

# MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

The following management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") of financial results is dated November 28, 2023 and reviews the business of BacTech Environmental Corporation (the "Company" or "BacTech"), for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying condensed interim consolidated financial statements and related notes for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, as well as the audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 and related notes and MD&A. This MD&A and the accompanying condensed interim consolidated financial statements and related notes for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 have been reviewed by the Company's Audit Committee and approved by the Company's Board of Directors.

This MD&A contains certain forward-looking statements, such as statements regarding potential mineralization, resources and research results, and future plans and objectives of the Company, that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements contained herein are made as of the date of this MD&A and the Company disclaims, other than as required by law, any obligation to update any forward-looking statements whether because of new information, results, future events, circumstances, or if management's estimates or opinions should change, or otherwise.

### A. Core Business Strategy

BacTech Environmental Corporation was on October 5, 2010 under the *Canada Business Corporations Act*. Through the completion of the Plan of Arrangement, the Company was granted a perpetual, exclusive, royalty free license to use a bioleaching technology ("BACOX") in the remediation business for mining wastes and was listed on what is today the Canadian Stock Exchange under the symbol "BAC".

The BACOX technology utilizes bacteria to liberate precious and base metals and has been traditionally used to treat difficult-to-treat sulphide ores and concentrates. The business plan for the Company is to apply the bioleaching technology to the treatment of concentrates produced by gold mines and reclamation projects to remove harmful elements such as arsenic and sulphur from the environment, where this can be assisted by a positive cash flow from metal recovery. Examples of metals which can be extracted include gold, silver, cobalt, nickel, copper, uranium, and zinc.

Bioleaching is an environmentally friendly process technology for treating difficult-to-treat sulphide ores and concentrates. By replacing smelting and/or roasting with a bioleach process, the production of sulphur dioxide emissions, which is the primary source of acid rain, and arsenic trioxide are eliminated. In addition, the removal of sulphide minerals from tailings compounds reduces the chance of acid rock drainage into the local environment. Furthermore, the capital and operating costs of a bioleach facility are significantly less when compared to other existing treatment methods.

### Sustainable Bond Framework

On July 24, 2023, the Company announced that it had launched a new sustainable bond framework for the issuance of green and social bond offerings.

Quoting from Moody's public release of July 24: "We have assigned an SQS2 sustainability quality score (very good) to BacTech Environmental Corp.'s sustainable bond framework dated July, 2023, which will finance two green eligible categories and two social eligible categories. The framework is aligned with the four core components of the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) green bond principles (GBP) 2021 (with June 2022, Appendix 1) and social bond principles (SBP) 2023. The framework demonstrates a significant contribution to sustainability."

Proceeds from such offerings will finance BacTech's bioleaching facility construction and program development in Tenguel, Ecuador, for the liberation of gold and silver from concentrates containing high levels of arsenic and will be allocated to support four eligible project investment areas, including pollution prevention and control; sustainable water and waste water management; socio-economic advancement and empowerment; and generation of decent and inclusive employment.

With the granting of the final Environmental Permit from the Ecuadorian government as announced by BacTech on November 20, 2023, this process is now fully engaged.

# **B.** Mineral Processing

# Tenguel, Ecuador

BacTech has identified the Ponce Enriquez area of southern Ecuador as an area where the Company's bioleaching technology can be successfully deployed for environmental processing of locally produced concentrates from mining and tailings reclamation. Given the high levels of arsenic contained in the ore from the area, miners receive significantly reduced prices for their concentrates due to penalties applied by the buyers. The buyers tend to be from Asia where concentrates are shipped for conventional smelting and/or roasting. In October 2021, the Chinese government imposed a 13% tax on the import of high arsenic/gold concentrates. The purchasers of concentrates in the Ponce Enriquez market have subsequently passed on this cost to the producer reducing what they pay the miner to roughly 50% of the contained gold values. The concentrates are subject to a 3% export royalty on the gold value payable by the miner to the Government of Ecuador. BacTech believes that by implementing an in-country bioleach solution it can offer superior pricing for these concentrates to the local producers, better payment terms, and provide domestic Ecuadorian employment opportunities. It should be noted that the final arsenical product resulting from bioleaching, ferric arsenate, is a US Environmental Protection Agency approved land-fillable form of arsenic.

