

# F-Tech Resources Inc.

Sector/Industry: Junior Mining | Rare Earth Elements

(TSXV: REE | FSE: K2i)

E-Tech Resources ("E-Tech", or "the Company") is a Canadian-owned exploration-stage company in the rare earth element ("REE") mining sector. The Company's primary asset is the wholly-owned Eureka REE project in Namibia, a country in Southern Africa.

- E-Tech is focused on rare earth elements at Eureka:
  - REEs are critical to the transition to clean energy
  - Neodymium-Praseodymium (NdPr) oxide is the primary ingredient in the world's most efficient and highest strength permanent magnets used in the renewable energy sector
  - These magnets are used to generate electricity in wind turbines and electric vehicles
  - Namibia is one of the best mining jurisdictions in Africa
  - At Eureka, indications are that it will be easier to extract the NdPr due to the monazite nature of the deposit.
- Current stage of development:
  - E-Tech is focused on exploration at this moment
  - Eureka offers significant potential resource upside
  - Indications are of a deposit that, the Company believes, shows the potential for streamlined, simple mining and treatment processes that could be advanced sooner than most
- Proximity to highway, rail and port infrastructure provides access to external markets of both off-takers and downstream users of the mineral concentrate to be produced at Eureka. An experienced management team places E-Tech in a good position to be able to maximize the potential of the deposit.
- E-Tech in its current form was created through a combination of E-Tech Kalapuse Mining (Pty) Ltd. ("E-Tech Namibia") and Battery Road Capital Corp., with the combination closing in October 2021. E-Tech, and previously E-Tech Namibia, have been actively exploring the Eureka deposit since late 2016.

### Author: Trevor Davis

Company Data	as at 01/09/2023				
Price		\$ 0.07			
52 week high	\$0.32				
52 week low	\$0.04				
Market Cap	\$5808000				
Ave volume	e volume 34 850				
Year incorporated	2018				
Shares outstanding	82 971 530				
Key and Relevant Sharehold	ers				
Wade Dawe (Brigus Capital)		10.8%			
Jim Megann	6.1%				
Ed Loye		6.0%			
Financial data	09	as at 09/30/2022			
Cash	\$	981,467			
Current Assets	\$	1,152,481			
Total Assets	\$	5,251,165			
Debt	\$	-			

**Total Liabilities** 

331 344

# Key Advantages of E-Tech Resources

- Streamlined processes, offering the potential of simple operations
- Potential for an increase in minerals resources through continued exploration
- Accessible location, with close access to developed infrastructure
- Lowered geo-political risk profile, and focusing on a value chain outside of China
- A management team with in-country and mineral exploration experience
- Well positioned to take advantage of strong fundamentals in the rare earths sector

#### Risks

- The Eureka deposit, and E-Tech Resources, do present several potential risks, many of which are common for all exploration stage mining companies, especially in the rare earths sector.
- China may make an unforeseen policy change, which could impact supply and/or pricing of rare earths
- Rare earth oxide ("REO") demand may vary from expectations
- Inflation may increase capital and/or operating costs
- Unforeseen challenges may arise in the processing of ore or concentrate from Eureka
- Changes in the size of the mineral resource at Eureka could vary from expectations
- Potential for permitting and regulatory challenges
- Financing will be required, at some point, to continue exploration and to fund development

# Investment Strategy

• E-Tech management have an investment strategy outlined that intends to build value in 3 specific dimensions.

#### Exploration

Strategically grow and prove resource tonnage and grade through continued heavy drilling campaigns.

# Near-term goals

- Relationships with pilot REE processing plants in several jurisdictions. This aligns E-Tech with investors, governments and institutions to create and expand REE processing outside of China
- Access to emerging processing plants and projects in the form of off-take and supply agreements.

# Long-term goals

- Large processing plant when more significant resource has been confirmed.
- Management believes the achievability of these goals are enhanced by the location in Namibia and the simple minerology, which means that the REEs can be extracted much easier at lower cost

# Streamlined, Simple Processes

The Eureka deposit benefits from close-to-surface mineralization, allowing for targeted mechanized mining from open pits. The Company believes that what sets Eureka apart from its peers is the ease at which they expect the target REE mineral monazite can be liberated and concentrated. With REE mining, often the treatment of ore into concentrate ("beneficiation") can be technologically complicated and expensive, but E-Tech have identified that beneficiation can be possible with low-cost physical methods using off-the-shelf equipment and without the need for hazardous chemistry and expensive reagents.

A simpler beneficiation operation (relative to many other deposits around the world) should allow Eureka to achieve pilot production capability in a shorter timeframe, and at a lower cost than many other exploration projects around the world. Simpler operations with less complicated beneficiation processes can be expected to increase the economic potential of the deposit and reduce time to production.

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# Potential for Resource Upside

E-Tech is continuing their exploration process at the Eureka deposit. Unlike other minerals, a bigger deposit isn't always better with REEs. The quality and processing ability of the deposit is key.

Eureka has a maiden inferred resource, generated from 600m of shallow scout drilling conducted in 2017 at a total rare earth oxide ("TREO") grade of 4.8%, of which 0.7% is high-in-demand NdPr.

Between Q4-2020 and Q2-2022, E-Tech stepped up drilling meters significantly by completing a further 8,000m of diamond core drilling and 6,000m of RC drilling at the Eureka Project (more than 20x the amount of drilling on which the current resource estimate is based).

Early results from the drilling, as disclosed by the Company, has intercepted continuity of the mineralization, and 30 of the 31 diamond core drill holes were mineralized. While the ultimate resource size, grade, and confirmation of the type of mineralization will not be known until an updated resource estimate is published, these results show positive trends and the Company is confident that the ultimate resource will be larger than the current resource estimate.

E-tech is currently completing additional drilling of the deposit and plans to release an updated mineral resource estimate ("MRE") once the drilling program and analysis is complete.

Low thorium and uranium content at Eureka, a considerable risk for other REE projects, reduces permitting, processing and infrastructure challenges. This makes the REE mineral concentrate from Eureka more attractive to global customers.

Results from this drilling and continued wider exploration is expected to increase the size of the resource and could provide significant upside to the Company.

