ASX Announcement

27 May 2026 | ASX: CRI

CRITICA

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Jupiter Pilot Plant Delivers ~14× Upgrade to ~3% TREO Concentrate, Reinforcing Low-Cost Beneficiation Pathway

Critica Limited (ASX: CRI) ("Critica" or "the Company") is pleased to announce a further significant advance in the beneficiation pathway at its Jupiter Rare Earth Project, Australia's largest clay-hosted rare earth resource, with pilot plant results upgrading feed material approximately 14× to an intermediate concentrate grading ~3% TREO.

These results build on the beneficiation recovery improvements reported on 14 April 2026 and the recently announced high-purity MREO production results, continuing the progression of Jupiter's beneficiation and downstream processing workstreams.

The latest results also confirm mass rejection of approximately 95%, concentrating the rare earth minerals into ~5% of the original feed mass. By substantially reducing the volume of material reporting to downstream processing, this supports lower projected operating and capital intensity and feeds directly into the Scoping Study being progressed with Sedgman.

Highlights

- Pilot plant optimisation delivers intermediate concentrate grading ~3% TREO, representing a ~14× upgrade from feed
- Higher-grade concentrate and ~95% mass rejection support reduced downstream processing volumes, lower projected cost intensity and Critica's continued transition from explorer to developer
- Approximately 95% mass rejection achieved, concentrating rare earth minerals into ~5% of original feed mass
- Strong Magnet REE recoveries maintained, including:
  - Nd_2O_3: 74.5%
  - Dy_2O_3: 74.7%
  - Pr_6O_{11}: 69.3%
  - Tb_4O_7: 65.9%
- Results build on previously reported beneficiation and MREO testwork
- Results directly inform the Jupiter Scoping Study and advance the flowsheet toward the next stage of development

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Critica's CEO Jacob Deysel commented:

Following the previously reported beneficiation recovery improvements and recent advancement in high-purity MREO production, ongoing pilot plant optimisation is now delivering materially higher-grade intermediate concentrate from the same feed material.

Achieving an intermediate concentrate grading of approximately 3% TREO, representing a ~14× upgrade and approximately 95% mass rejection, demonstrates continued progress in Jupiter's beneficiation pathway and the ability to significantly reduce downstream processing volumes.

Importantly, Magnet Rare Earth recoveries remain strong, with Nd and Dy recoveries both above 74%. Notwithstanding the size of the Jupiter resource, the significance of these results is not only the upgrade achieved, but the quality and repeatability of the outcome. We are consistently concentrating Magnet REEs into a materially reduced processing stream while maintaining strong recoveries - exactly what a scalable and financeable flowsheet needs to demonstrate as we progress Scoping Study work and product qualification.

Beneficiation Optimisation – Higher Grade Outcome

Recent testwork has delivered:

- Intermediate concentrate grading approximately 3% TREO
- Approximately 95% mass rejection
- Approximately 14× upgrade from feed to intermediate concentrate
- Strong Magnet REE recoveries maintained:
  - Nd_2O_3: 74.5%
  - Dy_2O_3: 74.7%
  - Pr_6O_{11}: 69.3%
  - Tb_4O_7: 65.9%

Ongoing optimisation targeting further concentrate grade improvement

These outcomes demonstrate improved beneficiation performance and support ongoing optimisation of downstream processing pathways.

Additional bulk sample material is being processed to support continued optimisation and downstream testwork, including production of MREO sample for product qualification.

Metallurgical Test Programmes

Metallurgical test programmes are continuing in parallel to assess downstream processing pathways for the higher-grade intermediate concentrate.

Work remains focused on improving overall process performance and informing Sedgman's Scoping Study activities.