## **Feasibility Study for Tenguel**

On December 16, 2021, BacTech announced and released the executive summary results of its 3<sup>rd</sup> party produced Bankable Feasibility Study ("BFS") for the staged development of its 100% owner-operated bioleaching facility in Tenguel , Ecuador ("TE"). The results point toward a very robust and economically compelling project with strong performance metrics.

South American mining and metallurgical engineering and development firm EPCM Consultores S.R.L. ("EPCMC") was engaged in July 2021 to undertake the independent feasibility study for the Company's proposed bioleach processing plant located in Tenguel, strategically situated for easy

accessibility to Ponce Enriquez ("PE") mining operations. The BFS outlines process economics expectations and metrics pointing toward solid and long-term program viability, while considering associated capital and operating costs for the project.

On February 8, 2022, BacTech released updated executive summary results of its third party-produced bankable feasibility study (BFS-II) for the staged development of its 100-per-cent-owner-operated bioleaching facility in Ponce Enriquez (PE), Ecuador. BFS economics have been updated to reflect improved optimization works allowing an increased throughput and improved average gold head grade. All dollar figures are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated. This press release updates the results reported in the December 16, 2021, press release. The latest estimates are reflected in the data that follow:

## Updated key economic highlights:

- Pre-tax net present value (NPV) with 5-per-cent discount rate of \$60.7 million (up 29.4 per cent from \$46.9 million);
- Pre-tax internal rate of return (IRR) of 57.9 per cent (up from 48 per cent);
- Annual gold production of 30,900 ounces (up 19 per cent from 25,900 ounces);
- Capital cost of \$17.0 million (increased from \$15.5 million).
- Bioleach operating cost of \$212 per tonne.
- Assumed purchase prices of concentrate -- 65 per cent of the contained gold value.
- Pre-tax earnings prior to employee bonus -- \$10.9 million (up from \$8.94 million);
- Estimated local employee bonus pool -- \$1.64 million.
- Payback (75-per-cent debt) -- two years.
- All calculations above are based on a gold price of US\$1600 per oz.
- At current price of gold at US\$2000 per oz, anticipated after tax earnings are \$14.9M

The feasibility study contemplates the purchase of concentrates, high in both arsenic and gold levels, from mines located in the Ponce Enriquez area of SW Ecuador. In total, there are over 100 small mines operating in the area. BacTech intends to return local miner compensation back to previous payment levels, prior to a sweeping price reduction imposed by Chinese buyers due to recent import levies on arsenic/gold concentrates entering China.

The Company has acquired 100-acre parcel of land to be used for the operations in Tenguel which formally closed in September 2022. The 100-acre farm contains a commercial cocoa trees plantation. Given the first phase of the project will only make use of 20-acres, it was decided that the current employees of the farm will be offered the opportunity to continue to grow and harvest cocoa and sell the output for their own account. Once the expansion is undertaken all the workers will be offered positions in the expanded facility.

During development of this project, the Company granted certain shareholders, for participating in recent financings of the Company, a joint 2% Net Smelter Royalty from the Ecuador plant in Tenguel once it is in production. The royalty is eliminated once the Investor has received a 200% after tax return on their investment.

# **Next Steps for Tenguel**

Using the flow sheet developed by the BFS, the final engineering piece of this phase of the project would be detailed engineering. It is our intent to rely heavily on the designs from previous plants that BacTech has built which addressed material with very similar mineralogical structure.

