over 650,000 tonnes LCE by 2025. The latter is not based on concrete mine expansions or new mines and we can assume that the production in 2025 will be between 360,000 and 650,000 tonnes.

The price is always crucial but relatively negligible for the accumulator production!

In the end the price is only important for the economic extraction of the existing lithium deposits. In the past months the price has risen sharply. In mid 2015 the price for a tonne lithium carbonate was around US$ 6,000 and has climbed to the presently over US$ 20,000 and surely just a snap shot. We can assume that the price will settle, in the middle to long term, between US$ 10,000 and 12,000 per tonne lithium carbonate. Either way, this is a lucrative business for the producer because the mining costs at current projects are US$ 3,000 to 6,500 per tonne.
Development companies work under high pressure at new projects, ...

As the big companies Albemarle, SQM, FMC and Tianqi have plans to increase their production and at the same time have no interest in falling lithium prices, many development companies work on the advancement of new lithium projects and the delineation of concrete deposits and resources.

... in part at new lithium hot spots

Therefore, besides the typical lithium regions South America and Australia, new regions in North America and especially Canada, Mexico and (due to the proximity to the future top consumer Tesla Motors) the US state Nevada emerge as lithium hotspots. In the past years the Clayton Valley in Nevada has become the Lithium-Eldorado because it hosts Albemarle’s Silver Peak Mine, the only operating brine lithium mine in North America. The Clayton Valley is one of the few areas worldwide where commercially mineable lithium brines are found. Recently, Pure Energy Minerals closed an off-take agreement with Tesla Motors. Besides Albemarle and Pure Energy Minerals, more than a dozen development companies are now active in the Clayton Valley including Advantage Lithium, Lithium X Energy, Nevada Sunrise and Zadar Ventures. Some promising companies like MacArthur Minerals and Zadar Ventures are also active in Australia. The main Australian hot spot is in Western Australia in the Pilbara Region. As well as MacArthur Minerals, Altura Mining and Pilbara Minerals are active in this region and each of these two companies already have a large resource. A second smaller lithium hot spot is in Australia’s southwest. There, in the so called Ravensthorpe District, Galaxy Resources is operating the Mt Cattlin lithium mine. Zadar Ventures has an option to acquire two lithium claims in the Ravensthorpe District. The third hot spot is in Argentina’s northwest where Orocobre operates the Olaroz lithium mine. In this region, some development companies like Millennial Lithium and Lithium X are active. An additional lithium hot spot seems to be emerging in Canada. Active at that moment are, among others, Avalon Advanced Materials, Nemaska Lithium, Fairmont Resources and Jourdan Resources.

Summary supply side

The lithium production is (still) in the hands of a few producers. The worldwide biggest lithium producer Albemarle acquired Rockwood Holdings, the owner of the two largest lithium deposits in Chile at the beginning of 2015. Albemarle and three other companies, SQM, FMC and Tianqi (i.e. Albemarle’s joint venture partner in Australia) share the lithium market mostly between each other. Although there is seemingly enough lithium on the planet, the extraction can be costly and time consuming so that higher prices are not an automatically leading to a supply increase. The supply should increase in the coming years but forecasting is difficult for the period after 2020 due to current lack of data for potential mine extensions or construction of new mines. Increased exploration activities by (smaller) development companies are indications of the potential establishment of new mines. As of the middle of June 2016, besides the established majors, in total around a dozen companies already have a lithium resource.

Demand situation

The demand is rising rapidly!

One reason for the current rapid price development is a constantly rising demand. In 2000 the demand was at approximately 65,000 tonnes LCE and reached 175,000 tonnes LCE by 2015.

Leading analyst firms like Canaccord that have been dealing with the lithium market for many years anticipate an increase in lithium demand to 350,000 tonnes by 2020 and to up to 700,000 tonnes by 2025. The driving factor will primarily be the demand from the battery and accumulator sector in association with the automotive industry. Today, one third of the lithium demand comes from this sector; by 2025 it will probably reach 75 %.

China the biggest consumer

At the moment China is the biggest lithium consumer. The country accounts for one third of the total demand. Experts estimate this will not change soon because China produces the most accumulators, batteries, glass, lubricants, air conditioning units and synthetic rubber by far. This stimulates the immense lithium consumption of the country. According to expectations China will have the strongest yearly increase in lithium demand of all important market participants during the coming 5 to 10 years due to an expected tripling of the quantity of rechargeable batteries. In this context, it is interesting that in China from 2014 to 2015 the number of electric and hybrid vehicles sold tripled to 171,000 (this is only one percent of all sold vehicles). Additional important suppliers of lithium-ion batteries including South Korea and Japan will also guarantee a robust increase of the lithium demand. The highlights are by far the electronic giants Sony, Panasonic, Samsung, LG and ATL in Hong Kong, India should not be underestimated. The country will advance strongly its ceramics, glass, engineering and founding industry.

North America is Tesla Country

Outside Asia, North America in particular will dominate the lithium demand. Tesla Motors alone will play an important part. The company is constructing a so called “mega-factory” in Nevada.

Starting in 2017 lithium-ion cells and battery packs for up to 500,000 electric vehicles per year will be built there. Tesla Motors alone would consume just over 13 % of the annual lithium production. However, Tesla doesn’t currently buy lithium...
will produce up to 500,000 rechargeable batteries per annum. This constellation will increase the lithium demand by 100% and beyond during the coming 5 years whereby the power banks will generate the biggest demand increase and could eclipse the other sectors.

Summary demand side
The demand for lithium will be defined primarily by three different parties:

1. The Asian electronic groups, which aim primarily for the mass production of powerful lithium-ion batteries and accumulators for the daily use in multimedia devices etc.
2. The car manufacturer and (initially) above all Tesla Motors which is preparing itself to become THE absolute dominant producer of electric vehicles.
3. The producer of power banks i.e. decentralized energy storage units which are used in the private and industrial sector where electricity is produced by photovoltaic cells as well as wind power stations and used for their own needs.

BYD (largest producer of rechargeable accumulators especially for cell phones) and Boston Power are building their own mega-factories for, among other things, so-called power banks, i.e., decentralized energy storage units. Therefore the produced capacity of lithium-ion accumulators could more than triple by 2020.

Additional mega-factories in the planning stage
Tesla is not the only lithium consumer who plans a bigger production of lithium-ion accumulators. LG Chem has already begun production for Chevy in Michigan in October 2015. Also Foxconn, Panasonic, LG Chem has already begun production for Chevy in Michigan in October 2015. Also Foxconn, who plans a bigger production of lithium-ion accumulators for the daily use in multimedia devices etc.

The low price for crude oil is playing, if at all, a minor part because lithium is used above all as a medium for energy storage and not for energy generation. A great unknown is still Tesla Motors the leading producer of electric vehicles. Their mega-factory will need large quantities of lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide but the company actually has no reliable lithium source for the period from 2017 to 2019. During this period Tesla has to rely on the partner and cathode supplier Panasonic. Starting in 2020 Tesla Motor's hunger for lithium could lead to additional demand and higher prices.

On an overall basis a supply deficit is emerging on the market because the demand increase will exceed the supply expansion in the future. Because there is no end of the demand increase in sight past 2025 and there are no big noteworthy lithium production projects in the pipeline, that condition could last for a foreseeable time.

In addition, the few suppliers have a significant market power but are possibly not interested in a lower market price. This is the reason why smaller lithium companies will have very good development and production opportunities. Besides, from a quantitative point lithium accounts for a significant part of a battery, but it accounts for only roughly 4-5% of the costs of a battery. Hence the lithium price is insignificant for the production of lithium ion batteries and could be kept at an economic level for the lithium producer. The lithium companies whose projects are at a very advanced stage should see the biggest upward price potential in the coming months and possibly consolidation that is via takeover scenarios.

Conclusion
Currently, the lithium market is clearly a supply oligopoly-market. This means few suppliers face many customers. Unlike rare earth element the market power is not with one country (China) but with four suppliers who have significant projects in four countries: Australia, Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. Currently, several (smaller) development companies advance and try to bring to production good projects not only in the previous production countries but also in Canada, USA (above all in Clayton Valley a downright playground for lithium developers), Australia, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Serbia and some other countries. One reason is the rapidly growing demand which, in the course of the electro revolution, is exploding.

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Interview with Tobias Tretter –
Manager of Structured Solutions Lithium Index Strategic Fund

Mr. Tretter you are manager of Structured Solutions Lithium Index Strategic Fund. Which strategies do you follow and what does the fund represent?

The fund was established in 2010 because we were aware of the potential for the resource Lithium at that time. We couldn’t realize our original idea of a physical backed ETF of the metal Lithium because of its specific properties; it is inedible and cannot be stored in a safe. The only interesting possibility for our clients was a public fund which invests directly into the 25 biggest producers and developers of lithium deposits. We don’t want to invest directly into the battery producers, because in contrast to the lithium producers they will not profit from the higher lithium prices in the long term, but rather have to pay these. Our investors should have the possibility to benefit directly from the coming boom for lithium batteries brought on by the demand for lithium, based on electric cars or powerwalls, without the risk of single investments. Recently we switched the investment universe of the fund from pure lithium investment to battery metals. We believe that besides lithium, the demand for cobalt, magnesium, graphite or zinc will also significantly increase in the coming years, and we want to give our investors also the opportunity to benefit from the lithium battery boom as well.

Is such a fund which is focussed at a niche resource not too specialized and thereby too risky?

Yes and no. The fund is very specialized and the success of the lithium sector put us right. We continue to see significant potential for the commodity lithium as well as the demand for other commodities necessary for lithium batteries. Accordingly, we have also increased our investment universe with the restructuring of the fund and significantly reduced the lump risk.

Particularly the resources graphite, cobalt or magnesium are very interesting. For example, cobalt used as cathode has some superior properties like a faster recharging of batteries. But cobalt is not fully used by the battery producers because the biggest part of the global production comes from the Congo and is thereby not a reliable source of this metal. Also the mining conditions in the Congo are very questionable and not only investors but buyers as well avoid this production. The demand for reliable sources and ethically and environmentally clean mined cobalt is enormous and will be another trend in the years to come. We are diversifying the fund a bit more and will diversify even more in the future. Regarding the risks we think that it is not risky. The fund is a niche product and thought as an addition in a broad diversified portfolio. If an investor believes in the success of electric cars and powerwalls he has the choice to buy shares of one or two companies in the sector or a specialized fund. Due to the specifications of the sector the investors should prefer funds or certificates to direct investments in order to minimize the risk of a single stock.

In the past 10 years we have observed once in a while the formation of bubbles in “trend resources”. The uranium bubble and the hype around the rare earth elements, graphite etc. comes to mind. Why should it be different for lithium?

With all the three mentioned “hypes”, each one was a hype among the investors which was not based on the rising demand from the industry. Yes, there was a rising demand for uranium until the terrible events in Fukushima. Since then the operators of nuclear power plants in Japan are more the sellers than the buyers and are the main reason for the falling uranium prices. There was never a bottleneck in the production of rare earth elements but instead it was during processing in the Chinese refineries. And with graphite the problem is that the demand rises parallel to the demand for lithium but it is possible to produce synthetic graphite but with lower quality. It is also difficult for experts to estimate which resource project has the right quality for the end consumer that is the battery producer.

With lithium the fundamental situation is totally different. I believe that Goldman Sachs gave the best answer in their study at the beginning of the last year with the headline “is lithium the new gasoline”. I wouldn’t go that far and compare lithium with the situation of the oil in the 1970s, but one thing is for sure, the switch to electric cars and regenerative energy sources and a decentralized storage of energy is with the currently available technology not possible without lithium ion batteries. This is very well recognized by the huge investments from the industry in new battery factories which will all need lithium. From a quantitative point lithium accounts for a significant part of a battery, but accounts for over roughly 4-5 % of the costs of a battery. Hence the lithium price is insurmountable for the production of lithium ion batteries. The only important point is the sufficient supply of lithium. In view of the massive expansion of the battery production there are reasons for questioning if it will be possible to satisfy enough of the demand with new production in the coming years.

What do you look for specifically in your evaluation of a lithium company or a lithium resource?

In a lithium company like any other company the investor should look at management first. What is their track record, how much has management personally invested and which investors are supporting the company. Many of the “new” lithium exploration companies that in the past years were active during each of the above-mentioned “hypes” try their luck with a new project now in the lithium sector. These will continue to be unsuccessful and disappear as they have done before. It is important to look carefully at the relevant quality of the management. Regarding the projects, you have to distinguish primarily between brine projects - the extraction from dried-out salt lakes - and hard rock projects - the conventional processing of hard rock. Besides the grades, profitability etc. it is of vital importance for the investor to look particularly at the ratio of magnesium to lithium.

