

# **Unique Market Exposure to a Heavy Rare Earths Elements Project with Superior Economics**

Company Profile by As at 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021



### OVERVIEW / FLAGSHIP PROJECT

lonic Rare Earths Limited (ASX: IXR): is a mineral resource company currently focused on the exploration and development of the Makuutu Rare Earths Project (now 51% earning up to 60% interest) in Uganda. The Makuutu project is similar to the Southern China Ionic Adsorption Clays (IAC) mines from where ~95% of the world's Heavy Rare Earths Elements (HREE) are produced, and already has a large mineral resource of 78.6 Mt at 840ppm TREO.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF STRATEGY

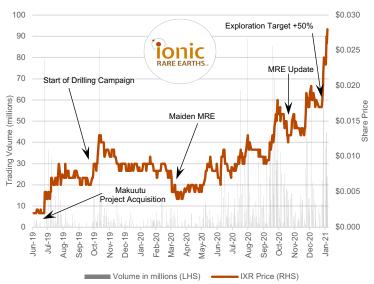
The key elements of IXR strategy are as follows:

- Extend (and increase the confidence) of mineral resources at Makuutu
- 2. Progress development studies aiming at demonstrating superior economics, overall scale, and path to production

#### KEY OUTCOMES IF SUCCESSFUL

- 1. One of the largest ionic adsorption clay deposits outside China
- 2. A HREE project with a simple desorption/leaching process, low up-front capital, low capital intensity and high margins
- As the other IAC projects are privately held, IXR offers a unique exposure to the superior economics of IAC deposits and a major source of future low cost HREE in a context of depleted or running out Chinese IAC mines and limited overall long term supply
- 4. Opportunity for a long-life asset to supplement declining HREO production from China and supply western markets with critical and heavy rare earths

CORPORATE OVERVIEW (ASX: IXR)			
Shares	2,760 million ordinary fully paid shares		
Unquoted	Expiring various dates ex various prices: 349.4 million		
Options and	(IXRAA)		
Performance	30 Nov 2020: 110m @ A\$0.018 (IXRAE)		
Rights	33.4 million performance rights (IXRAF)		
Share Price	A\$0.028		
Market	A\$77.3 million		
Capitalisation	7.ψ77.3 ΠΠΠΘΠ		
Cash	A\$3.03 million as at 30 September 2020		
	⇒ Fully funded through to upcoming Mineral		
	Resource Estimate (MRE) update & scoping study		
	update		



ASX: IXR share price shows a strong uptrend as the company delivers positive corporate developments and exploration and project evaluation results



#### MAKUUTU INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Mineral
Resource
and
Exploration

- 78.6 Mt at 840ppm TREO at a cut-off of 300 pm TREO less Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) representing less than 20% of mineralised corridor, which is now 37km long with new EL00147
- Exploration target: 240-800 Mt at 450-900 ppm TREO
   ⇒ Significant mineral resource upside to be on par with other similar projects and mines

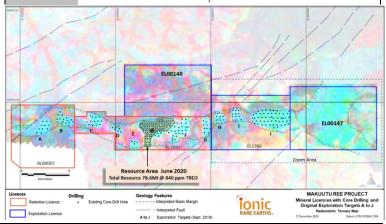
# Deposit Type

**Target** 

- Ionic Adsorption Clays (IAC)
- Low grade, but excellent geological and mineralisation continuity and elevated HREE content
- IAC mines from Southern China are responsible for the majority (95%) of the high value HREO production globally
- ⇒ Opportunity to replicate the proven development path of the Chinese mines, applying improved environmental standards

# Drilling Program

- 2020 drill program tested an area more than 3 times larger than the current MRE (16.1 km² vs 4.9 km²)
- Drilled metres represent more than 4 times current MRE (3,750m vs 900m)
- Number of drill holes (222 completed) is more than 4 times current MRE (51 holes)
- Assays received for 5 of 7 tranches assays pending
- Shallow (17m average depth) drill holes
- Part of the drilling involved duplicating pre-IXR positive results from non-JORC RAB drilling
- ⇒ Minimal cost and highly effective drilling
- ⇒ High degree of confidence to increase the mineral resource substantially