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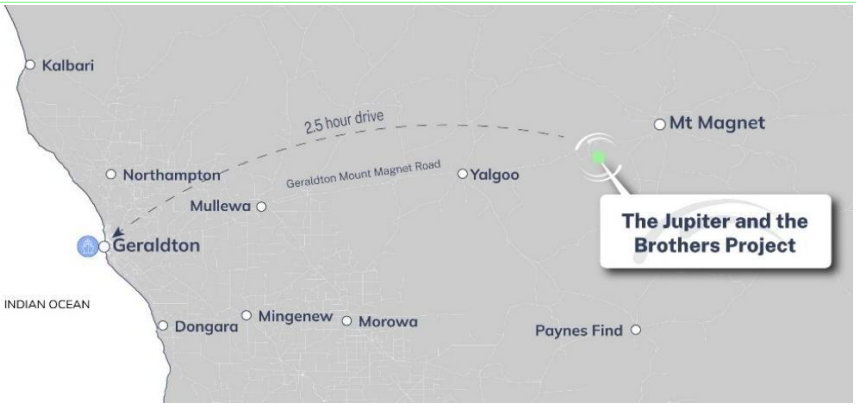
Next Steps

- Continued optimisation of beneficiation and downstream processing pathways
- Production of additional higher-grade intermediate concentrate for downstream testwork and product qualification
- Ongoing refinement of Scoping Study inputs and process configuration
- Production of final MREO product sample for qualification purposes.

Authorised by the Board of Critica Limited.

Critica (ASX: CRI) is rapidly advancing the Jupiter Project in WA, Australia's largest clay-hosted rare earth resource, with a mine-to-magnet plan to meet surging AI, EV, renewables and defence demand.



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Competent Persons Statement

The information in this report that relates to exploration results including geology interpretation, data preparation and data quality is based on work compiled by Dr. Stuart Owen who is a Member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists. Dr. Owen is a permanent employee of Critica Limited and has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity which he is undertaking to qualify as Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (JORC code). Dr. Owen consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which they appear.

The Information in this announcement that relates to previous exploration results for the Projects is extracted from the following ASX announcements:

- Jupiter Pilot Plant Recovery Improves to 81% MagREO – 14 April 2026

Table 1 | Jupiter pilot REE beneficiation intitial test work results

Sample	Feed grade	Concentrate grade	Recovery %
Mass %	100	4.7	
TREO ppm	2137	30029	66.1
Magnet REO ppm	496	7729	73.4
Heavy REO ppm	160	2290	67.3
La_2O_3 ppm	411	6013	68.9
CeO_2 ppm	969	13149	63.8
Pr_6O_{11} ppm	105	1549	69.3
Nd_2O_3 ppm	369	5840	74.5
Sm_2O_3 ppm	58	832	67.0
Eu_2O_3 ppm	12	167	64.9
Gd_2O_3 ppm	33	492	69.4
Tb_4O_7 ppm	4.0	56	65.9
Dy_2O_3 ppm	18	284	74.7
Ho_2O_3 ppm	3.0	44	69.5
Er_2O_3 ppm	7.3	95	61.8
Tm_2O_3 ppm	1.0	11	56.2
Yb_2O_3 ppm	5.1	65	59.2
Lu_2O_3 ppm	0.8	8	45.4
Y_2O_3 ppm	88	1235	66.3
Sc_2O_3 ppm	53	189	16.8
P_2O_5 %	0.96	11.6	56.8

Note

TREO represents the sum of 14 Rare Earth Elements excluding promethium plus yttrium expressed as oxides

Magnet REO represents the sum of neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium and terbium expressed as oxides

Heavy REO represents the sum of the gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium and yttrium expressed as oxides

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Table 2 | Jupiter drill holes used for pilot beneficiation bulk sample

