

ASX / MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT



16 September 2019

US Patent Protection for L-Max[®]

- Patent protection to be received for L-Max[®] in the USA
- Further endorsement that L-Max[®] is novel, inventive, industry applicable and patentable
- PCT International Patent Applications for L-Max[®] in other key jurisdictions remain in progress

Lepidico Ltd (ASX:LPD) (“Lepidico” or “Company”) is pleased to announce that its L-Max[®] process technology, the subject of International Patent Application PCT/AU2015/000608, has achieved another milestone with the United States Patent and Trademark Office advising it has issued a Notice of Allowance. The Notice of Allowance shows the patent application is complete and meets all requirements. It is the final step in the long and complex patent process in the US. The L-Max[®] patent application (No 15/514.688) has been fully examined and is allowed for issuance as a patent within the United States of America. All that remains is for Lepidico to pay the remaining fees within three months, which it has now been advised is done, and the US patent will issue in about one month. National and regional phase patent applications are well advanced in other key jurisdictions.

Lepidico’s Managing Director, Joe Walsh said, “Grant of patent protection in the United States represents a major endorsement that L-Max[®] is a novel process that provides Lepidico with a strategic advantage in the development of its lithium business. L-Max[®] is integral to Lepidico’s vertically integrated Phase 1 Project which is now in the advanced stages of a feasibility study, the results of which are due in March 2020.”

By way of background, Lepidico Ltd submitted an international patent application for the invention which is known as the L-Max[®] 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 was acknowledged in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability that the L-Max[®] Process, as

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described and claimed in the international application, is Novel, Inventive, Industry Applicable and Patentable.

The L- Max[®] process is for the extraction and recovery of lithium chemicals from lithium containing mica and lithium phosphate minerals, including lepidolite, zinnwaldite and amblygonite, and thereby provides the potential for sustainable, commercial production from these less conventional sources of lithium.

Further Information

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About Lepidico Ltd

Lepidico Ltd is an ASX-listed Company focused on exploration, development and production of lithium chemicals. 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 complement the lithium market by adding low-cost lithium carbonate supply from alternative sources. More recently Lepidico has added LOH-Max[™] to its technology base, which produces lithium hydroxide from lithium sulphate without by-product sodium sulphate. The Company is currently conducting a Feasibility Study for a 5,000 tonne per annum (LCE) capacity Phase 1 lithium chemical plant, targeting commercial production for 2021. Work is currently being undertaken to evaluate the incorporation of LOH-Max[™] into the Phase 1 Plant Project flow sheet. Feed to the Phase 1 Plant is planned to be sourced from the Karibib Lithium Project in Namibia, 80% owned by Lepidico where a Mineral Resource of 8.8 Mt grading 0.56% Li₂O and 59ppm Ta₂O₅ is estimated (ASX announcement of 16 July 2019) and/or the Alvarrões Lepidolite Mine in Portugal under an ore access agreement with owner-operator Grupo Mota (ASX announcement of 7 December 2017).

Forward-looking Statements

All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this release including, without limitation, statements regarding future plans and objectives of Lepidico, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as "anticipate", "believe", "could", "estimate", "expect", "future", "intend", "may", "opportunity", "plan", "potential", "project", "seek", "will" and other similar words that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements are based on an assessment of present economic and operating conditions, and on a number of assumptions regarding future events and actions that are expected to take place. Such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other important factors, many of which are beyond the control of the Company, its directors and management of Lepidico that could cause Lepidico's actual results to differ materially from the results expressed or anticipated in these statements.

The Company cannot and does not give any assurance that the results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in this release will actually occur and investors are cautioned not to place any reliance on these forward-looking statements. Lepidico does not undertake to update or revise forward-looking statements, or to publish prospective financial information in the future, regardless of whether new information, future events or any other factors affect the information contained in this release, except where required by applicable law and stock exchange listing requirements.