

# ELECTRA BATTERY MATERIALS CORPORATION (FORMERLY FIRST COBALT CORP.)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS OF CANADIAN DOLLARS)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

#### **GENERAL**

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Electra Battery Materials Corporation ("Electra" or the "Company") ("MD&A") was prepared on May 10, 2023 and provides analysis of the Company's financial results for the three months ended March 31, 2023 and 2022. The Company prepares its condensed interim consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB"). The following information should be read in conjunction with the accompanying condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2023 and 2022 with accompanying notes which have been prepared following IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting ("IAS 34"). All dollar figures are expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated. Financial Statements are available at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a> and the Company's website <a href="http

## **COMPANY OVERVIEW**

Electra was incorporated on July 13, 2011 under the Business Corporations Act of British Columbia and on September 4, 2018, the Company filed a Certificate of Continuance into Canada and adopted Articles of Continuance as a Federal Company under the Canada Business Corporations Act (the "CBCA"). On December 6, 2021, the Company changed its name from First Cobalt Corp. to Electra Battery Materials Corporation to better align with its strategic vision. The Corporation is in the business of battery materials refining and the acquisition and exploration of cobalt-copper resource properties. The Corporation is focused on building a diversified portfolio of assets that are highly leveraged to the battery materials market with assets located in North America, with the intent of providing a North American supply of battery materials. The Common Shares are listed on the TSXV and Nasdaq and trade under the symbol "ELBM" in each case. The Corporation has two significant North American assets:

- (i) a hydrometallurgical refinery located in Ontario, Canada (the "Refinery"); and
- (ii) the Iron Creek Project in Idaho, the Corporation's flagship mineral project (the "Iron Creek Project").

Electra is a public company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange (TSX-V) and trades under the symbol ELBM. On April 27, 2022, the Company began trading on the NASDAQ under the symbol ELBM. The Company's registered and records office is Suite 2400, Bay-Adelaide Centre, 333 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2T6. The Company's head office is located at 133 Richmond Street W, Suite 602, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2L3.

## **Q1 2023 HIGHLIGHTS AND RECENT EVENTS**

Refinery Project Update

As at March 31, 2023, the Corporation has made the following key developments at the project:

- Completed commissioning of the analytical lab, feed material handling system, including the ball mill and mixing station, filter presses, and reagent handling systems.
- Completed 90 to 95 percent of all procurement.
- Completed the erection of the solvent extraction building.
- Completed construction of the cobalt sulfate loadout facility.
- Increased the project owners' team to 31 personnel, which include tradespeople, engineers, operators, lab technicians, and office support staff.

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On February 14, 2023, the Corporation announced while constructing its crystallization circuit, the final stage in the cobalt sulfate refining process, it took delivery of a falling film evaporator vessel that was damaged in transit. The custom-built vessel is used to vaporize water from the cobalt solution before it can be crystallized. A third-party inspection has determined that onsite repairs will be required before it can be commissioned. Additionally, the availability of microchips used throughout the refinery in the process control systems has been impacted the by Global supply shortage of microchips causing delays in the development schedule. As a result of the damage to critical equipment and ongoing supply chain disruptions, the Corporation withdrew its guidance issued on August 11, 2022, and November 9, 2022, for its fourth quarter ending December 31, 2022.

# Battery Recycling Demonstration Plant

First launched in December 2022, the Company announced on February 14, 2023, preliminary results from its black mass trial and confirmed that it had completed the first plant-scale recycling of black mass material in North America and recovered critical metals, including nickel, cobalt, and manganese, needed for the electric vehicle (EV) battery supply chain using its proprietary hydrometallurgical process.

On March 13, 2023, Electra announced that it progressed the demonstration plant to recover lithium, a critical mineral needed for the electric vehicle (EV) battery supply chain, in its black mass recycling trial. The recovery and subsequent production of a high quality lithium carbonate product in a plant-scale setting validates Electra's proprietary hydrometallurgical process.

All the Corporation's recovered material will be sold to third-party companies for additional processing and re-use in a number of applications.

# Convertible Note Offering

On February 14, 2023, the Corporation announced the closing of a previously announced private placement offering under which the Corporation entered into subscription agreements with investors for the issuance (the "2028 Note Offering") of an aggregate of US\$51,000 principal amount of 8.99% senior secured convertible notes due February 2028 (the "2028 Notes"), led by Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. as the sole placement agent. As part of the 2028 Note Offering, the Corporation also announced that it purchased and cancelled all the outstanding convertible notes ("2026 Notes") at par value, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The net proceeds of the 2028 Note Offering of approximately US\$14,000 will be used for capital expenditures associated with the expansion and recommissioning of the Corporation's cobalt refinery, including buildings, equipment, infrastructure, and other direct costs, as well as engineering and project management costs. The Corporation is the borrower under the 2028 Notes, and the obligations are guaranteed by the Corporation's Canadian, United States, and Australian subsidiaries, as well as any other subsidiary that guarantees the Corporation's obligations from time to time, subject to certain customary exclusions. The 2028 Notes are subject to customary events of default and basic positive and negative covenants. The Corporation is required to maintain a minimum liquidity balance of US\$2,000 under the terms of the 2028 Notes. Additionally the Company must have a United States registration statement providing for the resale of the Common Stock deliverable on conversions of the debenture and warrants by May 15, 2023. Failure to have such a statement by the date is considered an event of default which provides the indenture holders the right to demand repayment of the instrument.

The initial conversion rate of the 2028 Notes is 403.2140 Common Shares per US\$1,000 dollars, (equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately US\$2.48 per Common Share) subject to certain adjustments outlined in the indenture governing the 2028 Notes, reflecting a premium of approximately 17.5% to the 30-day volume weighted average price of the Common Shares before date hereof.

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Noteholders received an aggregate of 10,796,054 Common Share purchase warrants ("**Note Warrants**") exercisable for five years at an exercise price that is the same as the conversion price in connection with the 2028 Note Offering.

The 2028 Notes bear interest at 8.99% per annum, payable in cash semi-annually in arrears in February and August of each year and will mature in February 2028. During the first 12 months of the term of the 2028 Notes, the Corporation may pay interest through the issuance of Common Shares at an increased annual interest rate of 11.125%. In the event the Corporation achieves a third-party green bond designation during the term of the 2028 Note Offering Indenture, the interest rate on future cash interest payments shall be reduced to 8.75% per year and the interest rate of future interest paid through the issuance of Common Shares shall be reduced to 10.75% per year. The initial noteholders also received a royalty of an aggregate of 0.6% of revenues for five (5) years from the commencement of commercial production, subject to certain allowable deductions in the first year of the term.

The 2028 Notes are secured by a first-priority security interest (subject to customary permitted liens) in substantially all the Corporation's assets, and the assets and/or equity of the secured guarantors.

After the second anniversary of the issue date of the 2028 Notes, the Corporation may mandate the conversion of the 2028 Notes at its option in the event the trading price of the Common Shares exceeds 150% of the conversion price of the 2028 Notes at such time for at least 20 trading days, whether consecutive or not, during any consecutive 30 trading day period.