The actual budget for construction, procurement and materiel is estimated to be \$US 17M with a 20% variance, based on costs from past projects. The detailed engineering will allow the company to reduce the variance in the budget. The estimated time to complete the pre-construction studies is approximately 12 months. At the end of this process BacTech will actively pursue contractual concentrate feeds from local sources and quite possibly from neighboring countries such as Peru. Once the Company successfully completes the initial plant, it is conceivable we will attract enough feed to exceed the plant's capacity. The current output from the Ponce Enriquez area is estimated to be 200-250 tpd of gold/arsenic concentrates. This could lead to a straight-forward expansion as BacTech's plants are modular in design.

## **Permitting**

On October 3, 2022, the Company announced that it had received official ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) approval from the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition. This key approval marks a significant milestone with the process taking approximately seven months.

BacTech has completed the final community consultation permit, pending further government direction, in order to secure its Environmental License and associated permit approvals for the construction of the Tenguel bioleaching plant.

On November 20, 2023 the Company announced the official granting of the Environmental License by Ecuador's Ministry of Environment.

# **Other Projects**

The Company continues to evaluate other projects in South America and Central America.

## East Africa

On April 26, 2021, the Company announced that it has executed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Curatio Gold Limited ("Curatio") to source refractory ores for processing from Eastern Africa. Curatio was recently established to provide funding to support improved metallurgical processing, with the goal of eliminating the dangerous and environmentally unfriendly use of mercury for gold liberation. The group will initially focus its efforts in East Africa on an active Artisanal and Small-scale mining ("ASM") industry. The principal founders of Curatio have many years of technical mining expertise and are well versed in supporting small and medium-sized businesses in Africa. Curatio CEO Doug Ramsey, R.P.Bio., is a biologist with expertise in environmental mercury concerns and four decades of experience in solving mining related environmental issues. Prior to founding Curatio with Mark Francis, Doug was CEO and VP Sustainability with a junior miner and a consultant to industry and government.

# Research and Development – Patent Development

### Treatment for Pyrrhotite

The Company announced on May 18, 2022 that Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk, a leader in biomining technology academia and a member of BacTech's advisory board and Interim CEO and President of MIRARCO Mining Innovation, is leading the development and building of a bioleach pilot plant to be located in Sudbury, Canada. Working closely with BacTech's scientific team, the pilot plant is for testing the Company's proposed approach to bioleaching pyrrhotite materials. The pilot plant will simulate a commercial bioleach process consisting of a cascade of reactors operating on a continuous basis. The plant

will also include front and back-end equipment operating as separate units for capturing additional revenue sources beyond nickel-cobalt (e.g., elemental sulphur; iron as feed for steel making and oxidised residue conversion for construction materials).

On April 7, 2022, BacTech announced it had filed a provisional patent application documenting its proposed approach to bioleaching pyrrhotite materials. Pyrrhotite is a very volatile sulphide mineral containing nickel and cobalt values that oxidizes rapidly and produces large amounts of iron and sulphur components as by-products which are typically considered as wastes.

On August 14, 2023, BacTech announced that industry partner MIRARCO Mining Innovation will receive \$280,000 in grant money through the Mining Innovation Commercialization Accelerator (MICA) Network, a program focused on developing initiatives for the commercialization of mining technology to increase productivity and sustainability within the mining sector.

The funding will be used to help develop and complete pilot testing of BacTech's novel bioleaching process relevant to the treatment of pyrrhotite to advance the recovery of Nickel and Cobalt battery metals. Pyrrhotite is a very volatile sulphide mineral containing nickel and cobalt values that oxidizes rapidly and produces large amounts of Iron and Sulphur components as by-products which are typically considered as wastes. Pyrrhotite tailings used in testing will be provided to MIRARCO by industry partner Vale.

## Treatment of Rare Earth Elements

The Company announced on January 18, 2022, that it will investigate the use of bioleaching as a tool in liberating Rare Earth Elements ("REEs").

Interest in the potential use of bioleaching for the metallurgical extraction of REEs has risen in recent months, with media reports that the US is actively seeking steps to end dependency on imports of key metals and minerals from China. REEs are classified as strategic elements by the US government, and the Pentagon has issued a Request for Tender to explore bioleaching opportunities with the goal of establishing a domestic industry and providing REE supply stability. REEs are deemed essential for everything from US national security and energy transition delivery plans, to maintaining supply chain continuity for medical and consumer technologies along with many other everyday products.

