

# Prominence Energy raises \$1.55 million for Umine Uranium Project Investment (Kazakhstan) and to advance 100% Owned Big Apple Gas Prospect

# **Highlights**

- Prominence has firm commitments to raise A\$1.55 million in a heavily oversubscribed placement.
- Funds will be used to advance existing projects including Big Apple Farm-out activities.
- PRM will invest US\$200,000 into Umine LLP a Kazakh company to secure a 20% equity interest.
- Umine is seeking to produce and sell Uranium through the execution of a Uranium Mine site rehabilitation in Kazakhstan.
- Umine selected the Djideli site where high-grade uranium mining was carried out by the Kyrgyz Mining Combine (PO Yuzhpolimetall) from 1972 until 1985.
- There are processing facilities located within 250 km of the Djideli site that may assist in processing Umines intermediate product to salegrade uranium (yellow cake).

Prominence Energy (ASX: PRM) is pleased to announce firm commitments to raise A\$1.55 million, with the primary use of proceeds is to fund further technical studies and ongoing farmout activities for Big Apple, as well as on new ventures, particularly the Umine LLP (Umine) uranium opportunity described below.

## **Umine LLP Kazakhstan Uranium Opportunity –**

US\$200,000 (Approximately A\$300,000) will be invested to acquire 20% of Umine LLP (Umine). Umine has identified an opportunity to execute the decontamination and remediation of the abandoned Dijdeli Uranium processing site in Kazakhstan. During the rehabilitation, Umine intends to collect, process and sell the Uranium. See below for further details. The Djideli rehabilitation project with Uranium sales would be the first project of its kind in Kazakhstan.

Managing Director Alex Parks commented: "Umine is an exciting energy project investment, that combines, the potential to produce and sell energy grade uranium for carbon-free electricity generation, whilst executing a contaminated site rehabilitation project. The





balance of funds that we are raising will ensure PRM has adequate working capital to advance the farm-out of Big Apple and evaluate other potential new ventures.

We are grateful for the support received from our existing investors and welcome new shareholders as we focus on advancing our projects. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and are committed to working diligently toward success."

## **Umine Investment**

PRM has an opportunity to take a 20% equity interest in Umine LLP (**Umine**) for an investment of US\$200,000 (~A\$300,000). Umine is a private company incorporated in Kazakhstan. Umine is currently equally owned by the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Technology Officer. The CFO is known to PRM Management from a previous business dealing. Umine intends to secure and execute the "Djideli deposit, decontamination and remediation project" (**Djideli**) in Kazakhstan.

PRM sees Umine as another passive energy related project investment, that is carbon-friendly to balance PRM's fossil fuel-based core business. Umine intends to conduct uranium production from the dumps of low-grade material in a decontamination and remediation process over a period of multiple years.

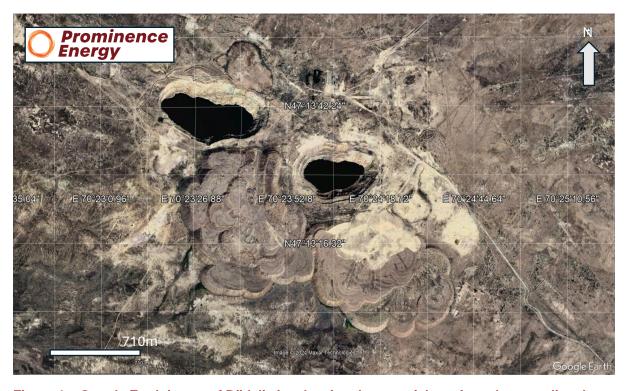


Figure 1 – Google Earth image of Djideli site showing the material on site to be remediated

#### The Umine Opportunity and Project Summary.

Kazakhstan is a major location for the mining of Uranium. In addition to current operating mine sites, at sites located all over Kazakhstan, there are abandoned uranium mines and processing plants, that were closed before or at the break-up of the Former Soviet Union (FSU). The sites have dumps of material containing uranium that was mined but contained uranium at concentrations below the (then) processing plant's threshold capability of





approximately 1,000ppm. Mined material of less than 1,000ppm was mostly impracticable to process and was typically dumped adjacent to the plant. These sites have been identified as areas to rehabilitate.

PRM and its Competent Person consider that the grade and volume of these dumps is unknown but warrants testing. The Competent Person advises that sampling of dumps is a risky activity and that the results of such sampling cannot be forecast at this stage and that such sampling and surveying may not result in estimation of a Mineral Resource.