Besides the grades, profitability etc. it is of vital importance for the investor to look particularly at the ratio of magnesium to lithium.
As mentioned before the lithium price plays a minor role in the costs of the battery production so that primarily the availability of lithium is the important factor and to a lesser extent its price. For sure the mega-factories don’t want to stop their production because of the temporary lack of lithium. Currently the lithium market is a bit of a race against time. Certainly there are enough lithium resources worldwide. The massive increase of the production of lithium batteries and with it the demand for lithium in the coming years could cause problems for the mining companies which didn’t invest in the past years due to the general crisis in the mining sector. In the coming years the question for the lithium sector will not be: “How high is the lithium price” but “where do I source my lithium and how is the availability?”.

Mr. Tretter let us get back to your fund. Which are the biggest single positions in your fund and why?

Generally, we closely follow – also with our global mining fund – the life cycle of the resource companies and see by far the best chance/risk ratio for junior companies which just have started production or will start the production in the near future. These are the companies which have already successfully overcome the biggest risks and are potential takeover targets for major mining companies. Hence Lithium Americas and Nemaska Lithium as future producers are over-weighted besides the established big producers. After the successful prospect financing Lithium Americas is immediately before construction start at the Chaucarí-Ofir Project in Argentina and Nemaska, on the other hand, has one of the highest grade and largest hard rock projects worldwide in the political stable Province of Quebec. Besides these two future producers, lithium companies from the Clayton Valley in Nevada in particular drew attention in the past months. As already mentioned the doubling of the battery production due to Tesla’s mega-factory plays a significant part. And what could be more obvious that Tesla gets the necessary lithium from the immediate neighbourhood in the Clayton Valley. Currently there is Albermarle, the only lithium producer in North America and the supply and legal security will play an important part at Tesla where they will source the necessary lithium. Pure Energy is for sure in the pole position. They are the most advanced and have already a purchase agreement with Tesla.

Which companies with an actual low weighting in your fund or that are not represented in your fund do you currently have on your radar screen and why?

Every single day there are new companies which want to benefit from the outstanding perspectives in the lithium sector. However, I expect a stronger consolidation of the lithium exploration companies in the next 24 months. This will ensure that the “promotion” companies disappear and the investors will focus once again on the companies with the best management teams and the best projects. One of the “new” companies where we see a significant potential is Millenial Lithium. The company has quietly acquired a very prospective lithium brine project in the Puna Rille where the projects of Orocobre, Galaxy and Lithium X are located. Furthermore, the company could hire Ian Scarr an absolute expert who was responsible for multiple discoveries for Rio Tinto worldwide including the Jadar lithium project in Serbia, one of the most prospective lithium occurrences in the world.

We also see significant potential in Standard Lithium, a new lithium explorer, which has, besides projects in Utah, a project in California that could start production in the very near future. The global demand for lithium will not be satisfied with conventional mining methods. Standard Lithium has old oilfields in Utah which contain, besides oil, significant amounts of lithium. If the company could find a method for a low-cost production of the contained lithium this would open new possibilities for the lithium production. After many discussions with industry insiders, we are very optimistic that the production of lithium from old oilfields is economically feasible and see significant potential in that company.

Mr. Tretter a last question and I would ask you for a brief answer:
You have mentioned your selection of criteria is among other things management and the magnesium/lithium ratio. Which three purely economic or project specific criteria should interested lithium investors keep in mind?

As the saying goes among geologists: “grade is king”! The higher grade a project, not only is the return increasing there is also more scope for solving potential problems or cost increases. But you have to bear in mind that in general brines have definite lower grades than hard rock projects and they are easier and cheaper to mine.

Also pay attention to the infrastructure. Water and electricity are key factors which can lead to success or ruin of a project. Pay attention to the availability and the respective costs.

I should mention as last point that political framework like the support of the local residents is an important investment criterion and is frequently responsible for the failure of a project. In fact most of the investors can not visit the projects themselves but in most cases it is already very helpful to read the local newspapers online.
Advantage Lithium
Two mega-deals make the company to a top-class lithium stock!

Advantage Lithium is a Canadian mining company specializing in the development of lithium projects in North- and South-America. The company has an immediate neighbour to Albermarle’s Silver Peak Mine the only lithium brine mine in North America, and has its own water rights in Clayton Valley. Recently the company reported option agreements for additional lithium brine projects in Mexico and Argentina (amongst other things for Orocobre’s Cauchari Project). Advantage Lithium is managed by the successful management team of Fission Uranium.

Mega-deal No. 1: Clayton Valley Lithium Projects – Letter of Intent with Nevada Sunrise

On June 20th, 2016 Advantage Lithium (under the former name North South Petroleum Corp.) signed a letter of intent (LOI) with Nevada Sunrise for an option to acquire State of Nevada water right Permit 44411 and five projects in the Clayton Valley and Lida Valley Region. According to the LOI, Advantage Lithium has the option to acquire in two stages an interest in the projects of up to 50 % and 70 % respectively. By now Advantage Lithium has closed the acquisition of the option, so the company now has a binding agreement for the acquisition of aforementioned rights of Nevada Sunrise’s assets.

All project areas have road and power connection to Las Vegas and Reno. See a summary of the projects below.

Clayton Northeast Lithium Brine Project – directly adjacent to Albermarle’s Silver Peak Project

The Clayton Northeast Property is comprised of 50 claims covering in total 405 hectare and borders the eastern part of the Silver Peak Mine. Albermarle had bought the mine for US$ 6 billion which is in operation in Clayton Valley since the 1960’s. One of Albermarle’s pumping stations is only a few meters from Advantage Lithium’s project border and several lithium brine production wells are situated within 110 m to the Clayton Northeast Project. Albermarle’s processing plant is at a distance of two kilometers. In 1977 the United States Geological Survey completed several drill holes in this area. One of the drill holes encountered lithium grades of up to 110 ppm Li₂O in a shallow depth of less than 146 m. Advantage Lithium started an extensive drill program to quickly outline an initial NI 43-101 resource. Thereby the company was able to intersect a lithium brine with the first bore hole and to prove the existence of up to 218 ppm Lithium. A second drill hole intersected 387.69 m with 243.66 mg/l lithium, including several sections with higher grade material. Another drill hole intersected 426.72 m with 243.44 mg/l lithium, including a higher-grade section with 274.6 mg/l over 79.2 m. Until March 2017, the company was able to identify a 4.46 km long sole.

Jackson Wash Lithium Brine Project – independent brine basin similar to Clayton Valley Basin

The Jackson Wash Project is comprised of 166 claims covering in total 1,335 hectare and is situated 30 km southeast of Clayton Valley. Jackson Wash is an independent brine basin and analogous in sedimentary formations and underlying structures to Clayton Valley basin. To date these formations were not drill tested but in 2011 several soil samples were taken containing up to 117 ppm lithium. Advantage Lithium plans three to four drill holes to test the area down to a depth of 400 m.

Neptune Lithium Brine Project – Lithium already proven!

The Neptune Project is comprised of 316 claims covering in total 2,557 hectare and is situated southwest of Lithium X’s properties. Lithium was already proven at Neptune. One of the two holes drilled by Nevada Sunrise encountered grades averaging 156 ppm Li₂O over 65.5 m. Advantage Lithium already has the permit for eight additional drill holes and will start the drill related activities in 2016. An up to 2,000 m deep drill hole is planned in an area interpreted in a recently completed geophysical study as the potential source of several brine bearing strata.

Aquarius/Gemini – future top chances in the project pipeline

The two other projects, Aquarius and Gemini are not drill ready yet and should be considered as future top chances in the project pipeline. A drill permit was applied for Gemini. For Aquarius, that like Neptune adjoins Lithium X’s properties in the west, an application is planned.

Water Rights Permit 44411 – only water right besides Albermarle!

Lithium brine mines need water for the lithium extraction. But Nevada is the highest regulated US-State with respect to the water usage. Albermarle needs large quantities of water which is scarce in Nevada. The competent regulatory authorities in Nevada made it clear that in Clayton Valley hardly any water rights can be issued. A big advantage over all other competitors is Advantage Lithium’s Water Rights Permit 44411. This is the only right, besides Albermarle’s right, allowing the extraction of groundwater in Clayton Valley. Which means, to date no other (development) company has any type of rights to direct groundwater extraction in Clayton Valley.

Four lithium brine projects in Mexico

In September 2016 Advantage Lithium entered into a letter of intent with Radius Gold Inc. for an option to acquire up to a 70% interest in four lithium brine projects located in Chihuahua and Coahuila, Mexico. The four projects, covering a total of approximately 37,000 hectares, are located in large, salar closed basins, in geological settings analogous to the Clayton Valley. Historic exploration work in two of the project areas has already detected lithium grades of 283 ppm (La Union) and 189 ppm (La Viesca).

Stella Marys Lithium Brine Project in Argentina

In October 2016 Advantage Lithium announced the acquisition of a 100% interest in the Stella Marys project, Argentina. Stella Marys lies immediately adjacent to Orocobre’s Salar de Salinas Grandes lithium-potassium-boron brine project, which hosts a near-surface, low sulfate inferred resource estimate of 56.5 million cubic meters of brine averaging 795 mg/l lithium (for 239,200 tons LCE, Lithium Carbonate Equivalent) and 9,547 mg/l potassium and 283 mg/l boron. Orocobre’s shallow inferred mineral resource is immediately adjacent to and potentially extends onto the Stella Marys Project.

www.advantagelithium.com
1,472 hectares Stella Marys Project is located within the so called “Lithium Triangle” between Argentina, Bolivia and Chili and is well connected to the existing infrastructure. During the Due Diligence Phase Advantage Lithium encountered signs of already completed sampling, pumping tests and other exploration activities which are currently being verified.

Top Management team wants to score again

Advantage Lithium’s management team is comprised primarily of board members of Fission Uranium. Recently Fission Uranium made the biggest uranium discovery of the last 40 years on Patterson Lake South in Canada’s Athabasca Basin. Advantage Lithium’s Director Dev Randhawa is an experienced CEO with a great wealth of experience in resource expansion, mining and energy companies. Northern Miner Magazine named him “Mining Person of the Year 2013” and Finance Monthly awarded him the “Deal Maker of the Year 2013” Award. He is the current CEO of Fission Uranium and Fission 3.0 Corp. Currently, Fission Uranium is the most award-winning uranium developer in the world.

CEO David Sidoo manages a successful private investment banking and finance management company. He worked as a broker at Yorkton Securities and rose quickly to one be of the best paid driving forces in the company with commissions continuously ranking nationwide under the top five. He was a founding shareholder of American Oil & Gas Inc. which was sold to Hess Corporation in an all stock transaction valued at US$ 630 million. Currently he is in the Board of Governors for the University of British Columbia. On June 14th, 2016 Sidoo was awarded the Order of British Columbia, the highest civilian honor of the province of British Columbia.

Summary: multiple top potential meets top management

Advantage Lithium has several potential high grade lithium projects in THE North American lithium hot spot Clayton Valley and neighbouring valleys. The management had already had several direct hits with Fission Uranium and previously with Strathmore and wants to repeat this with Advantage Lithium. So, at Advantage Lithium a top management team meets a multiple exploration potential. The final touch is the only right to the water extraction besides Albemarle in Clayton valley.

Not to mention the Orocobre deal! These are prime conditions for a successful development in the coming months which will be characterized above all by the announcement of corresponding drill results. A sign for the increased interest by investors in Advantage Lithium is the fact that since August 2016 the company was able to raise over CAS 29 million of fresh capital.

Factsheet

ISIN: CA00782P1080
WKN: A9AQ6C
FRA: 14D
TSXV: AAL

Shares outstanding: 42.3 million
Options: 2.3 million
Warrants: 1.1 million
Fully diluted: 45.7 million

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CEO:
David Sidoo

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Avalon Advanced Materials is a development company that received the "Corporate Knights" Future 40 Responsible Corporate Leaders in Canada award twice and has been working for 20 years in the lithium sector. It has secured a high grade project in Ontario, Canada. The Separation Rapids Lithium Project is well connected to the Canadian infrastructure and promises initial open pit mining operation for a period of 10 to 20 years. A new PEA for a period of 10 to 20 years! A new Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) for the Separation Rapids Lithium Project was completed in 2016. The company plans to publish a feasibility study for the project by the middle of 2017.

Avalon Advanced Materials is a development company that received the “Corporate Knights” Future 40 Responsible Corporate Leaders in Canada award twice and has been working for 20 years in the lithium sector. Avalon Advanced Materials secured the right to a 100% acquisition of Separation Rapids one year later. In 2012 the, at that time, negotiated 2% net smelter royalty was bought back for $220,000. Between 2008 and 2011 the land position was consolidated and a mining lease signed. Separation Rapids belongs 100% to Avalon Advanced Materials now for mining activities and is free of royalty obligations. In March 2017 Avalon Advanced Materials acquired 7 additional Claims, covering 1,000 hectares at the northern and western border of the current claims.