Upon early conversion of the 2028 Notes, the Corporation will make an interest make-whole payment equal to the lesser of the two years of interest payments or interest payable to maturity, which may be made in cash or shares at the Corporation's election. There are also payments required in the event of a fundamental change, such as a change of control.

The extinguishment of 2026 Notes and recognition of 2028 Notes resulted in a one-time loss of \$19,444.

Disposal of Exploration and Evaluation Assets

On January 4, 2023, the Company announced it signed an amendment to a 2021 share purchase and option agreement with Kuya Silver Corporation relating to silver and cobalt exploration assets in the Canadian Cobalt Camp. The option was exercised on 31st January 2023 when Kuya delivered shares totalling \$1,000 and entered into a royalty agreement with the Company on net smelter returns from commercial production derived from the transferred assets. Electra also retains a right of first offer to refine any base metal concentrates produced from the patents at the Company's planned refinery.

Sustainability Report

On January 11, the Company issued its inaugural Sustainability Report and committed to net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Three Fires Group

On May 2, the Company announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Three Fires Group to a form a joint venture focused on the recycling of lithium-ion battery waste in Ontario underpinned by Electra's proprietary black mass processing capabilities that recover high value elements, including lithium, nickel, cobalt, and graphite.

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## COVID-19 Impacts

Market volatility and economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic have cast uncertainty over global economic activity levels. Despite pandemic-related market instability, the electric vehicle (EV) market continues to strengthen in North America., Europe and around the world. The Company continues to advance its plans for the refinery and has not encountered any adverse affects relating to COVID-19 to date. Best practice protocols have been developed and implemented for on-site activity to ensure the health and safety of all personnel. Where possible, the Company has procured equipment and materials for the refinery expansion from North American sources to attempt to mitigate any impacts from global supply chain constraints.

Notwithstanding the forgoing, global uncertainty related to the pandemic may present other challenges that are not known at the current time – including new supply chain interruptions, cost impacts, or alteration of business plans by the Company's strategic partners.

## **DETAILED OUTLOOK AND OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAMS**

The Company's vision is to provide sustainable battery materials to the EV industry in North America. The Company owns two main assets – the Refinery located in Ontario, Canada and the Iron Creek cobalt-copper project located in Idaho, United States. It also has a royalty over several silver and cobalt properties in Ontario known as the Cobalt Camp.

The Company has been progressing plans to create an integrated battery materials park in Ontario, Canada. The first phase of this plan involves recommissioning and expanding the Refinery to become the only refiner of battery-grade cobalt sulfate in North America. Electra's primary focus is advancing the construction and commissioning of the Refinery. The second phase of the Company's strategic plan revolves around recycled battery materials (known as black mass) as additional feedstock for the Refinery, with commercial, metallurgical, and engineering activities on the potential incorporation of black mass into the Refinery being conducted in parallel with the cobalt refinery project. The Company commissioned the black mass demonstration plant in 2022 and recovered the first, plant scale, recycled materials in February and March 2023. The Company intends to operate the demonstration plant through June 2023 to continue to advance its flowsheet, collect optimization data and prepare for a feasibility study. The Company has also increased exploration activity in Idaho, purchased new adjacent claims and released an updated 43-101 report for Iron Creek.

The Company's mission is to be one of the most sustainable producers of battery materials and continues to build upon its solid Environmental and Social Governance ("ESG") foundation. Cobalt is a key element in fueling the lithiumion batteries used in electric vehicles and for electric battery storage, both of which are essential technologies in the reduction of global carbon emissions.

The Company strives to be a leader amongst its peer group in ESG. The Company will provide a clean and ethical supply of cobalt for the EV market from large, commercial mining operations that provide ethically sourced cobalt and the highest quality cobalt hydroxide globally. As a member of the Cobalt Institute, the Company will follow the Cobalt Industry Responsible Assessment Framework (CIRAF), an industry-wide risk management tool that helps cobalt supply chain players identify production and sourcing related risks. Electra also committed to the Responsible Minerals Initiative, which will include a third-party audit of the systems in place to responsibly source minerals in line with current global standards.

The Refinery is projected to have a lower quartile carbon intensity cobalt by virtue of hydro powered mining operations supplying its hydrometallurgical refining operation. In October 2020, results were released from an independent Life Cycle Assessment ("LCA") which affirmed the low carbon footprint of the Refinery. The report concluded that the

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environmental impacts associated with refining cobalt at the Refinery will be materially lower than the published impacts of a leading Chinese refiner.

The Company takes a proactive, risk-based approach to environmental management and human rights with robust measures intended to minimize the environmental impact of operations and prevent the use of child labor at any level in the supply chain. Electra believes that these and other ESG practices will help it establish a premium brand of cobalt sulfate for the electric vehicle market. The Company's first sustainability report was published on February 24, 2023.

## The Refinery

The Company is working towards restarting its wholly-owned Refinery in Ontario, Canada as the first phase in a multi-phase strategy to create an integrated battery materials park in North America. In 2020, the Company announced the results of an engineering study on the expansion of the Refinery that demonstrated that the facility could become a significant, globally competitive producer of cobalt sulfate for the electric vehicle market. The engineering study determined the Refinery could produce 25,000 tonnes of battery-grade cobalt sulfate annually (equating to approximately 5,000 tonnes of cobalt contained in sulfate), which would represent approximately 5% of the total refined cobalt market and 100% of the North American cobalt sulfate supply. The study indicated strong operating margins at the asset level.

Regarding the cobalt refinery project, Electra continues to make progress on the construction, procurement, and commissioning. Through March 31, 2023, Electra's progress can be measured by several key developments, including:

- Completed recommissioning of the analytical lab, feed material handling system (including ball mill and mixing station), leach circuit, filter presses and reagent handling systems.
- Completed the erection of the solvent extraction building.
- Completed construction of the cobalt sulfate loadout facility.
- Increased the project owners' team to 31 personnel, which include tradespeople, engineers, operators, lab technicians, and office support staff.

While constructing its crystallization circuit, the final stage in the cobalt sulfate refining process, the Corporation took delivery of a falling film evaporator vessel that was damaged in transit. Custom-built for the Corporation, the vessel is used to vaporize water from the cobalt solution before it can be crystallized into cobalt sulfate. The evaporator vessel is valued at approximately US\$600, and measures approximately 60 feet in length and five feet in diameter. While the equipment was deemed suitable for installation, a third-party inspection has determined that onsite repairs will be required before it can be commissioned. The Corporation uses microchips throughout its refinery complex as part of the process control system to regulate equipment and integrate various circuits and systems together. Global supply shortages of microchips have resulted in delays to delivery of several process control system components. Although the Corporation has advanced the construction of its refinery project, it has been unable to progress fully on some work projects pending delivery of the process control components. As a result of the impact of critical equipment being damaged enroute to the Corporation's complex north of Toronto and ongoing supply chain disruptions, the Corporation withdrew its guidance issued on August 11, 2022, and November 9, 2022, for its fourth

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quarter ending December 31, 2022 along with any forward-looking statements previously made on the timing of the commissioning, capital spend and production of its cobalt sulfate refinery.

In conjunction with this the on February 14, 2023, the Corporation announced a review of the refinery project scope, scheduling, and capital expenditures and expects to provide results in the coming weeks. The review is intended to complete detailed engineering and provide critical details to inform construction cost and completion schedules.