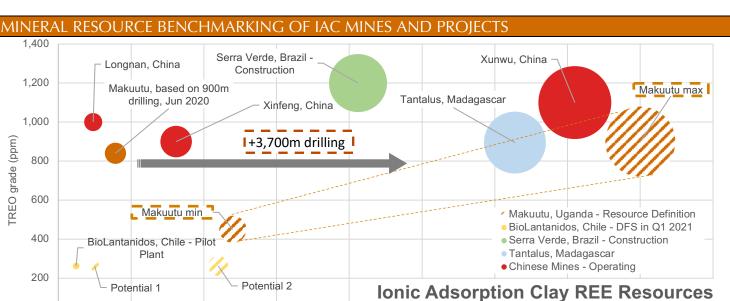
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Tim Harrison, Managing Director +61 400 993 874 tim@ionicre.com.au www.ionicre.com.au



Mineral Resource (million tonnes) Source: Company reports, Terra Studio. All mineral resources are JORC or NI43-101 compliant except those for the Chinese mines

Hochschild Mining Plc (LSE: HOC) purchased remaining 93.8% for US\$56.3m in Oct 2019 (A\$82m)

IAC REE vs.	HARD ROCK REE PE	
	IAC-hosted REE	Hard Rock-hosted REE
Host Rock	Soft clay	Hard rock
Mineralisation	Elevated HREO and CREO product content	Bastnaesite + Monazite (LREO dominant); Xenotime (HREO dominant)
Mining	Open pit (0-20m) Minimal strip ratio Negligible blasting	Strip ratio can be high Blasting required
Processing	No crushing or milling Atmospheric leaching, purification, precipitation Scalable	Crushing and milling Flotation Expensive cracking
Costs	Typically low capital expenditure and low operating costs	Typically high capital expenditure and high operating costs
Product	Oxide or carbonate precipitate (+90% TREO) Low La + Ce content	Concentrate (20-40% TREO) High La + Ce content
Payability	70%	40%
Margin	Typically high margin	Typically low margin
Environmental	Non-radioactive tailings	Often radioactive tailings requiring monitoring beyond life of mine
Refining  HREE = Sm + Eu +	Simple acid solubilisation followed by conventional REE separation Complex recycling of reagents and water Gd + Tb + Dy + Ho + Er + Tn	High temperature "cracking" and strong reagents to solubilise refractory REE minerals and manage radionuclides 1 + Yb + Lu + Y;
LREE = La + Ce +	Pr + Nd; $CREE = Nd + Eu + Tb$	+ Dy + Y.

	NT HIGHLIGHTS (continued)	
Mining Scenario	<ul> <li>Open pit mining with negligible strip ratio, and negligible blasting (if any)</li> <li>Opportunity to use mined areas for rehabilitation</li> </ul>	
	⇒ Low-cost and low environmental impact mining	
Metallurgy	<ul> <li>Preliminary test work achieved extractions up to 75% TREE-Ce using simple desorption/leaching techniques</li> <li>HREE achieving higher recovery than LREE</li> <li>Potential low-cost recovery of scandium</li> <li>⇒ High value, quality product</li> </ul>	
Community	<ul> <li>Strong local community engagement</li> <li>Uganda government support demonstrated by renewed (RL) and granted (EL) licences</li> </ul>	
Logistics and	10km from sealed highway	
infrastructure	20km from rail line	
	<ul><li>Access to water and Grid power near project site</li><li>80km from 184 MW hydroelectric power</li></ul>	
UPCOMING NEWS FLOW		
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Q1 2021	<ul> <li>Drilling assay results</li> <li>Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) update</li> <li>Scoping Study update</li> </ul>	
Q1 2021 Q2 2021	<ul><li>Drilling assay results</li><li>Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) update</li></ul>	
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