Separation Rapids Lithium Project – location and actual ownership

The Separation Rapids Lithium Project is located in the west of the Canadian province of Ontario approximately 70 km north of Kenora, a town with a population of 15,000. Separation Rapids is accessible by well maintained roads. Three hydroelectric power plants are within a distance of 25 km to the project and are connected to the Canadian power grid. Water for the production can be taken from the English River which passes the project at a distance of a few hundred meters. The Separation Rapids Lithium Deposit was discovered in 1996 and explored by local mining experts. Avalon Advanced Materials maintained roads.

Separation Rapids is accessible by well maintained roads.

Separation Rapids Lithium Project – Exploration activities and First Nations

Before the turn of the millennium Avalon Advanced Materials (former Avalon Ventures Ltd.) conducted an initial resource estimate which resulted in over 10 million tonnes of mineable ore material. In addition, a feasibility study was prepared and a memorandum of understanding signed with the local First Nations, an important early step Avalon is credited for. From 2000 to 2001, Avalon and Placer Dome had a joint venture agreement for the exploration of the tantalum potential. Following, a lithium feldspar model and a scoping study were completed which resulted in a bulk sampling program including processing and the sale to a customer in 2006. However, this customer could not be convinced for further programs so that test runs were resumed only in 2013 with the beginning of the recent lithium boom. At the same time the memorandum of understanding with the First Nations was renewed.

A new Preliminary Economic Assessment published at the end of September provides clearer information. The assessment was prepared using a price of US$ 11,000 per tonne of lithium hydroxide and is based on the aforementioned resources.

Separation Rapids Lithium Project – Deposit

Separation Rapids is a very rare petalite deposit which formed in lithium bearing granite pegmatite. This was already recognized by the Ontario Geological Survey Group which discovered the project. To date there is only one significant petalite producer in the world, which is located in Zimbabwe. Separation Rapids hosts a petalite deposit that is extraordinary enriched with lithium. In addition the deposit contains as by-products tantalum, feldspar, silica (silicon dioxide) and rubidium oxide in the form of K-feldspar. The special nature of the deposit is the high purity and the relative high lithium grade averaging 1.34% Li2O. At the end of September 2016 Avalon published a resource estimate for measured and indicated resources totaling 8.0 million tonnes at a grade of 1.29% Li2O using a 0.6% Li2O cut-off grade. In addition, the deposit includes an estimated inferred resource of 1.63 million tonnes at 1.42% Li2O. Within the same rock volume, there is an estimated inferred resource of 0.5 million tonnes averaging 38% feldspar at a 30% feldspar cut-off grade as well. These resources extend down to a vertical depth of 250 m. The deposit is still open at depth and along strike. In this context, it is important that the indicated resources can possibly be mined in an open pit operation.

Separation Rapids Lithium Project – Feasibility Studies, Resource updates, Test mining, Infrastructure

The project’s net present value (“NPV”), at an 8% discount rate, is CAD 229 million after-tax. A planned Feasibility Study, which shall be published by mid 2017, will present more detailed information about possible mining scenarios. In addition, in 2016 Avalon produced one tonne of ultra pure lithium concentrate from a bulk sampling program. Meanwhile the metallurgical work continues. To date the most important objectives have always been reached. A demonstration plant will provide additional results regarding the metallurgical and the use of the by-products. In terms of quality the company has reached a level which is sufficient for the glass and ceramics industry. In a further step the company is working to produce battery grade lithium hydroxide concentrate. Furthermore the company currently plans an additional drill program to identify additional resources. As well, different studies are planned about a possible entirely...
Avalon considers and examines the possibility of its own hydroelectric plant in the area of the nearby English River and the use of wood waste in a biomass power plant. The company will expand the existing road connection. Environmental studies completed in preparation of the targeted feasibility study complement the many current work programs.

**East Kemptville Tin-Indium Project as short term cash generator?**

Besides Separation Rapids, Avalon Advanced Materials is focused on an additional project called East Kemptville. It is located in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia and hosts a tin-indium mine which was in operation between 1985 and 1992. The area includes untouched sections in the mine and a large ore stockpile as well as some bigger tailings ponds. The ore stockpile alone contains an inferred Resource of 5.87 million tonnes ore averaging 0.112 % tin. The mine contains indicated and inferred resources of 35.5 million tonnes in total averaging 0.148 to 0.176 % tin plus zinc and copper. The element indium became the focus only recently. Drilling in the so called Baby Zone returned among other results 0.46 % tin, 25.2 ppm indium and 0.63 % zinc over 82.3 m which are much higher grades than in the last resource estimate. Due to these very good drill results Avalon Advanced Materials is working on a PEA. First estimates indicate initial capital costs of C$ 15 to 20 million, primarily for a new processing plant. If the PEA returns positive numbers the company could start processing the stockpiled ore in 2017. This would provide the company with a cash generator in the short term and that will help Separation Rapids be developed faster and easier.

**Solid Finances – disciplined use of shareholder capital**

To date the company has invested approximately C$ 7.6 million in the project, C$ 1.4 million in the nine months before May 31st 2016 alone. At that time Avalon had cash on hand of C$ 2.0 million. In the past Avalon Advanced Materials did not stand out due to its excessive financings. The company raised only enough fresh cash necessary to reach selected targets. In the current year 2016, a total of C$ 2.145 million was raised.

**Summary: well advanced, high grade open pit project and additional revenues**

Avalon Advanced Materials demonstrated foresight almost 20 years ago by securing one of the best lithium projects in North America. This project hosts not only a relatively high grade lithium resource with optional by-products but can also be mined with cost saving open pit methods. The recently published Economic Assessment presented a very positive result. For all the above mentioned reasons we can expect very economic key figures which could rapidly lead to a production decision upon completion of a feasibility study in the coming year. In addition the company has with East Kemptville the opportunity to generate the needed cash flow in the short term to advance Separation Rapids faster and easier. The most important catalysts in the coming months: PEA East Kemptville, Drill results, production decision East Kemptville, feasibility study Separation Rapids. A full program that could give the Avalon shares a strong boost, especially after a financing of CA$2.5 million in March 2017, which gives the company enough nest egg for the coming months.

**Study confirms ability to produce battery grade lithium**

In February 2017, the company announced that according to an independent technical study 99.88% pure battery grade lithium carbonate can be produced from the Separation Rapids lithium deposit. The research was conducted by the Australian Lepidico Ltd. with which Avalon has a memorandum of understanding for the delivery of 15.000 tonnes material per year. Currently Lepidico is working on a feasibility study with expected completion by the end of 2017. This would provide the company with a cash generator in the short term and that will help Separation Rapids be developed faster and easier.

**ISIN:** CA05337L1067  
**WKN:** A2AFJK  
**FRA:** OU5  
**OTCQX:** AVLNF  
**TSX:** AVL  

**Shares outstanding:** 187.8 million  
**Options:** 11.0 million  
**Warrants:** 20.4 million  
**Fully diluted:** 219.0 million

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**CEO:** Donald S. Bubar
Birimian
Very high lithium grades and open-pit mining potential

Birimian Limited is one of the most active lithium exploration companies in western Africa. The Australian company has lithium and gold licences primarily in Mali, covering approximately 2,000 km². The development areas are characterized by a well developed infrastructure and increased exploration and mining activity.

Bougouni Lithium Project – Location

The main focus is on the development of the Bougouni Lithium Project. In March 2016 Birimian Limited acquired 100% of the project located in southwestern Mali about 50 km from the border to Guinea. Mali’s southwest features several large new discoveries. Several million ounce gold projects are located within a radius of 50 km of Bougouni. The project area which was comprised of three licences was consolidated into one covering 257 km². Bougouni is located approximately 150 km south of Mali’s capital Bamako. The project site is crossed by a main road.

Sufficient quantities of power and water are also available in the immediate surroundings. The town Yanfolia with a population of 12,000 is at a distance of 20 km.

Bougouni Lithium Project – Resource

The Bougouni licence hosts the known lithium deposit Goulamina. From the beginning Birimian’s main focus was that deposit. Two months after the acquisition announcement, the company began the first drilling activities returning high grade results including 52 m @ 1.70 % Li₂O, 40 m @ 1.84 % Li₂O and 23 m @ 1.96 % Li₂O. All the results were encountered in depths of less than 120 m and in part in a depth of only 10 m. Overall, Birimian obtained grades up to 2.20 % Li₂O with the first 14 drill holes including 18 m @ 2.10 % Li₂O.

Drill campaigns provide astonishing drill results and a totally new discovery!

Birimian Limited published the results of its drill program at the end of August 2016. The results of the Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling at Goulamina West Zone exceeded the expectations of grade and width. The RC drill intersections included substantial high-grade zones with partially over 2% Li₂O.

The best results in August 2016 were:

- 56m @ 1.91 % Li₂O
- 57m @ 1.72 % Li₂O including 12m @ 2.17 % Li₂O
- 41m @ 1.93 % Li₂O and
- 24m @ 2.03 % Li₂O

in October 2016:

- 82m @ 1.64 % Li₂O
- 51m @ 1.93 % Li₂O including 22m @ 2.23 % Li₂O
- 49m @ 1.68 % Li₂O including 13m @ 2.09 % Li₂O
- 36m @ 1.70 % Li₂O including 10m @ 2.03 % Li₂O

in February 2017:

- 80m @ 1.48 % Li₂O
- 44m @ 1.75 % Li₂O
- 23m @ 1.97 % Li₂O
- 45m @ 1.72 % Li₂O
- 22m @ 1.89 % Li₂O

and in March 2017:

- 38m @ 1.81 % Li₂O
- 31m @ 1.82 % Li₂O
- 19m @ 1.76 % Li₂O
- 14m @ 1.81 % Li₂O
- 33m @ 1.99 % Li₂O
- 30m @ 1.56 % Li₂O

With these results Birimian Limited was able to extend the high-grade lithium mineralization in the area of the Goulamina Main Zone below a depth of 150 m! The recent drilling not only extended the new high-grade discovery in the West Zone but also confirmed a significant scope for additional resource tonnage.

In addition to the RC drilling, Birimian Limited completed some diamond drilling within the Goulamina Main Zone which provided additional top drill results at the end of September 2016!

Among others the company drilled:

- 33m @ 1.74 % Li₂O including 12m @ 2.17 % Li₂O
- 33m @ 1.74 % Li₂O including 10m @ 2.08 % Li₂O
- 49m @ 1.64 % Li₂O
- 40m @ 1.50 % Li₂O
- 28m @ 1.77 % Li₂O and
- 53m @ 1.69 % Li₂O

The recent drilling not only extended the new high-grade discovery in the West Zone but also confirmed a significant scope for additional resource tonnage. According to the study the project can deliver an average annual production of approximately 190,000 tonnes of 6% Li₂O concentrate over an initial 13-year life of mine. The initial capital costs are estimated US$ 47.2 million and the total capital costs are US$ 83.4 million. The average cash costs are estimated to be US$ 326 per tonne of concentrate. Birimian’s initial Pre-Feasibility Study will be based on these numbers.

Bougouni Lithium Project – Metallurgy

Besides its own drill results, Birimian Limited can also use the data from metallurgical tests. These tests were carried out by the renowned company CSA Global with the aid of a World Bank program before the acquisition. In a bulk sample...
comprising three tonnes of material an average grade of 2.2 % Li₂O was identified plus 0.5 to 0.8 % iron oxides. Test runs demonstrated the possibility to produce a high grade lithium concentrate.

With screening and dense media separation a 6.7 % chemical grade lithium concentrate was produced. The recovery rate, the percentage of the total lithium in the rock that can be recovered from it, was a very high 84.7 %. Due to the high-grade nature, a high mass yield of 31.5 % was achieved.

**Bougouni Lithium Project – Letters of Intent**

Since October 2016 Birimian signed several letters of intent with companies based in Asia. In October 2016 Birimian signed an agreement with Tongdow Group for mine development and offtake of the lithium inventory by Tongdow Group.

In December 2016, the company signed an agreement with the Chinese battery manufacturer Far East First New Energy Co for an offtake for at least 200,000 tonnes material per year representing 25% of the total annual production.

In January 2017, an agreement was signed with Shandong Mingrui Group for the sale of the Bougouni Lithium Project for AUS 107.5 million in cash. On January 23, 2017, the agreement was terminated because the first payment was not made in time, due to regulatory protocols on the transfer of funds from China.

**Massigui Gold Project**

Besides the high grade Bougouni Lithium Project, Birimian Limited has three promising gold projects. The main focus is above all on the Massigui Gold Project that is also situated in southwestern Mali. The licence area covers 754 km². The single licences border in the north the Morila Gold Mine operated by Randgold and AngloGold Ashanti that has produced in excess of six million ounces of gold since 2000. So far Birimian Limited’s drilling activities at Massigui comprised of more than 35,000 m and identified three gold deposits which are located within a radius of maximal 25 km of Morila. Birimian’s management believes that at least 8 million tonnes of ore averaging 1.5 g/t gold for 400,000 ounces gold can be mined by open-pit techniques in these three deposits. In addition, the licence area shows a far greater potential for additional resources. The Morila Mine has reserves of only 300,000 ounces and resources of 400,000 ounces left and will survive only a few years with its own deposits. Birimian had the opportunity either to process its own gold ore in the giant processing plant or form a joint venture with Randgold/ AngloGold or to sell Massigui to these major companies. In November 2016, there was a breakthrough in negotiations, when Birimian announced an option agreement with Randgold. According to that, Randgold’s subsidiary Societe de Mines De Morila pays AUS1 million to Birimian, while Birimian also retains a 4% royalty.

