

Strategic Joint Venture With Global Lithium Producer SQM

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HIGHLIGHTS

- SQM Australia has agreed to pay A\$10 million for a 75% interest in five of Novo's prospective lithium - nickel tenements
- The Harding Battery Metals Joint Venture tenements are adjacent to or in the vicinity of Azure Minerals' Andover tenements
- Novo will be entitled to a contingent success payment based on the lithium contained in a JORC compliant ore reserve
- Under the option, SQM will have a 12-month period to elect to include additional Novo Pilbara tenements in the joint venture
- Under the unincorporated joint venture to explore for battery metals:
 - SQM will be the manager.
 - Novo retains 100% of the gold, silver, PGE, copper, lead and zinc mineral rights.
 - Novo is free carried until a decision to mine.
- This transaction further boosts Novo's cash reserves to continue its primary gold focus on defining deposits with high-grade, low-cost, low-risk, and low-CAPEX projects
- The Harding Battery Metals Joint Venture expands Novo's existing exposure to lithium exploration which includes the West Pilbara area

Novo Executive Co-Chairman and Acting CEO Mike Spreadborough said, *"To be participating in a JV with a global lithium leader like SQM is an excellent outcome for Novo and will see us receive an immediate payment of A\$10 million that will further boost cash reserves for our primary gold exploration focus.*

"Meanwhile, SQM can focus on the battery metals prospectivity of the West Pilbara area and our shareholders can benefit from future exploration success with a free-carried interest until a decision to mine.

"SQM has been very active in the Western Australian lithium sector with a ~ 19% shareholding in Azure Minerals, and a 50% JV with Wesfarmers in Mt. Holland, that among other investments demonstrates that SQM clearly sees the potential of Western Australia for battery metals, as do we for gold.

"This joint venture expands Novo's lithium exploration exposure given the existing lithium Quartz Hill JV with Liatam Mining."

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Dec. 18, 2023 -- [Novo Resources Corp.](#) (Novo or the Company) (ASX: NVO) (TSX: NVO & NVO.WT.A) (OTCQX: NSRPF) is pleased to announce that (through its Australian subsidiaries) it has entered into a tenement sale agreement, joint venture agreement, and coordination agreement with SQM Australia Pty Ltd (SQM), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A., in relation to five of Novo's prospective lithium and nickel exploration tenements (Priority Tenements) in the West Pilbara (Harding Battery Metals JV, HBMJV). The joint venture name reflects the importance of the Harding River to the West Pilbara region.

SQM will pay Novo A\$10 million for a 75% interest in the Priority Tenements, and for an option over additional Novo Pilbara exploration tenements, with Novo to retain 25% interest, along with 100% ownership of the gold, silver, PGE, copper, lead and zinc mineral rights. Novo will continue to explore for these minerals across these tenements. Novo's 25% interest will be free carried by SQM until a decision to mine is made by the HBMJV participants.

Novo will also be entitled to a contingent success payment based on the lithium contained in a JORC

compliant ore reserve upon completion of a feasibility study.

The HBMJV with SQM is a significant milestone for Novo, providing leverage to battery metals discoveries across a package of tenements adjacent to or in the vicinity of Azure Minerals' Andover Lithium - Nickel Project and Artemis Resources' Carlow Castle Gold - Copper - Cobalt Project.

Harding Battery Metals Joint Venture (HBMJV) Details

Novo and SQM have entered into a joint venture agreement relating to Novo's West Pilbara battery metals portfolio where SQM will be the manager HBMJV.

Key transaction details of the joint venture include

- SQM will obtain a 75% interest in the Priority Tenements (refer Appendix), and the option referred to below, upon payment of A\$10 million, following which the parties will form an unincorporated joint venture in respect of their respective 75% and 25% interests.
- SQM will have a 12-month option to acquire a 75% interest in additional Novo West Pilbara tenements (Option Tenements) (refer Appendix). Any tenements over which the option is exercised will be held by the HBMJV in the same proportions as the existing HBMJV tenements (75% SQM and 25% Novo).

