# FOCUS GRAPHITE INC.

# (An exploration stage Company)

# MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the three month period ended December 31, 2016

#### FOCUS GRAPHITE INC.

# MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016.

The following Management Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") of the operations, results, financial condition and future prospects of Focus Graphite Inc. ("Focus" or the "Company") are current as of February 27, 2017. It should be read in conjunction with the Company's interim unaudited financial statements and notes thereto for the three month period ended December 31, 2016, and the audited financial statements and the notes thereto for the year ended September 30, 2016 which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The reporting currency is in Canadian dollars. All financial results presented in this MD&A are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

This MD&A contains or may refer to certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements". Forward-looking statements include estimates and statements that describe the Company's future development plans, objectives or goals, including words to the effect that the Company expects a stated condition or result to occur. Forward-looking statements may be identified by such terms as "anticipates", "believes", "could", "estimates", "predict", "seek", "potential", "continue", "intend", "plan", "expects", "may", "shall", "will", or "would" and similar expressions. Since forwardlooking statements are based on assumptions and address future events and conditions, by their very nature they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those in forwardlooking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forwardlooking statements include market prices for mineral commodities; exploration successes; new opportunities; continued availability of capital and financing; general economic, market or business conditions; and litigation, legislative, environmental or other judicial, regulatory, political and competitive developments. These and other factors should be considered carefully and readers should not place undue reliance on the Company's forward-looking statements. Focus does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time by Management or on its behalf, except in accordance with applicable public disclosure rules and regulations.

#### **Nature of Business**

Focus is a Canadian mineral exploration and development company incorporated under the *Canada Business Corporations Act*. The Company is engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of mineral properties principally in Québec, with the aim of discovering commercially exploitable deposits of minerals (primarily graphite, rare earth elements ("REE")). The Company's main focus is to bring the Lac Knife graphite project to production.

Common shares of the Company are listed for trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange Venture Market ("TSX-V") under the symbol "FMS" and on the OTCQX under the symbol "FCSMF". Focus' corporate office is located at 945 Princess St. Kingston, Ontario, K7L 0E9.

#### **Going Concern Assumption**

The financial statements accompanied by the management's discussion and analysis have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The going concern basis of presentation assumes the Company will continue to operate for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. The Company is in the exploration stage and has not earned revenue from operations. During the quarter ended December 31, 2016, the Company incurred a net loss of \$783,309 (2015 - \$1,440,150) and negative cash flows from operations of \$499,561 (2015 - \$372,918). In addition, the Company has a working capital deficiency of \$869,926 and a deficit of \$33,821,792.

The above factors raise significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. In assessing whether the going concern assumption is appropriate, Management takes into account all available information about the future, which is at least, but not limited to, twelve months from the end of the reporting period. This assessment is based upon planned actions that may or may not occur for a number of reasons including the Company's own resources and external market conditions.

The Company's ability to continue as a going concern, realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business, meet its corporate administrative expenses and continue its exploration activities in fiscal2017, is dependent upon Management's ability to obtain additional financing, through

various means including but not limited to equity financing. No assurance can be given that any such additional financing will be available, or that it can be obtained on terms favorable to the Company. Failure to obtain additional financing results in material uncertainties that cast significant doubt as to the Company's ability to continue to operate as a going concern.

The financial statements do not reflect adjustments that would be necessary if the going concern assumption were not appropriate. If the going concern basis was not appropriate for these financial statements, then adjustments would be necessary to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities, the reported expenses and the classifications used in the statements of financial position.

Given the current market conditions, there is no assurance that the Company will be successful in raising the additional required funds.

Alternatively, to address its financing requirements and streamline operational costs, Management is considering the following options:

1. Potential sale of part of the Company's equity position in Grafoid Inc. (Focus holds 7,800,000 shares in Grafoid Inc. (`Grafoid`));

2. Potential sale of part or all of the Company's free trading shares in Mincom Capital Inc. (Focus currently has 2,500,000 shares of Mincom Capital Inc. (TSX-V: MOI) which is currently trading at \$0.04 (previous close on October 16, 2016 before a temporary suspension on trading was imposed pending a material news announcement) on the TSX-V);

3. Potential sale or option of the Company's non-graphite related assets including the Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option and Eastmain-Léran Polymetallic properties in the James Bay territory of northern Québec;

The outcome of these measures cannot be predicted at this time and Management's ability to complete these measures will depend on market conditions and its ability to find buyers for these assets. The Company's Board of Directors has approved pursuing these measures.

#### **Corporate Development Highlights**

#### Focus Closes Second and Final Tranche of Non Brokered Offering Raising \$487,324 in Gross Proceeds

On October 2, 2015, the Company announced the closing of the second and final tranche of a non brokered private placement on September 30, 2015 (the "Offering") for gross proceeds of approximately \$487,324, the first tranche of the financing was closed on August 28, 2015 raising gross proceeds of \$429,829. For the second tranche, the Company issued 3,748,646 units (the "Units") at a price of \$0.13 per Unit, each Unit being comprised of one (1) common share of the Company and one common share purchase warrant (a "Warrant"), each Warrant entitling the holder thereof to acquire one (1) additional common share of the Company at a price of \$0.17 per share until September 30, 2019.

In connection with the closing of the second tranche of the Offering, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$9,386 and issued 63,584 non-transferable warrants, each warrant entitling the holder to acquire one (1) common share of the Company at a price of \$0.17 per common share until September 30, 2017.

Certain insiders of the Company participated in the Offering and subscribed for an aggregate of 2,692,308 Units representing an aggregate amount of \$350,000. Participation of insiders of the Company in the Offering constitutes a "related party transaction" as defined under *Regulation 61-101 respecting Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions* ("Regulation 61-101"). The Offering is exempt from the formal valuation and minority shareholder approval requirements of Regulation 61-101 as neither the fair market value of securities being issued to insiders nor the consideration being paid by insiders will exceed 25% of the Company's market capitalization. The Company did not file a material change report 21 days prior to the closing of the Offering as the details of the participation of insiders of the Company had not been confirmed at that time.

The securities offered pursuant to the Offering will not be registered under the United States *Securities Act of 1933* (the "Act") and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Act.

Ratification of Focus' Shareholders' Rights Plan

On October 2, 2015, the Company announced that its Shareholders reconfirmed and ratified its shareholders' rights plan (the "Plan") dated January 6, 2012. A copy of the Plan is available at <u>www.sedar.com</u>.

### Lac Knife High Purity Spherical Graphite Holds Potential to Extend Range in Lithium-Ion Cell Powered EVs

On November 25, 2015, the Company announced results from independent laboratory tests conducted to compare the long term cycling performance of Lac Knife surface coated spherical crystalline fine flake graphite with two commercial grades of coated crystalline flake graphite in the anodes of CR2016 coin cells.

The results presented are a follow up from data presented in Focus' February 26, 2015 news release where similar tests were run on "as-is" minus 200 mesh fines of Lac Knife graphite which also showed to have excellent long term cycling performance.

# Highlights:

- Coin cell tests run on purified uncoated and coated standard grades of Lac Knife spherical graphite (SPG) showed that both grades exhibited essentially no loss in capacity up to the limit of the tests of 110 cycles
- Coin cell tests run under the same formulation and conditions showed that the two commercial grades of coated flake graphite exhibited capacity losses of 4.35% and 6.43% up to the limit of the tests of 110 cycles.

The Company's aim is to develop the Lac Knife project so it becomes one of the lowest cost producers of high-purity technology graphite. The purpose of its ongoing battery materials testing efforts is to validate the commercial viability of the high purity crystalline flake graphite recovered from its Lac Knife deposit, and to demonstrate that Lac Knife graphite holds the potential to improve the performance of anodes in Lithium Ion batteries. (See May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Company News Releases).

\* Cautionary notes related to the industrial transformation plant project: Feasibility studies on any value-added industrial projects are not the same as feasibility studies for mineral projects as defined under NI 43-101 and CIM Definition Standards for Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves. Although Focus continues to work towards its objective of developing value-added products using graphite concentrates to be produced at the Lac Knife project or obtained from other graphite concentrate producers, the Corporation reiterates its primary objective of advancing the Lac Knife mineral project towards production of large, medium and fine flake graphite concentrate as demonstrated in the Lac Knife Feasibility Study dated August 8, 2014 (a copy of which is available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com). The feasibility of a transformation plant for value-added products remains to be demonstrated and could be determined to be uneconomical and therefore not feasible for the Corporation. It is therefore possible that Focus never move forward with such transformation plant despite its corporate objective to do so. Readers are therefore cautioned against undue reliance on this corporate objective given its uncertainty at the present time. Focus intends to bring the Lac Knife deposit into production despite any potential negative decision on the fabrication of value-added products.

The properties of the flake graphite recovered from the Lac Knife high quality and high carbon content graphite deposit, allow for the recovery of concentrate that grades 98% C even in the finer size fractions down to 200 mesh (75 microns) that are usually the most difficult products to sell. This holds the potential for Focus to create a high-margin business opportunity by providing customers with a finer grade, lower cost, value-added graphite product.

Battery manufacturers require a cost competitive alternative to current sources of synthetic and natural flake graphite. China produces the majority of the world's purified SPG, using methods generally regarded as environmentally unsustainable.