**Dankassa Gold Project / Basawa Gold Project**

With Dankassa only 50 km south of Bambao and Basawa in Liberia, Birimian Limited has two additional promising gold projects even if they are not the main focus of the company at the moment. Birimian Limited has identified a 12 km long gold mineralization at Dankassa. On the huge Basawa Gold Project covering 1,000 km², the company discovered several gold areas that require further testing.

**Summary: at full throttle to one of the highest grade and possibly most economic lithium resources worldwide**

Birimian Limited has seized the chance as one of a few development companies to secure a lithium deposit on the African continent. If the high-grade nature of Bougouni is confirmed then the African continent might not be spared from copycats. Until then, Birimian Limited is in pole position.

The company benefits from previous tests that clearly demonstrate that Bougouni hosts a high grade and high quality lithium resource confirmed by the company’s own drilling within a very short time. It is not surprising that Birimian Limited was able to present an initial resource estimate within a year followed by a first economic assessment. A closer look at the known facts and parameters leads to the conclusion that Bougouni could be one of a few absolute jackpots in the lithium sector. Good infrastructure, high grades and the possibility of low cost open-pit mining is exactly what investors look for in projects in the lithium sector! In addition, it is possible to generate a relative short term positive cash flow with the Massigui Gold Project. Recently more and more companies have become aware of Birimian, which is a good sign and could lead to a takeover bid soon.
Durango Resources is a Canadian development company with several prospective mineral properties in Canadian provinces. The main focus of the company is the NMX East Lithium Project adjacent to parts of Nemaska’s world-class Whabouchi Project. In addition, the company has limestone, graphite, gold, and silver licences which could take the Durango shares to the next level in case of a big discovery. The company received three offers for its Trove Project in February 2017.

**NMX East Lithium Project**

Durango Resources’ current flagship project is the NMX East Lithium Project in the Canadian province of Quebec. The project consists of four licence areas. Two of the areas (the West Block and East Block) border directly Nemaska Lithium’s Whabouchi Project. The last resource estimate for Whabouchi in December 2016 indicates measured and indicated open pit resources of 36.62 million tonnes averaging 1.48 % Li₂O and inferred resources of 7.189 million tonnes averaging 1.37 % Li₂O. Whabouchi therefore hosts the second largest hard rock lithium deposit known worldwide and has the potential for additional resources. The East Block of Durango Resources’ NMX East Lithium Project is situated immediately east of the Whabouchi Project. The third block, the South Block, is situated approximately 7 km southeast of Whabouchi. With the exploration program in August 2016 Durango was able to identify three lithium bearing intrusions in the East Block approximately 3 km from Nemaska’s resource and in the South Block. These intrusions were characterized as lithium cesium-tantalum pegmatites. They are now the first targets to be drilled soon. In the West Block, several outcrops were discovered which are close to the southwestern border of Nemaska’s Whabouchi Project. In the course of the 2016 drill program Nemaska discovered a new mineralized zone which appeared promising that the company extended the current drill campaign from 44 holes (13,700 m) to 50 holes (17,400 m). This new mineralized zone was detected in 12 drill holes and named Doris possibly extending on to Durango Resources’ licence.

**Positive assay results!**

In 2011 the company already defined pegmatite occurrences with an initial exploration program and identified the first drill targets. But at that time the company did not perform any follow up activities. During the 2016 summer campaign Durango Resources collected in total 200 surface samples on the four blocks and sent 87 (8 reference samples) to ALS Minerals, Val-d’Or (Quebec). 47 samples were taken from pegmatite outcrops. Out of this group of samples: 11 samples returned over 129 ppm Li₂O, up to 689 ppm Li₂O; 5 samples returned over 50.3 ppm Cs, up to 83.6 ppm Cs; 22 samples returned over 481 ppm Rb, up to 2,140 ppm Rb; and 11 samples returned over 27 ppm Ta, up to 77.1 ppm Ta. This was proof of three independent pegmatite intrusions; one in the East Block and two in the South Block. The intrusion in the East Block is only 3,000 m from Nemaska’s Whabouchi occurrence whose extensions reach to depths of at least 500 m. This suggests that Durango’s pegmatite outcrops are only a small portion of much larger intrusions too, like the tip of an iceberg. They could extend in depth as well laterally and in strike. Furthermore, most LCT pegmatites exhibit concentric zoning. Moderate grades of lithium, cesium and tantalum as well as higher concentrations of rubidium at the surface indicate a spodumene mineralization at depth. Durango Resources could have up to three spodumene mineralizations on its projects or an extension of the Whabouchi deposit. The next logical step is trenching in the corresponding areas to obtain additional test material. If the previous results can be confirmed a drill program will follow.

**Limestone projects for the construction of a multi-billion dollar LNG plant in British Columbia**

In August 2015 Durango Resources staked several claims covering in total 300 hectares near Terrace, British Columbia, and named it Mayner’s Fortune Limestone Project. This area consists of a two kilometer thick rock sequence hosting several limestone units of variable thickness. The thickest unit, Unit 5, has a high purity and a thickness of up to 200 m.

At the same time the company acquired a past producing limestone project in the same region called Smith Island. This project is not far from Prince Rupert in northwestern British Columbia. Smith Island was named after the island where the project is situated. At a distance of 6 km on Leu Island the oil and gas giant Petronas plans the construction of a LNG plant. LNG stands for Liquefied Natural Gas. LNG has only a six-hundredth of the volume of gaseous natural gas. This is the reason why the liquefaction of natural gas at around -161 to -164°C is well suited for the transport by ship. Petronas as leader of the so called Pacific Northwest LNG Consortium plans the construction of this plant for estimated 36 billion dollar on Leu Island. For the construction of the export terminal, estimated costs of 11.4 billion dollar, the consortium has received the construction permit from the federal Liberal cabinet in September 2016. The construction of the plant will use huge amounts of rock resources whereby Durango Resources owns the nearest (6 km away) and past producing limestone project! At the end of 2016, the company achieved more than 99% CaCO₃ purity by sampling. Durango Resources plans to carry out an exploration campaign to qualify as supplier and generating the first significant cash flow for the company. Besides the LNG plant, Durango also wants to address the agricultural sector.

**Dianna Lake Silver Project**

The Dianna Lake silver project consists of 131 hectares located 17 km northwest of...
Uranium City in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Historic exploration activities discovered in grab samples unbelievable silver grades of up to 2,458.4 ounces of silver per ton. This is equivalent to more than 76 kg of silver per ton of rock. Besides this absolute peak value the samples returned 684.4, 647.4, 600.2, 464.2, and 454.8 ounces of silver per ton.

Trove Gold Zinc Project

Another very prospective project is the Trove Gold Zinc Project in the so called Urban Barry Greenstone Belt. Trove hosts 6 different rock types trending northeast – southwest. Traces of visible gold and zinc occur at the surface already which indicates a bigger fault. Durango Resources wants to first excavate trenches to identify possible drill areas. The particular on Trove is the short distance to the VMS deposits Barry (Metanor) and Windfall Lake. Windfall Lake is now in possession of Osisko Mining and is being aggressively explored. Other project licences of Osisko encompass the Trove Project almost completely. Osisko explores Windfall Lake as aggressively it tries to control the whole 75 x 20 km wide district. It’s merely a matter of time until Durango Resources will receive a corresponding offer.

It was only a matter of time until Durango received three offers in total for the Trove Project in February 2017. Nevertheless, the company extended its land position by an additional 2,600 hectares. Durango’s immediate neighbours Osisko, Beaufield and Bonterra completed financings over CA$ 100 million in total during the first two months of 2017 sufficient for drill programs comprising of several 100,000m.

Summary: Durango could have hit the mark!

This is an interesting constellation for Durango Resources being in the immediate vicinity to Nemaska’s world-class Whabouchi Lithium Project. During the drill program Nemaska discovered extensions of its deposit in the southwestern part of the licence area. Across the licence border Durango’s geological team identified potential lithium outcrops on Durango Resources’ territory. What if the Whabouchi deposit extends on to Durango Resources’ licence area or Durango Resources has hit the mark? Dianna Lake is kind of a grab bag. Only in a few months will we know to what extent the historic monster results can be confirmed. If this is the case a new assessment will be due.

For Trove the question is how large an offer for Durango’s project would be and if it would make sense to sell it that quick. Osisko wants to control the complete district and has enclosed Durango’s claim almost completely. Durango has already hit the mark with the acquisition of the two limestone projects in British Columbia which could guarantee a quick cash flow. The consortium under Petronas has already received the permit for the first construction phase. The construction should be completed by 2021. Until then Durango Resources could earn a lot of money! All in all Durango Resources is an extraordinary mining company. Durango has not only several top chances for a big discovery in its portfolio but also the company is managed completely by a strong female team that has the ambition to shake up the resource sector!
Fairmont Resources
Lithium and industrial minerals – a two-pronged approach for success

Fairmont Resources is a Canadian resource company specializing in the development of lithium and industrial minerals projects. The company has, among other projects, a promising lithium project in Québec and is positioned to acquire a granite quarry and finishing operation in Spain. In addition, Fairmont Resources owns several conveniently located quartz and quartzite projects which could be brought to production relatively quickly with low costs.

Rome Lithium Project
Fairmont Resources has a 100 % interest in the Rome Lithium Project in Québec. It is comprised of two separate licence areas which border in the north and south Jilin Jien’s Québec lithium mine. The mine hosts a measured and indicated resource of 41.5 million tonnes averaging 1.08 Li₂O as well as an inferred resource of 17.7 million tonnes averaging 1.10 % Li₂O. Fairmont Resources’ licence areas also border Jourdan Resources’ Vallee Lithium Project. Drill holes totalling over 4,000 m resulted in the discovery of over 100 pegmatite and aplite dykes. Jourdan Resources identified up to 1.19 % Li₂O over 5.50 m in these dykes. The Rome Lithium Project is surrounded by projects with high grade lithium resources. As recently as September 12, 2016 a new lithium discovery by St. Georges Platinum was reported 3000m due west of the Rome Lithium property, returning values as high as 2.58% Li₂O.

Acquisition of Granitos de Badajoz S.A.
Fairmont Resources is currently in the acquisition phase of Granitos de Badajoz S.A. (Grabasa), a Spanish granite company that was in operation from 1975 until 2011. The company still has an operational processing and finishing facility and almost all the necessary quarrying equipment. The ISO 9001:2008 certified company, situated just outside of Burguillos del Cerro is state of the art. The purchase price includes new cutting and polishing equipment valued at € 2.2 million purchased by Grabasa as part of a production expansion between 2008 and 2010. In addition, a large number of finished or half-finished granite slabs are stored at the production site which can be sold quickly. Grabasa has an annual production capacity in excess of 250,000 square metres and is comprised of 23 granite quarry licences. 18 of the 23 licences are located within a radius of 8 km to the processing plant and the remaining 5 within a radius of 20 km. The granite of the Spanish province of Estremadura, where Grabasa is located, has a very high quality.

The acquisition costs are in total € 4.275 million, of which the company has paid € 150,000 already. In contrast, Grabasa averaged over € 6 million in annual sales in the last 5 years of its operation. The operative margin was approximately 30 %. Fairmont Resources’ management team under CEO Michael Dehn believes that this margin can be increased by optimizing the workforce and equipment, as well by opening up new markets in North America and Asia where higher sales prices are anticipated.

Buttercup / Hearth Claims
Another promising project is Buttercup. It is located northwest of Saguenay, Qué bec, and has access to a deep water port in the Saint Lawrence River and thus to the Atlantic Ocean. Buttercup is an iron-titanium-vanadium project with a historical resource on 3.5 million tonnes @ 48 % iron, 19 % TiO₂ and 0.66 % V₂O₅. This estimate only includes the Lenses A and B tested down to a depth of only 30 m. In addition a Lense C was outlined. Sampling of Lenses A and C returned in part over 73 % Iron and over 20 % TiO₂. Buttercup is comprised of 31 claims and permitted for potential production. The Hearth Project comprising 96 claims lies in the immediate neighbourhood.

Quartz and Quartzite Projects
Fairmont Resources has controlling interests in three quartz and quartzite projects in Québec. The Lac Bouchette Project is conveniently located 60 km west of Saguenay. It surrounds the past producing Lac Bouchette Mine that produced 62,000 Tonnes silicon dioxide and still contains a historic reserve of 312,000 tonnes @ 99.8 % SiO₂, 0.06 % Al₂O₃, and 0.03 % Fe₂O₃. Currently, a plan for the pit expansion is prepared.

