

## ASX Release

21 March 2024

# ASM receives US\$600M (A\$923 million<sup>1</sup>) Letter of Interest from US EXIM for Dubbo Project, as US partnerships begin to play a significant role

### Highlights

- LoI from US EXIM bank for up to US\$600M in debt financing package for Dubbo Project
- US EXIM is the official export credit agency of the US federal government
- US government support is a catalyst to increase customer and financing focus in North America
- LoI from US EXIM is in addition to A\$200M Letter of Support previously received from EFA
- Dubbo Project is a construction ready, globally significant and long-life rare earths and critical minerals project

Australian Strategic Materials Limited (**ASM or the Company**) (**ASX: ASM**) is pleased to announce it has received a non-binding and conditional Letter of Interest (**LoI**) from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (**US EXIM**) to provide a debt funding package of up to US\$600 million (A\$923 million<sup>2</sup>) for the construction and execution phase of the rare earths and critical minerals Dubbo Project.

US EXIM's support is linked to the potential US content (equipment, goods and services) to be supplied in the construction phase of the Dubbo Project and the key strategic role the Dubbo Project can play in the critical minerals supply chain. The LoI is subject to completion of due diligence by US EXIM and ASM obtaining all necessary approvals for the Dubbo Project.

### Further development of Australia-US strategic objectives

The LoI represents a material step in ASM's project funding strategy and is recognition of the strong engagement the Company has experienced from government, investors, and industry groups in North America.

Through the Australia-US Taskforce on Critical Minerals (the Taskforce)<sup>3</sup>, Australia and the US have continued to strengthen their partnership in the development of secure, sustainable critical mineral supply chains. The Dubbo Project has benefitted from the leadership of Minister Madeleine King on the Taskforce and her recent advocacy in North America on Australian critical minerals projects. This enhanced cooperation has given access

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<sup>1</sup> Exchange rate (A\$ : US\$) – 0.65

<sup>2</sup> Exchange rate (A\$ : US\$) – 0.65

<sup>3</sup> Refer: [Prime Minister of Australia joint statement: Australia-United States Climate, Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Transformation Compact](#)

to new funding opportunities for projects capable of demonstrating strong alignment to the bilateral objectives of the two countries.

“The Dubbo Project is a globally significant rare earths and critical minerals asset, well positioned to support the joint objective of Australia and the US to develop and expand reliable, responsible and secure global access to critical minerals,” said ASM Managing Director and CEO, Ms Rowena Smith. “We are delighted to receive this letter of interest from US EXIM following extensive collaboration with multiple government and industry stakeholders in the US and look forward to building on the relationships we have established in this jurisdiction.”

US EXIM’s letter of interest for the construction phase of the Dubbo Project follows Export Finance Australia’s (EFA) previous conditional finance support of A\$200 million debt funding for the Dubbo Project.<sup>4</sup>

**Current conditional debt funding support for  
construction & execution phase of the Dubbo Project**

Agency	Amount
EFA	A\$200M
US EXIM	US\$600M (A\$923M)
<b>Total</b>	<b>A\$1.12B</b>

While the Lol is non-binding and conditional, the potential funding support available offered by US EXIM provides a catalyst to increase customer and financing focus in North America. The Company will update the market upon reaching a definitive agreement with US EXIM for funding support.

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*This document has been authorised for release to the market by the Board.*

<sup>4</sup> ASX Announcement 28 June 2021, Export Finance Australia issues letter of support for the Dubbo Project