Hole	East MGA50 GDA94	East MGA50 GDA94	RLm AHD83	Hole depth m		Hole	East MGA50 GDA94	East MGA50 GDA94	RLm AHD83	Hole depth m
BRAC063	529494	6854087	350	55		BRRC018	530587	6852569	357	96
BRAC064	529000	6855102	348	66		BRRC046	527501	6850219	350	72
BRAC071	529741	6856997	355	41		BRRC047	526499	6850207	345	73
BRAC077	529994	6856599	352	39		BRRC061	530517	6857002	355	31
BRAC078	529744	6856606	353	67		BRRC064	530499	6855089	354	43
BRAC085	531750	6855605	357	55		BRRC068	530496	6853095	357	61
BRAC091	530253	6855601	352	66		BRRC080	528998	6853110	350	72
BRAC092	529996	6855601	351	88		JPAC003	529006	6857261	356	39
BRAC097	530750	6855099	354	62		JPAC004	529496	6857007	355	72
BRAC098	530247	6855091	353	45		JPAC005	529506	6856802	354	61
BRAC104	531501	6854598	359	54		JPAC009	529254	6856339	352	73
BRAC105	531249	6854600	358	69		JPAC028	529251	6854852	349	61
BRAC106	530998	6854600	357	63		JPAC029	529000	6854839	348	75
BRAC108	530500	6854601	355	67		JPAC030	528756	6854854	347	68
BRAC109	530249	6854598	354	62		JPAC032	527759	6855094	346	72
BRAC113	531747	6854096	361	64		JPAC034	527743	6854587	345	79
BRAC114	531247	6854103	359	82		JPAC038	528758	6854348	347	66
BRAC117	529750	6854103	351	63		JPAC059	526245	6853603	341	76
BRAC122	531249	6853597	360	66		JPAC062	529495	6853349	352	45
BRAC124	530746	6853600	357	46		JPAC063	529245	6853355	351	53
BRAC126	530242	6853597	355	47		JPAC072	526249	6853355	340	68
BRAC129	529746	6853598	352	56		JPAC073	529495	6852851	352	65
BRAC130	532246	6853100	366	66		JPAC074	529254	6852853	351	67
BRAC135	530245	6853099	355	48		JPAC077	527998	6852849	346	74
BRAC143	529996	6852600	355	67		JPAC078	527747	6852846	346	71
BRAC147	530248	6852102	356	71		JPAC081	526496	6852850	342	84
BRAC154	529496	6851596	354	78		JPAC083	525998	6852857	339	62
BRAC156	529499	6850605	357	72		JPAC085	529497	6852349	353	71
BRAC159	528749	6850601	352	73		JPAC094	525748	6852330	340	64
BRAC163	527743	6850602	349	66		JPAC105	527504	6851841	346	79
BRAC190	527249	6850191	348	65		JPAC118	527005	6851355	344	96
BRAC191	527751	6850195	351	63		JPAC130	524725	6850845	341	50
BRAC200	527249	6849800	350	53		JPAC131	525505	6850831	341	62
BRAC210	526254	6851101	343	66		JPAC140	528994	6850856	353	67
BRAC215	524254	6851101	340	44		JPAC164	528504	6849995	354	75
BRAC225	526004	6851603	341	70		JPAC165	528254	6849997	353	67
BRAC226	526250	6851602	341	69		JPAC188	530493	6852846	357	70
BRAC229	527002	6851598	344	57		JPAC190	530010	6852851	355	60
BRAC233	528000	6851600	348	99		JPAC202	531243	6853841	359	87
BRAC234	528250	6851609	349	86		JPAC203	530994	6853855	358	71
BRAC235	528496	6851602	349	94		JPAC205	530490	6853850	355	84
BRAC236	528744	6851602	350	69		JPAC209	531250	6854344	358	82
BRAC240	527752	6852095	346	87		JPAC210	530994	6854346	357	88
BRAC241	527256	6852093	345	89		JPAC217	531002	6854847	356	57
BRAC255	527498	6852604	345	68		JPAC220	530249	6854846	354	71
BRAC258	526742	6852603	343	84		JPAC221	529995	6854838	352	66
BRAC268	527750	6853104	345	80		JPAC225	530497	6855347	353	65

Hole	East MGA50 GDA94	East MGA50 GDA94	RLm AHD83	Hole depth m
BRAC272	525999	6853105	340	70
BRAC285	526755	6853599	342	75
BRAC287	528753	6854099	348	54
BRAC293	529006	6854602	348	72
BRAC294	528750	6854596	347	87
BRAC297	527997	6854599	346	73
BRAC298	529249	6855097	349	95
BRAC299	528752	6855099	348	69
BRAC301	529249	6855602	349	53
BRAC307	529253	6856101	351	63
BRRC011	529547	6853247	352	84
BRRC017	530174	6852566	355	90