The Forestville Quartzite Project is located 20 km northwest of Forestville in Qué bec. The Québec government through Sigeom (Système d’information géominière du Québec) provided 162 surface samples. These samples, with up to 99.91 % SiO₂, were collected along a traverse in the western portion of the licence area. Fairmont Resources plans a drill program and to apply for a mining licence upon completion of the metallurgical tests in 2017.

The Baie-Comeau Quartzite property is located 8 kilometres northwest of the town with...
the same name Baie-Comeau, Québec. The project hosts a historic reserve of 11.2 million tonnes @ 99.20 % SiO₂, 0.41 % Al₂O₃, and 0.036 % Fe₂O₃. These resources have an acceptable quality for the production of ferrosilicon metal. The price for ferrosilicon metal is around $100 per tonne. The company plans metallurgical tests and the application for a mining licence.

Experienced and innovative CEO

Fairmont Resources is managed by CEO Michael Dehn. Mr. Dehn has over 20 years experience in the mining industry. He has held the position of Senior Geologist, VP Corporate Development, President, CEO, and/or Director of several public and private companies. He has worked in diamond, base metals, precious metals, oil and natural gas, as well as sand, gravel and peat deposits, primarily in the Americas for public and private companies and on government projects. Michael Dehn’s combination of technical and business skills have led to the development of new economical hydrometallurgical processes in historical geological deposits.

Summary: several pillars conveniently located and ready for a quick realizable production

Fairmont Resources bets not only on lithium but on industrial minerals as well. Most noticeable and a big advantage is that all quartz and quartzite projects have good and in part very good connections to landing ports enabling worldwide shipping of the material. Expensive processing plants are not necessary for mining of the resources because the whole rock can almost be used as raw material. Only the purchase of mining equipment and transport trucks will be reflected in the budget being a single-digit million US-dollar amount. Buttercup is a fully permitted project that can be brought to production immediately. The permitting processes are simpler with these projects compared with precious or base metal projects.

The not yet closed acquisition of Granitos de Badajoz S.A. will provide Fairmont Resources with regional diversification. The operation seems to be solidly positioned and can be brought back to production in the short term. In a few years the management team under the experienced CEO Michael Dehn could create a project portfolio containing important industrial minerals projects which have the potential for a long term raw material production and at the same time a short term realizable raw material production.

In addition, Fairmont Resources has only 35.5 million shares outstanding which could lead to a significant share price increase when the company hits the target on the potential high grade Rome Lithium Project that seems to be surrounded by resources.
Jourdan Resources is a Canadian junior mining company focused on the development of lithium projects. The intention of the company is to maximize shareholder value by establishing high grade lithium projects with a professional and highly experienced management.

Vallee Lithium Project

Jourdan Resources has a 100% interest in the Vallee Lithium Project in Quebec. It borders in the west and northwest Jilin Jien’s Quebec Lithium Mine, which is in the pre-production phase and will produce 20,000 tonnes annually of battery grade lithium carbonate from April 2017 on. This mine hosts a measured and indicated resource of 41.5 million tonnes averaging 1.09% Li₂O as well as an inferred resource of 17.7 million tonnes averaging 1.10% Li₂O. The spodumene pegmatite dykes that will be mined by Jilin Jien continue on to Jourdan Resources’ licence area. Jourdan Resources drilled several drill holes on its licence area in the past. 21 drill holes totaling more than 4,250 m on the Vallee Lithium Project resulted in the discovery of over 100 pegmatite and aplite dykes in 2011. Jourdan Resources identified up to 1.19% Li₂O over 5.50 m in these dykes. In addition, the following results were received:

- 1.19% Li₂O over 5.50 m
- 1.05% Li₂O over 4.31 m
- 1.03% Li₂O over 4.63 m
- 2.68% Li₂O over 0.85 m

All drill locations are about 2 km from the planned 14.9 year pit and approximately 1 km from the planned 30 year pit of Jilin Jien’s Quebec Lithium Mine. Historic results are in the range of up to 2.97% Li₂O but have to be confirmed.

As recently as September 12, 2016 a new lithium discovery by St. Georges Platinum was reported 5000 m due west of the Vallee Lithium Project, returning values as high as 2.58% Li₂O.
Experienced and innovative CEO

Jourdan Resources is managed by CEO Michael Dehn. Mr. Dehn has over 20 years experience in the mining industry. He has held the position of Senior Geologist, VP Corporate Development, President, CEO, and/or Director of several public and private companies. He has worked in diamond, base metals, precious metals, oil and natural gas, as well as sand, gravel and peat deposits, primarily in the Americas for public and private companies and on government projects. Michael Dehn’s combination of technical and business skills have led to the development of new economical hydrometallurgical processes on historical geological deposits.

Summary: early stage projects with top potential

Jourdan Resources should be considered as an early stage chance nevertheless the company has been working on the Vallee Lithium Project for several years. Both projects are situated in the immediate neighbourhood of former mines with branches of their mineralization zones extending on to Jourdan Resources’ licence areas. Furthermore, the company is working on the acquisition of an additional project with similar potential. Jourdan Resources now has a multiple chance for a hit which could catapult the share price of the company sky high. The company only has 7.7 million shares outstanding from which 28 % are in the possession of the management and the board members!

Jourdan Resources’ management team under the experienced CEO Michael Dehn is working on several permit applications for drilling activities on both projects. As well the company is carrying out preliminary works like stripping of outcrops and channel sampling. In addition, Jourdan Resources is in the due diligence phase of an additional lithium project situated in the same region as the other two.

Baillarge Lithium-Molybdenum Project

Jourdan Resources’ second lithium project is located only a few kilometers southwest of Vallee. The Baillarge Project is situated next to the former La Corne Mine, which was operated as an underground mine by Molybdia Corporation Limited (now Romios Gold) between 1951 and 1972. During this period the La Corne Mine produced in total 3.8 million tonnes ore averaging 0.33 % MoS₂ (equal 6.6 pound per tonne) and 0.04 % bismuth (0.8 pound per tonne). Jourdan Resources collected several surface soil sample returning up to 5.47 % Mo. The Québec Government, through Sigeom (Système d’information géominérale du Québec) conducted a drill program in the 1950’s that confirmed a significant lithium mineralization on the eastern extension of the La Corne Mine which is Jourdan Resources’ Baillarge licence area. Drilling on Baillarge returned, among others, 2.48 % Li₂O over 2.30 m.

As recently as September 12, 2016 a new lithium discovery by St. Georges Platinum was reported 6000m northwest of the Baillarge Lithium-Molybdenum Project, returning values as high as 2.58% Li₂O.

Planned exploration activities and additional project

Jourdan Resources’ management team under the experienced CEO Michael Dehn is working on several permit applications for drilling activities on both projects. As well the company is carrying out preliminary works like stripping of outcrops and channel sampling. In addition, Jourdan Resources is in the due diligence phase of an additional lithium project situated in the same region as the other two.

Factsheet

ISIN: CA4809014042
WKN: A12DWV
TSXV: JOR
Shares outstanding: 7.7 million
Options: 0.3 million
Warrants: -
Fully diluted: 8.0 million

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Lithium X Energy is a Canadian lithium development company with promising projects at two absolute lithium hot spots. In Clayton Valley the company has the largest land position of all lithium development companies and borders Albemarle’s Silver Peak Mine Project. The second high-grade lithium project Sal de Los Angeles is located in the lithium triangle between Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina.

Sal de Los Angeles – Location and Resource

Lithium X owns 50% of the Sal de Los Angeles Project in Argentina. The Sal de Los Angeles Project covers more than 95% of the Salar de Diabllitos located in the very mining friendly province of Salta. The Project includes 32 claims covering 8,156 hectares. Previous owner and leaseholder invested C$ 19 million in the exploration and development on the project site. C$ 17.2 million in the years 2010 to 2015 alone. At the End of August 2016, Lithium X presented an extended resource estimate for the Sal de Los Angeles Project. According to the estimate Sal de Los Angeles hosts 194,860 tonnes of lithium (1,037,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent, LCE) of indicated and 189,130 tonnes of lithium (1,027,000 tonnes of LCE) of inferred resources. In addition, the project contains a significant potash by-product resource of 2,143,491 tonnes of potassium (4,068,000 tonnes of potassium chloride, KCl) in the indicated and 2,068,161 tonnes of potassium (3,948,000 tonnes KCl) in the inferred category. The resource has a high average grade of 501 milligrams per litre (mg/L) lithium and 5,512 mg/L potassium.

Sal de Los Angeles – Exploration activities

The previous owners and leaseholders drilled around 170 drill holes as well as 16 pumping and monitoring wells in the licence area. Several pumping tests were carried out with positive results. In addition, gravity and seismic surveys were carried out as well as transport and production models created. After the publishing of the recent upgraded resource, the company will install a ponding facility first, which was permitted in February 2017. Sal de Los Angeles could host a much larger resource because to date the outlined resource is open to the north and contains a high-grade core section with lithium grades of up to 640 mg/l.

Sal de Los Angeles – positive historic Economic Assessment

Rodinia Lithium Inc., one of the previous leaseholders, published a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) prepared by the renowned SRK Consulting on Dec. 22, 2011. The PEA was based on an operation producing 15,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate and approximately 51,000 tonnes of potash per year. The PEA projected a 34% internal rate of return (“IRR”) pre-tax and a US$561-million pre-tax net present value (“NPV”) at an 8% discount rate. The PEA also outlined an increased annual production of 25,000 tonnes lithium carbonate and 85,000 tonnes potash and estimated a pre-tax IRR of 36% and a NPV of US$664 million. Although the PEA is based on inferred resources which doesn’t comply with guidelines of the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) the study contained very positive economic numbers. The PEA was based on a lithium carbonate price of US$ 5,000 per tonne. Currently, Chinese traders pay four times more per tonne! Lithium X is now working on an own, upgraded feasibility study for Sal de Los Angeles.

Sal de Los Angeles – Joint Venture for commercialization of the project

In May 2016 Lithium X announced the closing of a joint venture agreement with Salta Exploraciones SA for the construction and operation of a pilot lithium production facility on the Sal de Los Angeles Lithium Project. According to the agreement, a pilot production facility will be installed and operated for the production and commercial sale of up to 5,000 tonnes LCE per year (tpa). Salta Exploraciones SA is a consortium of Argentinian Engineering and construction companies who already have a great wealth of experience with establishing lithium brine projects in Argentina. The company can earn up to 50 % in 100 of the more than 8,000 hectares of Lithium X’s interest in the Sal de Los Angeles Project by contributing the required amount for the construction and operation (estimated US$6 million) of an initial 2,500 tpa facility. This includes financing one full year of post-construction operation. Later there will be an option for expanding the facility to 5,000 tpa. Lithium X estimates that the operation of a ponding facility at Sal des Los Angeles will provide enough data for a larger operation during the next three years. In February 2017, the company announced the granting of the construction permit for the first evaporation pond. The construction of a production plant is part of the agreement with Salta Exploraciones SA. This facility will have the capacity to produce 2,500 tonnes lithium carbonate equivalent per year.

Arizaro Project – the most recent top acquisition!

In January 2017 Lithium X announced the acquisition of the Arizaro Project located 100km northwest of Sal de Los Angeles and covering a licence area of 33,846 hectares. The Salar de Arizaro is not only one of the largest but also one of the least explored Salars worldwide. Currently several companies have staked claims on this Salar, such as Eramet, Sentient and REMSA (Salta Province Government). In consideration for a 100% interest, Lithium X will pay US$ 250,000 and issue 3.5 million of its shares. The intention of the acquisition is clear: first, growth by acquisition and second, in case Arizaro would be a suitable satellite project for Sal de Los Angeles.

Clayton Valley Project / Nevada

Lithium X has licences in Clayton Valley covering 6,075 hectares owning the biggest land position of all development companies. Currently there are more than a dozen development companies active in Clayton Valley. The Clayton Valley Project is divided into two different subprojects. The northern part borders in the north and the southern part in the southwest Albermarle’s area and in the west Pure Energy’s licences. In March 2016 Lithium X received the permit for an
An incredible successful management:

Lithium X’s biggest asset is its extremely successful management team. It was involved in mining transactions valued US$14 billion during the 12 years.

As former chief of the Latin America division of Rockwood Lithium, Lithium X’s COO Eduardo Morales led this company to the US$6.2 million takeover by Albemarle. Part of the deal was the Silver Peak Mine in Clayton Valley.

Executive Chairman Paul Matysek is said to be the ultimate uranium and lithium expert and has founded three mining companies in the last decade. The companies ended in takeover deals totaling US$2.3 billion. Among them was Lithium One, which merged with Galaxy Resources.

Further transactions with involvement of Lithium X’s management were among others the US$2.4 billion merger of Goldcorp with Wheaton River in 2004, the US$1.8 billion merger of Uranium One with Energy Metals as well as with UrAsia Energy (US$3.1 billion) both in 2007 and the takeover of Potash One by K+S (US$434 million) in 2011.