Conventional REE processing typically uses harsh chemical environments of concentrated acids or alkalis at high temperatures to extract REEs from a broad variety of minerals. By comparison, the use of bioleaching has potential advantages as the complex nature of REE minerals provides multiple target sites for microbial activity to release metals of value including REE. Bioleaching also represents a more natural and environmentally acceptable processing alternative to conventional processing. Conceptual downstream treatment of REE solutions produced by bioleaching would be similar to existing downstream operations involving separation and purification of individual elements from the liquor. Bioleaching is therefore being proposed as replacing only a current step of leach extraction in an REE flowsheet.

BacTech fully acknowledges that bioleach processing may not be appropriate to all REE projects due to differences in mineralogy, but believes the momentum and interest to pursue environmentally responsible processing alternatives warrants further exploration. As a first objective, BacTech will source materials from REE projects with mineralogy believed to be most amenable to bioleach processing. Positive results from such work would lead to more detailed testing of downstream processing solutions to demonstrate proof of concept to specific REE projects.

# C. Results of Operations

This analysis of the results of the Company's operations should be read in conjunction with the Company's condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

#### Revenues

The Company has no revenue or sources of recurring revenues.

### **Operating and Administrative Costs**

Operating and administrative expenses decreased to \$1,099,232 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, from \$1,562,416 in the same period last year. Significant components of this expense include:

- 1. Salaries and management fees decreased to \$400,473 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 from \$461,687 in the same period last year. These costs are for the salaries and management fees for the executive team and in country management team in Ecuador. The decrease in fees in the quarter is due to timing of accrued expenses for management fees.
- 2. Share-based payments, as explained in note 11 to the condensed interim consolidated financial statements, were \$90,597 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and \$398,300 for year ended December 31, 2022. Yearly fluctuations in stock option expense are dependent on several factors including, but not limited to, number of options issued, valuation of options, vesting period and timing. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, there were 2,250,000 options granted. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company granted 4,800,000 options.
- 3. Professional fees decreased to \$127,645 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 from \$376,876 in the same period last year. The higher professional fees in the prior year is due to higher legal fees incurred in developing the Ecuador project which included the drafting of the Investment Protection Agreement with the Ecuador Government. These types of expenses are deemed as indirect expenses for legal, strategic advisory, and consulting and not included in project costs.
- 4. Shareholder information and filing fees expenses decreased to \$360,182 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, from \$391,719 in the same period last year. Starting in 2022 and continuing into the current period, additional expenditures have been incurred to update the company video in multiple languages, update and improve the website, improve distribution of news flow to international, including European and South American investors, and attending conferences and trade shows, and engaging with newsletter writers.

## **Project Expenditures**

The project expenditures are all related to the Ecuador project and include additional bioleaching test work and trade off studies, feasibility study, fees, and consultant costs for permitting which is now 90% complete and the detailed engineering work which is now 90% complete.

## **Finance Charges and Debentures**

Finance charges are made up of interest charged by suppliers and vendors, loans payable and the debentures payable.

Between April 19, 2017, and September 26, 2017, BacTech completed three tranches of a debenture financing for gross proceeds of \$445,000. This debenture included bonus interest in the form of common shares. This debenture has generated interest expense of \$9,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. The remaining principal portion of these debentures is \$100,000.

On April 25, 2022, BacTech completed a debenture financing for gross proceeds of \$1,000,000, then a second tranche of 250,000 was completed on March 2023 followed by a third tranche of \$150,000 in September 2023. This debenture has generated interest expense of \$70,000 and accretion expense of \$81,732 for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

# **Cash Flow Comparison**

Cash flow from financing activities: For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company completed two equity private placements for gross proceeds of \$890,600 and one debenture financing for gross proceeds of \$250,000.