Hole	East MGA50 GDA94	East MGA50 GDA94	RLm AHD83	Hole depth m
JPAC226	530247	6855340	353	73
JPAC227	529998	6855350	352	48
JPAC229	531245	6855845	355	61
JPAC233	530252	6855851	352	53
JPAC239	530310	6855603	352	59
JPAC240	530203	6855592	352	62
JPAC241	530154	6855596	352	55
JPAC243	530048	6855596	352	78
JPAC245	529899	6855610	351	61
JPAC255	530482	6856794	354	35
JPAC257	529989	6856792	353	65

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APPENDIX ONE: JORC CODE, 2012 EDITION | 'TABLE 1' REPORT

Section 1 Sampling Techniques and Data
(Criteria in this section apply to all succeeding sections)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Table Sampling techniques	• Nature and quality of sampling (e.g.: cut channels, random chips, or specific specialised industry standard measurement tools appropriate to the minerals under investigation, such as down hole gamma sondes, or handheld XRF instruments, etc.). These examples should not be taken as limiting the broad meaning of sampling. • Measures taken to ensure sample representivity and the appropriate calibration of any measurement tools or systems used. • Aspects of the determination of mineralisation that are Material to the Public Report. In cases where 'industry standard' work has been done this would be relatively simple (e.g.: 'reverse circulation drilling was used to obtain 1 m samples from which 3 kg was pulverised to produce a 30 g charge for fire assay'). In other cases more explanation may be required, such as where there is coarse gold that has inherent sampling problems. Unusual commodities or mineralisation types (e.g.: submarine nodules) may warrant disclosure of detailed information.	• The Jupiter metallurgical composite tested by GAVAQ laboratory was selected from 117 Reverse Circulation (RC) and Air Core (AC) exploration and resource definition drill holes within the Jupiter resource as listed in Table 2. • The pilot metallurgical composite comprised a blend of regolith material types representative of the Jupiter resource, grades as previously announced to the ASX. • Sampling was supervised by a suitably qualified Critica geologist.
Drilling techniques	• Drill type (e.g.: core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc..) and details (e.g.: core diameter, triple or standard tube, depth of diamond tails, face-sampling bit or other type, whether core is oriented and if so, by what method, etc..).	• This metallurgical composite sample subject of this report was selected from seven 117 RC and AC holes drilled by DB450 and KL150 AC drill rigs operated by KTE Mining Services Pty Ltd. • Holes were drilled to blade refusal in near fresh rock (saprock).
Drill sample recovery	• Method of recording and assessing core and chip sample recoveries and results assessed. • Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples. • Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material.	• The bulk RC and AC samples were visually assessed, weighed and considered representative with overall good recovery.
Logging	• Whether core and chip samples have been geologically and geotechnically logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies. • Whether logging is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Core (or costean, channel, etc.) photography. • The total length and percentage of the relevant intersections logged.	• All holes were qualitatively geologically logged by suitably qualified Critica geologists. • The detail of geological logging is considered sufficient for exploration and resource definition drilling. • A JORC compliant Inferred Resource for the Jupiter clay -hosted REE deposit has been previously announced to the ASX (Critica announcement to the ASX 11 February 2025). •
Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation	• If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken. • If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc. and whether sampled wet or dry. • For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique. • Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximise representivity of samples. • Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in situ material collected, including for instance results for field	• The metallurgical composite covered 1,712 m from the 117 listed drill holes • Intervals selected from each drill hole ranged from 4 to 40 m and were collected by sampling spear from the bulk 1 m sample bags, then homogenized, weighed and dispatched to the GAVAQ pilot plant in Hai Phong, Vietnam. • Total composite sample supplied for piloting test work was c. 3.7 tonnes