The Company continues to incur significant cash expenditures in the construction of its Refinery. Cash requirements for the Refinery expansion from December 31, 2022, through to the expected completed commissioning are estimated to be significantly higher than the previously estimated amount of \$100,000 - \$105,000. At this time, the Company does not have sufficient financial resources necessary to complete the construction and final commissioning of the Refinery. While the Company is working to finalize updated cost estimates for the construction and final commissioning of the Refinery, the Company will require additional financing in 2023 and 2024 to continue operations, complete the construction of the Refinery, advance its battery recycling strategy, purchase required feedstock as the Refinery enters its operating phase and remain in compliance with the minimum liquidity covenant under the 2028 Notes.

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## **Black Mass Recycling**

Black mass is the industry term used to describe the material remaining once expired lithium-ion batteries are shredded and all casings removed. Black mass contains high-value elements, including nickel, cobalt, manganese, copper, lithium, and graphite, that once recovered, can be recycled to produce new lithium-ion batteries.

Established North American battery recyclers have focused on collecting and shredding of batteries with the resulting black mass material primarily treated by a pyrometallurgical smelting process that has a higher carbon footprint and lower metal recoveries than hydrometallurgical processes.

Recycling black mass will increasingly become a key feature of the EV battery supply chain given the strong demand for critical minerals and the looming supply deficit of metals such as nickel and cobalt. According to data from McKinsey & Company, available battery material for recycling is expected to grow by 20% per year through 2040.

Black Mass recycling is the centrepiece of the Company's second phase of the Battery Materials Park strategy. In the first quarter of 2023 the Company invested \$896 in the black mass recycling demonstration plant. The operations and activities were completed using existing and new equipment as well as external experts and the Company's employees. The company intends to invest between \$1,000 and \$1,500 related to the operation and continued development of the demonstration plant through the end of June 2023.

In February 2023 the Company completed the first plant-scale recycling of black mass material in North America and recovered critical metals, including nickel, cobalt, and manganese, needed for the electric vehicle (EV) battery supply chain using its proprietary hydrometallurgical process. On March 13, 2023, the Company announced that it progressed the demonstration plant to recover lithium, a critical mineral needed for the electric vehicle (EV) battery supply chain, in its black mass recycling trial. Also, in March 2023 the Company produced mixed hydroxide precipitate (MHP)) at contained metal grades for nickel and cobalt above the quoted market specification and more recently began producing lithium carbonate product. The black mass recycling trial is also recovering copper, graphite, and manganese.

Recoveries within the MHP circuit, the highest value product in the process, are achieving equivalent to and at times above bench scale results. Electra attributes its success to the refinery team continuously optimizing circuit performance as more black mass is processed. A first shipment of MHP to downstream clients for evaluation purposes is anticipated in early Q2 2023.

The initial results from the black mass trial are extremely encouraging and validates that Electra's proprietary hydrometallurgical process can recover high-value elements from shredded lithium-ion batteries effectively and confirm that the commissioning work completed to date. As a result of successes achieved to date, Electra has elected to extend its black mass trial through to June 2023.

The early success of the plant processing facility has generated interest from downstream battery supply chain companies who are looking for North American battery black mass refining solutions.

Pending completion of the demonstration plant and a review of project economics, success could pave the way towards commercialization and the buildout of a 5,000 tonne per annum black mass processing facility within the Company's battery materials park in Ontario using existing infrastructure, personnel, and lab facility. Combined with Electra's planned production of cobalt, nickel, and manganese sulfates, commercialization of the Company's black mass recycling capabilities may diversify sources of cash flow and its customer base.

All of the Corporation's recovered material will be sold to third-party companies for additional processing and re-use in a number of applications.

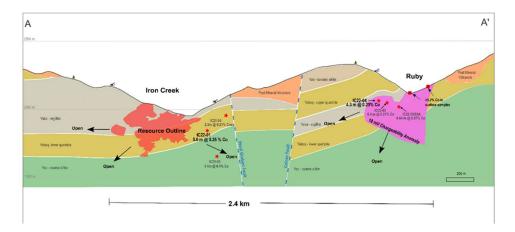
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# The Iron Creek Project

Following the acquisition of US Cobalt in June of 2018, the Company commenced an extensive drill program at Iron Creek. In October 2018, the Company filed a technical report supporting the maiden resource estimate for the Iron Creek Project in Idaho. A second phase drill campaign was initiated to conduct infill drilling to upgrade a portion of the inferred resources to the indicated category for mine planning and to improve the confidence for future engineering studies. As a secondary priority, this campaign increased the resource along strike and at depth. An updated mineral resources estimate (MRE) was completed in November, 2019 by the company by Ristorcelli and Schlitt.

The unpatented mining claims included within the Iron Creek Project have no expiration date if the annual claim maintenance fees are paid by August 31 of each year. These fees have been paid in full to September 1, 2023. The patents are not subject to annual claim-maintenance fees, but applicable real and immovable property taxes are payable to Lemhi County annually. The total annual land holding costs are estimated to be US\$68,984. Certain claims within the land package are governed by underlying agreements (Redcastle JV, CAS Option Agreement) which require milestone payments and/or earn in obligations for Electra to maintain their exploration rights on those claims. On January 23, 2023, the Company updated mineral resource for the Iron Creek Project (the "2023 MRE") as prepared by QPs Martin Perron, P.Eng. and Marc R. Beauvais, P.Eng. of InnovExplo, using all available information. The 2023 MRE includes a new mineral resource estimate based on all drilling conducted through the end of 2022. The new resource was calculated using a net smelter return calculation (NSR) model with assumptions shown in section 14.13 of the technical report. The resulting model calculated an indicated mineral resource of 4.45 million tonnes at 0.19% Co and 0.73% Cu and an inferred mineral resource of 1.23 million tonnes at 0.08% Co and 1.34% Cu. The mineralization remains open along strike and downdip. The resource does not include the Ruby target which has insufficient drilling to effectively calculate a volume and grade of mineralization. Management believes that there is potential to continue to expand the size of the Iron Creek resource and continue drilling at the Ruby target to evaluate the viability of that target. In 2022, the Company commenced drilling with Titan Drilling out of Elko, Nevada using a track mounted LF-70 operating on two 10 hour shifts each day. The Company completed six holes for 1,674 m. One hole was completed on the east side of the Iron Creek Project to infill between the edge of the resource boundary and the drill intercepts in the 2021 step-out program. The remaining 3 collars with two wedges were completed on the Ruby target to evaluate the depth extent of Ruby zone. All holes were collared with HQ diameter core and three were reduced to NQ diameter for core recovery and extensions. All holes intercepted significant cobalt mineralization confirming the depth extent and continuity of the Ruby zone.



**Figure 2.** Schematic cross-section of the Iron Creek and Ruby properties using a 100m cutting envelope. Drillholes projected up to 200m into the plain of the section to show relative locations of targeting in 2021 and 2022. IC21-04 and IC21-05 are labeled as reported on May 9, 2022. IC22-02 and IC22-03/3A are labeled as reported on October 5, 2022. IC22-01 and IC22-04 are labeled as reported on December 14th, 2022. Resource outline is based on Ristorcelli and Schmitt (2019) and includes both the indicated and inferred categories. Section has not been updated with the 2023 resource outline.