Early results from the drilling, as disclosed by the Company, has intercepted continuity of the mineralization, and 30 of the 31 diamond core drill holes were mineralized. When E-Tech continues their exploration programs, focus will be on the following metrics:

Metric	Description				
Tonnage	<ul> <li>Measured in millions of tonnes (mt) or thousands of tonnes (kt).</li> <li>Denotes the size of the mineral resource.</li> <li>Eureka's current resource is 310kt from only 600 meters of drilling</li> </ul>				
Grade - TREO	- Shown as a %, indicates the proportion of the deposit that is comprised of Total Rare Earth Oxide ("TREO") A low TREO grade can be offset by a large resource, and vice versa, although a higher grade would imply that a smaller amount of resource needs to be mined to result in the same amount of TREO Eureka's current TREO grade is 4.8%.				
Grade - NdPr	- Shown as a %, indicates the proportion of the resource that is comprised of Nd and Pr (the sum of $\%\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\%\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_3)$ - A high proportion of NdPr relative to TREO indicates that the potential value of the resource is highly levered to Nd and Pr, which have the strongest macro fundamentals of all REEs Eureka's current NdPr grade is 0.7%, or 16% of TREO (based on Company disclosure).				
Resource Categorization	<ul> <li>Categorized as Inferred, Indicated, or Measured, in increasing levels of confidence.</li> <li>Determined by the geological information available on the mineral deposit, the quality and quantity of data available, and technical and economic considerations.</li> <li>The current Eureka resource is categorized as Inferred.</li> </ul>				
Type of Mineralization	- For REEs, the conventional ore minerals are usually monazite or bastnasite. Eureka is comprised predominantly of monazite.				
Grain Size & assemblage	- The larger the grain size of the target mineral, the easier it is liberated from its host rock, and leads to simpler processing requirements The monazite at Eureka is coarse grained and easily liberated from its host rocks, according to the Company.				
Thorium/Uranium Content	- Thorium content (and to a lesser extent Uranium), shown as a % or ppm, affects the radioactivity of the resource (the content is upgraded when the target ore is concentrated and may require special handling), and should be considered both on a wholerock basis and as a proportion of TREO to Th, or NdPr to Th The current resource grade at Eureka at 4.8% TREO averages 400ppm of Thorium (ThO $_2$ ). This is on the lower side compared to peers.				

Figure 1 - Source: Company disclosure

# Access to Developed Infrastructure

One of the key challenges to any mineral deposit is access to infrastructure. Eureka is located only 2 km away from the nearest highway, 10 km from the nearest railway, and 130 km away from the Walvis Bay container port. The site also has access to power and water.

TREO grade of 4.8%

Current NdPr grade is 16% of TREO

Inferred resource Predominantly coarse-grained monazite

Low Thorium content

# Lower Geopolitical Risk Profile

China continues to dominate the REE industry at every step of the value chain. Due to China's inherent geopolitical risk, both Western governments and end users are looking to de-risk their REE supply by developing a supply chain outside of China.

E-Tech's Eureka deposit is located in Namibia, which is one of the best-rated mining jurisdictions in Africa according to the Fraser Institute. Namibian regulators and stakeholders are also accustomed to mining operations where radioactivity is naturally occurring, due to the history of uranium mining in the region, and therefore, the region is well positioned for managing the regulatory requirements associated with REE mining.

E-Tech provides an opportunity to reduce reliance on China and provide potential customers a lower-risk source of supply, facilitated by a partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council. The goal of the partnership is to develop a process for cracking and separation of the REE mineral concentrate to be exported from Eureka.

Management Team with In-Country Experience The key management team, including interim CEO Jim Megann, CFO Rob Randall, and Director Christopher Drysdale all have relevant professional experience, including experience incountry and with REE exploration.

Strong Industry Fundamentals for Rare Earths
While not all REEs enjoy the same supply/demand fundamentals
and pricing outlook, Neodymium and Praseodymium,
Dysprosium ("Dy"), and Terbium ("Tb") are in short supply and are
expected to remain so in the near future. Demand for these
elements is driven by continued expected growth in electric
vehicles, where they are key components of electric motors, and
in wind turbines

As more and more countries are committing to increasingly aggressive environmental and low-emissions targets, we expect demand for electric vehicles and wind turbines to grow significantly. With low substitution risk for key rare earth elements, this demand should drive a continued supply/demand imbalance, and support prices, for NdPr. Rare earth mines, and projects that contain economically viable quantities of these elements, should benefit.

Located in Namibia, which is one of the bestrated mining jurisdictions in Africa according to the Fraser Institute

Partnership with Saskatchewan Research Council to develop a process for cracking and separation of the REE mineral concentrate

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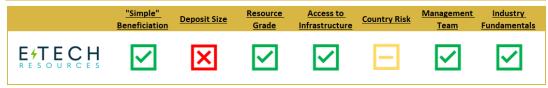


Figure 2 - Source: Company presentations and disclosure

# Key Milestones and Catalysts

The next key milestone for E-Tech and the Eureka deposit will be:

- 1. Expanding the footprint of the mineralized area and continuing to advance understanding of the mineralogy
- 2. Determining interested parties for offtake
- 3. Expand the measured ore body size with a view to increasing the MRE
- 4. Further focus on ESG best principles in engagement with the local community and enabling the drive to renewable technologies

Company-specific catalysts that could drive value in E-Tech will include:

- Confirming more high-grade Neodymium and Praseodymium Concentrate
  - Eureka is a globally unique REE deposit due to the high proportion of neodymium and praseodymium in the total rare earth oxide (NdPr ratio).
- Additional Positive Metallurgy Results
  - Eureka is predominantly hosted in monazite which is amenable to commercial processing.
- Global demand increases from ex-China sources
  - Supply chain security and low carbon transition are imperatives against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tension pushing supply away from China.

# Company Analysis

E-Tech is an exploration-stage company in the rare earths mining sector. The Company's primary asset is the wholly-owned Eureka REE project in Namibia, which has considerable potential to become a major source of key REEs.

#### History

E-Tech Resources Inc (TSX.V:REE, FSE: K2i) was created in October 2020 with the announcement of a share exchange agreement between E-Tech Kalapuse Mining (Pty) Ltd. ("E-Tech Namibia") and Battery Road Capital Corp. ("Battery Road"), a Capital Pool Company. The transaction was completed in October 2021, and the combined entity was renamed E-Tech Resources Inc.

The largest shareholders of Battery Road were Brigus Capital Inc. (a company controlled by Wade Dawe) and Jim Megann.

Key executives and directors of Battery Road included Jim Megann (now Chairman & interim CEO of E-Tech), Dan Whittaker (former CEO of E-Tech), Carl Sheppard, and Garry Stewart.

# Milestones:

- Expanding mineralized area
- Offtake interest
- Increase MRE
- FSG

#### Catalysts

- High grade NdPr
- Positive metallurgy
- Demand lift

#### Location of Fureka

Namibia has a long history of mining, going back to 1851, with diamond and uranium mining being the two most important industries in the country. This experience means that mining operations and handling of mining products that contain radioactivity is well understood in the region.