# Presentation of Data:

All Lac Knife flake graphite materials tested were purified, spheronized and sized for application in the anodes (negative electrodes) of Lithium-Ion batteries. The anodes for all samples tested consisted of 90% graphite, 7% PVDF binder and 3% carbon black and a copper coil current collector with a thickness

of 20 microns. All cells were assembled and tested in a CR2016 coin cell configuration prepared with 1M LiPF6/EC/DMC electrolyte and lithium foil counter electrodes. The coin cells were then cycled between 0.003 and 1.5 volts. Formation was carried out with C/10 current density and cycling was carried out with the same voltage limits at C/10. To evaluate the cycling performance, half cells made with the lithium metal counter electrode were charged and discharged at a relatively low current density and cycled galvanostatically at a C/10 rate until the limit of the test was reached.

\* Cautionary notes related to proprietary industrial processes: Testing was conducted at a globally recognized laboratory in Europe. The name of the laboratory is being withheld because of commercial and competitive confidentiality. The Corporation is not disclosing details of its in-house and proprietary purification technologies for competitive reasons. The results obtained through independent testing are preliminary and will require additional testing and evaluation. The capacity of Focus to produce graphite value-added products on a commercial scale remains to be demonstrated. Readers are therefore cautioned against undue reliance on these results given their preliminary nature. The scientific and technical information in this news release relating to coated spherical graphite has been prepared by the Company who is responsible for such disclosure. Joseph E. Doninger, PhD., M.Sc., B.Sc. (Chemical Engineering) a global expert in graphite processing and product development and Focus' Director of Manufacturing and Technology, supervised the Company's material testing program.

Figure 1 below compares the long-term cycling performance of both the spheronized uncoated and surface coated standard grade of purified Lac Knife graphite. The standard sizing of the Focus Graphite's Lithium-Ion coated graphite has a d50 in the range of 23 to 29 micrometers. The surface area of the uncoated SPG was 5.25 m2/gram which actually is too high and not suitable for use directly in Lithium-Ion batteries.

The use of high surface area graphites have been known to contribute to thermal runaways and fires in Lithium-Ion batteries. It was this material that was coated with a passivating surface coating which reduced the surface area to less than 2.0 m2/gram to produce the standard grade of coated SPG and make it suitable for use in the anodes of Lithium-Ion batteries.

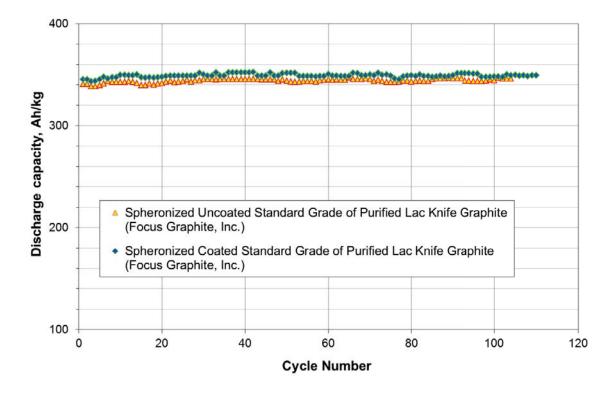


Figure 1. Long-term cycling performance of Lac Knife Purified Spheronized Standard Grade of natural crystalline flake graphite with and without surface coating (CR2016 cells, Li/Li+ counter electrode; C/10 cycling rate; reversible capacity only shown). <u>http://file.marketwire.com/release/fms1125.jpg</u>

As shown both the uncoated and coated standard Lithium-Ion grade of the Focus graphite exhibited essentially no capacity loss after 105 and 110 cycles, respectively which effectively was the end of both tests. What is important here is that, although the surface coating applied to the SPG is critical to the safety of Lithium-Ion batteries, it is the high quality of the Lac Knife graphite that provides the long term cycling stability to the Lithium-Ion battery. The data also show that the surface coating improves the reversible capacity of the Lac Knife SPG in the cell.

Figure 2 compares the long term cycling performance of the Lac Knife standard grade of coated SPG with two commercial Lithium-Ion grades of purified coated crystalline flake graphite. As noted previously both of these commercial Lithium-Ion grades were tested in CR2016 half cells under the same formulation and conditions of the Lac Knife cells.

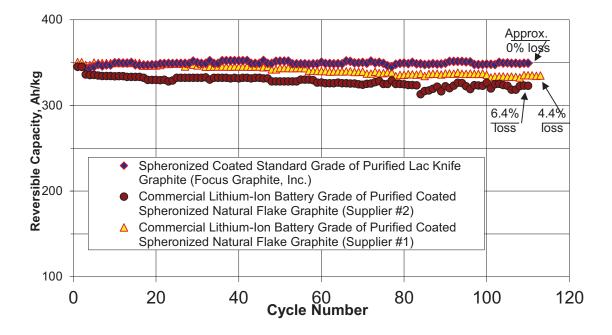


Figure 2. Long-term cycling performance of Lac Knife Purified Spheronized Coated Standard Grade of natural crystalline flake graphite compared to two commercial grades of purified coated spheronized natural flake graphites (CR2016 cells, Li/Li+ counter electrode; C/10 cycling rate; reversible capacity only shown). <u>http://file.marketwire.com/release/fms21125.jpg</u>

The long term cycling performance of the standard grade of coated SPG is the same as that in Figure 1 which showed that there is essentially no capacity loss after 110 cycles. Although the cells made with all three graphites start out with a reversible capacity of around 350 mAh/g (Figure 2), only the cell made with the Lac Knife standard grade of coated SPG showed essentially no loss in capacity after 110 cycles and the conclusion of the test. The long term cycling tests of the first commercial grade of Lithium-Ion grade flake graphite ended up with a reversible capacity of 335.16 mAh/g after 110 cycles and a capacity loss of 4.35%. A similar loss in performance is observed with the second commercial Lithium-Ion grade of flake graphite ending up with a reversible capacity of 322.84 mAh/g and a 6.43% capacity loss after 110 cycles.

The fact that the Lithium-Ion half-cells made with the standard coated grade of Lac Knife SPG showed essentially no loss in capacity after long term cycling is critical to the performance of Lithium-Ion batteries for all applications in the field. For example, these data suggest that the excellent long-term stability achieved in half cells with the use of Lac Knife graphite in Lithium-Ion batteries should ultimately result in an increase in the range of electric vehicles before they have to be re-charged.

#### Focus Closes a Private Placement Raising \$1,433,380 in Gross Proceeds

On December 23, 2015, the Company announced the closing of a private placement (the "Offering"). In total, the Company issued 14,333,800 flow-through common shares at a price of \$0.10 per common share for aggregate proceeds of \$1,433,380.

In connection with the closing of the Offering, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$114,670.40 to Secutor Capital Management Corp. ("Secutor") and issued 1,146,704 non-transferable warrants to Secutor and Marquest Capital Markets, each warrant entitling the holder to acquire one (1) common share of the Company at a price of \$0.10 per common share until December 23, 2017.

The proceeds of this Offering will be allocated to exploration work on the Company's mineral properties in Québec.

Additionally, the Company has granted options to its employees, consultants, directors and officers to purchase 4,800,000 common shares of the company at \$0.10 a share over a period of five-years pursuant to the Company's stock option plan; of which 3,500,000 options were granted to directors and officers of the company.

#### Focus Closes Additional Flow-Through Financing Raising \$100,000 in Gross Proceeds

On December 31, 2015, the Company announced the closing of an additional flow-through financing (the "Offering") on December 23, 2015. The Company issued 1,000,000 flow-through common shares at a price of \$0.10 per common share for aggregate proceeds of \$100,000.

In connection with the closing of the Offering, the Company didn't pay any finder's fee. The securities issued in connection with the Offering were subject to a four month hold period that expired May 1, 2016. The proceeds of this Offering will be allocated to exploration work on the Company's mineral properties in Québec. The Offering is subject to final approval from the TSX Venture Exchange.

An insider of the Company participated in the Offering and subscribed for an aggregate of 1,000,000 flow-through common shares representing an amount of \$100,000. Participation of an insider of the Company in the Offering constitutes a "related party transaction" as defined under Regulation 61-101 respecting Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions ("Regulation 61-101"). The Offering is exempt from the formal valuation and minority shareholder approval requirements of Regulation 61-101 as neither the fair market value of securities being issued to insiders nor the consideration being paid by insiders will exceed 25% of the Company's market capitalization. The Company did not file a material change report 21 days prior to the closing of the Offering as the details of the participation of insiders of the Company had not been confirmed at that time.

# Focus Announces Pending Sale of Grafoid Shares and Other Benefits Tied to Grafoid's MOU With China's Xiamen Tungsten Co.

On March 23, 2016, the Company announced its affiliate, Grafoid Inc., and Xiamen Tungsten Co. Ltd. (Xiamen), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of a strategic joint venture partnership.

The MOU establishes terms for Xiamen's acquisition of up to a 20% equity position in Grafoid through the purchase of common shares - including up to 7,000,000 Grafoid common shares currently held by Focus and; it provides Focus with a portal in China for the future sale of value added graphite products through its strategic partnership with Xiamen. Focus, with 7.9 million shares, is the largest shareholder in Grafoid.

In summary, the MOU between Grafoid and Xiamen sets out parameters for actions that meet both parties' immediate and long-term business objectives through a joint venture arrangement. They include:

- Xiamen's desire to build a clean energy technology platform and introduce those technologies to the China market
- Grafoid's goals for developing industrial applications to open the China market for the commercialization of its suite of Mesograf<sup>™</sup> and Amphioxide <sup>™</sup> graphene based products
- The fulfillment of Focus ' desire to move forward with the development of its Lac Knife, Québec natural flake graphite project, and supply global markets with high purity, value-added, cost-competitive graphite products while supporting the next generation battery development platform of Grafoid, Focus Graphite, Stria Lithium Inc., and Braille Battery Inc.