On December 14, 2022, the Corporation announced the acquisition of a cobalt property (the "CAS Property") in proximity to the Corporation's projects in Idaho. The new cobalt property was acquired for US\$1,500, payable over 10 years upon completion of specific milestones. The underlying claim owner will retain a 1.5% NSR which can be purchased by Electra for US\$500 within one year of commercial production from the CAS Property.

# The Cobalt Camp

On January 31, 2023, the Company completed the sale of the remaining assets of Canadian Cobalt Camp consisting of Keely-Frontier patents which Kuya did not own, as well as their associated asset retirement obligations. To complete the sale, Kuya issued to the Company 3,108,108 shares at a deemed price of \$0.37 per share (being the share price equivalent to the VWAP prior to issuance) comprised of 2,702,703 shares as consideration for the \$1,000 sale price and an additional 405,405 to settle \$150 of payables to the Company. Kuya has also agreed to enter into a royalty agreement with the Company whereby it will grant the Company a two percent royalty on net smelter returns from commercial products derived from the remaining assets. The Company will retain a right of first offer to refine any base metal concentrates produced from the assets at the Company's Ontario refinery.

## **EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION ASSETS**

The Company is focused on building a North American battery materials supply chain. The Company's Iron Creek Project in Idaho, U.S. is its flagship mineral property and a new, upgraded resource estimate was published in March, 2023. The Iron Creek property includes patented and unpatented claims totalling approximately 3,260 hectares as

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well as 600 metres of underground drifting from three adits. Other cobalt-copper targets exist on the Company's property away from the Iron Creek resource. While not a major focus of the Company's exploration efforts in recent years, and vended to Kuya Silver in 2023, the Cobalt Camp properties are shown separately below due to their different geographic location.

	De	Balance cember 31, 2022	Acq	uisition Costs	Impairment Reversal	lassification Held for Sale	Balance March 31, 2023
Iron Creek	\$	87,693	\$	-	\$ -	\$ - \$	87,693
Total	\$	87,693	\$	-	\$ -	\$ - \$	87,693

	Balance December 31, 2021	quisition Costs	Impairment Reversal	classification Held for Sale	ſ	Balance December 31, 2022
Iron Creek	\$ 87,661	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ - 9	\$	87,693
Cobalt Camp, Ontario	-	-	1,338	(1,338)		
Total	\$ 87,661	\$ 32	\$ 1,338	\$ (1,338)	\$	87,693

In 2020, the Company reversed a portion of previously recorded impairment charges relating to the Cobalt Camp because of the announced sale transaction with Kuya related to the Keeley Joint-Venture. These assets were reclassified as held for sale as at December 31, 2020 and the sale transaction was completed during 2021. Similarly, in 2022 the Company entered a purchase option with Kuya to sell the remaining Cobalt Camp patents under the Joint-Venture created in 2020. These assets were classified as held for sale as at December 31, 2022 with the sale completing January 31, 2023.

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# **SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS**

Key financial information for the three months ended March 31, 2023, as well as the quarters spanning the most recent preceding fiscal years, are summarized as follows, reported in thousands of Canadian dollars except for per share amounts.

	March 31,	December 31.	September 30,	June 30,
	2023	2022	2022	2022
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
	(17)	(,,	,	
Financial Position				
Current Assets	14,521	13,518	25,650	45,601
Exploration and Evaluation Assets	87,693	87,693	87,661	87,661
Total Assets	198,766	187,524	170,919	176,355
Current Liabilities	28,556	54,109	8,684	11,078
Long-term Liabilties	63,739	6,906	50,105	47,094
Operations				
General and administrative	900	811	668	377
Consulting and professional fees	600	187	1,024	932
Exploration and evaluation expenditures	77	614	1,336	1,084
Investor relations and marketing	33	203	233	318
Refinery, engineering and metallurgical studies	624	1,381	548	327
Refinery, permitting and environmental expenses	28	64	3	33
Salary and benefits	1,328	2,038	722	529
Share-based payments	218	259	285	304
Total Operating Expenses	3,808	5,557	4,819	3,904
Net Income (Loss)	(21,803)	10,315	(7,628)	7,534
Income (Loss) per Share	(0.61)	0.31	(0.24)	0.23

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	March 31	December 31,	September 30,	June 30,
	2022	2021	2021	2021
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
				_
Financial Position				
Current Assets	56,578	61,935	64,930	15,295
Exploration and Evaluation Assets	87,661	87,661	87,539	87,539
Total Assets	171,258	167,611	160,837	110,094
Current Liabilities	6,039	4,708	2,115	598
Long-term Liabilties	61,057	62,939	51,749	1,264
Operations				
General and administrative	69	170	162	68
Consulting and professional fees	586	977	2,173	691
Exploration and evaluation expenditures	394	2,931	1,212	416
Investor relations and marketing	246	492	109	127
Refinery, engineering and metallurgical studies	93	436	1,797	1,479
Refinery, permitting and environmental expenses	28	182	299	129
Salary and benefits	624	1,222	606	559
Share-based payments	434	185	189	262
Total Operating Expenses	2,474	6,595	6,547	3,731
Net Income (Loss)	2,330	(15,494)	(10,502)	(6,409)
Income (Loss) per Share	0.08	(0.55)	(0.37)	(0.23)

# RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

The following are highlights from the Company's results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2023 and 2022:

- Included in Net Loss for Q1 2023 are \$19,944 of one-time loss relating to accounting adjustments arising from the settlement of 2026 Notes and recognition of 2028 Notes, mainly driven by volatility of Company's share price. Net Income for Q1 2022 included an unrealized derivative liability gain of \$3,980 related to the decreased fair value on the derivative liability related to the Company's share price decrease compared to the value at Q4 2021.
- General and administrative expenses were \$900 for the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared to \$69 for the three months ended March 31, 2022. These costs have increased due to higher head office costs due to the expansion of Toronto office compared to the same period in the prior year.
- Salary and benefits were \$1,328 for the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared to \$624 for the three months ended March 31, 2022. The increase is a result of the higher headcounts at the Toronto office compared to the same period in the prior year.
- Refinery, engineering, and metallurgical studies costs were \$624 for the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared to \$93 for the three months ended March 31, 2022. Costs in Q1 2023 consisted of \$900K relating to black mass project. This was offset by \$250 received from the Ontario government relating to cost reimbursement of nickel sulfate studies which were completed in 2022.
- Exploration and evaluation expenditures were \$77 for the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared to \$394 for the three months ended March 31, 2022. The decrease was caused by a reduction in drilling expenses and professional fees related to Iron Creek over the same period in the prior year due to unfinished 2023 exploration plan.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

Investor relations and marketing expenses were \$33 for the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared
to \$246 for the three months ended March 31, 2022. The decreased costs is due to timing of spending and
cost-cutting measures implemented, including reducing the use of third-party vendors by performing more
work in-house.

# **CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

As of the date of this MD&A, the Company has 35,554,520 common shares issued and outstanding. In addition, there are outstanding share purchase warrants and stock options for a further 13,279,204 and 1,318,649 common shares, respectively. The Company currently has 511,180 Deferred Share Units (DSUs), 365,137 Restricted Share Units (RSUs) and 63,889 Performance Share Units (PSUs) issued under its Long-Term Incentive Plan.