Furthermore, Namibia is one of the top ranked mining jurisdictions in Africa according to the Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies Report, one of the most widely recognized sources for ranking the attractiveness of mining jurisdictions.

The Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies Report ranks 15 mining jurisdictions in Africa on Investment Attractiveness, Policy Perception, and Best Practices Mineral Potential (whether investment is encouraged or deterred).

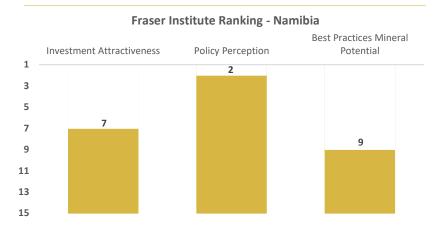


Figure 3 - Source: Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2021

Namibia ranks particularly high in the Policy Perception index (PPI), which reflects the attractiveness of mining policies in a jurisdiction. Namibia is also one of only three African jurisdictions in the survey that increased their PPI score from 2020 to 2021.

It is interesting to note that, in Investment Attractiveness index, Namibia ranks higher than many other well known (or even better known) mining jurisdictions, such as Turkey, Mongolia, Bolivia, Chubut and Mendoza, Argentina, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and even Spain.

Mining operations and handling of mining products that contain radioactivity is well understood in Namibia.

Namibia ranks higher than many other well known (or even better known) mining jurisdictions

<sup>1</sup> Source: BDO Namibia, https://www.bdo.com.na/en-gb/industries/natural-resources/mining-in-namibia

However, overall, according to the survey, Africa generally is the second least attractive region of mining investment.<sup>2</sup>

Using the same list of African mining jurisdictions highlighted in the Fraser Institute survey, but cross-referenced with the World Bank ranking of "Ease of Doing Business", Namibia ranks 4th (although 104th overall, out of 190 ranked countries).<sup>3</sup>

Other mining operators in Namibia include Canadian companies B2Gold, Dundee Precious Metals, Forsys Metals, among others.

Within Namibia, mining accounted for 9.1% of 2021 GDP, making it the largest contributor<sup>4</sup>, and indicating the mining sector's importance to the national economy.

# The Eureka Deposit

E-Tech, and previously E-Tech Namibia, have been exploring the Eureka deposit area, within Exclusive Prospecting License ("EPL") 6762, since late 2016. The licensed area encompasses 3,474 ha.

The Eureka deposit is located in the Erongo Region of Namibia, 250km by road from the capital Windhoek. The region is close to major transport and shipping infrastructure, including 2km from the Trans-Kalahari highway, 10km to a railway, and 130km from the recently expanded Walvis Bay container port. The site has access to power and water. Access to infrastructure is a considerable advantage of the Eureka deposit, compared to many exploration opportunities that are in more remote regions.

A ground magnetic and radiometric survey was completed in Q4-2016, identifying drill targets. Drilling commenced in Q1-2017, along with a gravity orientation study, trenching, reconnaissance mapping, and an aerial topographic imagery survey to identify further exploration targets. After initial drilling in 2017, further drilling has been completed in 2020, 2021, and 2022

The Company has stated that the project is fully permitted and enjoys strong local and governmental support.

Drilling commenced in Q1-2017 and further drilling has been completed in 2020, 2021, and 2022

<sup>2</sup> Source: Yuni, Jairo & Aliakbari, Elmira. "Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2021" Fraser Institute

<sup>3</sup> Source: World Bank,"Ease of Doing Business Rank", https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IC.BUS.EASE.XQ

<sup>4</sup> Source: "Namibia: Attractiveness As Mining Jurisdiction Slammed", AllAfrica.com, April 29, 2022

# The Eureka Deposit location

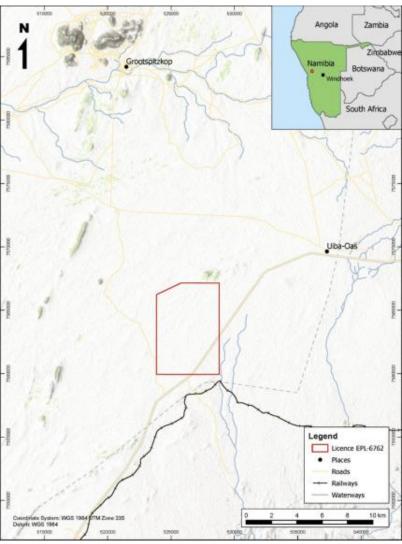


Figure 4 - Source: Eureka 43-101

#### Resource Estimate

Based on the August 2021 43-101 report issued by the Company, the Eureka deposit includes the following resource estimate:

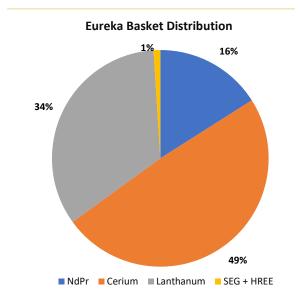
Category	Tonnage (Kt)	Grade (% TREO)	Grade (% NdPr0)
Inferred	310	4.8%	0.7%

Figure 5 - Source: Eureka 43-101. % NdPr0 is the sum of %Nd2O3 and %Pr2O3  $\,$ 

According to the technical report, prepared by SRK Consulting (UK) ("SRK"), there is "significant potential to increase the size of the Mineral Resource with further exploration."

As explained previously, although NdPr only comprises 16% of the REE basket at Eureka, NdPr actually comprises almost 80% of the REE basket by value, based on the current resource.

Technical report by SRK states there is "significant potential to increase the size of the Mineral Resource with further exploration."





# Eureka Basket Distribution by Value 18% 2% 1% 79% NdPr Cerium Lanthanum SEG + HREE

Figure 7 - Source: Company presentation

#### **Exploration Activities**

E-Tech is actively exploring Zones 1 – 4, as detailed in the map below. Red collars indicated historic drilling that contributed to the current mineral resource estimate.

Between Q4-2020 and Q2-2022, the Company completed 8,000m of diamond core drilling and 6,000m of reverse circulation drilling, across 2 campaigns. This is compared to 600m of shallow scout drilling conducted in 2017, on which the current resource estimate is based.

Company completed 8,000m of diamond core drilling and 6,000m of reverse circulation drilling These additional drill holes are shown as Campaign 1 and Campaign 2 below. Early results from the drilling, as disclosed by the Company, has intercepted continuity of the mineralization, and 30 of the 31 diamond core drill holes were mineralized. The results of these drilling campaigns will be used, along with further assay results, modelling and associated exploration activities, to provide an updated mineral resource estimate. The Company has stated that the deposit is open in all directions and to depth.