• The establishment of Xiamen's business office at the Grafoid Global Technology Center in Kingston, Ontario to provide Xiamen with a North American base for future business expansion, and; the establishment of a Grafoid business office in China

The due diligence process was concluded during the quarter ended June 30, 2016, on May 22, 2016 and the nature of the proposed transaction with Xiamen has evolved and is now directed to an investment in Grafoid's battery company.

A publicly traded company listed on the Shanghai Exchange, Xiamen Tungsten is China's leader in smelting, processing and export of tungsten and other non-ferrous metal products; the operation of rare earth business interests, and; the supply of battery materials. It has annual revenues in excess of 10.143B CNY (\$1.55B US).

### About Grafoid Inc.

Grafoid is a complete solutions graphene company. The company provides expertise as well as product and processes for transformative, industrial-scale graphene applications in partnership with leading corporations and institutions around the world.

A privately held Canadian corporation, Grafoid invests in graphene applications and economically scalable production processes for graphene and graphene derivatives from raw, unprocessed graphite ore. Focus holds a significant interest in Grafoid.

Incorporated in 2011, Grafoid's global enterprise platform includes 17 subsidiary companies engaged in the development of Mesograf<sup>™</sup>, Amphioxide<sup>™</sup> and GrafeneX materials and products, and development services. They include, but are not limited to: Mesograf<sup>™</sup> lithium batteries for electric vehicles, consumer electronics, and industrial energy storage; additive manufacturing materials including metal alloy and graphene polymer powders for 3D printing; polymers, plastics, rubber, elastomers, and composite materials; fibre science including aluminum alloys; coatings and lubricants; fire retardant materials; thermal management solutions; EMI/RFI/EMP shielding; solar solutions, and analytical testing; and laboratory services.

Grafoid's research is supported through the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) of the National Research Council of Canada, and, on February 20, 2015, Grafoid received an \$8.1million investment from the SD Tech Fund<sup>™</sup> of Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) to develop a technology that will automate Mesograf<sup>™</sup> graphene production and end-product development. SDTC is mandated by the Government of Canada to support clean technology companies as they move their technologies to market.

### Focus Introduces a High Conductivity Graphite for Cathodes in Lithium-Ion Batteries

On March 31, 2016, the Company announced that independent testing of expanded natural flake graphite from its Lac Knife, Québec Project demonstrate nearly double the electrical conductivity over standard grades of synthetic and natural graphite used in Li-Ion battery cathode applications.

The two-year project, involving the preparation and testing of intercalated\*, expanded\*\* and delaminated\*\*\* Lac Knife graphite was supervised by Dr. Joseph E. Doninger, Focus' Director of Manufacturing and Technology.

Testing was performed between 2014 and 2016 under three contracts with a highly reputable and recognized international firm, with additional scientific investigations using Ramen microscopy provided by a well-known U.S. university laboratory. The names of the internationally recognized facilities were withheld for commercially competitive reasons.

The project began with the development of a modified ASTM C 611 Four Point Resistivity Tester in 2014 to compare the conductivity of different grades of Lac Knife graphite with competitive graphites followed by the development of processes and equipment for the intercalation, expansion and delamination of Lac Knife graphite for use in Li-Ion and alkaline batteries.

The project concluded in a presentation by Dr. Doninger to the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Battery Seminar and Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on March 23, 2016.

A PDF version of Dr. Doninger's technical presentation entitled "Long Term Cycling Performance and Conductivity Enhancement Characteristics of Lac Knife Flake Graphite from Quebec, Canada" is available here: <u>http://focusgraphite.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/battery-presentation-fms.pdf</u>

Expanded graphite is a form of processed natural crystalline flake, featuring dramatically improved electrical conductivity in electrode matrixes. Delaminated expanded flake is also preferable to conventional air-milled flake and/or premium quality synthetic graphites when higher conductivity properties are desired.

Due to its added-value benefits, expanded graphite typically commands larger revenue margins due to higher selling prices than the competitive grades of flake and synthetic graphite now being used for this application.

Niche markets that use expanded graphite include: specialty paints and coatings, cathodes of alkaline Zinc/Manganese Dioxide primary batteries, cathodes of zinc-air batteries and negative electrodes of lead-acid batteries. The test results lead to a number of potentially advantageous conclusions for using Lac Knife graphite in both the anodes and cathodes of Li Ion batteries to enhance overall battery efficiencies, including increased power, higher capacity, longer battery life and increased utilization of cathode active materials.

Current commercial pricing for these purified grades of synthetic and expanded flake graphite, said Dr. Doninger, varies from producer to producer, within a range of US \$14,000 per metric tonne to upwards of US \$30,000 per MT. The higher end of the price range is for a premium grade of synthetic graphite published in the Department of Energy-Argonne National Laboratory Annual Review report for the Freedom CAR Program in 2003.

On May 27, 2014, the Company announced the potential for high value added sales in the Li-ion battery sector following battery coin cell tests performed on Spherical Graphite ("SPG") produced from the Lac Knife graphite concentrate for use in the anodes of Li Ion batteries and exhibited high reversible capacities and low first cycle capacity losses. Subsequent test results were published on February 26, 2015 showing that the Lac Knife SPG exceeded the performance of commercially available grades of synthetic graphite in coin cells and on November 25, 2015 announced that the Lac Knife SPG showed excellent long term cycling performance with essentially zero capacity loss after 110 cycles. These news releases are available on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) under focus Graphite Inc.

\* Intercalation of graphite is the process introducing chemical compounds in between the individual layers of flakes of graphite either chemically or electro-chemically as a necessary first step in the process to produce expanded graphite.

\*\* Expanded graphite is the product produced by heating the intercalated graphite to 850C to form the expanded graphite worms.

\*\*\* Delamination of graphite is the process of separating individual thinner flakes from the expanded graphite worms in such a way as to preserve the flake structure of the individual separated flakes.

#### Qualified Persons:

Dr. Joseph E. Doninger, PhD, the Company's Director of Manufacturing and Technology; an Honorary Professor at the Kiev National University of Technologies and Design; an internationally recognized expert and author of numerous publications; a patent holder of various graphite production technologies and methodologies, and; a Co-Editor of the NATO Science Series Book entitled "New Carbon Based Materials for Energy Storage Systems," has reviewed and approved the technical content of this news release relating to the preparation and testing of intercalated\*, expanded\*\* and delaminated\*\*\* Lac Knife graphite and to the interpretation of the test results.

Mr. Marc-André Bernier, M.Sc, P.Geo (Québec and Ontario), a Director of the Company and a Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects, has reviewed and approved the technical content of this news release relating to the Lac Knife project mineral resource estimates and feasibility study report.

#### Focus Closes First Tranche of Non-Brokered Offering Raising \$1,531,550 in Gross Proceeds

On April 4, 2016, the Company announced the closing of the first tranche of a non-brokered private placement (the "Offering") for gross proceeds of \$1,531,549.95 on April 1, 2016. The Company issued 7,167,714 Flow-Through common shares at a price of \$0.175 per Flow-Through Share and 1,848,000 Units at a price of \$0.15 per Unit. Each Unit is comprised of one common share and one common share purchase Warrant. Each Warrant entitles its holder to purchase one common share at a price of \$0.20 per share until April 1, 2020.

In connection with the closing of the first tranche of the Offering, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$113,803.99 and issued 670,742 non-transferable warrants, each warrant entitling the holder to acquire one common share of the Company at a price of \$0.20 per common share until April 1, 2020.

The securities issued in connection with the closing of the first tranche of the Offering was subject to a four-month hold period which expired on August 2, 2016.

An insider of the Company participated in the Offering and subscribed for an aggregate of 571,429 Flow-Through Shares representing an aggregate amount of \$100,000. Participation of insiders of the Company in the Offering constitutes a "related party transaction" as defined under *Regulation 61-101 respecting Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions* ("Regulation 61-101"). The Offering is exempt from the formal valuation and minority shareholder approval requirements of Regulation 61-101 as neither the fair market value of securities being issued to insiders nor the consideration being paid by insiders will exceed 25% of the Company's market capitalization. The Company did not file a material change report 21 days prior to the closing of the Offering as the details of the participation of insiders of the Company had not been confirmed at that time.

### Focus Closes Second Tranche of Non-Brokered Offering Raising \$337,025 in Gross Proceeds

On May 5, 2016, the Company announced the closing of the second tranche of a previously announced (April 4, 2016) non-brokered private placement for gross proceeds of \$337,025.25. The Company issued 2,246,835 Units at a price of \$0.15 per Unit. Each Unit is comprised of one common share and one common share purchase Warrant. Each Warrant entitles its holder to purchase one common share at a price of \$0.20 per share until May 5, 2020.

In connection with the closing of the second tranche of the Offering, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$19,882.02 and issued 132,546 non-transferable warrants, each warrant entitling the holder to acquire one common share of the Company at a price of \$0.20 per common share until May 5, 2020.

The securities issued in connection with the closing of the second tranche of the Offering was subject to a four-month hold period which expired on September 6, 2016.

