# **Quick Comment**

## Neometals Ltd (NMT \$0.17) Buy



Analyst Date Price Target

Jon Bishop 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 \$0.35/sh

## JV Formed for the Li Battery Recycling Proprietary Process

### **Key Points**

- NMT has announced that it has formed a JV with SMS Group, to be called "Primobius GmbH";
- The JV will advance NMTs proprietary Li Battery Recycling process, with the construction of demonstration plant in Germany (total capex est. €3.5m to be borne pro-rata);
- Demonstration trials are targeted for the Mar Q 2021 post commissioning (c.Jan 2021);
- Subject to satisfactory performance, the JV will complete detailed engineering and feasibility costing ahead of FID c.Mar Q, 2022 with all costs incurred and related to construction of the commercial scale plant to be borne 50:50:

#### Indicative Project Timeline - LiB Recycling Complete Complete Class 3 ECS Demonstration Commercial scale Procurement phase Construction of Feasibility study and for Demonstration **Demonstration Plant** Plant Trials Capex & Opex integrated operations JUNQ20 **DEC 20 MAR 21** SFPO21 MARQ22 12 months Running Feedstock, Offtake, Product Evaluation in parallel

Source: Neometals Management(\*) Subject to NMT and JV Board Approval

 NMT had \$81m in Cash at Jun 30 (15cps) and an effective \$9m for significant (increasingly third party validated) optionality within its portfolio of upstream (exploration Ni) thru development (Barrambie Ti-V) and downstream processing (Li Battery, LiOH and Vanadium slag) projects.

### **Investment Thesis**

The results from the pilot Battery Recycling were excellent, with very high recovery of high purity Nickel sulphate a key driver for the economic potential of NMTs proprietary flowsheet. As a consequence, the MOU with SMS Group has now progressed to a formation of a formal JV. This is a material independent validation of the Project, more-so given the Company current trades at cash backing. In general, this Project (following on from the MOUs struck for Barrambie and the LiOH concepts) continues to add weight to our favourable view of the Company's capacity to crystallise value in the early stages of new developments. And that NMT is often more advanced in these processes than the market understands. Therefore, significant free optionality exists and is maturing in the background. Buy maintained

## Neometals Ltd (NMT)

Share Price	0.165	A\$/sh	Enterprise Value	9	A\$m
Price Target	0.35	A\$/sh	Debt	nil	A\$m
Valuation	0.35	A\$/sh	Cash	81	A\$m
Shares on issue	545.4	m(dil)	Largest Shareholder	D. Reed	8.5%
Market Capitalisation	90	A\$m			

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