Intercepted continuity of the mineralization, and 30 of the 31 diamond core drill holes were mineralized

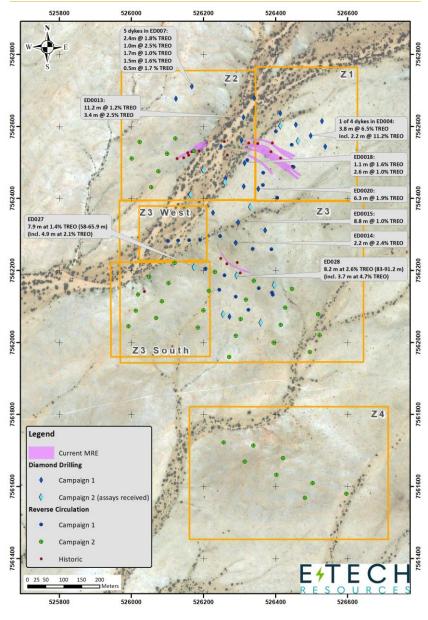


Figure 8 - Source: Company disclosure

The Company indicated in a press release on November 16, 2022 that an initial seventeen (17) drill target areas have been identified following the ground radiometric and magnetic geophysical surveys, and geological mapping program.

These 17 target areas can be seen on the below map as the shapes with white borders.

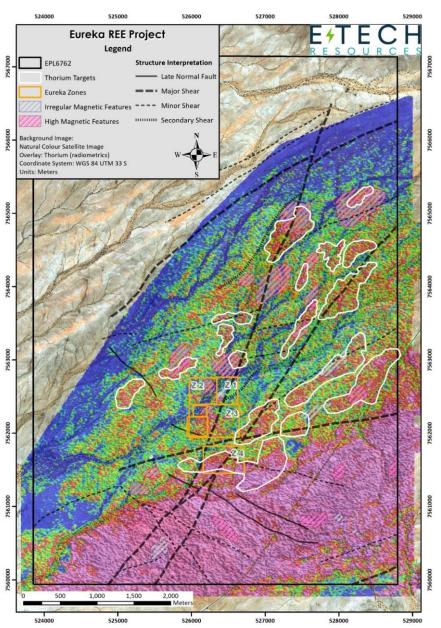


Figure 1: Exploration targets (white outlines) across EPL-6762 defined by anomalous thorium and supported by favorable lithologies and structural features.

#### Rare Earth Value Chain

The rare earth value chain is depicted below. Most REE mining companies produce rare earth mineral concentrates, which must be further refined through cracking, separation and purification processes to produce grouped or individual rare earth oxides. Some mining companies intend to develop their own separation capabilities, while others intend to send REE mineral, or cracked intermediate, concentrates to third-party facilities for separation and further processing.

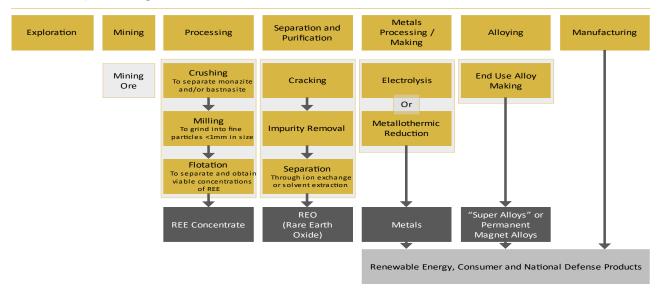


Figure 10 - Source: Recreated from Energy, gov with input from the Company

# Other Considerations

# Separation Challenges

Due to similar physical and chemical properties, separating individual REEs from each other is a laborious process. Separation is achieved through either ion-exchange or solvent extraction processes, with solvent extraction being the most common for large volume operations.<sup>5</sup> However, as discussed previously, China dominates this market. Cleaner and/or less intensive separation methods would remove a significant hurdle to global rare earth production.

#### Substitution Risk

Substitution risk of REEs in the value chain is a concern. Concerns about supply of NdPr for permanent magnets, for example, may encourage end users to reduce their use of these types of magnets or find substitutes. However, the benefits of NdPr permanent magnets over other types of magnets, and the small cost compared to the total cost of the finished products (i.e., an electric vehicle), reduces potential substitution risk.

5 Source: Feng Xie, et al., "A critical review on solvent extraction of rare earths from aqueous solutions", ScienceDirect.com, February 2014

# Radioactivity

Most REE ores naturally contain uranium and/or thorium, which are radioactive elements. This can have a significant impact on processing of the ore and transportation of mineral concentrates, as well as disposing of waste streams. Levels of radioactive elements and resulting potential radiation from handling and transporting ore or concentrate, will have a significant impact on whether a particular mineral deposit or project can be economically viable.

When evaluating a REE deposit, the relative concentrations of TREO, NdPr, and radioactive elements, such as thorium, is critical and should not be overlooked.

The following table highlights radioactivity levels (measured in becquerel / gram), of the Eureka deposit monazite compared to REE ore minerals of several other similar deposits. Eureka shows very favourably in this comparison.

# Volume

Current resource estimates of the Eureka project estimate a 16% NdPr proportion of the total REE basket, by volume, but represent 79% of the basket value. NdPr prices are therefore a key driver to the Eureka project (and therefore E-Tech).

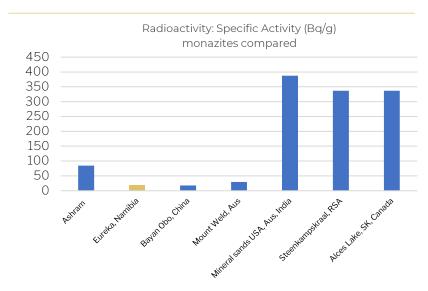


Figure 11 - Source: Company presentation

Eureka shows up very favourably in the comparison of radioactivity levels.

# **Processing Plans**

One of the key highlights of the Eureka deposit, as described by the Company, is the (relatively) simple processing requirements due to the coarse grained nature of the REE mineral monazite and its subsequent ease of liberation from the host rock. Mining will be targeted using open pit mining techniques. Beneficiation is expected to be possible with low-cost physical methods, not requiring hazardous chemicals or a complicated beneficiation plant. The monazite in the host rock will go through gravitational concentration and magnetic separation to result in a monazite concentrate.



Figure 12 - Source: Company presentation

Due to the low expected radioactivity levels of the ore at Eureka, there are minimal shipping constraints and mineral concentrate produced from Eureka should be able to be shipped most places in the world on regular cargo ships. This provides many options to the Company when arranging agreements for downstream processing.

