



20th April 2018

Astron commences the rebuild of its Advance Materials and Manufacturing base in China

Astron Corporation Limited (ASX:ATR) (“Astron” or “Company”) The Directors are pleased to announce the signing of a construction contract for a processing plant and warehouse to produce up to 150,000 tons per annum artificial rutile for use as a high quality feedstock for chlorination methods with TiO₂ powder production plants in China. The project includes a new 10,000 m² warehouse and 10,000 m² hard stand for raw material stocks.

Currently most TiO₂ producers in China use a sulphuric acid process which has waste product challenges. China’s present day TiO₂ industry market expansion is ongoing to build up to 600,000 tons per annum of chlorination process capacity creating a big demand for suitable high purity feedstocks in the immediate future.

Initially Astron will use suitable available lower grade TiO₂ feedstocks although intends ultimately to use its own main TiO₂ feedstock from its Donald project in Victoria Australia. Donald (The Donald Project) is expected to commence its development and execution activities in the 3rd quarter 2018.

The project is welcomed by directors as a significant first step in rebuilding Astron as a major advanced materials company.

Current suppliers for specialty chlorination feedstocks include most major heavy minerals producers and current prices are in the order of \$950 per ton CIF China.



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About Astron

Astron has commenced the rebuilding of its Advanced Materials & Manufacturing base in China. Building onto its 25 year record as an advanced supplier of advanced materials, Astron will develop its own major Zircon, Titanium and Rare Earth feed stock supplies from its Niafarang and Donald projects.

The Donald project is one of the largest known zircon and titanium resources in the world. The project has significant potential for long term supply into global markets with its final products while creating sustainable growth and regional development in Victoria Australia.

The Niafarang project in Senegal, West Africa, is a high-grade coastal mineral sands deposit, to be exploited using simple dredge mining and processing methodology.

Astron continues to build on its unique 25 year track record in China as a Chinese-Australian company in developing, selling and marketing zirconium and titanium products.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

Certain sections of this document contain forward looking statements that are subject to risk factors associated with, among others, the economic and business circumstances occurring from time to time in the countries and sectors in which the Astron group operates. It is believed that the expectations reflected in these statements are reasonable, but they may be affected by a wide range of variables which could cause results to differ materially from those currently projected.