#### Focus Closes Third and Final Tranche of Non-Brokered Offering Raising \$403,750 in Gross Proceeds

On May 17, 2016, the Company announced the closing of the third and final tranche of a non-brokered private placement for gross proceeds of \$403,750. The Company issued 1,578,572 Flow-Through Shares at a price of \$0.175 per Flow-Through Share and 850,000 Units at a price of \$0.15 per Unit. Each Unit is comprised of one common share and one common share purchase Warrant. Each Warrant entitles its holder to purchase one common share at a price of \$0.20 per share until May 17, 2020.

In connection with the closing of the third tranche of the Offering, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$32,300 and issued 194,285 non-transferable warrants, each warrant entitling the holder to acquire one common share of the Company at a price of \$0.20 per common share until May 17, 2020.

The securities issued in connection with the closing of the third tranche of the Offering was subject to a four-month hold period which expired on September 18, 2016.

The securities offered pursuant to the above mentioned offerings will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), or applicable state securities laws, and such securities may not be offered or sold to, or for the account or benefit of, persons in the United States or "U.S. persons", as such term is defined under Regulation S promulgated under the Act, absent

registration or an applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the Act and applicable state securities laws.

Focus' Proprietary Process Purifies Fine Flake Graphite to 99.99% Level for a New Generation of Lithium-Ion Batteries

On August 8, 2016, the Company announced it has successfully purified *fine* flake graphite - sourced at the wholly owned Lac Knife, Quebec deposit - from 95% to 99.99% purity using a proprietary energy efficient purification process. Attaining a 99.99% purity level from fine graphite flake is significant. Focus now has the technology to economically purify low value fine flake graphite or, "fines" to a high value material needed for the production of lithium-ion batteries.

Goldman Sachs Equity Research projects an emerging global low carbon economy that will produce 25 million hybrid and pure electric vehicles by 2025. Other next generation renewable energy markets include portable electronic devices, utility scale energy storage, urban transportation, rail, marine, aviation and clean energy applications for the military.

Focus is at an advanced stage in testing high purity level graphite for use in battery and other high-tech applications. Within the last 26 months, Focus has published the results of four successive independent test results highlighting the superior performance of Lac Knife graphite in short-term and long-term lithium-ion battery cycling. These tests are mandatory before customers can use any new materials in battery chemistry.

The traditional purification process involves heating the graphite to in excess of 2000°C and essentially distilling off the impurities. There is a high-energy cost and some loss of graphite. The Focus process reacts the graphite at a much lower temperature (less than 1200 °C) with gaseous chlorine compounds. The impurities are converted to chlorides which distill off at much lower temperatures, lower energy and no loss of graphite. Chemicals used are recycled and are relatively inexpensive.

The Company has invested in a long-term research program aimed at discovering the potential for transforming a fine flake graphite source to a high value material suitable for use in lithium-ion batteries. The purpose of Focus' R&D fine flake production process program is to meet battery manufacturers needs for a novel, high-grade, high purity graphite that increases performance while reducing their input costs. Focus' high-grade deposit's fine flake distribution is unique in that impurities are located mainly on the surface of the material, resulting in processing cost efficiencies.

Approximately one-third of the Lac Knife deposit is comprised of small and fine flakes suitable for processing to lithium-ion battery grade specifications.

The fines that are produced during the flotation process can now be substituted for the large and medium flakes being purified for use in battery manufacturing, leaving the large and medium flakes for sale into higher value applications.

Focus has acquired an intimate understanding of both the future needs of the battery manufacturing sector and trends in that sector as a long-standing Board Member of Chicago-based <u>NAATBatt</u> <u>International</u> (the National Alliance for Advanced Transportation Batteries).

As such, holding the ability to purify Lac Knife's fine flakes expands the company's potential to sell substantially more of the graphite extracted from Lac Knife into high-value, high-tech applications instead of approximately 30 percent being sold for lower value industrial applications.

Focus will continue to explore its Lac Tetepisca, Quebec property for graphite material to fulfill the Company's "Polymer Offtake" agreement with Grafoid Inc. in addition to other potential customers. The Company has established a recent history of technological successes by designing processes leading to superior performing coated spherical graphite for use in battery anodes. Laboratory scale testing during the first half of 2016 involved approximately 30 trial runs using Lac Knife fine flake (-200 mesh to +400 mesh) graphite at the Grafoid Global Technology Centre in Kingston, Ontario.

The proprietary, low temperature process, developed by a Focus technical team, is believed to be more efficient than very high temperature thermal purification and is suitable for the removal of specific types of impurities found in the Lac Knife graphite deposit.

Focus' low temperature process versus conventional very high temperature purification processes obviates the use of large amounts of energy - one of the largest single cost components of graphite purification.

# **Customer Engagement**

The path from graphite product development to the battery manufacturers' testing labs is a lengthy, multi-step process. Staged R&D testing is a prerequisite to the sale, or offtake, of any manufactured graphite for use in lithium-ion, alkaline and lead-acid batteries in the automobile, consumer, medical equipment, tools, hand-held industrial devices and aviation manufacturing industries or with military equipment suppliers. As a technology graphite developer, Focus is engaged in R&D and development of graphite concentrate and value added products for a low carbon economy.

With some individual variations, the graphite sales process begins with the execution by the customer of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). This is followed by supplying the customer with small quantities of samples for initial testing in coin cells, followed by life cycle testing in both larger and full sized batteries, followed by the signing of offtake agreements. This process can take anywhere up to 24 months.

# **Qualified Person**

Dr. Joseph Doninger, Focus' Director of Technology and Manufacturing is the Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects - reviewed and approved the technical content of above disclosure regarding the Company's proprietary process to purify fine flake graphite to 99.99% level for a new generation of lithium-ion batteries. Dr. Joseph Doninger is an internationally recognized graphite processing expert and himself, the inventor of a number of patents and an author of over 22 technical papers and presentations related to graphite processing and the use of graphite in energy storage systems. Dr. Doninger is also a co-editor on the NATO Science Series book titled "New Carbon Based Materials for Electrochemical Energy Storage Systems". Dr. Doninger is also an Honorary Professor at the Department of Chemistry from the Kiev National University of Design Technology.

### Focus' Reports High Grade Drilling Results from its Lac Tétépisca Project: Hole LT-14-04 Intersects 103.9 m Grading 10.25% Cg

On August 17, 2016, the Company announced the results obtained from the 2014 core drilling program at its wholly owned Lac Tétépisca graphite project located southwest of the Manicouagan reservoir in the Côte-Nord administrative region of north-eastern Québec.

# Highlights:

- In 2014, 16 HQ-diameter holes were drilled along four fences, spaced 200 m apart, and covering a 600 m strike length section of a 1.5-km long electromagnetic (EM) conductor mapped by a combined magnetic (MAG)-EM ground geophysical survey conducted over the "Manicouagan Ouest graphitic corridor". Eleven (11) holes intersected significant graphitic mineralisation (Table 1\*).
- The 2014 drill holes were loaded into Gemcom<sup>™</sup> software and the three-dimensional mineralised envelope has an azimuth of 210 degrees and dips at -40 degrees. The conversion factor for true width is 0.99 of the core length thickness. The thicknesses reported for the best intersection in the news release have been changed, however Table 1 lengths are core length thicknesses.
- Best intersection: Hole LT-14-04, drilled at -45 degrees to a depth of 144 m, intersected 103.9 m grading 10.25% Graphitic Carbon (Cg<sup>1</sup>) including:
  - o 22.4 m grading 17.3 % Cg (from 36.8 m to 59.2 m); and
  - 20.0 m grading 13.9 % Cg (from 89.5 m to 109.5 m)
- The 2014 drilling identified a significant graphitic zone 60 to 100 m wide that extends down to these intersections at depth and within the main kilometric geophysical MAG-EM anomaly known as the "Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor". A secondary graphitic zone is located 10 m to the northwest of the main zone and is 6-12 m wide.

The 600 m-long Lac Tétépisca graphitic corridor discovered by Focus in 2012 and held within the kilometric-scale MAG-EM anomaly mapped in 2014 now has significant measured drill core graphitic intercepts down to approximately 100 m depth. The encouraging initial drilling results at Lac Tétépisca further indicate that there is potential for a new large volume-high grade graphite deposit in the South Manicouagan reservoir area. In particular, interest for this type of deposit could come from the future graphite-based plastic polymer industry.

The 2014 Lac Tétépisca drilling campaign was designed to test surface mineralization down to a vertical depth of approximately 100 m. The Lac Tétépisca graphitic corridor discovery was found as a result of initial prospecting and trenching work conducted in 2012 and in 2013 (refer to Focus news releases dated November 15, 2012 and October 20, 2014 available at <a href="http://www.focusgraphite.com">www.focusgraphite.com</a> and at <a href="http://wwww.focusgraphite.com">www.focusgraphite.com</a> and at <a href="http://www.focusgraphite.com">www.focusgraphite.com</a> and at <a href="http://www.focusgraphite.com"/www.focusgraphite.com"/www.focusgraphite.com"/www.focusgrap

In 2014 the Company conducted a preliminary metallurgical characterization of a 10 kg composite channel sample. The metallurgical test work which was carried out at SGS Canada Inc., of Lakefield, Ontario, achieved a carbon content averaging 94.7% total carbon<sup>2</sup> (Ct) for all flake above 200 mesh, including 97.7% Ct for plus 80 mesh flake - a quality that is critical to the lithium ion battery market (refer to Focus news release dated October 20, 2014 available at www.focusgraphite.com and at www.sedar.com).

