



## **Progress Report #7**

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

I am pleased to bring you up to date on CREEN's activities and related events of importance, since our last Progress Report of June 20<sup>th</sup>. CREEN is clearly evolving and its profile among industry and international parties continues to steadily rising.

### **Roadmap and Governance**

The CREEN Steering Committee is in the process of reviewing a draft of the Network's Roadmap, which is essentially a summary-level strategic business plan. As previously reported, the Roadmap was requested by NRCan Deputy Minister Serge Dupont at our meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

As the Roadmap has a multi-year strategic perspective with roughly defined milestones, discussions have focused on several important dimensions:

- CREEN's possible evolutionary paths – from our technical/R&D focused mandate to possible evolution into an industry-type association to address economic development, supply chains, market intelligence, to broadening our vision from REE to 'Rare Metals' or 'Critical Metals' (there are various pros and cons to consider).
- CREEN's relationships with Canadian associations such as CIM and MAC, considering our needs for well-established governance and administrative support, corporate versus individual membership, technical versus outreach/advocacy support.
- Possible risk-related scenarios, such as, if direct Federal R&D funding support isn't forthcoming.

In the interim, CREEN's full attention focused on the Network's goal of developing REE-process solutions and highly qualified personnel (HQP) to be available to meet Canada's REE production and operating needs. Delivering results is the cornerstone of our value proposition and growth plans.

### **Membership and Fees**

To date, CREEN has established its operating framework, strategies and plans; it has hosted the inaugural Technical Workshop and it has advanced the CREEN "brand" thanks to the in-kind contribution of the Steering Committee member organizations and the sponsorship of MetSoc and MPC. The CREEN Network has 23 pledged members at present. Plans and administrative procedures are being put to place to collect our first annual dues.

CREEN has proposed a relatively modest fee structure intended to cover the nominal administrative expenses. The following table outlines the basic fee structure:

## Annual Membership Fee Schedule

Membership Category	Annual Fee
Prospective REE producers, including Advanced Project Development and Exploration Companies, Industrial manufacturers and End Users (annual sales greater than or equal to \$100 million)	\$ 5,000
Exploration companies, Research Centres, Universities and Colleges, Engineering Consultants, Industrial manufacturers, End Users (annual sales less than \$100 million), Financial/Investment banking Institutions	\$ 2,000
Governments	\$ 2,000

### Federal Funding Support

CREEN formally submitted a formal request to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (August 1<sup>st</sup>) to appear before the Committee during its pre-budget hearings. In its request, CREEN has asked for \$25 million over 5 years to fund R&D. The CREEN submission will be uploaded to our web site. ([www.ree-etr.ca](http://www.ree-etr.ca))

Individual CREEN members continue to inform policy makers on the emerging REE industry sector, and offered their outreach support for CREEN's funding request.

### Technical Workshop

As highlighted in our Progress Report #6, the Technical Workshop was held in Ottawa on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Summary Report from the Workshop will be uploaded to the CREEN website ([www.ree-etr.ca](http://www.ree-etr.ca)).

The Workshop participants identified 21 work areas from which they shortlisted the following seven higher priority projects:

- High temp acid baking
- REE and radioactivity
- Fine particle processing
- Separation plant design
- HCl regeneration and H<sub>2</sub>O purification
- REE collectors
- REE material specifications for end-users

CREEN's Technical Steering Committee is in the process of securing individual project champions to lead each of the seven short-listed projects. Service providers (such as labs and consultants) or industrial specialists, with the support of academia, are expected to lead the projects with an attention to time and the delivery of results. The service providers are expected to flesh-out and develop proper project proposals from the summary project outlines of the Workshop.

### CREEN Outreach

CREEN's vision and efforts are gaining increased national and international attention, including:

- US-EU-Japan Trilateral Conference on Critical Materials to which Canada and Australia are associate members; met on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at AMES Labs. CanmetMINING and CREEN Steering Committee member Janice Zinck represented Canada and made a presentation at this international gathering.

- ERECON – CREEN attended the ERECON (European Rare Earth Competency Network) meeting in Brussels on June 18th at which CREEN proposed collaborative supply chain initiatives where Canada could meet European semi-processed materials with Europeans to focus its efforts on more downstream processing and applications. ERECON is expected to release its recommendations to the European Commission at its next meeting set for Milan on October 16<sup>th</sup>. CREEN has been invited to participate on a panel with the US-based CMI (Critical Materials Institute) and Japan’s METI at the October meeting. CREEN’s June 18<sup>th</sup> ERECON presentation will be uploaded to our web site ([www.ree-etr.ca](http://www.ree-etr.ca)).
  
- NATO Applied Vehicle Technology Panel – CREEN has been invited to deliver a presentation on REE applications in the hi-tech sectors, to be convened in Brussels October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. The invited focus of the presentation: demand for REEs in aeronautics, hybrid tech, fuel production and wearable technology. CREEN has also submitted a peer-edited paper on the subject.
  
- COM14 REE Symposium– Set for Sept 28<sup>th</sup> –Oct 1<sup>st</sup> in Vancouver, the Symposium will present 44 papers from a dozen plus countries. SGS’s Niels Verbaan chairs this year’s program with the support of Quest, John Goode & Assoc, Jacobs, Molycorp, Avalon and a network of independent reviewers. Stakeholders are invited to peruse the program at <http://web.cim.org/COM2014/conference/RareEarthElements.cfm>
  
- CIM Annual Convention 2015 – CIM’s annual convention is set for Montreal in May 2015. CREEN was asked to organize the REE stream of the event. It is understood that CIM is looking for 5-10 geology-mining and project update presentations
  
- IMPC 2016 (International Mineral Processing Congress) – Set for September 2016 in Quebec City, CREEN has been invited by the Congress host to organize, integrate and chair REE Symposium into the IMPC program. The 2014 congress is being convened in Santiago.

As always, I hope you find these progress reports helpful. Please feel free to contact CREEN with any suggestions you may have.



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