The following warrants were outstanding at the date of this MD&A:

Grant Date	Expiry Date	Number of warrants outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price
November 15, 2022 February 13, 2023	November 15, 2025 February 13, 2028	2,483,150 10,796,054	US\$3.10 US\$2.48
·	·	13,279,204	US\$2.60

The following incentive stock options were outstanding and exercisable at the date of this MD&A:

		Opti	ons Outstanding		Options Exe	ercisa	able
Exerc Price		Number of Shares Issuable on Exercise	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years)	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Number of Shares Issuable on Exercise	Exe	Weighted Average rcise Price
\$	2.40	366,319	3.95	\$ 2.40	-	\$	2.40
	2.52	174,259	1.60	\$ 2.52	143,704		2.52
	2.61	27,778	2.41	\$ 2.61	27,778		2.61
	2.88	16,667	1.51	\$ 2.88	16,667		2.88
	3.21	120,000	4.62	\$ 3.21	-		3.21
	3.24	55,556	0.90	\$ 3.24	55,556		3.24
	4.38	30,000	4.23	\$ 4.38	-		4.38
	4.63	19,444	4.15	\$ 4.63	-		4.63
	4.90	40,000	4.19	\$ 4.90	-		4.90
	5.40	187,238	3.81	\$ 5.40	62,413		5.40
	5.76	19,444	4.01	\$ 5.76	-		5.76
	6.21	30,093	3.05	\$ 6.21	9,722		6.21
	6.48	116,667	0.99	\$ 6.48	116,667		6.48
	7.29	5,556	1.89	\$ 7.29	5,556		7.29
	8.82	109,628	0.24	\$ 8.82	109,630		8.82
		1,318,649	2.91	\$ 4.17	547,693	\$	5.16

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

The following units were outstanding at the date of this MD&A:

Туре	Outstanding
Deferred Share Units	511,180
Restricted Share Units	365,137
Performance Share Units	63,889

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

## **CAPITAL STRUCTURE, RESOURCES & LIQUIDITY**

## Capital Structure

The Company manages its capital structure to maximize its financial flexibility, adjusting it in response to changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets and business opportunities. The Company does not presently utilize any quantitative measures to monitor its capital but rather relies on the expertise of the Company's management to sustain the future development of the business. Management reviews its capital management approach on an ongoing basis and believes that this, given the relative size of the Company, is appropriate.

The Company will continue to adjust its capital structure based on Management's assessment of the best capital mix to effectively advance its assets. With the settlement of the 2026 Notes and issuances of the 2028 Notes in February 2023, the Company has increased the debt component of its capital structure with a par value of US\$50,250 outstanding after an early conversion of US\$500 of bonds in March 2023 and US\$250 in April 2023. As of March 31, 2023 the Company had US\$50,500 of convertible bonds.

In addition to its cash on hand, the Company also has executed contribution agreements with the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada for aggregate funding towards the refinery construction of \$10,000, of which \$4,898 has been received to date. The company expects receipt of the balance of \$5,102 throughout the construction phase of the refinery project with final payments received after construction is complete. The Company is actively pursuing various alternatives including equity and debt financing to increase its liquidity and capital resources to fund the projected Refinery expenditures. The Company will also need working capital funding for the purchase of other consumables before to the startup of operations. Electra is in active discussions with the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario for an additional \$10,000 in aggregate funding to support the final commissioning of the refinery, which would be in addition to the previous \$10,000 contribution.

# Liquidity

After the closing of the new US\$51,000 2028 Notes and settlement of the existing US\$36,000 2026 Notes, the Company received a proceed of US\$15,000 (\$20,013), before interest payment of \$1,656 and transaction costs of \$2,100. The 2028 Notes reduced the minimum liquidity balance requirement under the 2026 Notes from US\$7,500 to US\$2,000. The Company also must have a United States registration statement providing for the resale of the underlying Common Stock deliverable on the conversion of the debenture and warrant indenture by May 15, 2023. Failure to provide a registration statement by the date is considered an event of default under the bond and warrant indenture which provides the indenture holders the right to demand repayment of the instrument.

The Company's objective in managing liquidity risk is to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet operational and asset advancement requirements. The Company has financed its Refinery construction progress with a combination of debt instruments and the sale of share capital.

At March 31, 2023, the Company had cash of \$11,229 (December 31, 2022 - \$7,952), and marketable securities without trading restrictions of \$430 (December 31, 2022 - \$433). The remaining \$5,102 (of the original \$10,000 committed) of Government investments are not included in cash or equivalents.

On April 13, 2023, the Company received additional conversion notices for US\$250 of principal for its 2028 Notes. In line with the conversion terms in the Note Indenture, 100,804 common shares were issued for settlement of bond par value and make-whole interest payments worth US\$45 were settled by issuing 24,742 shares for a total of 125,546 common shares.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

Cash requirements for the Refinery expansion from March 31, 2023, through to the expected completed commissioning are estimated to be significantly higher than the previously estimated. At this time, the Company does not have sufficient financial resources necessary to complete the construction and final commissioning of the Refinery. While the Company is working to finalize updated cost estimates for the construction and final commissioning of the Refinery, the Company will require additional financing in 2023 and 2024 to continue operations, complete the construction of the Refinery, advance its battery recycling strategy, purchase the required feedstock as the Refinery enters its operating phase and remain in compliance with the minimum liquidity covenant under the 2028 Notes. Failure to remain in compliance with the liquidity terms may result in the instrument becoming due before the contractual maturity.

The Company had the following summarized Cash flows:

	Three	e months ended	Three months ended
		March 31,	March 31,
		2023	2022
Cash Flows used in operating activities	\$	(965)	\$ (3,504)
Cash Flows used in investing activities		(12,247)	(5,086)
Cash Flows provided by financing activities		16,486	1,620
Changes in cash during the period		3,274	(6,970)
Effect of exchange rates on cash		3	240
Cash – Beginning of the period		7,952	58,626
Cash – End of the period	\$	11,229	\$ 51,896

Cash used in operating activities was \$965 during the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared to \$3,504 used in operating activities during the three months ended March 31, 2022. The decrease in cash used in operating activities was driven primarily by an increased capitalized Refinery spending included in Investing Activities.

Cash used in investing activities was \$12,247 during the three months ended March 31, 2023, compared to cash out flows from investing activities of \$5,086 during the three months ended March 31, 2022. The cash outflow from investing activities relate to prepayments of solvent extraction and crystalizing equipment, the construction of the solvent extraction facility and installation of related equipment as well as general construction costs and advancement of the cobalt crystallizer unit and facility which will be utilized in the expanded Refinery.

Cash flows provided by financing activities were \$16,486 during the three months ended March 31, 2023 compared to the \$1,620 from financing activities during the three months ended March 31, 2022. Cash inflow in Q1 2023 was primarily driven by net proceeds from 2028 Notes, which was completed on February 13, 2023.