Once the concentrate has been received by an off-taker, it is first chemically "cracked" into a mixed REE compound that then must be further separated into individual oxides by solvent extraction. The oxides are further processed into metals for alloying, or into compounds, depending on the manufacturer's specifications.

As discussed previously, most of the expertise and capacity for this further processing is located in China, introducing significant geo-political risks to the typical supply chain. In an attempt to circumvent this issue and provide downstream users with a source of supply external to China, E-Tech has signed a non-binding LOI with the Saskatchewan Research Council ("SRC") to cooperate in the test work and pilot scale processing of mineral concentrate from the Eureka deposit. This partnership with SRC is a key differentiator of E-Tech compared to other exploration stage REE companies.

The potential of conducting the intermediate-step processing (or "cracking") of the Eureka mineral concentrate in Namibia has yet to be assessed by the Company.

Simple processing requirements due to the coarse grained nature of the REE mineral monazite

This partnership with SRC is a key differentiator of E-Tech compared to other exploration stage REE companies.

# Management Team

The management team has extensive exploration and development experience, including in-country through their involvement with Antler Gold Inc., a gold exploration company focused on the Erongo Gold Project in Namibia.

# Chairman & Interim CEO - Jim Megann

Jim took over the roles of Chairman & CEO from Dan Whittaker in September 2022. Jim has over 25 years of experience in the communications and marketing industry, and is a Principal and Managing Director at Numus Financial, as well as a Director for Torrent Capital (TSX.V: TORR), OARO, and Sona Nanotech (TSX.V: SONA).

#### CFO - Rob Randall

Rob Randall has a range of experience as a contract CFO for various TSX.V listed companies, including Torrent Capital, Sona Nanotech, and Antler Gold. He has also previously worked as Controller of Etruscan Resources Inc. and Nova Gold Resources Inc.

# VP Operations & Director - Christopher Drysdale

Chris Drysdale has extensive experience in the mineral and exploration industry throughout Africa, and as at 1 November 2022 was the VP, Operations and Corporate Development for Antler Gold Inc.

Other directors also have direct or indirect relationships with Torrent Capital, Sona Nanotech, and/or Antler Gold.

#### **Financial Situation**

E-Tech has \$0.9 million cash (as at September 30, 2022) and no debt on their balance sheet, but, as with all exploration companies, will have to raise additional capital to fund some of their exploration plans and eventual capital required to develop the mine. Specific spending plans and budgets have not been publicly released by the company.

Management team has extensive exploration and development experience incountry

# Comparative Analysis Select company comparables include:

	Mkt Cap (C\$mm)	EV (C\$mm)	Primar	y Asset	Stage		Mineral Resources		
		* * * *	Name	Country		Tonnage (Mt)	%TREO	NdPr PPM	Thorium PPM
MP MATERIALS	\$6,813	\$6,004	Mountain Pass	United States	Producing	37.1	5.96%	7,893	
<b>Lynas</b> Rare Earths	\$6,283	\$5,603	Mount Weld	Australia	Producing	55.2	5.30%	18,833	750
AMAI VAA	\$465	\$443	Nolans	Australia	DFS	56.0	2.60%	6,864	2,700
PENSANA PIC	\$162	\$156	Longonjo	Angola	PFS	313.0	1.43%	3,200	967
RAINBOW	\$82	\$75	Phalaborwa	South Africa	PEA	38.3	0.43%	1,257	48
LEADING EDGE MATERIALS	\$31	\$28	Norra Karr	Sweden	PEA	110.0	0.50%	700	8
NAMIBIA  O GATTINA METALA PAIL  Pleases facilità del facili fic.	\$24	\$22	Lofdal	Namibia	PEA	53.4	0.17%	182	350
ETECH RESOURCES	\$12	\$11	Eureka	Namibia	Exploration	0.3	4.8%	7,000	400

Figure 13 - Source: Company disclosure and various industry sources. Mineral resources includes both Proven & Probable Reserves as well as Measured, Indicated & Inferred Resources, as appropriate. All resources are shown on a 100% basis.

E-Tech compares very favorably to peers in the sector, in terms of TREO grade and the proportion of TREO that is composed of NdPr. Critically, the ratio of NdPr to Thorium in the resource compares very favorably to several other projects, implying lower radioactivity in the resulting concentrate and fewer issues related to radioactivity. Future resource updates will provide important guidance on the size of the potential resource at Eureka.

# Risks and Challenges

The Eureka deposit, and E-Tech Resources, face several challenges, most of which are common for exploration-stage mining companies and/or companies in the rare earths sector.

- China may make an unforeseen policy change, which could impact supply and/or pricing of rare earths
- Rare earth oxide ("REO") demand may vary from expectations
- Inflation may increase capital and/or operating costs
- Unforeseen challenges may arise in the processing of ore or concentrate from Eureka
- Changes in the size of the mineral resource at Eureka could vary from expectations
- Potential for permitting and regulatory challenges
- Financing will be required, at some point, to continue exploration and to fund development

E-Tech compares very favorably to peers in the sector, in terms of TREO grade and the proportion of TREO that is composed of NdPr

# (TSXV: REE | FSE: K2i) January 2023

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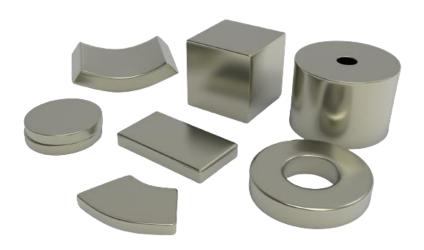
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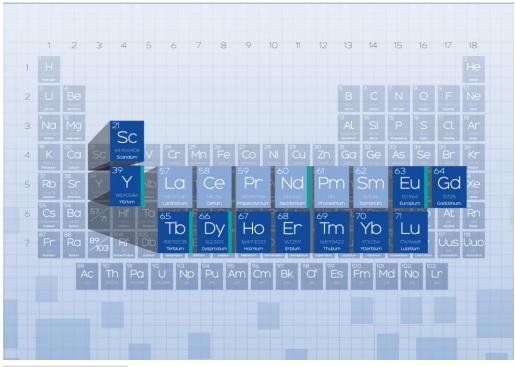
# Primer on the Rare Earth Industry



# The Rare Earths Industry

# What are Rare Earths?

REE refers to a group 17 elements, including the 15 lanthanide elements as well as two additional elements that exhibit similar characteristics, scandium and yttrium. REEs are further divided into Heavy Rare Earth Elements ("HREEs") and Light Rare Earth Elements ("LREEs"), generally based on their atomic weight. Rare earth deposits will include both LREEs and HREEs. REEs are found primarily in monazite and bastnasite ores, with both typically containing material concentrations of lanthanum ("Le"), Cerium ("Ce"), Praseodymium ("Pr") and Neodymium ("Nd").