With the new VP Project Development Will Randall, Lithium X has gained not only a team member with great experience in the lithium sector but also someone who was involved in drill programs in Clayton Valley and the Argentinian Salars.

initial four drill holes down to a depth of 350 m. There the company assumes a basal gravel aquifer. In total the basin hosts at least five known lithium bearing strata and this gravel aquifer with some expected potential. The drilling began at the end of July 2016. Positive results from these drill holes could lead to a first resource estimate.

Summary: little own expenditure, lots of competency, high potential

Lithium X is quite clever: the company secures a (majority) interest in a very promising lithium brine project in Argentina, where it has to invest only a manageable amount and then transfers the initial (pilot) production to a local consortium consisting of experienced engineering and construction companies that will incur all necessary costs for the construction and the initial operation of the pilot facility. In return, Lithium X has to yield only a small part of the project but has only small expenses and can focus on additional projects. Although the Sal de Los Angeles currently has the highest priority the company has an equally high potential for a future lithium production in Clayton Valley. After all the large licence area borders immediately the only producing lithium brine project in North America. Investors with an investment in Lithium X have a multiple chance for positive news and for a positive share price development. The company has enough funds. Lithium X was able to do a CA$15 million financing in March 2017, which brought its total funding to CA$26 million.

(Quelle: BigCharts)
Millennial Lithium
With infrastructural advantages on the fast lane to become a lithium producer

Millennial Lithium is a Canadian development company focused on lithium projects in Argentina. The company has a better connection to the existing infrastructure than most competitors and aims to start production within three years.

**Pastos Grandes Lithium Project: location and acquisition**

The company’s flagship project is Pastos Grandes, a lithium project in Argentina’s northwestern province of Salta. Pastos Grandes is a salt lake which is part of a row of similar lakes which stretch like a string of pearls across the provinces Salta and Catamarca. The project is located at a distance of approximately 50 – 60 km from the lithium projects of Lithium Americas, Galaxy Resources and Orocobre.

**Overall the Pastos Grandes project consists of three different parts:**

- In the middle of September 2016 Millennial Lithium acquired 100 % of an exploration license covering 1,219 hectares from the private lessor Jorge Moreno. As consideration for the project area covering 1,219 hectares, Millennial Lithium will pay in total US$ 2.2 million, issue 500,000 of its shares plus additional shares worth US$ 500,000 payable and issuable in increments. In addition, Millennial Lithium has to spend US$ 1.6 million for exploration activities within one year. Furthermore, the project is subject to a 1.5% Net Smelter Royalty which Millennial Lithium can buy back for US$ 3 million.
- In the meantime, an application was granted to a state-owned mining company for additional 2,233 hectares of land.
- Applications for the use of additional 4,236 hectares were filed with the provincial government in Salta. This area has not seen any exploration activities to this date.

**Pastos Grandes Lithium Project: well connected to the existing infrastructure**

The biggest advantage is the relative proximity to the province capital of Salta. While the projects of most competitors are located in the middle of nowhere, Millennial Lithium has with its project a direct connection to the City of Salta with its 350,000 inhabitants located some 235 km away. Salta is the capital of the province of the same name in Argentina’s northwest. There is also a 490 km road connection to the Chilean port city of Antofagasta, which not only has a deep water harbour but is also one of the leading mining cities in South America. Situated some 12 km north of the project area the small town of Los Pastos Grandes provides freshwater supply as well as a diesel generated 220 volt power supply. A 600 megawatt, 375 kV power line connecting Salta with Mejillones in Chile runs 53 km north of the project area. Some 26 km northwest of the project runs a natural gas pipeline.

**Pastos Grandes Lithium Project: previous exploration activities**

In the years 2011 and 2012, the previous leaseholder Eramine Sudamerica SA invested over US$ 4 million in the exploration on the 1,221 hectare part of the overall project. Historic sampling showed primarily very high grade lithium of 400 to 600 milligram per litre (mg/l) with some samples containing up to 3,000 mg/l. Consequently, Eramine Sudamerica SA drilled six exploration holes in total to determine the extension of the brine as well as the aquiferous layer. In this context pumping tests were performed. In addition geophysical studies and acoustic tests were developed. Also evaporation tests in a pilot plant were carried out on site. Eramine Sudamerica SA analyzed its own brine samples lithium grades of 602.2 – 665.9 mg/l and 6,342 – 7,146 mg/l potash.

**Pastos Grandes Lithium Project: further exploration activities, production planning**

In the fall of 2016 the first drill campaign began at Pastos Grandes. The first drill hole (to a depth of 192m) encountered three brine-bearing horizons with densities ranging from 1,19 g/cm³ to 1,22 g/cm³. The second drill hole (to a depth of 352m) encountered eight intervals, each one meter long. This drill success lead to a third drill hole. To date lithium grades of up to 471 mg/l were identified in these drill holes.

The management under President & CEO Kyle Stevenson anticipates the production to begin in approximately three years and an extraction of 10,000 to 15,000 tons of lithium per year due to the good infrastructural location and the simplicity of the potential mining operation.

In March 2017 the renowned company Montgomery & Associates Inc. was engaged to complete an initial NI 43-101 resource estimate for Pastos Grandes.

**Cauchari East Lithium Project**

At the end of September 2016 Millennial Lithium announced that the company will acquire an additional lithium project called Cauchari East. Cauchari East covers an area of 2,990 hectares on the eastern side of the Cauchari-Olaroz Salar, adjacent to Orocobre’s producing Salar de Olaroz and Lithium Americas Corp.’s advanced stage Cauchari-Olaroz project. Millennial’s new project displays geologically characteristics common with the producing and respectively well advanced projects of the neighboring competitors and shows especially high potential in the deeper salar layers. Surveys completed by Orocobre on their project indicate that the brine-hosting aquifers extend into the eastern part of the salar and also beneath the Cauchari East Project. Pending approvals, the Company will start with exploration activities as fast as possible in order to make a quick assessment of resources. To acquire a 100% interest in Cauchari East the company has to pay CA$ 2.5 million to the previous lessor. In
addition, Millennial Lithium must pay CA$4 million for exploration expenditures within three years.

Pocitos West Lithium Project

In February 2017, Millennial Lithium announced the signing of an option agreement to acquire a 100% interest in the Pocitos West Project, consisting of 15,857 hectares. The project is located on the Pocitos Salar in Salta Province, Argentina, and is adjacent to Pure Energy Minerals Ltd.’s acquired project area. The 50km long Salar was previously explored in the 1970s whereby up to 417ppm lithium was discovered at shallow depths. In 2010 near surface collected brine samples contained between 300 ppm and 600ppm lithium. For complete acquisition of the project the company must pay in total US$ 4.5 million within three years.

Lincoln Lithium Project in Nevada

In addition to Pastos Grandes and Cauchari East, Millennial Lithium owns a second lithium project called Lincoln in Big Smoky Valley, Nevada. The licences are in immediate vicinity to claims of Ultra Lithium Inc. and Avarone Metals Inc. In June 2016 on Avarone Metals Inc.’s Moab lithium project located west and adjacent to Lincoln Avarone could not only confirm the presence of lithium close to the surface but also boron and potash. Also, in June 2016 Ultra Lithium could prove the presence of two potential lithium bearing brine targets at their South Big Smoky Valley brine lithium project south of Millenials licences. In line with rock sampling and auger drill tests, the company found up to 53mg/kg lithium, 270mg/kg boron and 6,100mg/kg potash in October 2016.

Top management for a rapid project development

A top management team was formed for the rapid advancement of some projects. Chairman Graham Harris was over five years the Senior Vice President and Director of the Canadian investment house Canaccord. He raised over 250 million dollars for public and private companies. Harris is also the owner of Sunrise Drilling and generated over 100 million dollars for public and private companies. He was also the founder of RuralCom Networks, a leading Canadian telecom service provider. Director Brent Butler was, among other things, Managing Director at Kinross Gold Australia Pty Ltd.

At the end of July 2016 Millennial Lithium was able to hire Iain Scarr as VP of Exploration & Development. Among other things, Scarr worked at Rio Tinto for 29 years where he played an important role in many discoveries in North and South America as well in Africa. He was also responsible for the commercial justification of the Jadar lithium-boron project in Serbia. At Lithium One he was responsible to guide the Sal de Vida lithium brine project in Argentina through the feasibility phase with Galaxy Resources. At Galaxy he advanced the Rincon project to the definitive feasibility study. Scarr is a real asset for Millennial. He has an immense wealth of experience and an extensive network in the lithium sector.

Summary: at full throttle towards production

Even though there is a long way to the anticipated production start it can be seen that the management under President & CEO Kyle Stevenson and Chairman Graham Harris has kicked into high gear. For the first exploration campaign at Pastos Grandes US$ 3 million were budgeted! There is certainly the potential for a high grade lithium resource in Argentina. The good infrastructure in the area (in contrast to the many competitors) could accelerate a potential production. With the help of their first own exploration results and a resource estimate, Millennial Lithium’s market value should rise sharply. Also for the fact, that Millennial Lithium is funded very well, by generating further financing rounds. For the first exploration campaign at Pastos Grandes US$ 3 million were budgeted! There is certainly the potential for a high grade lithium resource in Argentina. The good infrastructure in the area (in contrast to the many competitors) could accelerate a potential production. With the help of their first own exploration results and a resource estimate, Millennial Lithium’s market value should rise sharply. Also for the fact, that Millennial Lithium is funded very well, by generating further financing rounds.
Nemaska Lithium
Second largest low cost hard rock lithium deposit worldwide close to production!

Nemaska Lithium is a Canadian development company specializing in the lithium sector. Their flagship project Whabouchi is deemed to be the second largest hard rock lithium deposit on the planet. As a result of the granting of most of the permits (to date only three lithium development projects have achieved that) Whabouchi is ready for mine construction as well as of the corresponding processing plants.

Whabouchi Spodumene Lithium Project: location and infrastructure

The Whabouchi Spodumene Lithium Project is composed of 33 claims in total, covering an area of 1,761.9 hectares. The Project is located in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Region, about 300 km north of Chibougamau in the northwestern part of the Canadian province of Québec. The infrastructure is better than it looks at first glance. The project site is directly situated by the Route du Nord, a road maintained year-round in Central Québec connecting Chibougamau with the James Bay Road. The Nemiscou road-house/camp is located 15 km and the Nemiscou airport 18 km to the west of the project. In addition, two Hydro-Québec electricity transformation substations are within 20 km of the project. The project site therefore has direct access to power supply and road connections.

Whabouchi Spodumene Lithium Project: deposit, reserves and resources

The Whabouchi deposit is characterized by its location near the surface allowing initial open pit mining. The existing reserves and resources can be mined over 20 years down to a depth of 190 m. The strip ratio, the ratio of waste rock/ore containing rock, is 2.2:1. During the first phase 2,470 tonnes of ore material per day will be mined and processed. During the second phase, the last 6 years, the deeper resources will be mined by underground methods at 3,342 tonnes per day.

The last resource estimate in December 2016 indicates measured and indicated resources down to a depth of 200 m; and 3) confirmation of the continuity of the longitudinal zone down to a depth of 500 m. All drill results from the Doris Zone have been included into the recent resource estimate. Doris is also aim of the current, continuing drill campaign.

Whabouchi Spodumene Lithium Project: Feasibility Study

In April 2014 Nemaska announced a very positive feasibility study. In addition to the already mentioned expected mine life of 26 years an independent party estimated a pay back time of capital costs of 2.4 years. The initial capital costs are approximately US$ 439 million. Based on average proceeds of US$ 9,500 per tonne lithium hydroxide and US$ 7,000 per tonne lithium carbonate the company could generate an after tax undiscounted cash flow of US$ 3.1 billion. Accordingly the After-Tax NPV 8% Discount will amount to US$ 1.2 billion and the After-Tax Internal Rate of Return (IRR) 30.3 %. Nemaska based the calculations on production of 213,000 tonnes 6% Li2O concentrate per year at the mining site and processing to 25,000 tonnes lithium hydroxide and 3,245 tonnes lithium carbonate per year in its processing plant in Shawinigan.

Whabouchi: Extended drill program and new discovery

In the course of the 2016 drill program Nemaska discovered a new mineralized zone which appeared so promising that the company extended the current drill campaign from 44 holes (13,700 m) to 50 holes (17,400 m). This new mineralized zone was detected in 12 drill holes and named Doris. The current drill campaign has three objectives: 1) conversion of the 4.68 million tonnes of inferred resources inside the pit design to indicated resources; 2) increase of confidence level of mineral resources down to a depth of 200 m; and 3) confirmation of the continuity of the longitudinal zone down to a depth of 500 m. All drill results from the Doris Zone have been included into the recent resource estimate. Doris is also aim of the current, continuing drill campaign.

