

## ASX Release

Release Date: 8 September 2020

# NdPr METAL PRODUCTION AND PERMANENT MAGNET SAMPLES.

### Highlights:

- ASM has produced 9kg of Neodymium Praseodymium (NdPr) alloy at commercial pilot plant in Korea
- The NdPr assayed 99.65%
- ASM progressing the production of 200kg of NdPr metal as part of an initiative between Ziron Tech and the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH) to produce a 600kg sample of permanent magnets for Korean industry
- ASM continues discussions with Korean government and industry to support supply chain self-sufficiency

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Australian Strategic Materials (ASX: ASM) (**ASM**) has successfully produced 9kg of the key permanent magnet alloy Neodymium Praseodymium (NdPr) at its commercial pilot plant in South Korea. Following this success ASM, through Ziron Tech, is progressing an agreement with the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH) (a South Korean government research institute) to produce a sample 600kg of permanent magnets for Korean industry over the coming months.



Figure 1: Neodymium : Praseodymium Metal Alloy - 9 kg @ 99.65 %

ASM's success with the production of titanium and key permanent magnet metals (neodymium and praseodymium) at its commercial pilot plant, using its patented high purity metallisation process, has resulted in continued interest from leading Korean companies and government organisations.

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This success in the metal production led to ASM agreeing to acquire its joint venture partner, Ziron Tech, on 3 September to continue the development of their clean metallisation process and production of sample permanent magnets for the Korean industry.

ASM Managing Director, David Woodall said: “Over the past few weeks whilst I have been in South Korea, we have had some important discussions with Korean companies and government around ASM’s metallisation technology and the Dubbo Project. Working with KITECH, a respected and leading innovation group in Korea to produce samples of permanent magnets is an important step in ASM’s commercialisation strategy.”

“Korea imports rare earths magnets and has a strong desire to ensure security of supply of these critical materials to their domestic manufacturing sector. This sample production run is set to provide a framework for increased domestic production to help support their local industry. To progress this, ASM will produce the 200kg of NdPr required for the production of the 600kg sample permanent magnets.”

Director Dr. Lim, Kyung Mook of the Korea Institute for Rare Metals (KIRAM) a KITECH division said: “We welcome ASM as a member of the Korean Rare Earth Institute and we are please to work with Ziron Tech under the joint research and development for rare earth alloy production. With our close collaboration with Ziron Tech we are enthusiastic to proceed with rare earth magnet production testing using the metal availability from Ziron Tech.”

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**This document has been authorised for release to the market by David Woodall, Managing Director.**

**About Australian Strategic Materials – [www.asm-au.com](http://www.asm-au.com)**

ASM is focused on producing specialty metals and oxides for advanced technologies and is the 100% owner of the [Dubbo Project](#).

Located in central-western NSW, ASM’s cornerstone Dubbo Project has a long-term resource of [zirconium](#), [rare earths](#), [niobium](#) and [hafnium](#) – a globally significant source of these [critical materials](#) for a diverse range of emerging and sustainable technologies.

In a joint venture with South Korea’s Zirconium Technology Corporation (ZironTech), ASM is advancing oxide separation and [metallisation technologies](#) to create a range of value-added materials from the Dubbo Project. ASM’s pilot plant in South Korea has been completed with successful production of titanium and neodymium metal. ASM is progressing an optimisation study of Dubbo Project inclusive of flotation that has potential to positively impact the capital and operating costs of the project. The metals feasibility study is planned to be completed by the end of 2020 with the optimisation study to be completed by the end of Q1 2021.

**About KITECH - <http://eng.kitech.re.kr/introduction/page1.php>**

KITECH was founded in 1989 by the Korean Government to support industry sector especially SMEs as an application-oriented research institute and has been trying to take the lead in this flow. KITECH focuses on 3 key research areas: advanced manufacturing technology, industrial technology convergence, and sustainable manufacturing system technology. With an aim to strengthen field-oriented support for SMEs, KITECH is running 3 research centers and 7 regional divisions.

**About KIRAM - [https://www.kiram.re.kr/web/en/page/page01\\_01.php](https://www.kiram.re.kr/web/en/page/page01_01.php)**

KIRAM has been fully devoted to consolidating the foundation of the domestic rare metals industry, focusing on three aspects: establishing the industrial infrastructure; supporting expert enterprises; and setting up a world-leading infrastructure. It has also successfully reinforced international cooperation by launching "the International Joint Council of Rare Metals" in 2011 and introducing a safety device to cope with supply fluctuation.