The Company has completed the design of a new follow-up core drilling program at the Lac Tétépisca graphite property. This second phase of drilling will be mainly designed to test the strike-length extensions of the known graphitic mineralisation within the limits of the main EM anomaly.

	TA	ABLE 1:	2014 DRIL	LING PRO	GRAM	RESUI	TS	
Drillhole	Section	Azimuth	Total Length (m)	Intercepts	From (m)	To (m)	Intersection length (m)*	Cg (%)
LT-14-01	0+00	302	126	Intersection	25.5	88.8	63.3	11.25
				Including	65.65	85.2	19.55	17.67
				Intersection	100.45	108.0	7.55	7.76
LT-14-02	0+00	302	126	Intersection	7.0	41.6	34.6	13.71
				Including	18.0	37.1	19.1	17.21
				Intersection	58.1	64.5	6.4	6.96
LT-14-04	2+00 S	302	144	Intersection	32.3	137.2	104.9	10.25
				Including	36.8	59.15	22.35	17.34
		-		Including	89.5	109.5	20.0	13.93
LT-14-05	2+00 S	302	126	Intersection	6.25	67.5	61.25	8.69
				Intersection	77.55	85.0	7.45	7.19
LT-14-07	2+00 S	302	126	Intersection	21.25	33.0	11.75	5.78
				Intersection	40.45	46.75	6.3	5.92
				Intersection	96.2	102.9	6.7	22.55
LT-14-08	4+00 S	302	153	Intersection	43.5	144.45	100.95	10.19
		-		Including	49.1	77.9	28.8	17.80
LT-14-11	4+00 S	302	119	Intersection	3.2	43.0	39.8	9.52
				Including	13.3	23.5	10.2	12.93
				Intersection	55.0	67.0	12.0	7.28
LT-14-12	6+00 S	302	143	Intersection	44.5	117.4	72.9	13.81
				Including	46.9	83.9	37.0	17.27
				Including	89.05	100.9	11.85	17.53
				Intersection	130.9	140.8	9.9	7.22
LT-14-13	6+00 S	302	114	Intersection	2.0	61.4	59.4	10.39
				Including	12.0	24.0	12.0	17.51
				Intersection	71.9	78.6	6.7	8.23
LT-14-14	6+00 S	302	114	Intersection	2.1	13.5	11.45	5.46
				Intersection	23.6	33.7	10.1	11.12
LT-14-16	5+50 S	302	150	Intersection	40.95	119.5	78.55	13.28
				Including	40.95	73.5	32.55	16.79
				Including	89.4	98.1	8.7	17.59
				Including	100.9	109.1	8.2	16.67
				Intersection	128.1	137.0	8.9	6.88

\*Intersections reported in Table 1 are not true thicknesses but are expressed as core lengths. However, the HQ drill holes crosscut the envelope of the mineralized zone's strike and dip at a high angle. Mineralized intersections are calculated with Cg > 5% over a minimum of 6 m.

<sup>1</sup> Carbon analyses were performed by the Consortium de Recherche Appliquée en Traitement et Transformation des Substances Minérales ("COREM") of Québec-City, an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified facility using LECO high frequency combustion method with infrared measurement (code LSA-M-B10) and are reported as graphitic carbon (Cg).

<sup>2</sup> Carbon analyses were performed by SGS Canada Inc. ("SGS") and are reported as total carbon ("Ct"). The analytical methods that were used to determine the metallurgical results included total carbon analysis by Leco on the final concentrates. Total carbon assays are for the higher graphite concentrate grades, whereas graphitic carbon assays are for drill core and it is a more accurate method when graphitic carbon content is lower than approximately 50% Cg.

# 2014 Exploration Drilling Program

The 2014 Lac Tétépisca core drilling program was designed by Focus. Focus and IOS Services Géoscientifiques ("IOS") of Saguenay, Québec, supervised the drilling campaign. The core drilling was performed by Forage Rouillier of Amos, Québec. The core samples were logged in the field by Focus and IOS, and then shipped to IOS' laboratory facilities in Saguenay for storage and in preparation for future sampling and geochemical analysis. Starting in March 2016, the 16 core holes were sampled by IOS and the resulting samples were sent to COREM, an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified facility located

in Québec-City, for graphitic carbon analysis using LECO high frequency combustion method with infrared measurement (code LSA-M-B10). Total sulphur was also analyzed by LECO (code LSA-M-B41).

# **Quality Assurance / Quality Control**

Under the QA/QC program, about 10% of the samples were analyzed by COREM for total (code LSA-M-B45), organic (code LSA-M-B58), inorganic (code LSA-M-B11) and graphitic (code LSA-M-B10) carbon as well as for total sulphur (a total of 82 core samples). Duplicates of the same 82 samples were also sent to ACTLABS Laboratories of Ancaster, Ontario (ISO/IEC 17025:2005 with CAN-P-1579) for graphitic carbon (code 5D – C Graphitic) and total sulphur (code 4F – S Combustion infrared detection) determinations and for 35 multi-element analysis using ICP methods (code 1E2 – Aqua Regia). IOS introduced 66 standards, 32 duplicates (sawing, crushing or grinding duplicates) and 61 blank samples into the batch of core sample as part of the QA/QC program.

# About the Lac Tétépisca Graphite Project

Focus Graphite's 100%-owned Lac Tétépisca Project consists of 87 contiguous map-designated claims ("CDC") covering 4,692.82 ha. The Project is located in the southwest Manicouagan reservoir area, 234 km north-northwest of Baie-Comeau, an industrial city located where the Manicouagan River intersects the North shore of St. Lawrence River. The Project is accessible year-round by logging roads that connect to Highway 389 which in turn connects to Baie-Comeau. The Project is part of the former Lac Guéret-Nord Project of SOQUEM Inc. and Quinto Technology Inc. Focus purchased 100% of the mineral rights to the Project in August 2011.

Focus Releases Channel Sampling Results from Lac Tetepisca Nord Project, Quebec: 67.2 m Channel Section Grading 6.75% Cg

On August 24, 2016, the Company announced the results of a trenching program conducted in 2014 at its wholly owned Lac Tétépisca Nord graphite project located southwest of the Manicouagan reservoir in the Côte-Nord administrative region of north-eastern Québec. Although the trenching and channel sampling work was carried out in 2014, the samples were only prepared and assayed in the spring of 2016, as the completion of the Lac Knife mineral project feasibility study was the Company's main priority at that time.

# <u>Highlights</u>

- A single 86.8 m long trench was excavated at the Project in September 2014. Trench No. TN-TR-01 was positioned perpendicular to the trend of a 2.4 km long by 80 m wide magnetic (MAG)
   electromagnetic (EM) anomaly identified by ground geophysical surveys conducted in August 2014;
- <u>Best channel section</u>: Trench No. TN-TR-01 intersected 67.2 m<sup>1</sup> grading 6.75% graphitic carbon (Cg<sup>2</sup>) (from 19.6 to 86.8 m), including:
  - **24.5 m** grading **11.72% Cg** (from 19.6 to 44.1 m)
- The initial channel sampling results indicate the potential for a second new significant graphitic corridor in the southwest Manicouagan reservoir area, in addition to the Company's "Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor" at its nearby Lac Tétépisca project (refer to Focus news release dated August 17, 2016 available at <u>www.focusgraphite.com</u> and at <u>www.sedar.com</u>)

A maiden core drilling campaign was designed to test the subsurface graphite mineralization in areas with the strongest MAG-EM response down to a vertical depth of approximately 100 m. The drilling campaign started on the Project on August 8<sup>th</sup>, a total of 6 HQ-size drill holes were drilled and the campaign ended on August 15<sup>th</sup>, for a total of 786 m. This drilling will also provide mineralized samples for initial metallurgical testing.

<sup>1</sup> Reported channel sample sections are not true thickness but expressed as channel sample lengths. However, the trench crosscut the mineralized zone strike at a high angle.

<sup>2</sup> All carbon analyses were performed by ALS Minerals ("ALS") in North Vancouver, an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified facility, using LECO high frequency combustion method with infrared measurement (code C-IR18) and are reported as graphitic carbon (Cg).

The Lac Tétépisca North property is comprised of 51 contiguous map-designated claims ("CDCs") covering a surface area of 2,747 ha located to the southwest the Manicouagan reservoir, 8 km to the North of the Company's Lac Tétépisca project and 234 km north-northwest of the industrial city of Baie-Comeau. A map showing the location of both properties is available at <u>www.focusgraphite.com</u> under Lac Tétépisca project.

# 2014 Trenching Program

The 2014 channel sampling program at the Project was designed by Focus. Focus and IOS Services Géoscientifiques ("IOS") of Saguenay, Québec, supervised the exploration work. A total of 49 channel samples from trench TN-TR-01 were collected in the field using a rock saw. The samples were then shipped to IOS' laboratory facilities in Saguenay where they were safely stored until they could be processed and assayed. In the spring of 2016, the 49 channel samples were retrieved from secured storage, described and prepared by IOS and then sent to ALS Geochemistry in Val-d'Or, Québec, an ISO 17025 accredited facility, in preparation for assaying. IOS introduced four standards, two duplicates and four blank samples into the batch of channel samples as part of the QA/QC program. From Val-d'Or, the samples were expedited to ALS Geochemistry's North Vancouver BC facility where they were assayed for graphitic carbon (C-IR18) and total sulphur analysis (S-IR08) using LECO induction, and for multi-element (48-element) geochemical analysis using ICP methods (ME-MS61).

