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## Innovation Patent Certification released for L-Max<sup>®</sup>

- Innovation Patent Certification in Australia to be received for L-Max<sup>®</sup>
- Further endorsement that L-Max<sup>®</sup> is novel, inventive, industry applicable and patentable
- PCT International Patent Application process for L-Max<sup>®</sup> remains in progress

Lepidico Ltd (ASX:LPD) (“Lepidico” or “the Company”) is pleased to announce that its L-Max<sup>®</sup> process technology, the subject of International Patent Application PCT/AU2015/000608, has achieved another milestone with the Certification Report of Innovation Patent (number 2016101526) released in Australia, with formal report advised for receipt tomorrow.

Lepidico Ltd submitted an international patent application for the L-Max<sup>®</sup> Process under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (the PCT) administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation in October 2015 (as previously reported to the ASX). The international patent application process includes a rigorous ‘preliminary’ examination of the process described and claimed based on internationally accepted criteria for patentability, the examination being conducted in this case by the Australian Patent Office as an International Searching and Examining Authority. As a result of this examination, it has been acknowledged in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability that the L-Max<sup>®</sup> Process as described and claimed in the international application is Novel, Inventive, Industry Applicable and Patentable. Whilst the conclusions of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability are not ultimately binding, they do represent a guide for Patent Offices before which national and/or regional phase patent applications from the international application may proceed in due course.

The international application provides, in effect, pending patent protection in 148 countries for the L-Max<sup>®</sup> Process, being the extraction and recovery of lithium chemicals from lithium containing mica minerals such as lepidolite and zinnwaldite, which we believe in turn unlocks the production potential from unconventional sources of lithium.

Australian Innovation Patent 2016101526 was filed as a divisional application of the international patent application for the L-Max<sup>®</sup> Process.

Lepidico’s Managing Director, Joe Walsh said, *“Certification of the Innovation Patent represents a further endorsement that L-Max<sup>®</sup> is a novel process that provides Lepidico with a strategic advantage in the development of its lithium business. Test work from the Phase 1 Plant pre-feasibility study continues to provide excellent results thereby defining L-Max<sup>®</sup> as a robust and valuable process technology.”*

**Further Information**

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**About Lepidico Ltd**

Lepidico Ltd is an ASX-listed Company focused on exploration, development and production of lithium. Lepidico owns the technology to a metallurgical process that has successfully produced lithium carbonate from non-conventional sources, specifically lithium-rich mica minerals including lepidolite and zinnwaldite. The L-Max® Process has the potential to disrupt the lithium market by providing additional lithium supply from alternative sources. The Company is currently conducting a pre-feasibility study for a Phase 1 L-Max® plant, targeting production for 2019. Four potential sources of feed to the planned Phase 1 Plant are being evaluated, one of which is the Separation Rapids deposit in partnership with its owner Avalon Advanced Materials Inc. Lepidico's current exploration assets include options over the Lemare and the Royal projects, both in Quebec, Canada; ownership of the Euriowie project near Broken Hill in New South Wales; joint venture agreements with ASX-listed Crusader Resources (ASX:CAS) in Brazil and ongoing discussions with Latin Resources (ASX:LRS) aimed at leveraging L-Max® in Peru and Argentina to jointly evaluate lithium opportunities.