No Exploration Results are being reported here and PRM is unaware of any Exploration Results, foreign, historic or otherwise that support any grade estimation with any confidence, other than that the material on the dumps is below a historic mine cut-off grade that was predicated on foreign and historic mine economics and metallurgy.

The Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia (ERA) was established by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2015 as an initiative of the European Commission to help deal with this problem and encourage local authorities to remediate the sites. One of the reports commissioned to estimate the scale of the remediation and quantum of material dumped at the site helped Umine develop the business model. Umine selected the Djideli site where high-grade uranium mining was carried out by the Kyrgyz Mining Combine (PO Yuzhpolimetall) from 1972 until 1985.

Umine believes there is an opportunity to execute the decontamination and remediation of the sites and collect, process and sell the Uranium during the remediation and decontamination. As such it is not a mining project. The Djideli project would be the first remediation project of its kind in Kazakhstan, however, the heap leaching and ion-exchange technologies are industrially proven and have been used in particular by Areva (now Orano) to treat waste from uranium open pit mines in France and Niger.

In order to execute a decontamination and remediation project, extracting and selling the Uranium, a company needs;

- 1. Local / Regional Authority support to undertake the decontamination project.
- 2. A Permit/contract from the Kazakh Ministry of Industry (MOI) to produce and sell the Uranium

### Umine next steps - New Plant Facility

- 1. Local/Regional Authority support: Umine has obtained a letter of support from the local state authorities to build a new plant facility on the old Djideli site to perform insitu leaching of historic low-grade material dumps, to substantially capture the Uranium in the dumps and effectively decontaminate the site over a period of multiple years. Once the Uranium is captured and the site decontaminated, the dumps will be covered with topsoil and trees planted to finish the site remediation. The project is expected to create over 100 local jobs.
- 2. **Permit Application:** Umine will submit a Permit application to the Kazakh Ministry of Industry (MOI) outlining the proposed plan for the Djideli site.
- 3. **Detailed Engineering Plan:** Umine must submit to the Authotities a detailed engineering plan, to support the application



- 4. **Statutory Approval:** MOI have a statutory approval process and timeline over a period of 27 days, so it is anticipated a permit could theoretically be in place in mid-2024<sup>1</sup>.
- 5. **Mineral Resource/ Reporting:** Once the permit is obtained, sampling and Mineral Resource/ reporting of Uranium contained in the low-grade material dumps can commence. ~3 months..
- 6. **Financing and plant construction:** Subject to confirming an Ore Reserve, and Feasability Study it Is expected to take ~6 to 12 months to construct the processing facilities necessary for the project. Umine intends to seek funding of plant construction via royalty companies that typically provide funding for plant construction in exchange for the grant of a royalty over uranium product sales from operations with the balance funded with debt and equity. Preliminary discussions have occurred with an interested Royalty Fund and discussions and negotiations will continue as the project implementation occurs.
- 7. Plant operation and uranium sales: There are several operating uranium miners with processing facilities in Kazakhstan. Umine intends to target those that have mine and processing facilities within a 250km radius from the Djideli site as potential purchasers of the intermediate uranium product produced from operations. The resin loaded with uranium (the uranium intermediate product produced via leaching and ion-exchange) would be transported by truck to processing facilities. Discussions with local operators are only preliminary and will progress as the project is implemented.

PRM's investment of US\$200,000 is anticipated to cover costs up to the issue of the Permit from MOI. All work beyond the issue of the permit is contingent on the granting of the Permit. This is considered the "risk money", once the Permit is granted, it is envisaged that the valuation of Umine will be significantly enhanced and finance can be sought as detailed above. With the support of the local authority already granted, the Permit from MOI is expected to be forthcoming and granted to Umine.

A final investment decision by Umine is subject to sampling and Mineral Resource evaluation concluding there are adequate Mineral Resources in the low-grade material dumps to commercially justify progressing the project and the ability to secure further funding to construct the necessary decontamination and remediation operations underpinned by the assessed resources.

The dumps contain material from 13 years of historic mining (See Figure 1). It is hoped that at current Uranium prices, using modern leaching and processing techniques it is potentially possible to economically recover Uranium from the dumps, and remediate the site using the proceeds of the uranium sales. Uranium prices are currently in the order of US\$100/lb, or US\$200,000 per Tonne.

CAPEX costs will be finalised as part of the work detailed above. The critical advancement compared to Soviet-era operations is a sophisticated resin material that is used to adsorb the uranium from the liquids leached through the low-grade material dumps. This Resin is a reusable catalyst material that is part of the process of producing yellow cake uranium for sale. Approximately 25% of the plant/project CAPEX is related to this resin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The MOI permit is to process and sell a "mined product". It is a permit that is predicated on a company already having an approved mine/ resource to process and produce from (in Umine's case the approved participation in the remediation project). It is therefore relatively speaking a formality to be granted, subject to the provision of an adequate plan, HS&E etc.



