



Progress Report #2

December 20, 2013

I am pleased to report on the highlights of the Steering Committee's second meeting on December 16th; kindly hosted by Kingston Metals Processing in Kingston, Ontario.

The Steering Committee is actively working toward formally **establishing CREEN**, since it was first announced on October 28th, and framing its research program priorities. CREEN is in the process of registering itself as a Canadian Not-for-Profit corporation in order to efficiently manage membership activities and fees, administer collaboratively-sponsored and funded research projects, and administer the intellectual property that might be derived from this work. It is anticipated that research activities will be undertaken across the country, and may be done in collaborative arrangements with institution or partners internationally.

CREEN is also in the process of establishing an efficient and cost effective service arrangement with the CIM (Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum) who have offered to host CREEN. CIM will provide CREEN with administrative support however CREEN membership fees will remain within CREEN. Members in CREEN need not necessarily be a member of CIM, however it is encouraged.

The Steering Committee has established a **Membership** structure and fee schedule, and a recruitment program that will begin in earnest in early January 2014. The plan calls for three primary membership categories:

- Prospective REE producers, advanced exploration companies, and major industrials/end-users
- Exploration companies, universities, engineering consultants, private and public sector labs, investment analysts, small industrials/end users
- Governments

Membership privileges will include the opportunity to shape research plans, early access to participate in collaborative research projects and access to member-shared information and updates. Membership will enable the development of innovative ways to enhance and improve the rare earth supply chain industry. Further information will be forthcoming shortly.

The CREEN Steering Committee also established a timeline for the first quarter of 2014, leading to an **R&D Strategic Plan**. It is anticipated that a Members Workshop will be convened in mid-February during which members will be asked to help define research priorities for the sector in the nearer to medium (1-2 years) to long (5 years) term. The details of this Workshop are still to be determined.

While there has not been any formal call for proposals, we have received some preliminary research initiatives. We certainly welcome your suggestions at any time, which will help the Technical Sub-Committee establish a more structured call for proposal abstracts. Some of the initiatives suggested to date include (more detailed subject titles were put forward):

- Detailed review and synthesis of available separation plant design methodologies and practices

- Review of the specific environmental aspects of REE production.
- Examination of high temperature sulphation equipment
- Development of custom reagents for REE floatation and separation
- Bench scale solvent extraction tests on HREE separation factors and extraction equilibrium constants
- Bench-scale testing of HREE solvent extraction circuits using blended feedstock from multiple sources
- Techno-economic review of potential rare earth metal production in North America

The Technical Sub-Committee has also identified a couple of smaller paper reviews which could be launched in mid-January.

Please feel free to e-mail any suggestions to us at www.ree-etr.ca.

In closing, we would like to wish you and yours the best of the season and a **Safe, Healthy and Happy 2014**.

Ian London
Chair