

26 February 2024

Commencement of Early Contractor Involvement Works for Donald Project

Astron Corporation Limited (“Astron”) (ASX:ATR) is pleased to announce the execution of an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) agreement, for the first phase of Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project (Donald Project), with Sedgman Pty Ltd, a member of the CIMIC Group.

Sedgman, a leading Australian engineering and construction firm with extensive experience in mineral processing solutions across the project lifecycle, was selected after a competitive tender process. Its involvement is expected to deliver significant value through its expertise in large mineral processing projects.

The ECI phase of the project, which is expected to complete in H1 2024, is a vital step towards finalisation of the full project delivery contract for the processing plant and associated infrastructure. It involves the optimisation of the technical solution, the execution strategy, and other relevant services to progress the development of the project. The ECI will be followed by detailed design and procurement of long lead-time equipment for the processing plant. It will also identify opportunities to shorten the project delivery time.

Astron Corporation’s Managing Director Tiger Brown stated: “The commencement of Early Contractor Involvement works represents a pivotal step in the project’s advancement. By leveraging the expertise of our partners and adopting a collaborative approach, we are positioning ourselves for long-term success and value creation. We are really pleased that we have been able to engage with a firm of Sedgman’s calibre for this project.”



From left: Jared Armstead – Sedgman Manager Business & Project Development, Donald Project Director - Sean Chelius and Sedgman General Manager Australia East and SE Asia - David Proud.

This announcement has been authorised for lodgement to ASX by the Managing Director of Astron.

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About Astron

Astron Corporation Limited (ASX: ATR) is an Australian-based company listed on the ASX. With over 35 years of operating history, Astron has been involved in mineral sands processing, downstream product development, as well as the marketing and sales of zirconium and titanium related products. Astron's prime focus is on the development of its large, long-life Donald Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project in regional Victoria, Australia. In addition to its Australian assets, the company also conducts a mineral sands trading operation based in Shenyang, China and owns and operates a zircon and titanium chemicals research facility in Yingkou, China, which includes a mineral separation facility processing mineral concentrate products into final products.

About Sedgman

Sedgman is a leading provider of integrated minerals processing solutions. Our 250-strong portfolio of high-performing processing plants and supporting mine-site infrastructure showcases the value of our specialist focus. Since 1980, Sedgman has advanced the standard of excellence and innovation for clients across coal and iron ore, precious and base metals, and industrial minerals. From engineering design to project delivery to operations, our integrated approach creates a unique 360° feedback loop that drives continual improvement. We partner with our clients to ensure tailored, world-class outcomes that stand apart for reliability, efficiency, productivity and performance – optimising client investments, maximising resource recovery and lowering unit costs. As an operating company of CIMIC, Sedgman leverages the financial strength and capability of one of the world's leading international contractors. This gives our team access to best-in-class, complementary services across the global CIMIC Group, as well as the wider HOCHTIEF and ACS businesses.