There can be no assurances that the Company will be successful in obtaining other sources of funding; failure to obtain additional capital could result in the delay or indefinite postponement of further advancement of the Company's assets.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

#### **COMMITMENTS**

The Company's commitments relate to purchase and services commitments for work programs relating to refinery expansion and payments under financing arrangements. The Company had the following commitments as of March 31, 2023:

	2023	2024	2025	2026	Thereafter	Total
Purchase commitments	\$ 4,108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,108
Convertible notes payments <sup>1</sup>	5,731	6,347	6,146	6,146	74,320	98,690
Government loan payments	-	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,874	4,970
Royalty payments <sup>2</sup>	-	121	959	959	1,919	3,958
Total	\$ 9,839	\$ 7,500	\$ 8,137	\$ 8,137	\$ 78,113	\$ 111,726

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The figures in the above table are as of March 31, 2023 as reported in the notes to the condensed interim consolidated financial statements. Convertible notes payments amounts are based on contractual maturities of 2028 Notes and assumption that it would remain outstanding until maturity. As discussed above, 2026 Notes were cancelled and replaced with 2028 Notes in February 2023.

The Company has recorded a provision for environmental remediation, reclamation and decommissioning for its Ontario assets. For the Refinery, a liability of \$1,696 has been recorded, linked to the closure plan filed and accepted in March 2022 and updated in November 2022. In relation to the refinery closure plan, an amount of \$3,450 has been posted via a surety bond with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) as financial assurance. The \$938 of cash that was deposited with NDMNRF relating to its old closure plan is expected to be returned to the Company in 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Royalty payments are estimated amounts associated with the royalty agreements entered with the convertible debt holders as part of the 2028 Note offering. The estimated amounts and timing are subject to changes in sulfate prices, timing of completion of the refinery, reaching commercial operations and timing and amounts of sales.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Company's related parties include key management personnel and companies related by way of directors or shareholders in common.

# **Key Management Personnel Compensation**

During the three months ended March 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company paid and/or accrued the following fees to management personnel and directors:

	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022
Management	\$ 463	\$310
Directors	64	\$ 310 62
	\$ 527	\$ 372

During the three months ended March 31, 2023, the Company had share-based payments made to management and directors of \$527 (March 31, 2022 - \$256). As at March 31, 2023, the accrued liabilities balance for related parties was \$128 (December 31, 2022 - \$389).

# **OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

The Company currently has no off balance sheet arrangements.

# **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

Financial assets and liabilities are classified in the fair value hierarchy according to the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgement and may affect placement within the fair value hierarchy levels.

The hierarchy is as follows:

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs that are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Fair value estimates of financial instruments are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant information about financial markets and specific financial instruments. As these estimates are subjective in nature, involving uncertainties and matters of significant judgment, they cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions can significantly affect estimated fair values.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

At March 31, 2023 the Company had the following assets and liabilities measured at Fair Value:

	Carrying Value			March 31, 2023				
	Fair through pr	value ofit or loss	Amortized cost	Level 1	Level	2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
Assets:								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	-	\$ 11,229	\$ -	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 11,229
Restricted cash		-	938	-		-	-	938
Receivables		-	1,282	-		-	-	1,282
Marketable securities		1,658	-	1,658		-	-	1,658
	\$	1,658	\$ 13,449	\$ 1,658	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 15,107
Liabilities:								
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	-	\$ 16,206	\$ -	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 16,206
Long-term government loan payable		-	4,081	-		-	-	3,875
Convertible notes payable <sup>1</sup>	5	4,391	-	-		-	54,391	54,391
Warrants – Convertible Notes <sup>1</sup>	1	0,985	-	-		-	10,985	10,985
Royalty <sup>1</sup>		-	2,308	-		-	2,308	2,308
Other financial derivative liability		1,365	-	-		-	1,365	1,365
	\$ 6	6,741	\$ 22,595	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 69,049	\$ 89,130

The level 3 liabilities consist of derivates related to the convertible notes and the US Dollar denominated warrants of the Company's stock.

# Convertible Notes Payable

For the convertible notes payable designated at fair value through profit or loss, the valuation is derived by a finite difference method, whereby the convertible debt as a whole is viewed as a hybrid instrument consisting of two components, an equity component (i.e., the conversion option) and a debt component, each with different risk. The key inputs in the valuation include risk-free rates, share price, equity volatility, and credit spread. As there are significant unobservable inputs used in the valuation, the convertible notes payable is included in Level 3.

The fair value of the convertible note payable has been estimated based on significant unobservable inputs which are equity volatility and credit spread. The Company used an equity volatility of 56%. If the Company had used an equity volatility that was higher or lower by 10%, the potential effect would be an increase of \$2,828 or a decrease of \$2,652 to the fair value of the convertible note payable. The Company used a credit spread of 30.1%. If the Company had

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptsize 1}$  Components of 2028 Notes Payable.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

used a credit spread that was higher or lower by 5%, the potential effect would be a decrease of \$3,004 or an increase of \$3,830 to the fair value of convertible note payable.

#### Warrants - Convertible Notes

The Warrants issued in a foreign currency and accounted for at fair value through profit or loss are valued using a Monte Carlo Simulation Model to better model the variability in exercise date. The key inputs in the valuation include risk-free rates and equity volatility. As there are significant unobservable inputs used in the valuation, the financial derivative liability is included in Level 3.

The fair value of the Warrants has been estimated using a significant unobservable inputs which is equity volatility. The Company used an equity volatility of 56%. If the Company had used an equity volatility that was higher or lower by 10%, the potential effect would be an increase of \$1,489 or a decrease of \$1,489 to the fair value of the Warrants.

# Royalty

The fair value of the Royalty has been estimated at inception using a discounted cash flow model. The key inputs in the valuation include the discount rate and cash flows estimates of future operating and gross revenues. As there are significant unobservable inputs used in the valuation, the Royalty is included in Level 3.

# Other Financial Derivative Liability

The fair value of the embedded derivative on Warrants issued in foreign currency as at March 31, 2023 was \$1,365 (December 31, 2022 - \$1,271) and is accounted for at FVTPL. The valuation of warrants where the strike price is in US dollar and the warrants can be exercised at a time prior to expiry, the Company uses a Monte Carlo Simulation Model to better model the variability in exercise dates. The key inputs in the valuation include risk-free rates and equity volatility. As there are significant unobservable inputs used in the valuation, the financial derivative liability is included in Level 3.

The Company used an equity volatility of 51.47% (December 31, 2022 - 62.85%). If the Company had used an equity volatility that was higher or lower by 10%, the potential effect would be an increase of \$28 (December 31, 2022 - \$163) or a decrease of \$341 (December 31, 2022 - \$366) to the fair value of the embedded derivative.

# **RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Financial Risk Factors

The Company's risk exposure and the impact on the Company's financial instruments are summarized below:

# Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Company does not have sufficient financial resources necessary to complete the construction and final commissioning of the Refinery and the Company is going through a planning and budgeting process to update the capital estimates and completion schedule associated with the Refinery. The Company attempts to ensure there is sufficient access to

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

funds to meet ongoing business requirements, considering its current cash position and potential funding sources. Although the Company has historically been successful in obtaining financing in the past, there can be no assurances that the Company will be able to obtain adequate financing in the future. This represents a material uncertainty that casts substantial doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The Company has future obligations to pay semi-annual interest payments and the principal upon maturity related to the convertible debt. Starting in 2024 repayment of the interest-free Government loan will begin in 19 equal installments. The Company is subject to a minimum cash balance requirement of US \$2,000. Failure to provide a United States registration statement by May 15, 2023 is considered an event of default under the 2028 bond and warrant indenture which provides the indenture holders the right to demand repayment of the instrument. Although the Company has been successful in obtaining such registration statements in the past, there can be no assurances that the Company will be able to obtain qualifying registrations in the future.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The Company's primary exposure to credit risk is on its cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash which are being held with major Canadian banks that are high-credit quality financial institutions as determined by rating agencies.

#### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flow of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rate. The Company's debt with Glencore was extinguished during 2021 and the Company currently does not have any financial instruments that are linked to LIBOR, SOFR, or any form of a floating market interest rate. Therefore, changes in the market interest rate does not have an impact on the Company as at March 31, 2023.

# Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because they are denominated in currencies that differ from the Company's functional currency, Canadian Dollars. The Company is exposed to foreign currency risk on fluctuations related to cash, receivables, and accrued liabilities that are denominated in US Dollars. In addition, the Company's 2028 Notes are denominated in US dollars and fluctuations in foreign exchange rates will impact the Canadian dollar amounts required to settle interest and principal payments for these convertible notes. The Company has not used derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to foreign currency risk nor has it entered foreign exchange contracts to hedge against gains or losses from foreign exchange.

# BUSINESS RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

There are many risk factors facing companies involved in the mineral exploration industry. Risk Management is an ongoing exercise upon which the Company spends a substantial amount of time. While it is not possible to eliminate all the risks inherent to the industry, the Company strives to manage these risks, to the greatest extent possible. The following risks are most applicable to the Company.

# Going Concern

As discussed above, the Company will require additional financing in 2023 and 2024 to continue operations, complete the construction of the Refinery, advance its battery recycling strategy, purchase required feedstock as the Refinery enters its operating phase and remain in compliance with minimum liquidity covenant under the 2028 notes. The

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

Company is actively pursuing various alternatives including equity and debt financing to increase its liquidity and capital resources. The Company is also in discussion with various parties on alternatives to finance the funding of feedstock purchases. Although the Company has historically been successful in obtaining financing in the past, there can be no assurances that the Company will be able to obtain adequate financing in the future. This represents a material uncertainty that casts substantial doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. Financial information presented does not include the adjustments to the amounts and classifications of assets and liabilities that would be necessary should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern. These adjustments may be material.

## **Financing**

The Company has raised funds through grants, equity financing and debt arrangements to fund its operations and the advancement of the Refinery. The market price of natural resources, specifically cobalt prices, is highly speculative and volatile. Instability in prices may affect the interest in resource assets and the development of and production from such properties. This may adversely affect the Company's ability to raise capital or obtain debt to fund corporate activities and growth initiatives. The completion of the Refinery project is dependent on additional financing.

# **Technical Capabilities of the Refinery**

The Company's strategic priority is the advancement of the Refinery, with significant engineering studies and metallurgical testing conducted to date. There is no assurance that the final refining process will have the capabilities to produce specific end products. The Company manages this risk by employing and contracting technical experts in metallurgy and engineering to support refinery process decisions.

# Ability to meet Debt Service Obligations

The Company has debt obligations under the 2028 Notes, which include ongoing coupon payments and payment of principal at maturity. In the event, that the refinery construction is not completed as planned or sufficient cash flow from refinery operations is not generated, there is a risk that the Company may not have sufficient available capital to meet its debt obligations. Additionally, the Company is subject to certain covenants related to the 2028 Notes, which include minimum cash and current assets balance of US\$2,000. Should the Company breach a covenant or be unable to service the debt, the assets pledged may be transferred to the lenders.

# **Global Pandemic**

The ability for the Company to source financing, equipment and construction and operation personnel for its refinery may be impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. At present, the Company has not encountered any adverse consequences. The ultimate impacts of the current pandemic are not known but could have significant impacts on the Company's ability to attract financing and advance its assets.

#### Macroeconomic Risks

Political and economic instability (including Russia's invasion of Ukraine), global or regional adverse conditions, such as pandemics or other disease outbreaks (including the COVID-19 global outbreak) or natural disasters, currency exchange rates, trade tariff developments, transport availability and cost, including import-related taxes, transport security, inflation and other factors are beyond the Company's control. The macroeconomic environment remains challenging, and the Company's results of operations could be materially affected by such macroeconomic conditions.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

# Industry and Mineral Exploration Risk

Mineral exploration is highly speculative, involves many risks and frequently is non-productive. There is no assurance that the Company's exploration efforts will be successful. At present, the Company's projects do not contain any proven or probable reserves. Success in establishing reserves is a result of several factors, including the quality of the project itself. Substantial expenditures are required to establish reserves or resources through drilling, to develop metallurgical processes, and to develop the mining and processing facilities and infrastructure at any site chosen for mining. Because of these uncertainties, no assurance can be given that planned exploration programs will result in the establishment of mineral resources or reserves. The Company may be subject to risks, which could not reasonably be predicted in advance. Events such as labour disputes, natural disasters or estimation errors are prime examples of industry-related risks. The Company attempts to balance this risk through ongoing risk assessments conducted by its technical team.

#### **Commodity Prices**

The Company's mineral exploration operations and its prospects are largely dependent on movements in the price of various minerals. Prices fluctuate daily and are affected by several factors well beyond the control of the Company. The mineral exploration industry in general is a competitive market and there is no assurance that, even if commercial quantities of proven and probable reserves are discovered, a profitable market may exist. The Company has not entered any price hedging programs.

#### **Environmental**

Exploration projects or operations are subject to the environmental laws and applicable regulations of the jurisdiction in which the Company operates. Environmental standards continue to evolve, and the trend is to a longer, more complete and rigid process. The Company reviews environmental matters on an ongoing basis. If and when appropriate, the Company will make appropriate provisions in its financial statements for any potential environmental liability.

## Title of Assets

Although the Company conducts title reviews in accordance with industry practice prior to any purchase of resource assets, such reviews do not guarantee that an unforeseen defect in the chain on title will not arise and defeat our title to the purchased assets. If such a defect were to occur, our entitlement to the production from such purchased assets could be jeopardized.

#### Competition

The Company expects to compete in the burgeoning North American Critical Minerals Industry with the completion of the Cobalt Sulfate refinery. The industry is developing in Canada with new entrants expected in the short term. Many of these competitors have substantially longer histories in the industry as well as substantially greater financial, sales and marketing resources than the Company.

The Company engages in the highly competitive resource exploration industry. The Company competes directly and indirectly with major and independent resource companies in its exploration for and development of desirable resource properties. Many companies and individuals are engaged in this business, and the industry is not dominated by any single competitor or a small number of competitors. Many of such competitors have substantially greater financial, technical, sales, marketing, and other resources, as well as greater historical market acceptance than does the Company. The Company will compete with numerous industry participants for the acquisition of land and rights to prospects, and for the equipment and labour required to operate and develop such prospects.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

Competition could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, operating results and financial condition. Such competitive disadvantages could adversely affect the Company's ability to participate in projects with favorable rates of return.

Additional information on risks and uncertainties relating to Electra's business is provided in Electra's Annual Information Form dated April 4, 2023 under the heading "Risk Factors".