Cash flow from operating activities: This represents the cash paid for overhead expenditures and project expenditures. These payments were financed from the sources of cash in financing activities.

# D. Liquidity and Capital Resources

At September 30, 2023, the Company had cash of \$16,532 and a working capital deficit of \$1,781,447.

On March 27, 2023, BacTech closed the first tranche for \$732,000 in gross proceeds of its recently announced financing on March 13, 2023 for a \$1.0 million equity financing. On June 1, 2023 completed a second tranche of the financing for gross proceeds of \$152,000.

On March 13, 2023, BacTech closed a \$250,0000 Convertible Debenture with an existing strategic investor who previously completed a \$1.0 million convertible debenture on April 21, 2022.

On December 9, 2022, the Company completed a private placement for gross proceeds of \$56,200 through the issuance of 851,515 Units. Each Unit, priced at \$0.066 per Unit, is comprised of one common share and one common share purchase warrant in the capital of the Company. Each whole Warrant entitles the holder to acquire one additional common share in the capital of the Company at a price of \$0.132 for a period of two years from the date the Units are issued. If, during the exercise period of the Warrants, the Company's shares trade at \$0.15 per share or higher for a period of 10 consecutive trading days.

On April 21, 2022, the Company announced that it had completed \$1.0 million debenture with an existing strategic investor. The terms of the convertible debentures call for a conversion at \$0.15 per share, a condensed interim interest rate of 8% and a term of 18 months. Net cash proceeds of the debenture were \$940,000.

On February 28, 2022, the Company closed the first tranche of its previously announced financing for gross proceeds of \$1.21 million through the issuance of 6,050,000 Units at a price of \$0.20 per Unit. On May 5, 2022, the Company completed the second tranche of the non-brokered private placement for gross proceeds of \$900,000 through the issuance of 4,500,000 Units. The total financing under this private placement from the two tranches is \$2,110,000. The issue price of the Units was \$0.20 per unit. Units are comprised of (i) one common share , (ii) one transferable common share purchase warrant (each whole warrant entitles the holder to acquire one additional common share at a price of \$0.30 per warrant for a

period of twenty-four months from the date of closing), and (iii) a Royalty Certificate representing the Royalty Incentive. If the holder of the warrant exercises the warrant in the first nine months, they will participate in an additional royalty to be issued by the Company. Only the people who exercise the warrant would participate in the new royalty to be issued.

Share Capital					
	September	30, 2023	<b>December 31, 2022</b>		
	Number of		Number of		
	shares	\$ Amount	shares	\$ Amount	
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Balance, beginning of period	174,210,334	9,362,686	157,755,559	/ /	
Shares issued from private placements	11,050,000	,	6,050,000		
Shares issued from private placements	100,000	6,600	4,500,000	900,000	
Shares issued from private placements	-	-	851,515	56,200	
Shares pursuant to exercise of warrants and					
options	-	-	5,053,260	252,663	
Fair value of warrants and options	-	-	-	108,018	
Less share issue costs					
Fair value of warrants and debenture					
instruments	-	(253,928)	-	(799,477)	
Share issue costs	-	(26,780)	-	(195,520)	
Balance, end of period	185,360,334	9,972,578	174,210,334	9,362,686	

For a description of the outstanding warrants and stock options that are outstanding to purchase common shares of the Company, please refer to Note 9 - Share Capital, Note 10 - Warrant Reserve, and Note 11 - Stock Options of the condensed interim consolidated financial statements.

# E. Quarterly Information

Selected quarterly information for the most recently completed quarter is presented below in Canadian currency (\$), and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

	2023	2023		2022				2021
	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4
	\$000's							
Ecuador Direct project	(14)	(33)	(19)	(529)	(152)	(163)	(110)	(97)
Expenditures								
Net Loss for the period	(381)	(482)	(464)	(1,313)	(792)	(715)	(550)	(519)
Loss per share (0.00)	0.00	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.01)	(0.005)	(0.005)	0.00	0.00

## F. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company had no off-balance sheet arrangements as of September 30, 2023.

