

Panda Hill Niobium Project

January 2014

### **ASX Capital Structure**

<b>Issued S</b>	128,675,01
issueu 3	120

 Unlisted options (May 2016 at 26.7c)
 7,687,500

 Listed options (January 2015 at 26.7c)
 17,962,506

 Total Options
 25,650,006

- Half subject to the completion of a scoping study
- Half subject to completion of a definitive feasibility study which demonstrates an NPV 10 of US\$400 million or greater.



<sup>\*</sup> Included in Issued Shares is 37,500,000 performance shares:

## **Project Ownership**

- Cradle owns 50% of the Panda Hill Project with management control
- Cradle has an option to purchase the remaining 50% before March 2017
- The option exercise price is ~US\$14 million\*, of which US\$9 million is payable in cash and US\$5 million in shares or capped royalty.



<sup>\*</sup>The precise option exercise price is US\$17.1m less 25% of project expenditure by Cradle during the option period. The estimated likely deduction is  $\sim$ US\$3.1m. An instalment of US\$500,000 is payable within 2 years.

## **Board and Management Team**

Craig BurtonChairman

Grant Davey
 Managing Director

Didier Murcia
 Non-Executive Director

Evan Cranston
 Non-Executive Director

Keith Bowes Project Director - Metallurgist

Neil Inwood Resource/Exploration Geologist

A strong, capable team with the right experience to drive the feasibility and development work



#### What is Niobium?

Niobium (Nb) is used as an alloy to make steel harder Nb steel is known as high strength, low alloy steel (HSLA)

#### **Niobium Properties:**

- Strengthens steel and lightens
- Corrosive resistant properties
- High temperature tolerance

#### Main growth industries:

- Automotive
- Construction
- Pipelines

A "critical and strategic metal" US Geological Survey



Millau Viaduct, France



Oresund Bridge, Sweden



#### **Niobium Demand**

- HSLA is a well known, commonly used steel product:
  - About 20% of steel produced in developed countries is HSLA
  - Compared to about 10% of steel in developing countries
- Solid demand growth is expected over the next six years (~30%)
- Growth in Nb demand is a combination of:
  - General growth in steel volumes
  - Potential for increased proportion of HSLA steel in developing countries (trend to higher quality products)
- Total annual demand of ~ 90,000 tpa FeNb (~\$2.2 billion pa)



### **Niobium Supply**

- Only three existing producers (CBMM, IAMGOLD, Anglo American)
- No new producers since 1976, even though market has grown several fold
- Limited suppliers result in highly stable Nb prices
- Panda Hill will initially add only 4% to annual supply
- No greenfields supply under construction, no other projects appear likely to be developed
- Undeveloped Niobium deposits are characterised by low grade or difficult metallurgy

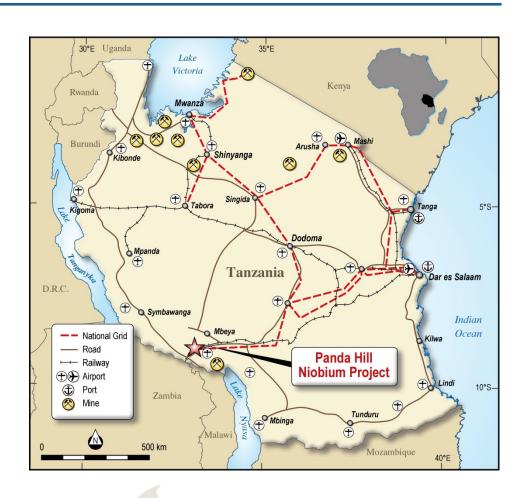


## **Panda Hill Niobium Project**

- Located in Mbeya region, Tanzania
- Excellent local infrastructure (grid power, roads, rail)
- 98 holes drilled 1950 1990s
- 13 confirmatory holes drilled
   2013



Panda Hill, Mbeya





# **Scoping Study Results**

Option	Mill Throughput	Average Niobium Production	Average Cash Cost (\$/kg Nb) Cash cost at mine gate	Mine Life	Payback	Initial Capital
Base Case	2Mtpa	4.80M kg pa	US\$16.67	28yrs	2.8yrs	US\$185M
Staged Case	1Mtpa building in yr 3 to 2.3Mtpa	2.65M building to 5.46M kg pa	US\$19.86 / \$16.17	27yrs	4.5yrs	US\$125M



### **Scoping Study Results**

- Great Infrastructure
- Resource
  - 50% increase in metal content
  - Total resource 82mt @ 0.52% Nb<sub>2</sub>0<sub>5</sub>
  - Indicated 5.4mt @ 0.62% Nb<sub>2</sub>0<sub>5</sub>
- Metallurgy Testwork
  - 65% recovery for + 55% grade Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in fresh carbonatite
  - 50% recovery for 50% grade Nb<sub>2</sub>0<sub>5</sub> in weathered carbonatite
  - Good quality concentrate (in line with producers)



# **Feasibility Planning Schedule**

Project Activities	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q3 2015
Prefeasibility Study					
Project Planning / Contracting					
Resource/ Infill Drilling					
Mineral Resource / Mining					
Metallurgical Testwork					
Preliminary Engineering					
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment					
Reporting					
DFS					



#### **Project Summary**

- Financing negotiations currently taking place for DFS and project construction
- Feasibility to focus on a modular processing plant:
  - Optimise and reduce upfront capital (~\$125 million)
  - Enter the niobium market responsibly lower initial production in first 3 4 years
- Main focus of next study phase:
  - Increase the confidence of the Mineral Resource Estimate
    - 15 20 million tons in Indicated
  - Complete metallurgy development work on the primary and secondary rock types
  - Continue with ESIA baseline study
  - Update the engineering design
- Final study phase to focus on metallurgy pilot plant, licencing and detailed engineering



#### **Estimated Cost to DFS**

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Total	US\$10.0M
Corporate	US\$1.6M
Engineering	US\$1.5M
ESIA	US\$0.7M
Metallurgical Test work	US\$2.2M
Drilling Program	US\$4.0M

PFS completed in 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2014 ~US\$6M



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The reported Resources that relate to the Panda Hill Niobium Deposit are based on information compiled by Ms Ellen Maidens, who is the Competent Person for the Mineral Resource and 2013 Exploration Data. Ms Maidens is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geologists and is a full-time employee of Coffey Mining. Ms Maidens has sufficient experience, relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which is being undertaken, to qualify as Competent Person as defined in the 2012 edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Reserves".

The full resource statement is available on the Cradle website: <a href="www.cradleresources.com.au">www.cradleresources.com.au</a>

The information in this document that relates to the Panda Hill Geology and Exploration Data is based on information compiled by Mr Neil Inwood, who is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Mr Inwood is a full time employee of Verona Capital and has sufficient experience which is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 edition of the "Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Reserves". Mr Inwood has consented to the inclusion of this information in this document in the form and context in which it appears.





For additional information contact:

Grant Davey
Managing Director
admin@cradleresources.com.au
+61 8 9389 2000