# **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The preparation of the Company's financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Estimates and assumptions are continuously evaluated and are based on management's experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. However, actual outcomes may differ significantly from these estimates.

Areas requiring a significant degree of judgment relate to the recoverability and measurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities, the ability to continue as a going concern and the capitalization of development costs. Actual results may differ from those estimates and judgments.

Areas requiring a significant degree of estimation or judgement that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in the Company's condensed interim consolidated financial statements are as follows:

## • Exploration and Evaluation Assets

The net carrying value of each mineral property is reviewed regularly for conditions that suggest potential indications of impairment. This review requires significant judgment. Factors considered in the assessment of asset impairment include, but are not limited to, whether there has been a significant adverse change in the legal, regulatory, accessibility, title, environmental or political factors that could affect the property's value; whether exploration activities produced results that are not promising such that no more work is being planned in the foreseeable future and management's assessment of likely proceeds from the disposition of the property.

#### Financial Derivative Liability

The Financial Derivative Liability values relating to convertible note and US dollar denominated warrants involve significant estimation. The fair value of financial derivative liability was determined at inception and is reviewed and adjusted on a quarterly basis or when conversions take place. Factors considered in the fair value of the financial derivative liability are risk free rate, the Company's share price, equity volatility, and credit spread.

# • Environmental rehabilitation

Management's determination of the Company's decommissioning and rehabilitation provision is based on the reclamation and closure activities it anticipates as being required, the additional contingent mitigation measures it identifies as potentially being required and its assessment of the likelihood of such contingent measures being required, and its estimate of the probable costs and timing of such activities and measures.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

Significant estimations must be made when determining such reclamation and closure activities and measures required and potentially required.

# Refinery Asset

The net carrying value of the Refinery asset is reviewed regularly for conditions that suggest potential indications of impairment. The review requires significant judgment. Factors considered in the assessment of asset impairment include, but are not limited to, whether there has been a significant adverse change in the technological, market, economic or legal environment in which the entity operates; and internal indicators that the economic performance of the asset will be worse than expected.

#### Convertible Notes

The valuation of Convertible Notes Payable and Warrants relating to the Convertible Note Arrangement are carried at fair values and involves significant estimation. The fair values were determined at inception and are reviewed and adjusted on a quarterly basis or when conversions take place. Factors considered in the fair value of these components are risk free rate, the Company's share price, equity volatility and credit spread.

#### FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND INITIAL ADOPTION

Future changes in accounting policies and initial adoption are disclosed in Note 3 of the financial statements.

## INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company are responsible for designing internal controls over financial reporting or causing them to be designed under their supervision to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with IFRS. From the second quarter 2022, up to and including this disclosure, Management concluded that internal control over financial reporting was not designed effectively as of March 31, 2023, due to material weaknesses in Internal Control over Financial Reporting (ICFR).

A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected in a timely basis. Management has identified the following material weaknesses:

- An ineffective control environment resulting from the combination of an insufficient number of trained financial reporting and accounting personnel with the appropriate skills and knowledge about the design, implementation, and operation of ICFR and inadequate IT tools and resources to ensure the relevance, timeliness and quality of information used in control activities.
- Management has not designed or implemented a control monitoring process necessary to identify control weaknesses and remediations in a timely manner necessary to ensure the reliability of its ICFR.
- Control deficiencies in the procurement, payment and receiving processes resulting from a lack of formal
  processes to ensure adherence to the Company's delegation of authority policy, inconsistent matching of
  receipts to goods and services to supporting documentation and inconsistent receiving processes affecting
  the timing of recognition of assets and liabilities at the Company's refinery project.

As a consequence of the above, the Company had ineffective control activities related to the design of process level and financial statement close controls which had a pervasive impact on the Company's ICFR. Starting third quarter of

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

2022, Management hired several qualified staff and began to rectify segregation issues. Management intends to continue to further these efforts and has engaged external experts to design a process for and perform monitoring controls.

Other than those listed above, there have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the 3 months ended March 31, 2023, that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

## **Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Disclosure Controls and Procedures (DCP) have not been designed to provide reasonable assurance that all relevant information required to be disclosed by the Company is accumulated and communicated to senior management as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. As disclosed in the previous quarter, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer note similar weaknesses in the disclosure controls and procedures as in the ICFR. The Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded, based on their evaluation of the design of the disclosure controls and procedures that because of the material weaknesses in our ICFR described above our DCP were not designed effectively at March 31, 2023.

## **Limitations of Controls and Procedures**

The Company's management, including the President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, believes that any internal controls over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures, no matter how well designed, can have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance that the objectives of the control system are met.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

(expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

## **NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES**

This MD&A contains "specified financial measures" within the meaning of NI 52-112, specifically, EBITDA which is a non-GAAP financial measure. Management believes that the use of this measure assists analysts, investors, and other stakeholders of the Company in understanding and assessing operating performance and for planning and forecasting future operating periods. The specified financial measures used in this MD&A do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS and may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. Accordingly, these specified financial measures should not be considered in isolation, or as a substitute for, analysis of the Company's recognized measures presented in accordance with IFRS.

*EBITDA* is calculated as the Company's Income (Loss) before taxes and adding back the impacts of interest expense, depreciation, and amortization. *EBITDA* is a non-GAAP financial measure and can be reconciled as follows for the three months ended March 31, 2023:

	Three months ended March 31, 2023						
	Refinery	Corporate	Total				
		and Other					
Income (loss) before	\$(1,273)	\$(20,530)	\$(21,803)				
taxes							
Add back (remove):							
Interest income	-	(44)	(44)				
Depreciation expense	-	15	15				
EBITDA	\$(1,273)	\$(20,559)	\$(21,832)				

## **CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This MD&A contains certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements", including statements regarding developments in the Company's operations in future periods, adequacy of financial resources and plans and objectives of the Company. All statements in this document, other than statements of historical fact, which address events or developments that the Company expects to occur, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally, but not always, identified by the words "expects", "plans", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "projects", "potential", "interprets" and similar expressions, or events or conditions that "will", "would", "may", "could" or "should" occur. Forward-looking statements in this document include statements regarding the advancement of the Refinery, future exploration programs, liquidity, and effects of accounting policy changes.

Although the Company believes the expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results may differ materially from those in forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include market prices, exploration success, a successful outcome of the work in support of the recommissioning of the Refinery, continued availability of capital and financing, inability to obtain required regulatory or governmental approvals and general economic, market or business conditions. Investors are cautioned that any such statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on this forward-looking information.

Forward-looking statements are based on the beliefs, estimates and opinions of the Company's management on the date the statements are made. The Company undertakes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements if Management's beliefs, estimates, opinions, or other factors should change except as required by law.

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These statements are based on several assumptions including, among others, assumptions regarding general business and economic conditions, the timing of the receipt of regulatory and governmental approvals for the work programs described herein, the ability of the Company and other relevant parties to satisfy stock exchange and other regulatory requirements promptly, the availability of financing for the Company's proposed work programs on its assets on reasonable terms and the ability of third-party service providers to deliver services promptly. The foregoing list of assumptions is not exhaustive. Events or circumstances could cause results to differ materially.