



# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

16 March 2021

## Suvo has Commenced Research & Development Activities on HPA, Battery Minerals and other High Technology Applications

- Suvo's 100% owned subsidiary, Suvo Minerals Technology Pty Ltd, has commenced research and development activities on battery and electric vehicle applications, HPA and other high-tech applications
- Beneficiation trials for High Purity Alumina (HPA) to 4N & 5N using kaolin ore from the White Cloud Project in Gabbin, Western Australia are underway
- Investigate the production of synthetic zeolite from kaolin for use in, catalyst, water purification, soil conditioning and high quality, environmentally friendly detergents
- Eileen Hao, Suvo's General Manager of Global Technical Sales & Business Development will be promoted to a dual role to include that of Chief Technology Officer

Australian kaolin producer and silica sand exploration company, **Suvo Strategic Minerals Limited** ('Suvo or the Company'), is pleased to announce that it has commenced R&D activities via its 100% owned subsidiary, Suvo Minerals Technology. The R&D activities will be led by Eileen Hao, who will assume the role of Chief Technology Officer, Eileen has 25 years' experience working within leading global industrial minerals enterprises in technical and business development roles. Eileen has a technical background in chemistry and materials engineering. Over the past 15 years Eileen has been deeply involved in research and development of Lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery minerals and materials.

The initial R&D activity will be hydrometallurgical and pyrometallurgical beneficiation trials using kaolin ore from the Company's White Cloud Project to produce HPA to 4N and 5N specification. HPA is used as a base material to manufacture sapphire substrates in applications such as high energy efficient LEDs, semi-conductors, optical lenses and bio-medical devices.

### SUVO STRATEGIC MINERALS LIMITED

ABN: 97 140 316 463

### CORPORATE DETAILS:

ASX: SUV

### DIRECTORS:

**Robert Martin**

*Executive Chairman*

**Len Troncone**

*Executive Director,*

*COO/CFO*

**Aaron Banks**

*Executive Director*

**Dr Ian Wilson**

*Non-Executive Director*

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HPA is the basic key material used in coating porous polymer separators inside Li-ion batteries. Lithium-ion batteries are composed of four parts: electrode (cathode and anode), separator (diaphragm), electrolyte and shell. The diaphragm is one of the key inner components. To ensure battery cycle and safety performance diaphragm manufacturers all over the world have been focused on developing ceramic diaphragms because of its resistance to organic solvents, good compatibility with electrolyte, high absorption rate, high tensile strength and puncture strength, low thermal shrinkage, high breaking temperature. As an inorganic material, HPA has high thermal stability, chemical inertness and good electrolyte solubility. It is a good coating material for ceramic separator of Li-ion batteries. The application of micro nano HPA in Li-ion battery adds guaranteed safety protection for every occasion where lithium-ion batteries are used, such as mobile phones, computers, and new energy electric vehicles.

Synthetic Zeolites are manufactured aluminosilicate minerals with a sponge-like structure made up of tiny pores that make them useful as adsorbents, catalysts and ultrafine filters. They can be designed to selectively adsorb molecules or ions dependent on their unique construction and have the ability to be regenerated over and over again for re-use. Suvo has begun investigating the potential of Synthetic Zeolite from its kaolin deposits.

Suvo Minerals Technology Pty Ltd will seek R&D funding assistance from federal and state governments to help grow and commercialise any new technology developed. This will complement Suvo's principal business of developing their 100% owned White Cloud project in Gabbin Western Australia and the upgrading of their 100% owned Pittong hydrous kaolin operations in Victoria. There is no guarantee Suvo will be granted funds now or in the future.

Commenting on Suvo's new subsidiary focusing on Technical and R&D activities, Suvo's Executive Chairman, Robert Martin, said: *"Early exploration efforts have revealed that our kaolin and silica sands projects have the potential to produce very high value products that are suitable to new battery and electric vehicle technologies. Suvo Minerals Technology now gives us the opportunity to research the value in these and other highly sought-after markets whilst continuing to focus on the development of our White Cloud kaolin and Nova silica sand Projects both in Western Australia and our operating mines at Pittong in Victoria. We are fortunate that Eileen has accepted the role of Chief Technical Officer, Eileen has a technical background in chemistry and material engineering and has been deeply involved with lithium-ion battery minerals and materials for the past 15 years."*

This announcement has been approved for release by the Board of Directors.

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Company Profile:

Suvo Strategic Minerals Limited is an Australian hydrous kaolin producer and exploration company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:SUV) focused on the production and redevelopment of their 100% owned Pittong hydrous kaolin operations located 40km west of the township of Ballarat in Victoria and their 100% owned White Cloud Kaolin Project located in Gabbin in the Central Wheat Belt, and the 100% owned Nova Silica Sands Project located in the Gin Gin Scarp near the township of Eneabba, both situated in Western Australia.

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