Light Rare Earth Elements
Heavy Rare Earth Elements
Critical Rare Earth Elements

Figure 14 - Source: National Energy Technology Laboratory

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Energy identified 5 REEs that it considers to be "Critical Rare Earth Elements" ("CREE"), which include Neodymium, Europium, Terbium, Dysprosium, and Yttrium.

Despite their name, REEs are relatively common in the earth's crust.<sup>6</sup>

6 Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, "Rare Earths", January 2022

While some key REEs are in short supply, as will be discussed later in this report, others are in oversupply. For example, cerium, neodymium, lanthanum, and yttrium are all more abundant than lithium, lead, helium, silver, or gold. However, economically mineable concentrations of these elements are less common than for many other mineral commodities.

The value of a deposit is highly dependent on the relative concentrations of each REE in the deposit, and less so on the grade of Total Rare Earth Oxide ("TREO").

#### Reserves and Production

Worldwide, there are an estimated 120 million tons of REE reserves, with China containing the largest proportion of any country at approximately 37%.

However, China represents approximately  $60\%^7$  of global production of REEs in 2021.

Furthermore, China is estimated to account for approximately 78% of REE imports to the United States.<sup>8</sup>

While there are a range of REE projects in development, many will face significant challenges to achieve production.



# 2021 Mine Production of Rare Earths

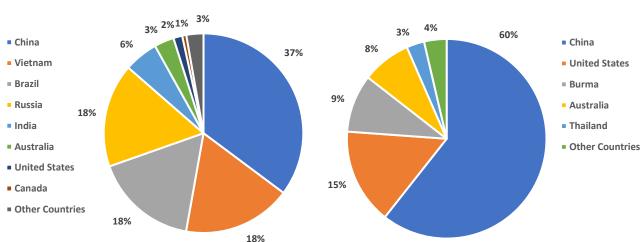


Figure 15 – Source: U.S. Geological Survey, 2022. Total does not add to 100% due to rounding.

Figure 16 – Source: U.S. Geological Survey, 2022. Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>7</sup> Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, "Rare Earths", January 2022

<sup>8</sup> Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, "Rare Earths", January 2022

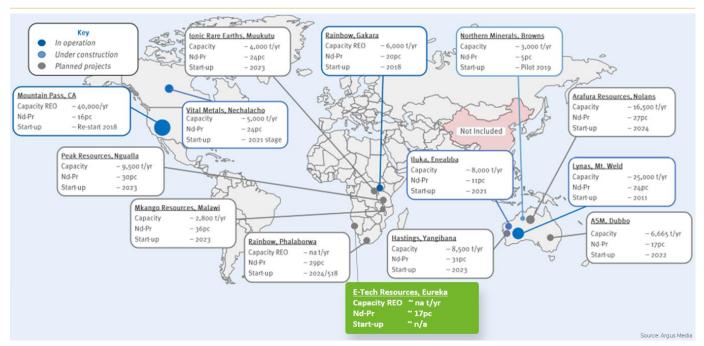


Figure 17 - Source: Company presentation.

China also dominates the separation of REEs, accounting for effectively all the global supply of key REEs like Terbium and Dysprosium.

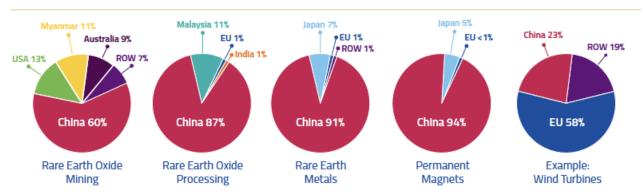
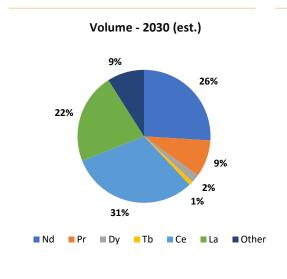


Figure 18 – Source: "Rare Earth Magnets and Motors: A European Call for Action", Rare Earth Magnets and Motors Cluster of the European Raw Materials Alliance, Berlin 2021.

#### Volume vs Value

Not all REEs are equal in value. Currently, the most desirable REEs are Neodymium, Praseodymium, Dysprosium, and Terbium. Despite being expected to account for just over 1/3 of the rare earth market by volume in 2030, these 4 REEs are estimated to represent 98% of the market by value in 2030.



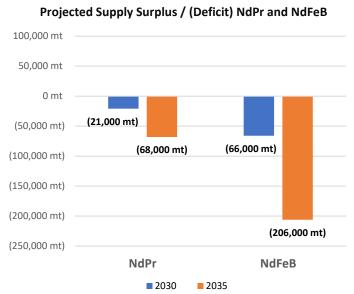


Figure 19 - Source: Company presentation

Figure 20 - Source: Adamas Intelligence

Supply and Demand Fundamentals

Demand for REOs, on an annual basis, doubled between 2006 – 2021, to 125,000 mt, and is projected to continue growing to 315.000 mt by 2030.9

For the reasons discussed below, including increased uses and demand for NdPr and Neodymium-Iron-Boron ("NdFeB") magnets, there are expected to be shortages of key REEs, in particular NdPr.

While surpluses may exist in other, more abundant REEs, such as Ce and La, which are widely regarded as being in an oversupply situation.

Meeting demand for REOs with expected supply deficits will require either increasing capacity at existing operations and/or developing new rare earth mines. Both come with challenges and costs and take time to implement.

9 Source: Mitchel, Jason. "China's stranglehold of the rare earths supply chain will last another decade", InvestmentMonitor.ai, April 26, 2022

# Pricing

Driven by supply/demand fundamentals, pricing for in-demand REEs, such as Nd and Pr, have increased significantly over the past 24 months (by 82% and 101%, respectively), despite a recent pull back.



However, prices of more abundant REEs, such as Ce, have been flat to down.



Figure 23 - Source: Bloomberg

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# Uses of REEs REEs are used in a wide range of applications.