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Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
	duplicate/second-half sampling. • Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled.	
Quality of assay data and laboratory tests	• The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total. • For geophysical tools, spectrometers, handheld XRF instruments, etc., the parameters used in determining the analysis including instrument make and model, reading times, calibrations factors applied and their derivation, etc. • Nature of quality control procedures adopted (eg standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (ie lack of bias) and precision have been established.	• Assaying of the metallurgical composite and products was conducted by ALS Geochemistry, Perth WA • The rare earth elements were determined by lithium borate fusion followed by acid digestion of the resultant glass bead and ICP-MS finish, Fe, P and other reported major elements were determined by XRF on fused glass disks. • Suitable certified REE standards were included and reported within the expected ranges
Verification of sampling and assaying	• The verification of significant intersections by either independent or alternative company personnel. • The use of twinned holes. • Documentation of primary data, data entry procedures, data verification, data storage (physical and electronic) protocols. • Discuss any adjustment to assay data.	• The use of twinned holes is not applicable at this stage. • The metallurgical results are compatible with observed mineralogy. • Primary data is stored and documented in industry standard ways. • Assay data was as reported by ALS geochemistry and has not been adjusted in any way.
Location of data points	• Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation. • Specification of the grid system used. • Quality and adequacy of topographic control.	• Drill hole locations were determined by handheld GPS with a nominal accuracy of +/- 5 metres. • All coordinates and maps presented here are in the MGA Zone 50 GDA94 system. • Topographic control is provided by Worldwide 3 arc second SRTM spot height data.
Data spacing and distribution	• Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results. • Whether the data spacing and distribution is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied. • Whether sample compositing has been applied.	• The drill holes selected for the GAVAQ pilot metallurgical composite were part of Jupiter exploration and resource definition programs and within the Jupiter clay-hosted REE Inferred Resource as previously reported to the ASX.
Orientation of data in relation to geological structure	• Whether the orientation of sampling achieves unbiased sampling of possible structures and the extent to which this is known, considering the deposit type. • If the relationship between the drilling orientation and the orientation of key mineralised structures is considered to have introduced a sampling bias, this should be assessed and reported if material.	• The RC and AC holes were drilled vertically along E-W drill lines • The intersected clay and saprolite zones blanket weathered syenite-monzonite basement such that downhole thickness approximates true thickness.
Sample security	• The measures taken to ensure sample security.	• The chain of custody for the metallurgical composite from collection to dispatch to GAVAQ was managed by Critica personnel. and the level of security is considered appropriate.
Audits or reviews	• The results of any audits or reviews of sampling techniques and data.	• Mass balances and GAVAQ test work was monitored and reviewed by suitably qualified Critica Limited's Chief Metallurgist Dr Dinh Hien.

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Section 2 Reporting of Exploration Results
(Criteria listed in the preceding section also apply to this section)

Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Mineral tenement and land tenure status	• Type, reference name/number, location and ownership including agreements or material issues with third parties such as joint ventures, partnerships, overriding royalties, native title interests, historical sites, wilderness or national park and environmental settings • The security of the tenure held at the time of reporting along with any known impediments to obtaining a licence to operate in the area.	• The Brothers REE Project currently consists of granted Exploration Licences E59/2421, E59/2463, E59/2710, E59/2711, E59/2819, E59/2821, E59/2827, E59/2889, E59/2890, E59/2907, E59/2927, E59/2928, E59/2930, E59/2977 and E58/629. All are 100% held by Tasmanian Rare Earth Pty Ltd a wholly owned subsidiary of Critica Limited.
Exploration done by other parties	• Acknowledgment and appraisal of exploration by other parties.	• Documented previous explorers within the area now covered by the Brothers Project include North Flinders Mines Ltd, CRA Exploration Pty Ltd, Spark Energy Pty Ltd, Arcadia Minerals Ltd, Babalya Gold Pty Ltd, Burmine Ltd, Equigold NL, Equinox Resources NL, Jervois Mining Ltd, Minjar Gold Pty Ltd, Mount Magnet South NL, Sons of Gwalia Ltd and David Ross. • Refer to previous Critica announcements to the ASX and also available from http://critica.limited
Geology	• Deposit type, geological setting and style of mineralisation.	• The Brothers REE exploration area is situated within the Western Australian Archean Yilgarn Craton and mostly comprises Cenozoic cover sequence overlying an extensive Archaean monzogranite complex (the Big Bell Suite).
Drill hole Information	• A summary of all information material to the understanding of the exploration results including a tabulation of the following information for all Material drill holes: -easting and northing of the drill hole collar -elevation or RL of the drill hole collar -dip and azimuth of the hole -down hole length and interception depth -hole length. • If the exclusion of this information is justified on the basis that the information is not Material and this exclusion does not detract from the understanding of the report, the Competent Person should clearly explain why this is the case.	• Locations and composited intervals for the GAVAQ metallurgical composite are as listed below: All holes were vertical and collar location was determined by handheld Garmin GPS64sx considered accurate to ±5m. • All coordinates and maps presented here are in the MGA Zone 50 GDA94 system. • Topographic control is provided by Worldwide 3 arc second SRTM spot height data. • Refer to previous ASX announcements for relevant intersections and assay results.
Data aggregation methods	• In reporting Exploration Results, weighting averaging techniques, maximum and/or minimum grade truncations (e.g. cutting of high grades) and cut-off grades are usually Material and should be stated. • Where aggregate intercepts incorporate short lengths of high grade results and longer lengths of low grade results, the procedure used for such aggregation should be stated and some typical examples of such aggregations should be shown in detail. • The assumptions used for any reporting of metal equivalent values should be clearly stated.	• Metal equivalents have not been applied. • Refer to previous ASX announcements for relevant Jupiter project intersections and assay results. • Standard element to oxide conversion factors have been used and TREO was calculated on an unrounded basis.