Price and structure terms

- SQM will acquire a 75% interest in the Priority Tenements for a purchase price comprising of the following payments.
 - A\$10,000,000 upfront payment.
 - A contingent success payment calculated on the tonnes of lithium contained in a JORC compliant ore reserve on which a feasibility study is based.

Additional key terms of the Joint-Venture

- Novo will be free carried by SQM until a decision to mine has been approved by the HBMJV.
- Novo will retain 100% of the gold, silver, PGE, copper, lead and zinc mineral rights and will continue to explore for these minerals across these tenements.
- If SQM exercises the option to acquire an interest in any of the Option Tenements, then SQM must reimburse Novo for reasonable costs incurred by Novo to keep the relevant tenements in good standing during the option period.
- Each party will have a pre-emptive right in respect of any disposal of the other party's interest in the HBMJV.

Figure 1: Harding Battery Metals JV Priority Tenements

Figure 2: Location of Priority Tenement adjacent to Azure Minerals' Andover Lithium - Nickel Project²

ABOUT NOVO

Novo explores and develops its prospective land package covering approximately 9,000 square kilometres in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, along with the 22 square kilometre Belltopper project in the Bendigo Tectonic Zone of Victoria, Australia. In addition to the Company's primary focus, Novo seeks to leverage its internal geological expertise to deliver value-accretive opportunities to its stakeholders.

Authorised for release by the Board of Directors.

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FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Some statements in this news release contain forward-looking information (including within the meaning of Canadian securities legislation) including, without limitation, that the SQM JV described in this news release will expand Novo's exposure to lithium exploration. These statements address future events and conditions and, as such, involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the statements. Such factors include, without limitation, customary risks of the resource industry and the risk factors identified in Novo's annual information form for the year ended December 31, 2022, which is available under Novo's profile on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca and at www.asx.com.au. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date those statements are made. Except as required by applicable law, Novo assumes no obligation to update or to publicly announce the results of any change to any forward-looking statement contained or incorporated by reference herein to reflect actual results, future events or developments, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting the forward-looking statements. If Novo updates any forward-looking statement(s), no inference should be drawn that the Company will make additional updates with respect to those or other forward-looking statements.

Priority Tenements

Tenement	Holder
E47/4703 (application only)	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/1745	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3677	Grant's Hill Gold Pty
E45/3675	Whim Creek Pty Ltd - beneficially owned by and in process of transfer to Nullagine Gold P
E47/3608	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd

Option Tenements

Tenement	Holder
E47/3443	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
P47/1845	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
P47/1846	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
P47/1847	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3700	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3713	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4090 (application only)	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4091	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4092 (application only)	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4116	Rocklea Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3659	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3660	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E45/3724	Whim Creek Pty Ltd - beneficially owned by and in process of transfer to Nullagine Gold P
E45/3952	Witx Pty Ltd- beneficially owned by and in process of transfer to Nullagine Gold Pty Ltd
E45/5282	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E45/4921	Bamboozler Pty Ltd
E45/5281 (application only)	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E45/5868	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E45/5329 (application only)	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3701	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd

E47/4041	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4012	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3779	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3818	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3826	Karratha Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4353 (application only)	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/4347	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3622	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3778	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3611	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3817	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3615	Grant's Hill Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3821	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd
E47/3822	Meentheena Gold Pty Ltd

¹ Refer to [Azure Minerals Ltd.](#) ASX announcement dated 10 October 2023. Results referred to in Azure Minerals' news release are not necessarily representative of mineralisation on Novo's tenements in the West Pilbara, near Roebourne, Western Australia.

² No assurance can be given that a similar or any commercially mineable deposit will be determined on Novo's adjacent tenements.

Photos accompanying this announcement are available at

<https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/17cd2a80-c4e1-4764-b332-67df72927e7f>

<https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/b9f7c76f-014a-42e9-aa32-9f492bd3bf9b>

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