

Energy transition trailblazers

By **ANTHONY VILJOEN**

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ANTHONY VILJOEN is a mining entrepreneur with over two decades experience of operating in Africa. He was a founding director, and former CEO of Australian listed Lemur Resources. Anthony was a co-founding director of Bushveld Minerals Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Business and Agricultural Economics degree and a postgraduate diploma in banking and investment management. Anthony has served as the CEO of Andrada Mining (formerly AfriTin Mining Limited) since 2021.

Andrada Mining is an AIM-listed technology metals mining company with a vision to create a portfolio of globally significant, conflict-free, production and exploration assets. Our flagship asset, Uis Mine in Namibia, is located in the mineral-rich Erongo region. It is formerly the world's largest open cast hard rock tin mine.

We have expanded the existing tin operations to incorporate, for example, a tantalum concentrate production stream. We aim to use our asset position and first mover competitive advantage to rapidly develop a vertically integrated lithium industry within the country.

We commenced a pilot testing programme for lithium during the first quarter of the calendar year, through the Dense Medium Separation ("DMS") processing of bulk samples from the Lithium Ridge licence at Bond Equipment ("BondQuip"), a specialist in mineral processing solutions and a test work provider in South Africa. The first saleable concentrate of high purity lithium petalite was produced in May 2023. The test work to convert lithium petalite concentrate to battery-grade lithium hydroxide was initiated with Nagrom, a leading Australian mineral processing company, and commercial engagements with lithium petalite concentrate industrial off-takers are ongoing.

Construction and commissioning of an on-site lithium bulk sampling pilot plant was completed at the end of September 2023. The on-site pilot plant will expedite Andrada's bulk sample test work and potentially produce small quantities of lithium concentrate for the glass-ceramics industry. The pilot plant's processing

capacity is 20 tonnes per hour with targeted minimum annual commercial production of 2,400 tonnes. This facility could generate annual revenues of US\$5 million, assuming an average grade of 4.0 per cent Li₂O at an average petalite price of US\$2,000 per tonne.

Simultaneously, an exploration drilling programme is ongoing, with the aim of expanding the tin, lithium and tantalum resources over the historically mined pegmatites, all of which occur within a 5km radius of the current processing plant. We have set a mineral resource target of 200 Mt to be delineated within the next 5 years.

As a result of these ongoing initiatives, Andrada has received entities within the lithium value-chain unsolicited approaches from international entities seeking to participate in the acceleration of the lithium strategy by partnering to develop the Uis mining licence ML134. We appointed Barclays through its Investment bank to lead the strategic process.

Finally, we have a board of directors with extensive industry knowledge and a management team with deep commercial and technical skills. We are committed to the sustainable development of our operations and the growth of the business. The leadership team places significant emphasis on creating value for the wider community, investors, and other key stakeholders. We have established an environmental, social and governance system that is implemented at all levels of Andrada and aligns with international standards.

We want to be trailblazers in terms of identifying and developing technology metals across Africa, and we want to play our part in the energy transition. **E**

Aerial view of the operations at Uis including the bulk sampling (lithium) plant in the foreground taken 20 June 2023