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Criteria	JORC Code explanation	Commentary
Relationship between mineralisation widths and intercept lengths	• These relationships are particularly important in the reporting of Exploration Results. • If the geometry of the mineralisation with respect to the drill hole angle is known, its nature should be reported. • If it is not known and only the down hole lengths are reported, there should be a clear statement to this effect (e.g. 'down hole length, true width not known').	• The intersected clay and saprolite zones blanket weathered granitoid basement such that downhole thickness approximate true thickness.
Diagrams	• Appropriate maps and sections (with scales) and tabulations of intercepts should be included for any significant discovery being reported. These should include, but not be limited to a plan view of drill hole collar locations and appropriate sectional views.	• Appropriate project location maps are included in this release.
Balanced reporting	• Where comprehensive reporting of all Exploration Results is not practicable, representative reporting of both low and high grades and/or widths should be practiced to avoid misleading reporting of Exploration Results.	• Refer to previous ASX announcements (also available from http://critica.limited) for relevant Jupiter project intersections and assay results.
Other substantive exploration data	• Other exploration data, if meaningful and material, should be reported including (but not limited to): geological observations; geophysical survey results; geochemical survey results; bulk samples – size and method of treatment; metallurgical test results; bulk density, groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics; potential deleterious or contaminating substances.	• GAVAQ Solutions, Vietnam was engaged by Critica Limited to undertake pilot beneficiation test work on c. 3.7 tonne blend representing the Jupiter clay-hosted REE mineralization as selected by Critica Limited's geometallurgist. • The head grade of the composite sample as supplied and determined by ALS Geochemistry was 0.21% TREO. • GAVAQ conducted particle size analysis, multi-element geochemistry, XRD mineralogy, and gravity and magnetic separation work to identify potential process flowsheets. • The process flowsheet used to produce the results reported here comprised grinding to 100% passing 0.2 mm, scrubbing (attrition), then low intensity (800 gauss) magnetic separation to remove the magnetic iron minerals (mainly hematite and magnetite). The non-magnetic fraction was then subject to an open circuit flotation test using combined carboxylate and amine collectors, sodium silicate depressant and dextrin dispersant at selected pH and ambient temperatures. • Assaying of resultant metallurgical fractions was conducted at ALS Geochemistry, Perth WA as described above. • Feed and beneficiated grades and recoveries for the elements of interest are given in Table 1 of this announcement. • XRD shows hydrated phosphates including rhabdophane and gorceixite to be the main REE phases, and magnetite and hematite the main magnetic iron phases
Further work	• The nature and scale of planned further work (e.g. tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large-scale step-out drilling). • Diagrams clearly highlighting the areas of possible extensions, including the main geological interpretations and future drilling areas, provided this information is not commercially sensitive.	• Critica is currently conducting ongoing mineralogy and metallurgical test work, including upgrading of REEs via physical rejection of quartz, feldspar and iron oxides (including potential by-products), other flotation collectors and conditions, closed circuit flotation, and leach testing.