# **G.** Financial Instruments

The Company has not entered into any specialized financial arrangements to minimize its investment risk, currency risk or commodity risk.

### H. Outlook

With the breakout of war between Ukraine and Russia, global equity markets have become extremely volatile., The resource sector has relatively fallen from favour with investors making capital raising in the sector more difficult than it has traditionally been for junior companies in the resource sector and in the remediation and reclamation of mine waste and tailings. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in attracting either new financing or new opportunities to apply its technology.

#### I. Risks

The Company's strategy emphasizes developing projects to leverage its intellectual property to create shareholder value. This strategy has required, and continues to require, significant financings, and is subject to risks associated with mineral prices, mineral resources, and operations. Due to the nature of the Company's business, the present stage of development of its projects, and the constraints placed upon the Company's ability to move forward by its current liquidity situation, readers should carefully review and consider the financial, environmental and operational risk factors affecting the Company.

## **Ecuador's Constitutional Court Temporary Suspension of Decree 754**

On August 2, 2023, the Company announced that it had been informed that the Constitutional Court of Ecuador admitted for processing an unconstitutionality claim filed by CONAIE, an indigenous group, with respect to the Presidential Decree 754 signed on May 31, 2023. The decree deals with the environmental consultation for all public and private industries in the country.

The decree will be provisionally suspended until there is a final decision of the Constitutional Court on the merits of the claim. In other words, this decision is provisional and not final. For now, the Presidency and other public bodies have 15 business days to present (which is August 21, 2023) their defense arguments on the merits of the action. BacTech has recently completed the information stage of the environmental consultation process in Tenguel, where the project received very positive feedback on the prospects of BacTech building a bioleach facility in this area.

On November 17, 2023, the Constitutional Court announced that it had made a ruling to reverse the suspension of Decree 754 and allow the current environmental process to continue under certain conditions. In summary, BacTech which can now proceed with the next stage of the development of the project in Ecuador.

### **Need for Additional Financing**

The Company currently has no source of operating cash flow, and there is no assurance that additional funding will be available to the Company as and when needed for further assessment and evaluation, as well as development of its projects, or to fulfill its obligations to its existing creditors. Volatile markets may make it difficult or impossible for the Company to obtain adequate debt or equity financing in the future, or on terms acceptable to the Company. The failure to obtain additional financing could force the Company to liquidate its assets to satisfy creditor claims.

## **Dependence on Management**

The Company's business and operations are dependent on recruiting and retaining the services of a small number of key members of management and qualified personnel. The success of the operations and activities of the Company are dependent, to a significant extent, on the efforts and abilities of the management of the Company. Investors must be willing to rely, to a significant extent, on the discretion and judgment of the management of the Company. Furthermore, while the Company believes that it will be successful in attracting qualified personnel and retaining its current management team, there can be no

assurance of such success. The Company does not maintain key employee insurance on any of its employees.

## Competition

The Company competes with other engineering companies for the acquisition of mineral rich mine tailings and mine waste that can be developed economically. The Company competes with other engineering companies that have greater financial and technical resources and experience. Such competition may result in the Company being unable to acquire desired properties, to recruit or retain qualified employees, or to acquire the capital necessary to fund its operations and develop its properties. The inability of the Company to compete with other engineering companies for these resources would have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and business.

Currently, the Company's bioleaching technology does not operate in an overly competitive marketplace; however, the Company anticipates that it may face increased competition in the future, as advanced technologies become available. While management believes that the Company's technology is more advanced, commercially proven and better situated than its competitors, there can be no assurance that the Company will be able to effectively compete with companies who have or may develop similar technologies and may possess greater financial resources and technical facilities. Competitive pressures, or the inability of the Company to successfully license its technology on terms that are acceptable, may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operating results and financial condition.