# About the Lac Tétépisca Nord Graphite Project

Focus100%-owned Lac Tétépisca Nord project was map-staked by the Company during the fall of 2012 following the publication by the Québec government of the results of a new airborne geophysical survey of the southwest Manicouagan Reservoir area that identified meta-sedimentary formations with potential to host iron-rich and graphitic horizons similar to those encountered at the Company's Lac Tétépisca and Lac Guinécourt projects. Subsequent prospecting and geological reconnaissance work conducted by Focus' exploration team at Lac Tétépisca Nord in 2013 identified a series of disseminated to semi-massive natural flake graphite occurrences in outcrop within the limits of the interpreted meta-sedimentary formations.

In May 2014, the Company awarded a contract to Abitibi Géophysique of Val-d'Or, Québec to conduct a ground combined magnetic (MAG) - time domain electromagnetic (TDEM) geophysical survey with 100 m line spacing over the previously defined graphitic horizon using an IMAGEM<sup>™</sup> MAG-TDEM system. The survey, that was completed in August 2014, identified a total of 288 EM anomalies and several magnetic zones with potential to host graphitic mineralization. The ground geophysical survey results were used to design a trenching and channel sampling program to test the main geophysical target, a 2.4 km long by 80 m wide MAG-TDEM anomaly. A single 86.8 m long trench was excavated perpendicular to the axis of the main geophysical anomaly in September 2014. A total of 49 channel samples were collected and stored in preparation for future assaying in 2016.

# Focus Announces Share Sale and Non-Brokered Private Placement in the Amount of \$3,000,000

On September 27, 2016, the Company announced that Directors and Officers of the Company have arranged a sale of up to 8,000,000 common shares at a price of \$0.10 per share, to Canadian institutions, through the facilities of the TSX Venture Exchange. The proceeds from this sale will be used to fund the purchase of up to 8,000,000 units at a price of \$0.10 per unit in the course of the private placement of the Company described below.

The non-brokered private placement in connection with the Share Sale will be for gross proceeds of up to \$3,000,000 by issuing a maximum of 30,000,000 units at a price of \$0.10 per unit. Each unit is comprised of one (1) common share and one (1) common share purchase warrant. Each warrant will entitle its holder to purchase a common share at an exercise price of \$0.12 per common share for a period of 48 months following the closing date of the private placement.

The proceeds of this private placement will be used for general working capital. The private placement is subject to regulatory approval.

#### Focus Closes First Tranche of a Non-Brokered Offering for Proceeds of \$820,000

During the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on October 3, 2016, the Company announced the closing of the first tranche the non-brokered private placement (the "Offering") for gross proceeds of \$820,000.

The financing was previously announced on September 27, 2016. The Company issued 8,200,000 units (the "Units") at a price of \$0.10 per Unit. Each Unit is comprised of one (1) common share and one common share purchase warrant (a "Warrant"). Each Warrant entitles its holder to purchase one (1) common share at a price of \$0.12 per common share until September 30, 2020. No finder's fees were paid in connection with the first tranche of the Offering.

The securities issued in connection with the closing of the first tranche of the Offering are subject to a four-month hold period expiring on January 31, 2017.

An insider of the Company participated in the Offering and subscribed for an aggregate of 8,000,000 Units representing an aggregate amount of \$800,000. Participation of insiders of the Company in the Offering constitutes a "related party transaction" as defined under *Multilateral Instrument 61-101 -Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions* ("MI 61-101"). The Offering is exempt from the formal valuation and minority shareholder approval requirements of MI 61-101 as neither the fair market value of securities being issued to insiders nor the consideration being paid by insiders will exceed 25% of the Company's market capitalization. The Company did not file a material change report 21 days prior to the closing of the Offering as the details of the participation of insiders of the Company had not been confirmed at that time.

On November 30, 2016, the Company announced that it will not proceed with additional closings of the non-brokered private placement of up to 30,000,000 units (the "Units") at a price of \$0.10 per Unit for gross proceeds of up to \$3,000,000 (the "Offering") announced on September 27, 2016 for which the closing of the first tranche was announced on October 3, 2016.

#### Focus Closes Non-Brokered Private Placement for Proceeds of \$700,000

During the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on November 11, 2016, the Company announced the closing of a non-brokered private placement (the "Offering") for proceeds of \$700,000. The Company issued 7,000,000 flow-through common shares of the Company (the "Flow-Through Shares") at a price of \$0.10 per Flow-Through Share.

In connection with the closing of the Offering, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$56,000 and issued 560,000 non-transferable warrants, each warrant entitling the holder to acquire one (1) common share of the Company at a price of \$0.20 per common share until November 8, 2020.

The securities issued in connection with the closing of the Offering are subject to a four-month hold period expiring on March 9, 2017.

#### Focus Closes Private Placement for Proceeds of \$212,500

During the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on December 23, 2016, the Company closed a private placement for gross proceeds of \$212,500. The private placement was comprised of 2,125,000 units at a price of \$0.10 per unit. Each unit is comprised of one common shares and one common share purchase warrant. Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase one additional common share of the Company at a price of \$0.10 until December 23, 2020. In connection with the financing, the Company paid cash finder's fees totaling \$16,000 and issued, as additional consideration, 160,000 non-transferable broker warrants, each broker warrant entitling the holder to acquire one common share of the Company at a price of \$0.10 until December 23, 2018.

# Focus and SOQUEM Report High Hydrometallurgical Recoveries of Rare Earth Elements from the Kwyjibo REE Project

During the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on November 21, 2016 the Company and partner SOQUEM Inc. ("SOQUEM") announced the results from the 2014-2015 hydrometallurgical tests conducted on the Kwyjibo Poly-metallic Rare Earth Elements-Copper-Iron-Phosphate Project ("Kwyjibo" or the "Project"), located in the Côte-Nord administrative district of northeastern Québec.

#### Highlights:

- Relatively simple metallurgical flowsheet, a distinctive feature of the Kwyjibo project among peer rare earth element projects.
- Approximately 90% extraction rate from rare earth concentrate for all rare earth elements for the Magnetitite Mineralization Type ("MM1").
- Focus and SOQUEM Inc. plan to perform an initial Mineral Resources Estimate, followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) in 2017-18.

### Kwyjibo Rare Earth Project Metallurgical Testwork

The latest hydrometallurgical leaching test program was conducted at Hazen Research in Colorado, USA. The program studied the use of three types of acid ( $H_2SO_4$ , HCl and  $HNO_3$ ) on various types of mineralization and subjected them to a beneficiation flowsheet that was previously developed at COREM, of Quebec City. Hazen research confirmed an average recovery of 90% of rare earth elements also obtained at COREM and Hazen also measured these high extraction rates under non-optimized leaching conditions.

The Hazen program was conducted on two (2) composite samples that are representative of the two types of mineralization that are characteristic of the northeast portion of the Josette Horizon. The first composite sample of MM1 was taken from HQ-diameter drillcore that were split in half from two drill holes (10885-13-61A and 10885-13-69A). The representative MM1 sample is a hydrothermal massive iron formation, with variable amounts of veins containing REE-bearing phosphates and silicates as well as calc-silicate minerals. The second composite sample of Breccia Type ("BR1") mineralization is composed of HQ-diameter drillcore splits from three diamond drill holes (10885-13-73A, 10885-13-74A and 10885-13-69A). The representative BR1 sample is characterized by a stockwork of magnetite veins, REE-bearing phosphates and silicates, and calc-silicate minerals in a granitic host rock. Mineralogical studies performed at COREM in 2013 show that REE occur in phosphate (apatite and britholite) and silicate (allanite and kainosite) phases.

Testwork results to date show that silicate concentrates produced from the composite samples leach well with nitric acid and hydrochloric acid. There is therefore no reason to separate the phosphates and silicates that both contain rare earth elements. Extraction using sulfuric acid gave poor results and therefore it was eliminated as a choice for acid leaching.

"From the work performed, it was determined that the differences between the REE extractions for HCI and HNO<sub>3</sub> were minor." <sup>(1)</sup> Hazen Research, HYDROMETALLURGICAL WORK FOR KWYJIBO PROJECT, PREPARATION AND LEACHING OF RARE EARTH CONCENTRATES, project 12182, August 2016

With the current price of these two types of acids, the use of HCI appears to be a more economical choice when considering operating costs. The following graphs show that the use of a 6 Molar ("6M") concentration of HCI at 90°C, achieved approximately 90% extraction from rare earth concentrate for all rare earth elements for the MM1 Combined and the BR1 mineralization types.