Modular processing mill at Whabouchi

Nemaska Lithium plans the construction of a dense media separation (DMS) modular mill at Whabouchi. The necessary applications were filed and a construction contract was signed with the renowned company Met-Chem Canada. Since the beginning of 2017, the company runs a test phase of 12-18 months. For this purpose, the mine representative bulk sample was increased from 29,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes. The plant has a processing capacity of 10 tons per hour. In March 2017, Nemaska announced, that it was able to produce several concentrates with over 6% Li2O, which is been said to be the minimum for the production of battery-grade lithium salts, which are high profitable.

Hydromet plant in Shawinigan

Nemaska already owns in Shawinigan, Québec, the buildings to process the on the mine site produced 6% Li2O concentrate. Shawinigan is located some 855 km south of the future mine. According to the previous plans the concentrate will be transported by trucks to the rail loading station in Chibougamau and from there by train to Shawinigan. At first glance it might look like a disadvantage, but it turns out to be a big advantage for the
company. Nemaska saves not only C$20 million capital cost but also has its own loading siding in Shawinigan as well as direct access to the Saint Lawrence River and thus to the Atlantic Ocean. This renders the transport of chemicals to Whabouchi that would have been needed for the production process unnecessary, avoiding the need for approval as well as having environmental advantages.

Currently, in the building that is owned 100% by Nemaska the work on phase 1 of the future processing plant is being carried out. The concentrate will be processed over several processing steps in the facility. First a lithium sulfate solution is produced, followed by the separation of all the unwanted elements like copper, iron, aluminum, magnesium and calcium. Subsequently further impurities are removed via ion exchange so that the impurities are in the ppb range. After the membrane electrolysis, the produced lithium hydroxide solution will be processed to lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate. In addition to the phase 1 facility, Nemaska has enough space in the same building for the future commercial processing plant. Phase 1 is in operation since February 2017. The company will deliver first production of 28,000 tons.

Financing of phase 1 facility secured

Financing of phase 1 facility is already secured. Of the total amount of C$38 million on Johnson Matthey Battery Materials Ltd, Sustainable Development Technologies Canada is contributing C$13 million, Technoclimat Program of the Bureaus de l‘éfficacité et de l’innovation énergétiques of the Ministère de l’Energie et des Ressources naturelles C$3 million and C$10 million from an equity financing of Resources Québec Inc. This demonstrates the big support Nemaska receives from different parties in Québec. The start of phase 1 led to a payment of CA$3 million by Johnson Matthey Battery Materials.

Summary: perfect timing to benefit in the greatest possible way from the imminent lithium supply deficit

Regarding the imminent lithium supply deficit in the coming years Nemaska has picked the perfect timing for its production project. The construction of phase 1 processing facility seems to be a solid decision of the management which saves a lot of capital and lowers the start-up risk of the commercial production. Fact is that Nemaska wants to bring Whabouchi, the second largest hard rock lithium deposit in the world, to production. The expected life of the mine will be 25 years in a time the lithium boom is just beginning and prices are quite high. The company has not only a head start but also a technological advantage. No other company in the peer group is that advanced technologically like Nemaska. This together with the secure offtake agreement with Johnson Matthey Battery Materials should not present too many problems for Nemaska at the coming financing and mine construction. Nemaska could already secure the first C$69 million in July 2016. Another important milestone was the successful production of a 6% Li2O concentrate.

Factsheet

- ISIN: CA64045C1068
- WKN: A1JQUB
- FRA: NIT
- OTCQX: NMKEF
- TSXV: NMX
- Shares issued: 313.3 million
- Options: 17.6 million
- Warrants: 69.7 million
- Fully diluted: 400.6 million
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Pure Energy Minerals
With an offtake agreement in the pocket on the fast lane to production

Patrick Highsmith, CEO

Pure Energy Minerals has achieved what many lithium developers, even the big producers, are keen to get but only a few will ever accomplish: an offtake agreement for their own lithium with one of the biggest future producers of lithium ion batteries. Backed by such a partner it should be a bit easier for the Canadian company to get the necessary funds to build a mine.

The Tesla Deal

On September 16th, 2015, Pure Energy Minerals announced that the company had entered into a conditional agreement with Tesla Motors for the supply of lithium hydroxide over a period of five years. In doing so a fixed purchase price was negotiated. This will enable Pure Energy to include that price for at least a portion of its production in upcoming economic studies. Even though not much is known about the deal, Pure Energy’s focus on an environmentally friendly disruptive new processing technology and the short drilling time of only 3.5 hours between the Clayton Valley South Project and Tesla’s gigafactory could have been decisive factors. The short distance would likely assure a just-in-time delivery. The gigafactory is currently under construction, but already produces lithium-ion batteries. In addition, Tesla secured a right to a 20% share of project financing to build the future mine. This is a customary component of such supply agreements, but it doesn’t give the EV company any control or role in the management of Pure Energy’s Clayton Valley South Project. Nevertheless, this could be seen as anchor for future project financings.

Clayton Valley South (CVS) Project – location and size

The Clayton Valley Project is located directly south of the evaporation ponds of Albemarle’s Silver Peak Mine and covers 3,865 hectares. Geophysical and geological studies suggest that the brine hosting basin exploited by Albemarle extends for about 10 km onto Pure Energy’s land package. The deepest point in the basin is estimated at 1,500 metres and it occurs on Pure Energy’s claims. This is definitively a closed independent basin, a prerequisite for accumulation of these lithium brines and successful lithium mining.

Clayton Valley South Project – Resource

Pure Energy reported a maiden inferred resource in July 2015 containing approximately 816,000 tonnes of LCE (lithium carbonate equivalent) at an average grade of 102 mg/L lithium. In spite of basin depths of 1,500 metres, the first phases of drilling only included samples down to approximately 500 metres depth, so there is likely to be exploration potential beneath that depth.

Of great advantage is the magnesium/lithium (Mg/Li) ratio, which must be relatively low, otherwise mining of the lithium resources is not economical. In Pure Energy’s CVS Project the ratio is 2:1, among the lowest of all the known lithium brine projects worldwide! In addition, the potash/lithium ratio is around 18:1. This is not a problem, rather there is a possibility for future by-product potash, which could improve project economics.

Pure Energy continued to report progress from the field and good results in its technical test work in the last months. In October 2016, they announced that drill hole CV-3 achieved a much greater depth than targeted, 610 m versus a target of around 500 m. In September 2016, the company intersected between 150 and 200 mg/L Li in depths of 244 to 564 m. The average grade within this 320-m long section was 175 mg/L. Additional boreholes were also successfully completed and pump test have been made. The most recent hole CV-8 has been drilled to a depth of 974 m.

Clayton Valley South Project – New Technology

While many development companies are still searching for lithium, Pure Energy has already outlined a large resource. And that’s not all, by now the company has started the pre-production phase. The Israeli firm Tenova Bateman Technologies is running numerous tests for Pure Energy in the mini pilot plant that was constructed for this purpose. Among other things, they are testing the separation of the alkaline earth elements (magnesium and calcium) using membranes. In a second step, lithium is recovered into an ultra pure lithium hydroxide solution via electrolysis. From there, the ultra pure lithium hydroxide is crystallized.

The new technology that Pure Energy is testing has the potential to produce lithium with a much lower impact on the environment and with greater efficiency than the conventional technology. The large evaporation ponds that are the signature of the current brine producers consume massive amounts of water, as none of the groundwater is conserved or re-injected back into the ground after lithium recovery. In addition to the visible scars on the landscape, these ponds can impact wildlife and air quality. The process of lithium recovery by evaporation ponds can be quite slow, sometimes requiring up to two years to recover the lithium. The ultimate recovery of lithium from this older technology is also relatively low, in the neighbourhood of 50%. Given the projections of future shortages in supply, slow and inefficient lithium processing may put more pressure on the supply chain.

The Tenova Bateman – Pure Energy approach could achieve much higher lithium recoveries, and the footprint of the anticipated industrial plant is much smaller than that of evaporation ponds. Typical of any real-time industrial process, lithium recovery by solvent extraction should be much faster than evaporation technology – hours vs months. Perhaps best of all, Pure Energy plans to re-inject brine back into the ground after lithium recovery. In a high-tech industry like lithium batteries, one expects innovation from the battery makers and end users of lithium, why shouldn’t one expect the same from lithium producers?

In the middle of August 2016 Pure Energy announced significant progress with their pilot test program. According to the company the halfway point has been surpassed towards the desired result.
In December 2016, Pure Energy announced another milestone. The company was able to recover 85% of the lithium out of the brine. Furthermore, the company was able to produce battery-grade lithium hydroxide monohydrate with the help of the mini pilot plant.

Expansion of the Clayton Valley Project
At the end of August 2016 Pure Energy announced the expansion of the Clayton Valley Project. The company signed an option agreement with Cypress Development for the acquisition of a 70% interest in the claims. The claims border the Clayton Valley Project in the east and cover an area of around 1,520 acres (615 hectares). Cypress has conducted exploration work on the claims during 2016, reporting lithium values as high as 2,600 ppm. Drill permits for these claims were granted so drilling can start at any time.

In addition, Pure Energy stacked claims covering 220 acres (some 90 hectares) in the northwestern area of the Valley. With that, Pure Energy’s land position in the Clayton Valley increases to more than 4,450 hectares.

Terra Cotta Project in Argentina
In March 2017 Pure Energy announced that the company has secured the Terra Cotta concession comprising 13,000 hectares on the Pocitos Salar in Argentina. The Pocitos Salar, Salta region is directly accessible by Highway 17 and has access to a gas pipeline and rail line. For the acquisition of a 100% interest in Terra Cotta, Pure Energy has to pay in installments US$ 4.0 million and issue 6 million of its shares over a period of 24 months. Historic samples contained between 100ppm and 300ppm lithium as well as between 1,000ppm and 7,000 ppm potassium. The company is currently planning initial exploration activities.

Short and middle term milestones and catalysts
The early test phase which is very important for the brine extraction and the corresponding processing to high grade and expensive battery grade lithium hydroxide is only one of several milestones Pure Energy will reach in the coming weeks and months.

At the moment, Pure Energy is working on a Preliminary Economic Assessment. This will lower the project risk on one side and in addition give direction to all following steps. The main factor is a good profitability and with that, the necessary funds could be raised for a production permit and ultimately a mining operation including processing.

The permitting process is ongoing and shouldn’t be a big problem due to the proximity to Albemarle’s producing operation and the favourable rules for mining in Nevada. After all Pure Energy and Albemarle share a top-class brine basin. To be on the safe side a leading firm, SRK Consulting, has been retained to assist with permitting and environmental impact studies.

CEO Highsmith as lithium mastermind
At the centre of the whole success story is Pure Energy’s CEO, Patrick Highsmith. He is said to be the mastermind of the company because he has worked for several big mining companies like Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, and Newmont, but he also has experience in the lithium industry as a co-founder and CEO of Lithium One. During his career of over 25 years, Mr. Highsmith has evaluated and worked on more than 250 projects and helped acquire and develop the best of these. His strength is primarily the successful guidance of company teams to major engineering and development milestones. He advanced Galaxy Resources’ Sal de Vida Lithium Brine Project from discovery to a successful pre-feasibility study and company sale. Investors hope he can have similar success with Pure Energy during the coming months.

Summary; there are two possibilities: a mining operation of their own or a takeover!
Pure Energy’s offtake agreement with Tesla was a highlight setting the anticipated lithium boom rolling. Backed by a partner like Tesla who seeks to buy lithium and potentially help finance the mine development, Pure Energy can not only work well but also generate further interest in its project as well as in the company’s shares. In July, Pure Energy conducted a private placement which was oversubscribed with final proceeds of C$ 6.16 million. Nevertheless, management has a track record of not diluting shareholders unnecessarily and staying focused on the next important steps. Given continued success, higher amounts can be raised at even higher share prices. Of all the lithium development companies active in the Clayton Valley Pure Energy is the most advanced and should have the best chances for its own production. But there is always the possibility of a takeover by a major lithium company. Above all Albemarle could have an increased interest in a combination of its deposit with Pure Energy’s Clayton Valley Project.

Factsheet

ISIN: CA74624B2057
WKN: A111EG
FRA: AHG1
OTC: PEMIF
TSXV: PE

Shares issued: 90.2 million
Options: 7.0 million
Warrants: 13.8 million
Fully diluted: 111.0 million

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Wealth Minerals
Largest land package of all lithium juniors in Chile’s top-class Salars

Wealth Minerals is a Canadian lithium development company based in Vancouver and Santiago de Chile. Since February 2016 the company acquired the largest land package of all lithium juniors active in Chile. The majority of the acquired areas are located in Salars that are among the 15 highest grade Salars in Chile.

Atacama Salar

Wealth Minerals’ Atacama project is located in the northern part of the Atacama Salar which is currently the highest grade and largest producing brine deposit worldwide. It produces approximately one third of global lithium output from two production facilities operated by Sociedad Química y Minera (“SQM”) and Albemarle. The Atacama Salar possesses a very high grade of both lithium (1.840mg/l) and potassium (22.630mg/l), has a high rate of evaporation (3,200 mm per year) and extremely low annual rainfall (15mm average per year). These characteristics make Atacama’s finished lithium carbonate equivalent and potassium concentrations possible near the surface. SQM and Albemarle produce the lithium from a depth of only 40m whereby the Salar has a depth of up to 975m. Therefore, Wealth will explore the southeast part of the Atacama project for lithium bearing horizons to a depth of 40 to 600m.