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Umine's plan for funding of the CAPEX is currently envisioned to be a combination of bank debt, sale of a royalty and equity arrangements. Discussions regarding the royalty and debt are in the early stages, such arrangements will progress but until a resource assessment is completed to adequately underpin the proposed project they will remain preliminary in nature.

Once a plant is built and in operation, the Uranium loaded Resin (intermediate product) is expected to be transported by truck to a local uranium mine site which has processing facilities for final processing to sale-grade uranium (yellow cake) and the recycled resin returned to Umine for continuing operations.

Umine intends to pursue additional sites to replicate Djideli.

This project is considered to be commercial and socially responsible, and the Djideli pilot plant will result in the decontamination of a former mine site, whilst producing uranium, that will be used in the generation of carbon-free nuclear electricity.

#### **Details of Raise**

	No. of PRM shares	\$ raised before costs	No. of unlisted Options	Method
Tranche 1 – Share Placement	38,750,000	\$387,500	19,375,000	Shares - Rule 7.1 and 7.1A capacity
Tranche 2 - Share Placement	116,250,000	\$1,162,500	58,125,000	3c Options Subject to shareholder approval for Tranche 2 and issue of free attaching Options
Broker Options			10,000,000	3c Options, exp 14 March 2025
Total	155,000,000	\$1,550,000	87,500,000	

The share placement of 155 million shares was conducted at a price of \$0.01 per share with one free attaching unlisted option (Option) for every two shares subscribed for. <sup>2</sup>

Under Tranche 1, PRM shall issue 38.75 million shares pursuant to LR 7.1 and 7.1A to raise \$387,500 and shall be settled on 5 March 2024. The Tranche 1 raising issue price of \$0.01 per share represents is equal to the 15-day VWAP of \$0.01 per share and a 9% discount to PRM's last close price of \$0.011 per share on 28 February 2024.

Under Tranche 2, PRM shall issue 116.25 million shares to raise \$1,162,500. Tranche 2 is subject to shareholder approval. The Company shall shortly be issuing a Notice of Meeting

The free attaching unlisted Options are exercisable at \$0.03 expiring 14 March 2025.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The placement will be made in two tranches, with the attaching options. Tranche 1 of 38.75 million shares, using the Company's 25% placement capacity, and Tranche 2 of 116.25 million shares. Issue of the tranche 1 and 2 free attaching options will also be subject to shareholder approval.

The raising issue price of \$0.01 per share is equal to the 15-day VWAP of \$0.01 per share and 9% discount PRM's last close price of \$0.011 per share on 28 February 2024.



seeking shareholder approval for Tranche 2 shares and free attaching Options for both Tranche 1 and 2 of the Placement.

Capital Raising Fees – PRM will pay approximately \$108,500 in capital raising fees and issue 10 million \$0.03 unlisted Options with Expiry of 14 March 2025. The raise will be executed through GTT Ventures Pty Ltd (ABN 36 601 029 636) ("GTT").

## Authorised for release by the Board of Prominence Energy Ltd.

Alex Parks
Managing Director

Aiden Bradley Investor Relations







#### **About Prominence Energy**

Prominence Energy Limited is an Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:PRM) listed energy company headquartered in Perth. PRM's investment strategy is to identify very high ROI (Return on Investment) opportunities, that can be secured at an early stage at close to 'ground floor' valuations. The experienced team at Prominence therefore reviews scores of opportunities before short listing a select few to actively pursue. In addition to conventional oil and gas projects, PRM will consider potential Helium, Green Energy and particularly Green Hydrogen investment opportunities. Current key opportunities include a 100% Working Interest in the Big Apple Prospect in the Gulf of Mexico, targeting a high potential and sizeable gas prospect, and a 10% interest in ECOSSAUS Ltd. ECOSSAUS has an early mover advantage in seeking to establish Australian solution-mined salt caverns, that can be used for on demand energy reserves such as gas or hydrogen or utilized for long term carbon capture and storage.

#### **Competent Persons Statement**

Information in this report relating to the PRM's JORC Code obligations is based on information reviewed by Mr Jeremy Peters who is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a Chartered Professional Geologist and Mining Engineer of that organisation. Mr Peters is a Director of Burnt Shirt Pty Ltd, consulting to PRM 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 by the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. Mr Peters consents to the inclusion of the data in the form and context in which it appears.



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