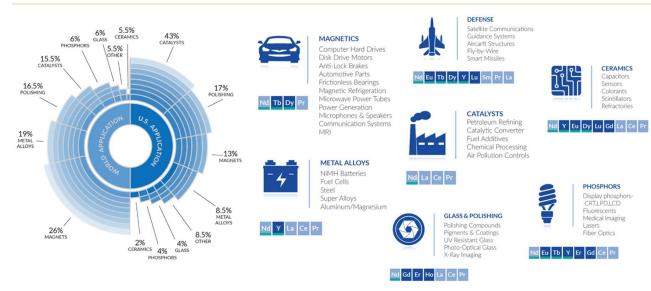


Figure 24 – Source: Congressional Research Service, "An Overview of Rare Earth Elements and Related Issues for Congress" November 24, 2020.

As discussed above, the vast majority of value in the global rare earth market is due to Neodymium/Praseodymium, Terbium, and Dysprosium. This is due to their use in permanent magnets, which are key components in wind turbines and electric vehicle motors.

Permanent magnets are superior to other types of magnets in these applications because they maintain their magnetic properties even in magnetic fields, thereby making them critical components of electrical motors. The most widely used permanent magnet for these applications are Neodymium-Iron-Boron ("NdFeB") magnets, which contain almost 30% rare earth content by mass.

Dy and Tb can be added to make the magnets stronger and more durable in high temperature environments (such as in an electric motor).

Some estimates predict the combined share of NdPr demand attributable to electric vehicles and wind turbines growing from approximately 24% in 2020 to 59% by 2030 (with electric vehicles accounting for almost 75% of that demand).

# NdPr Market Demand by sector from 2020 to 2030

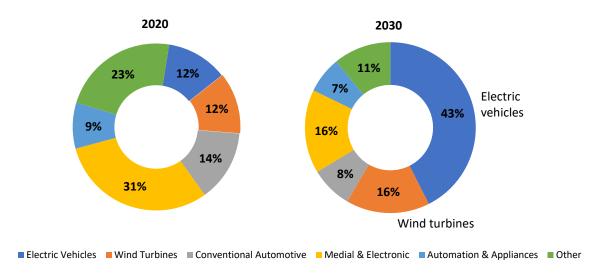


Figure 25 - Source: Industry Research

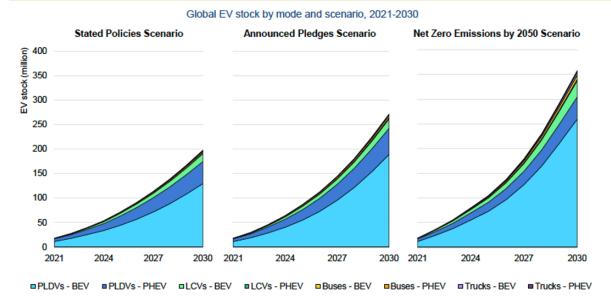
The cost of the REE and permanent magnets is significantly less than the resulting benefit. Direct-drive wind turbines, using permanent magnets, offer better yields and lower maintenance costs due to the elimination of a gearbox. This benefit is particularly critical for offshore wind turbines, where maintenance can be difficult

# Electric Vehicles

The average hybrid or electric vehicle uses between 2 – 5kg of rare earth magnets  $^{10}$ , equating to approximately 0.5 – 1.5kg of REEs, with some estimates of total REEs as high as 4.5 kg per hybrid or electric vehicle. This is significantly more than 0.5 – 1.0 kg of REEs estimated for a typical internal combustion engine powered vehicle. The predominant rare earth magnet in these applications is the NdFeB magnet, due to its higher magnet energy property and lower price than previous alternatives.

There were an estimated 16.5 million electric cars globally in 2021<sup>11</sup>, but that number is expected to increase to as many as 200 – 250 million vehicles by 2030, according to estimates by the International Energy Agency ("IEA").

10 Source: Fears, Paul. "Rare Earth Magnets in Electric Vehicle Motors", Bunting-Berkhamsted.com, January 5, 2021 11 Source: IEA (2022), "Global EV Outlook 2022" This growth is largely driven by government policies to reduce overall emissions, as well as rising fuel prices and increasing consumer awareness of climate change driving shifts to "greener" alternatives. Regulatory targets set in the European Union and United States aim for an EV share of at least 50% by 2030, and there is talk of potential bans on internal combustion engines ("ICE"s).12



IEA. All rights reserved.

Figure 26 - Source: IEA, "Global EV Outlook 2022". Demonstrates EV stock, based on relevant governmental policies.

Even more conservative estimates of 70 million  $EVs^{13}$  on the road by 2030 still indicate a significant annual increase from current levels and resulting demand for REEs and rare earth magnets.

# Substitution risk

There is potential for other materials to be used in place of rare earth elements in a given product or application. In the case of electric vehicles, the move to induction motors may lead to a reduction in the use of rare earths, as these motors do not require the use of rare earth magnets in their construction. This could potentially reduce the demand for rare earths and create substitution risk for these materials.

<sup>12</sup> Source: McKinsey & Company, "Why the automotive future is electric", September 7, 2021

<sup>13</sup> Source: McKinsey & Company, "Why the automotive future is electric", September 7, 2021

#### Wind Turbines

A secondary growth driver for NdPr and permanent magnets is wind turbines. Global wind power capacity is expected to grow at a CAGR of 9% between 2021 and 2030,<sup>14</sup> reaching a projected capacity of almost 1.8 terawatts ("TW").

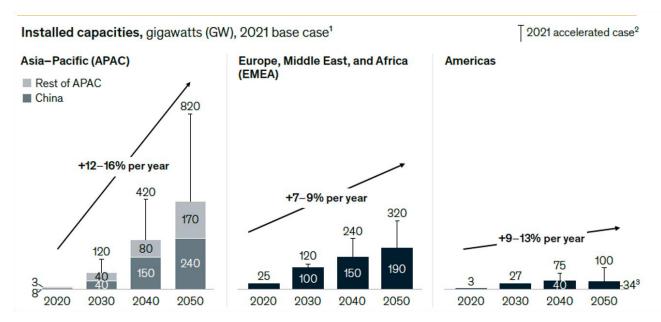


Figure 27 - Source: McKinsey, "How to Succeed in the Expanding Global Offshore Wind Market", April 20, 2022.

Offshore wind capacity, as a subset of total wind capacity, is estimated to grow from approximately 40 gigawatts ("GW") in 2020 to 200 – 270 GW by 2030,  $^{15}$  implying a CAGR of approximately 20% over that period, and up to 630GW by 2050 with further upside potential to as much as 1,000 GW.

Direct drive turbines are estimated to require 650kg of permanent magnets per MW (which, assuming 30% REEs in each magnet, equates to approximately 200kg REE per MW). This is approximately 4 – 8x the mass of permanent magnets required for a geared turbine.