## **Protection of Intellectual Property Rights**

The Company is dependent not only on its ability to protect its intellectual property rights, but also upon the protection of rights of third parties from which it may license intellectual property rights. The Company currently holds patent rights and has pending patent applications. In addition, the Company relies upon certain other technologies, ideas; know how, secrets or other information, which it may not be able to protect. Notwithstanding precautions the Company may take to protect its rights, third parties may copy or obtain and use the Company's proprietary and licensed or optioned technologies, ideas, know how, secrets and other proprietary information without authorization or independently develop technologies similar or superior to the Company's proprietary and licensed or optioned technologies. The Company enters confidentiality and restriction on use agreements with its employees, strategic partners, and others; however, these agreements may not provide meaningful protection of the Company's proprietary and licensed or optioned technologies or other intellectual property in the event of unauthorized use or disclosure. Policing unauthorized use of such technologies and intellectual property is extremely difficult, and the cost of enforcing the Company's rights through litigation may be prohibitive. Further, the laws of jurisdictions other than Canada and the United States may not provide meaningful protection of the intellectual property rights of the Company and such third parties.

## **Obtaining and Enforcing Patents**

The patent positions of technology firms, including the Company, are generally uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions. The Company's success in utilizing and licensing its bioleaching technology will depend, in part, on its ability to obtain, enforce and maintain patent protection for its technology worldwide. The Company cannot be assured that patents will issue from any pending applications or that claims now or in the future allowed under issued patents will be sufficiently broad to protect its technology. In addition, no assurance can be given that any patents issued to or licensed by the Company will not be challenged, invalidated, infringed, or circumvented, or that the rights granted thereunder will provide continuing competitive advantages to the Company. Furthermore, there is no assurance that the patents of others will not impede the ability of the Company to do business or that others will not independently develop similar products or technologies, duplicate any of the Company's products or technologies or, if patents are issued and licensed to the Company, design around the Company's patented product or technology.

Accordingly, the Company may not be able to obtain and enforce effective patents to protect its proprietary rights from use by competitors, and the patents of other parties could require the Company to stop using or pay to use certain intellectual property, and as such, the Company's competitive position and profitability could suffer as a result.

## Claims of Infringement of Proprietary Rights of Others

The Company is not currently aware of any claims asserted by third parties that the Company's intellectual property infringes on their intellectual property. However, in the future, third parties may assert a claim that the Company infringes on their intellectual property. As a result, there is a risk that the Company, or one or more of its licensors, may become subject to litigation alleging that the products or technologies of the Company or its licensors infringe on the proprietary rights of third parties. Whether or not the products or technologies infringe on the proprietary rights of third parties, the Company or such licensors could incur significant expenses in defending allegations of infringement of proprietary rights. Further, the Company or such licensors may be required to modify their products or obtain licenses for intellectual property rights because of any alleged proprietary infringement which may not be achievable on commercially reasonable terms, in a timely manner, or at all, any of which could adversely affect the Company's business revenue, results from operations and financial condition.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Certain of the Company's directors and officers may serve as directors or officers of other reporting companies, companies providing services to the Company, or companies in which they may have significant shareholdings. To the extent that such other companies may participate in ventures in which the Company may participate, the directors of the Company may have a conflict of interest in negotiating and concluding terms respecting the extent of such participation. If such a conflict of interest arises at a meeting of the Company's directors, a director who has such a conflict will abstain from voting for or against the approval of such participation or such terms.

From time to time, several companies may participate in the acquisition, assessment and evaluation, and development of mineral reclamation properties, thereby allowing for the participation in larger programs, permitting involvement in a greater number of programs and reducing financial exposure in respect of any one program. It may also occur that a particular company will assign all or a portion of its interest in a particular program to another of these companies due to the financial position of the company making the assignment. In accordance with the laws of Canada, the directors of the Company are required to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Company. In determining whether the Company will participate in a program and the interest therein to be acquired by it, the directors will primarily consider the degree of risk to which the Company may be exposed and its financial position at the time.

## J. Related Party Transactions

Please refer to Note 7 of the condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

# K. Other MD&A Requirements

Additional information related to the Company is filed electronically on the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (SEDAR) at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.