When considering all the mineral beneficiation processing steps previously developed by COREM (grinding, magnetic separation, flotation), followed by the leaching extraction developed by Hazen the non-optimized global recoveries of rare earth elements are described in the following table:

# **REE Global Non-Optimized Recoveries: Beneficiation + HCI Extractions**

	Glob	al Rec	overy	(%)										
Composite	Critic	Critical REE												
Sample	Υ	Pr	Nd	Eu	Tb	Dy	LREE	HREE	HREE+Y	TREE	TREE+Y			
MM1	73.9	79.4	78.6	77.4	76.7	75.7	78.8	76.4	74.9	78.5	77.6			
BR1	81.1	89.8	88.0	85.6	85.6	86.5	88.8	87.0	87.1	88.5	88.3			
LREE	(light		rare	Э	ea	arth	e	lements)	:	La+Ce+F	Pr+Nd+Sm			
HREE	(heavy	ra	re	earth	ז	eleme	nts):	Eu+G	d+Tb+Dy+	Ho+Er+1	Tm+Yb+Lu			
TREE (total I	rare earti	h elem	ents): L	_a+Ce	+Pr+No	d+Sm+	TREE (total rare earth elements): La+Ce+Pr+Nd+Sm+Eu+Gd+Tb+Dy+Ho+Er+Tm+Yb+Lu							

The mineral processing flowsheet for the Kwyjibo project will therefore consist uniquely of minimal comminution steps followed by magnetic separation to remove the magnetite. Such a minimal beneficiation flowsheet will simplify operations.

# **On-going Laboratory Test Program:**

The current hydrometallurgical test program ongoing at Hazen research is focused on the leaching of non-magnetic products and the concentration/precipitation of dissolved rare earth elements. Hazen will continue to optimize the process flowsheet by working on the liberation size and grinding, as well as magnetic separation and leaching.

# Future Program:

Very encouraging results were obtained with both ore types, but since the in-situ value of the MM1 mineralization type is higher, future efforts will aim to optimize the recovery of REE's from Kwjybo's MM1 mineralization type. That portion of the mineralization is located closer to surface and would potentially be less costly to mine. This combined with the fact that it is much easier to process than the BR1 mineralization type, the consensus was to proceed towards this objective.

After completion of the current testwork program, SOQUEM and Focus Graphite intend to complete an initial Mineral Resource Estimate to be followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment in 2017-18.

# **Quality Control and Assurance**

Alain Dorval, P.Eng. of Norda Stelo Inc., is an independent Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101, for the purposes of the mineral processing and laboratory supervision as well as Eric Larochelle, P. Eng. of SMH Process Innovation, who is also an independent Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and both of them have reviewed the technical content of this news release.

# About SOQUEM and Investissement Québec

SOQUEM, a subsidiary of Investissement Québec, is a leading player in mineral exploration in Québec. Its mission is to explore, discover and develop mining properties in Québec. SOQUEM has participated in more than 350 exploration projects and contributed to major discoveries of gold, diamonds, lithium and other minerals.

# The Quebec Government Confirms Receipt of Focus' Technical Documents in Support of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for its Lac Knife Natural Flake Graphite Project

Subsequent to the year ended September 30, 2016, on November 30, 2016, the Company announced that as part of the ongoing environmental permitting review process, the Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques ("MDDELCC") of Québec has received supporting documentation regarding the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ("ESIA") report on the Lac Knife natural flake graphite project submitted in December 2014 (refer to Focus Graphite's news release dated December 1, 2014 available at <a href="https://www.focusgraphite.com">www.focusgraphite.com</a>).

The ESIA support documentation also includes the Mine Closure Plan. The Mine Closure Plan will continue to evolve prior to and during the projected mine life. Communication with the MDDELCC is ongoing as the permitting process continues towards the planned detailed engineering phase of the Lac Knife project.

## Qualified Person

The above scientific and technical information regarding exploration activities as defined in National Instrument (NI) 43-101 s. 1.1, was reviewed and approved by Marc-André Bernier, M.Sc., P.Geo. (Québec and Ontario), a Director of the Company and a Qualified Person under NI 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects.

#### Focus Reports 102.1m Grading 10.7% Graphitic Carbon (Cg) from its Infill and Extension Drilling Program at Lac Tetepisca, Québec

Subsequent to the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on January 20, 2017, the Company announced the results of the 2016 infill and extension drilling program completed on the Lac Tétépisca Graphite Project. The results of 2016 drilling program (18 holes; total: 2,424 m) combined with the results of the maiden core drilling program carried out on the Project in 2014, will form the basis of an initial Mineral Resource Estimate, to be followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA).

### Highlights:

- In 2016, 18 HQ-diameter holes (total: 2,424 m) were drilled to test the continuity of the graphitic mineralization within the "Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor" with respect to the variability of graphitic carbon thickness and grades. Fifteen (15) holes intersected significant graphitic mineralization with grades ranging from 5.6% Graphitic Carbon (Cg) to 19.35% Cg over a minimum true thickness of 6.2 m.
- <u>Best intersection</u>: Hole LT-16-32, drilled at -45 degrees to a depth of 159 m, intersected 102.1 m grading 10.7% Cg (from 42.0 m to 145.15 m (core length: 103.15 m), including:
  - o 30.2 m grading 16.7% Cg (from 45.75 m to 76.25 m (core length: 30.5 m); and
  - o 13.0 m grading 14.4% Cg (from 100.4 m to 113.5 m (core length: 13.1 m).
- The Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor is a linear kilometer-scale geophysical Magnetic (MAG) Electromagnetic (EM) anomaly that is now drilled-tested over a 1,000 m strike length. The main graphite-bearing zone is 85 m wide on average, with drilling down to approximately 100 m.

The maiden core drilling program conducted on the Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor in 2014 intersected significant graphitic mineralization including in hole LT-14-04 which intersected 103.9 m<sup>2</sup> grading 10.25% Cg.

The 2016 drilling program consisted of three fences of drill holes spaced 200 m apart that were designed to test the 600 m southwest extension of the deposit. A fourth fence of holes (Line 2+00N) tested the northeast extension. In the wider central portion of the deposit, five (5) drill holes tested the higher grade portion of the Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor on sections that are spaced 100 m apart. The infill drilling has confirmed the continuity of the graphitic mineralization as well as the occurrence of a high-grade zone, and it has provided further representative mineralization material for orientation metallurgical testing that is ongoing.

This second phase of core drilling targeting the Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor further indicates the potential for the Lac Tétépisca project (and the Southwest Manicouagan reservoir area) to host a new large volume - high grade natural graphite deposit. Drill intercepts reveal that the highest-grade section of the Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor is continuous over a strike length of 1 km and down to approximately 100 m depth. Graphitic grades within this section range from 10 to 13% Cg. The average thickness of the main graphitic horizon is 85 m with a higher-grade zone lying along the eastern edge, stratigraphically above a lower grade zone.

#### 2016 Infill and Extension Drilling Program

The 2016 Lac Tétépisca drilling program was designed by Focus. IOS Services Géoscientifiques ("IOS") of Saguenay, Québec, supervised the drilling campaign. Diamond drilling was performed by Chibougamau Diamond Drilling Ltd. of Chibougamau, Québec. The drill core was logged in the field by IOS, and then shipped to IOS' laboratory facilities in Saguenay for sample preparation for geochemical analysis and storage. Samples were sent to COREM, an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified facility located in Québec City, for graphitic carbon analysis using LECO high frequency combustion method with infrared measurement (code LSA-M-B10). Total sulphur was also analyzed by LECO (code LSA-M-B41).

#### Quality Assurance / Quality Control

Under the QA/QC program, about 10% of the samples (a total of 131 core samples) were analyzed by COREM for total (code LSA-M-B45), organic (code LSA-M-B58), inorganic (code LSA-M-B11) and graphitic (code LSA-M-B10) carbon as well as for total sulphur (code LSA-M-B41). Duplicates of the same 131 samples were also sent to ACTLABS Laboratories of Ancaster, Ontario (ISO/IEC 17025:2005 with CAN-P-1579) for graphitic carbon (code 5D - C Graphitic) and total sulphur (code 4F - S Combustion infrared detection) determinations and for 35 multi-element analysis using ICP methods (code 1E2 - Aqua Regia). IOS introduced 87 standards, 15 duplicates (sawing, crushing or grinding duplicates) and 91 blank samples into the batch of core sample as part of the QA/QC program.

#### Focus Graphite Reports a 26% Increase in Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources at its Lac Knife Flake Graphite Project, Quebec

Subsequent to the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on January 24, 2017, the Company announced an updated Mineral Resource Estimate for its 100%-owned Lac Knife flake graphite project. The updated Mineral Resource Estimate is based on 231 drill holes totalling 22,505 m of historic and recent drilling and has been prepared by AGP Mining Consultants Inc. in accordance with Canadian Securities Administrators' National Instrument 43-101 "Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects" (NI 43-101).

# Highlights:

- Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources increased by 26% when reported at a cut-off of 3.0% Graphitic carbon (Cg) to 12.1 million tonnes grading 14.64% Cg (Table 1) compared to the previous estimate of 9.6 million tonnes grading 14.77% Cg<sup>1</sup> at the same cut-off (Table 2).
- Upgraded 2.5 million tonnes of Inferred resources to the Indicated category.
- Delineated an additional 2.3 million tonnes of Inferred resources that are located within the southern extension of the Lac Knife deposit.
- The updated Mineral Resource Estimate increased the in-situ graphite content by 25% to 1.771 million tonnes in the Measured and Indicated category.

At the 3% Cg cut-off grade, Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources are now estimated at 12.1 million tonnes grading 14.64% Cg (Table 1). Additionally, there are 2.3 million tonnes of Inferred resources at 16.20 % Cg (Tables 1 and 2).

	Tonnage	Cg	In Situ Graphite
	(t)	(%)	(t)
Measured	447,000	21.45	96,000
Indicated	11,654,000	14.38	1,675,000
Measured + Indicated	12,101,000	14.64	1,771,000
Inferred	2,299,000	16.20	372,000

#### Table 1. Lac Knife Mineral Resource Estimate @ 3.0 % Cg cut-off

- Mineral Resources are not Mineral Reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability.
- There is no certainty that all or any part of the Mineral Resources will be converted into Mineral Reserves.