<sup>14</sup> Source: Wood Mackenzie, "Global installed wind power capacity set to grow by 9% to 2030", December 15, 2021

<sup>15</sup> Source: McKinsey & Company, "How to succeed in the expanding global offshore wind market", April 20, 2022

# **Defence Applications**

REEs are also used in many defense applications, including motors in critical equipment, guidance systems, and radar and sonar applications. For example, a single F35 fighter jet requires over 400kg of rare earth materials, while a Virginia-class submarine requires more than 4,000kg. <sup>16</sup> The U.S. government aims to reduce its reliance on Chinese REEs by diversifying its sources of critical minerals.

# Influence of China

China has dominated the REE industry since the 1980's. Prior to that, since the 1960s, the U.S. was the world's largest producer of REEs. By the 2010s, China produced 85% of global REEs and supplied 95% of processed REEs. Currently, 37% of global REE reserves are in China, however China represents 60% of global REE mine production (as of 2021).

China's market dominance has led to a period of pricing and supply uncertainty. Quotas exist, set by the Chinese government, controlling rare earth production in and exports from China.

A significant reduction in those quotas in 2010, 25% for production of REOs and 37% for export of various RE products, resulted in significant price increases in 2010 - 2011.<sup>17</sup>

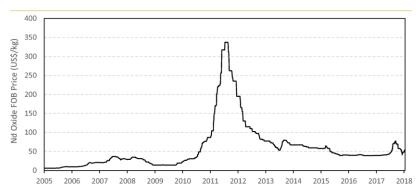


Figure 28 – Chinese Neodymium Oxide Export Price: Source: Argus Media.

16 Source: Grier, Peter. "Rare-Earth Uncertainty", AirForceMag.com, December 21, 2017 17 Source: Shen, Y., Moomy, R. & Eggert, R.G., "China's public policies toward rare earths, 1975-2018", Miner Econ, January 7, 2020

Quotas have since increased but remain a significant supply concern.

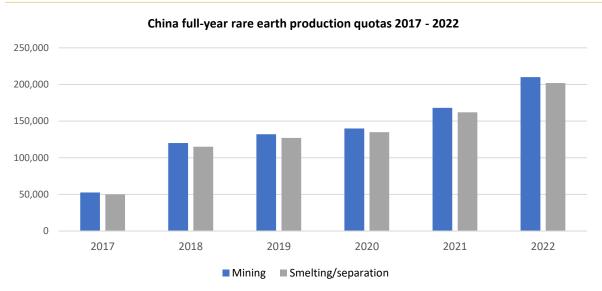


Figure 29 - Source: MIIT, Ministry of Natural Resources

Quotas for H1-2022 were increased by 20%, relative to H1-2021, for both rare earth mining and processing. Mining quotas increased from 84,000 tons to 100,800 tons and smelting and separation quotas increased from 81,000 tons to 97,200 tons.<sup>18</sup>

As a result of the price volatility of REEs, and general recognition of the importance of access to critical REEs ex-China, many countries have indicated a desire to develop additional or domestic sources for critical elements. As a result, China is working to maintain their control of the market through purchase agreements, control over REE processing and separation, and manufacture of downstream products.<sup>19</sup>

# Major Players in the REE Mining Industry

The major players in the Chinese rare earths mining and processing markets have been China Northern Rare Earth, China Southern Rare Earth (a subsidiary of Ganzhou Rare Earth Group), Chinalco Rare Earth & Metals Company (a subsidiary of Aluminum Corporation of China or Chinalco), Xiamen Tungsten, Guangdong Rare Earth Industry Group, and China Minmetals Corporation.

<sup>18</sup> Source: Global Times, "China hikes first rare-earth quota of 2022 by 20% to meet surging new energy demand", January 29, 2022

<sup>19</sup> Source: Lee, Jordy. "Rare Earths Explained", Milken Institute Review, July 26, 2021

In late 2021, it was announced that the Chinese rare earth industry would consolidate, with Chinalco Rare Earth & Metals Co, Minmetals Rare Earth (a subsidiary of China Minmetals), and China Southern Rare Earth Group, as well as two research companies, combining into the newly established China Rare Earth Group Co. Ltd.<sup>20</sup> Ownership of the new entity is 31.21% to the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (the national asset regulator) 20.33% to each of Aluminum Corporation of China, China Minmetals, and Ganzhou Rare Earth Group, with the remainder split between the two research companies, China Iron & Steel Research Institute Group and Grinm Group Corporation Ltd. <sup>21</sup>

Outside of China, there are a wide range of planned projects, but few current producers.

The two largest producers outside of China are Lynas and MP Materials.

# Lynas

Lynas operates the Mount Weld rare earth mine in Western Australia. Rare earth concentrates are processed at Lynas' plant in Malaysia, which is the world's largest single rare earths processing plant. Lynas is currently constructing an additional rare earths processing facility in Kalgoorlie, Australia and proposing an additional processing facility in the United States.

The Mt Weld deposit reported total ore reserves of 18.9 million tonnes at a TREO grade of 8.3%.

In their FY2022, Lynas produced 15,970 tonnes of REO including 5.880 tonnes of NdPr.<sup>22</sup>

### MP Materials

MP Materials owns and operates the Mountain Pass rare earths mine in California. The Mountain Pass mine has been in production off and on since 1952. MP Materials has a stated goal of restoring the "full rare earth supply chain to the United States".

Over the last 12 months (through June 2022), MP Materials produced 43,387 metric tons of REO in concentrate. By the end of 2023, they expect to achieve a run-rate annual production of 20,000 metric tons of refined TREO, including ~6,075 metric tons of NdPr <sup>23</sup>

20 Source: Zhou, Qian & Brooke, Sofia. "China Merges Three Rare Earths State-Owned Entities to Increase Pricing Power and Efficiency", China Briefing, January 12, 2022 21 Source: Zhou, Qian & Brooke, Sofia. "China Merges Three Rare Earths State-Owned Entities to Increase Pricing Power and Efficiency", China Briefing, January 12, 2022 22 Source: Lynas Rare Earths Limited, "FY2022 Results Presentation", August 26, 2022 23 Source: MP Materials, Investor Presentation, August 10, 2022

In 2022, MP Materials plans to start processing rare earths at its own facility, whereas it previously shipped rare earth concentrate to China for processing. Once their facility upgrades are complete, MP Materials will be able to produce separated REOs from its concentrate. Longer-term plans include expanding downstream into magnet production.

In their September 2021 technical report, Mountain Pass was reported to have ore reserves of 30.45m st (short tons) at a TREO grade of 6.36%.<sup>24</sup>