Laguna Verde Project

In December 2016 Wealth Minerals signed a letter of intent to acquire the 100% royalty-free interest in the Puritama concessions 1 to 8, located in the Salar de Aguas Calientes. The concessions cover an area totaling 2,000 hectares. Until completion of the transaction Wealth Minerals is paying over US$ 2.65 million. Historic sampling during the 1990s indicate a lithium concentration of up to 169mg/l. Access to the project area is via Highway 27 giving access to the port of Antofagasta.

Salar de Pujsa

Also in July 2016 Wealth Minerals signed an option agreement to acquire a 100% royalty-free interest in the Pujsa concessions 1 to 7, located in the Salar de Pujsa. The concessions cover an area totaling 1,500 hectares. Until completion of the project area is via Highway 27 giving access to the port of Antofagasta.

Wealth Minerals’ Atacama Project

In November 2016 Wealth Minerals signed an option agreement with Atacama Lithium SpA, in which it has been given the right to acquire a 100% royalty-free interest in 144 exploration concessions covering in total 46,200 hectares in the northern part of the Atacama Salar. For that deal the company paid and is paying in several installments a total of US$ 14 million and issued the vendor 15 million of its shares. The concession area borders the licenses of BHP Billiton, SQM and CORFO a Chilean state-owned company. The two production plants of SQM and Albemarle, which produce 62,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent (including potassium) per year, are located on CORFO’s area, 15km south of Wealth’s concessions.

Although Wealth Minerals’ Atacama project is at the very beginning of the exploration phase the fact that it borders two of the three lithium mines with the lowest production costs gives a hint of the huge potential. Wealth has started initial field work aiming at the drill permits. In the next step the company will drill test the 400 to 600m thick brine bearing layers of the Salar, initially 2,000m are planned. The company expects several brine-hosting aquifers with significant lithium concentrations possible near the surface. SQM and Albemarle produce the lithium from a depth of only 40m whereby the Salar has a depth of up to 975m. Therefore, Wealth will explore the southeast part of the Atacama project for lithium bearing horizons to a depth of 40 to 600m.

Trinity Project

The Trinity Project is comprised of three independent projects, Aguas Calientes Norte, Pujsa and Quisquaro, which are located in northern Chile within a radius of 15km therefore are combined in a single project. Trinity is located 100km east of the Atacama Salar.

Salar de Aguas Calientes

In July 2016 Wealth Minerals signed an option agreement to acquire a 100% royalty-free interest in the Puritama concessions 1 to 8, located in the Salar de Aguas Calientes. The concessions cover an area totaling 2,000 hectares. Until completion of the transaction Wealth Minerals is paying in total US$ 2.65 million. Historic sampling during the 1990s indicate a lithium concentration of up to 169mg/l. Access to the project area is via Highway 27 giving access to the port of Antofagasta.

Wealth Minerals is a Canadian lithium development company based in Vancouver and Santiago de Chile. Since February 2016 the company acquired the largest land package of all lithium juniors active in Chile. The majority of the acquired areas are located in Salars that are among the 15 highest grade Salars in Chile.
Salar de Quisquiro

Wealth Minerals signed an option agreement to acquire a 100% royalty-free interest in the Quisco concessions 1 to 9, located in the Salar de Quisquiro. The concessions cover an area totaling 2,400 hectares. Until completion of the transaction Wealth Minerals is paying in total US$2.6 million. The 15 best Salars in Chile are classified in three tiers 1 to 3. Quisquiro, together with Atacama, Maricunga, Pedernales and La Isla in the highest category Tier 1. Salars in the top category have lithium concentrations between 423 and 1,080mg/l. Wealth has not yet done any work at the project to validate these relatively high-grade lithium concentrations. The Project is also accessible via Highway 27.

Other development projects

In addition to the lithium projects in Chile Wealth Minerals has several other precious metal and base metal projects including two prospective silver-gold projects in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico and a gold project in Peru. Although these partly well advanced development projects are peripheral to the focus in 2017, they provide a second pillar and could be optimized off eventually.

Mastermind Henk van Alphen

Wealth Minerals’ CEO is Henk van Alphen, considered being the absolute mining expert. Van Alphen has over 30 years of experience in the mining industry. During his career he raised over 1 billion dollars in financings for several companies. Van Alphen is an absolute mastermind and leaves nothing to chance, which can be seen as he always acquires a 100% interest in royalty-free projects.

Summary

Wealth Minerals is preparing to become one of the most important lithium players in South America. In 2016 alone CEO Van Alphen and his highly experienced and successful management team secured for Wealth Minerals a land package covering over 55,000 hectares in some of the top-class Salars in Chile. Concurrently, the company raised in total CA$11.6 million in fresh capital. A first success, which catapulted the market cap of the company from initial CA$6 million to almost CA$100 million within one year. Nevertheless, the success story of Wealth Minerals is just beginning. After all, the company carried out only sporadic exploration work to date. This will change during the coming months and an increasing news flow can be expected. Looking at the individual projects, the majority of which is considered the best in Chile, expectations are for high grade test results. But this is not the end. The company plans additional acquisitions of potentially top-class concessions, which will give Wealth Minerals an additional big boost.

Factsheet

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CEO:
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Zadar Ventures
Lithium projects in several rock types at three hot spots on two continents

Zadar Ventures is a Canadian resource development company focused on lithium and uranium deposits. Zadar Ventures is one of a few companies that do not concentrate its efforts on a single lithium hot spot but rather on multiple. The company has several exploration licences in Clayton Valley, Nevada, where since the 1960’s lithium brine deposits were exploited, as well as in the Ravensthorpe region in Western Australia. Furthermore, the company was able to secure lithium-bearing petrobrine projects in Manitoba.

Zadar Ventures’ lithium assets in Clayton Valley, Nevada

Zadar Ventures’ main assets are located in Clayton Valley in the state of Nevada, USA. These are two independent subprojects.

WSP Lithium Claims

The WSP lithium claims are located immediately west of Albemarle’s lithium project and border on the area where Albemarle’s lithium mine is situated, the only producing lithium mine in North America. The WSP Claims cover 425 hectares and host brines with elevated concentrations of lithium. Zadar Ventures has an option to acquire a 100 % interest in the project. The United States Geological Survey detected in drill holes just east of the project area lithium in solution. One of those drill holes 800 m east of the project area reported 55 ppm lithium content from analyzed fluid samples indicating a potential lithium occurrence in deeper layers or in layers the analyzed water flowed through. Initial gravity tests and electromagnetic surveys revealed a significant anomaly. The local basin hosts demonstrably lithium bearing brines and the project area is easily accessible.

CR Lithium Claims

A second project area, the CR Lithium Claims, is located approximately 18 km southeast of Albemarle’s lithium project. Currently Zadar Ventures is completing additional gravity tests in this area, including never before tested locations. In addition, the company has filed an application for a permit to drill three test holes. Additional test holes to define the existing brine reservoirs are planned in 2017.

Memorandum of Understanding for Farm-in Agreement with MacArthur Minerals

In July 2016 Zadar Ventures entered into a memorandum of understanding for a Farm-in agreement with the Australian lithium company MacArthur Minerals. This is an agreement whereupon Zadar Ventures can acquire a 51 % interest in two applied for licences (a total of 91 square kilometers) from MacArthur in the Ravensthorpe region by expending AUS 2 million for exploration within two years. Upon completing a NI 43-101 Preliminary Economic Assessment within three years, Zadar Ventures can increase its interest on the project to 75 %. The two licence applications, E74/587 and E74/588, which most likely will be granted in November 2016, are at a distance of approximately 7 km to Galaxy Resources and General Mining Corporation’s Mount Cattlin lithium mine where lithium and tantalum concentrate is produced. Between the two licences lie Lithium Australia’s Horsehoe, Phillips South and Deep Purple prospects. Initial assay results from these prospects range between 2.4 % Li₂O and 4.1 % Li₂O. On both licences in the Ravensthorpe region a potential high grade pegmatite was discovered which needs further exploration.

PetroBrine Projects in Manitoba

In February Zadar Ventures signed a memorandum of understanding to acquire the so called PetroBrine licenses comprising 38,000 hectares in Manitoba. In March 2017, the size was increased to 51,000 hectares. PetroBrines are considered to be saline formational waters associated with petroleum production which could potentially be utilized as feedstock for mineral extraction, including Lithium. In Manitoba, in many cases with petroleum, associated formational water is produced that is regarded as a waste by-product of the petroleum production. This formational water is typically rich in dissolved mineral solids and of high salinity. These saline waters are, in normal course, disposed of by pumping the saline waters into other, usually deeper, sedimentary formations. In a next step, Zadar Ventures intends to measure the lithium...
content of these brines and figure out a method to process this waste product economically. Zadar Ventures has to pay in total CA$ 250,000 and issue 3 million of its shares for the acquisition of this project.

Uranium projects in the Athabasca Basin

In addition to the lithium projects, Zadar Ventures has some options on uranium projects in the Athabasca Basin. Zadar has in total options on five different uranium projects of which two will be briefly outlined.

Carswell West Project

One of the most prospective projects is the Carswell West Project situated 15 km from Areva’s Cluff Lake uranium deposits and Areva’s Shea Creek uranium deposit. Carswell West covers 8,257 hectares and is surrounded by projects of the major uranium producer Areva and of the well-advanced development companies Denison Mines, NexGen and Unity Energy. The Carswell structure, a remnant of a meteorite impact hosts the Harrison Shear Zone which traverses the southwest margin of the Carswell structure. This is where Zadar’s Carswell West Project is located. To date only airborne electromagnetic surveys were completed on the project.

Upper Poulton Lake Project

The upper Poulton Lake Project is located in the southeast of the Athabasca Basin approximately 21 km southeast of the Cigar Mine. The project is almost completely surrounded by development projects from Cameco, Areva and Denison Mines. The claims (2,730 hectare) are located on the Bird Lake Reverse Fault which is intensively drilled by Cameco approximately 5 km northeast of the project boundary. If the mineralized zone continues on to Upper Poulton Lake, Zadar would be in position for a potential discovery.

Experienced and successful CEO

The most prominent member in Zadar Ventures’ management team is President & CEO Paul D. Gray. He has a great wealth of experience as an exploration geologist. Mr. Gray has worked the past 20 years as a geologist in Canada, the USA, Asia and Central and South America and the last 10 years of which in the uranium sector. There he focused on the Colorado Plateau in the USA, the Athabasca Basin in Canada and on projects in South America. Mr. Gray served as President and COO of Doublestar Resources Ltd. until it was acquired by Selkirk Metals Corp. in July of 2007.

Summary: smart regional and rock based diversification could make Zadar Ventures a match winner

Zadar Ventures is one of the few lithium developers who doesn’t only have one project within a lithium hot spot but is also exploring for deposits in several lithium-rich regions (Clayton Valley in Nevada, oil fields in Manitoba and Ravensthorpe region in southwest Australia). The company deliberately selected claims which are located in the immediate vicinity to already known deposits. This increases the probability to host a lithium deposit on their project site. This regional diversification makes Zadar Ventures unique and doubles the chance for a significant discovery. All projects appear to have a strong potential for lithium deposits and have to be tested further during the coming months. In addition to the regional diversification there is the rock based diversification. This means the company has not only a brine project but also a hard rock project and a project, where lithium-bearing water incurs as waste material. Furthermore, Zadar Ventures has a few potential high quality uranium assets in its portfolio which could be developed parallel in the case of a uranium turnaround. In addition, Zadar has a low market cap which should shoot up in the case of a discovery.
Visual overview about **SRC communication programs**

**Unique IP-TV Resource Channels**
- Rohstoff-TV & Commodity-TV – more than 100,000 viewers p.a.
- YouTube – 400,000 viewers p.a.
- Partnership with Dukascopy-TV – worldwide 12 mio. viewers p.a.

**Social Media Network**
- Access to over 55,000 follower!

**Interference & Clipping Marketing**
- Access to more than 100 mio. people
- Editorial dissemination via + 500 online portals

**Traditional IR-Services**
- That’s where we are present!
  - Professional roadshows in Europe & Switzerland
  - Write-ups through our editors & third party authors
  - Ringler Research GmbH (GER) – fully licensed research, dissemination via Bloomberg, Reuters, Factset, 250 institutions
  - Translation and dissemination via IRW-Press: news releases, presentations, websites, factsheets

**Swiss Resource Capital AG & Commodity-TV Fairs and Events**
- Deutsche Rohstoffnacht – INVEST Stuttgart
- Edelmetallmesse, Munich
- Precious Metals Summit, Zurich ... and more

**Your partner in Europe!**