• The rounding of tonnes as required by NI 43-101 reporting guidelines may result in apparent differences between tonnes, grade and contained graphite.

The update to the Mineral Resource Estimate is based on the addition of the 2014 exploration and definition drilling programs that added 65 new drill holes of which 41 targeted the Lac Knife deposit's southern extension. The additional 4,871 metres of drilling successfully achieved the objectives of delineating the expansion of the mineralized zones to the south and to upgrade the quality of existing Inferred resources to the Indicated category. This resource update is now supported by a total of 231 drill holes totalling 22,505 metres of historic and recent drilling.

As shown in Table 2 below, the resource tonnage increased by 26% in the Measured and Indicated category from 9.6 million tonnes grading 14.77% Cg in the Lac Knife project Feasibility Study<sup>2</sup> ("FEAS") to 12.1 million tonnes grading 14.64% Cg in this new update. This translated to an increase of 25% of in-situ graphite from 1.414 million tonnes to 1.771 million tonnes.

	I				2014						
	Updated Mineral Resource Estimate (3.0% Cg Cut-off base case)			Estimate		esourc	e Estimate off base				
	Cut- off	Tonnes	CG (%)	Cg Tonnes	Tonnes	CG (%)		Tonnage	Graphite		
	> 10.0	447,000	21.45	96,000	428,000	23.81	102,000	4%	-6%		
Measured	> 5.0	447,000	21.45	96,000	432,000	23.66	102,000	3%	-6%		
medealou	> 3.0	447,000	21.45	96,000	432,000	23.66	102,000	3%	-6%		
	> 2.0	447,000	21.45	96,000	432,000	23.66	102,000	3%	-6%		
	> 10.0	9,832,000	15.56	1,530,000	7,466,000	15.77	1,177,000	32%	30%		
Indicated	> 5.0	11,571,000	14.45	1,672,000	9,065,000	14.44	1,309,000	28%	28%		
	> 3.0	11,654,000	14.38	1,675,000	9,144,000	14.35	1,312,000	27%	28%		
	> 2.0	11,656,000	14.38	1,675,000	9,146,000	14.35	1,312,000	27%	28%		
		10,272,000	15.82	1,625,000	7,894,000	16.21	1,279,000	30%	27%		
Measured +	> 5.0	12,018,000	14.71	1,768,000	9,497,000	14.86	1,411,000	27%	25%		
Indicated		12,101,000	14.64	1,771,000	9,576,000	14.77	1,414,000	26%	25%		
		12,103,000	14.64	1,771,000	9,578,000	14.77	1,415,000	26%	25%		
	> 10.0	2,093,000	17.02	356,000	2,196,000	15.81	347,000	-5%	3%		
Inferred	> 5.0	2,282,000	16.28	372,000	2,941,000	13.75	404,000	-22%	-8%		
	> 3.0	2,299,000	16.20	372,000	3,102,000	13.25	411,000	-26%	-9%		
	> 2.0	2,299,000	16.20	372,000	3,116,000	13.20	411,000	-26%	-9%		

Table 2: Sensitivity to cut-off change and comparison to previous estimate (2014)

• Mineral Resources are not Mineral Reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability.

• There is no certainty that all or any part of the Mineral Resources will be converted into Mineral Reserves.

• The rounding of tonnes as required by NI43-101 reporting guidelines may result in apparent differences between tonnes, grade and contained graphite.

In the Inferred resource category, the tonnage decreased by 26% from 3.1 million tonnes in the FEAS to 2.3 million tonnes in this resource update. The Inferred resource category average grade increased from 13.25% Cg to 16.20% Cg. This resulted in a reduction of 9% of in-situ graphite in this category from 411,000 tonnes down to 372,000 tonnes. These overall changes in the resources resulted from converting most of the 2.5 million tonnes of Inferred resources in the FEAS resource constraining shell to the Measured and Indicated categories, and also by extending the deposit to the south adding an additional 2.3 million tonnes of Inferred resources in the revised South Central Zone.

The updated Mineral Resource Estimate is based on 231 core drill holes totalling 22,505 metres of historic and recent drilling. This includes 149 surface drill holes totalling 12,041 metres completed since 2010.

• Mineral Resources have been reported within a constraining pit shell at a cut-off grade of 3.0% graphitic carbon ("Cg").

This update is not deemed material by the Company. Details on the Mineral Resource Estimation methodology are given in the notes below.

Focus Graphite Reports that Initial Locked Cycle Flotation Tests on Lac Tétépisca Mineralisation Achieve 92.7 % Graphite Recovery and Concentrate Grades of 96.2% Carbon for all Flake Sizes Combined

Subsequent to the quarter ended December 31, 2016, on February 1, 2017, the Company reported the initial Locked Cycle flotation Test<sup>1</sup> (LCT) results from the Lac Tétépisca Graphite Project. The LCT was performed by SGS Canada Inc. (SGS) on a 155 kg Master composite graphite mineralization sample. Further open circuit cleaner testing was conducted on six variability graphite mineralization samples (total: 108 kg).

# Highlights:

- The LCT produced an overall graphite recovery of 92.7% total Carbon<sup>2</sup> (Ct)
- The average grades of the "jumbo" (+48 mesh) and "large" (-48/+80 mesh) flake categories were 95.6% Ct and 95.0% Ct, respectively
- The "medium" sized flakes (-80/+100 mesh) graded 96.3% Ct
- The "fine" flake products (-100/+200 mesh) yielded an average grade of 97.7% Ct
- These initial test results indicate that all concentrate size fractions above 400 mesh have a high carbon grade ranging from 95.0% Ct to 97.8% Ct. High carbon flake graphite concentrates translate into reduced levels of impurities to be removed during the purification process.

The principal objectives of the scoping level metallurgical test program were to design a conceptual flotation flowsheet that can upgrade the Lac Tétépisca graphite mineralization into a concentrate grading at least 96% Ct while minimizing flake size degradation.

The conceptual flowsheet was developed using results from a series of 14 flotation tests and the closedcircuit performance was evaluated in a LCT. The flotation test program was completed on a 155 kg Master composite and six variability samples (total: 108 kg) originating from representative Lac Tétépisca graphite mineralization. The LCT produced an overall graphite recovery of 92.7% at a combined concentrate grade of 96.2% Ct.

The flake size distribution in the concentrate that was generated in the LCT using the 2016 Master composite is presented in Table 1. A total of 17.2% of the concentrate mass reported to the "jumbo" flake category (+48 mesh). The "large" flake category (-48/+80 mesh) contained 20.5% of the concentrate mass. Another 7.9% of the mass reported to the "medium" flake size fraction (-80/+100 mesh) (Table 1).

The finer flake size distribution classes (+400/-100 mesh) also reported carbon grades above 95% Ct.

Category	Size Fraction	Size Fraction	Weight	Assays	Distribution
	Mesh	Microns	%	% Ct	% Ct
Jumbo	+32 mesh	+500	4.2	95.8	4.1
Jumbo	+48 mesh	+300	13.0	95.6	12.9
	+65 mesh	+212	13.5	95.0	13.4
Large	+80 mesh	+180	7.0	95.0	6.9
Medium	+100 mesh	+150	7.9	96.3	7.9
Fine	+150 mesh	+106	13.0	97.8	13.2
Fine	+200 mesh	+75	15.4	97.7	15.7
	+325 mesh	+45	15.8	96.7	15.9
Very Fine	+400 mesh	+38	3.6	95.2	3.6
	-400 mesh	-38	6.6	92.9	6.4
		Total:	100.0		100.0

Table 1: Lac Tétépisca concentrate flake size distribution and total carbon (Ct) grades.

A total of six variability composites ranging from low-grade disseminated material grading 3.81% graphitic carbon (Cg) to high-grade massive mineralization grading 22.3% Cg produced consistent metallurgical results when subjected to the developed flowsheet conditions.

The combined concentrate grades for the six variability samples ranged from 95.4% Ct to 97.8% Ct with open circuit graphite recoveries of 84.9% to 91.6%.

The mass recovery into the "large" and "jumbo" flake categories for the six variability composites ranged between 31.8% for the massive mineralization composite, to 62.0% for the low-grade disseminated composite.

#### **Qualified Person**

The information pertaining to the metallurgical test program completed by SGS that is presented in this news release has been reviewed and approved by Mr. Oliver Peters, M.Sc., P.Eng., MBA, Consulting Metallurgist for SGS Canada Inc. and Principal Metallurgist of Metpro Management Inc. Mr. Peters has extensive experience in the development of metallurgical processes and has managed the majority of the graphite testing programs conducted at SGS in recent years.

Mr. Marc-André Bernier, M.Sc., P.Geo. (Québec and Ontario), a Director of the Company and a Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101 – Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects, has reviewed and approved the technical content of this news release relating to the Lac Tétépisca project metallurgical test results.

#### **Exploration Activities**

### Three months ended December 31, 2016

	Lac Knife	Kwyjibo	Manicouagan	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance - beginning of period	15,531,999	6,106,139	2,060,495	519,051	24,217,684
Additions					
Drilling	54,247	5,001	196,444	-	255,692
Independent technical studies	8,046	-	34,090	-	42,136
Metallurgical analysis	-	24,754	89,683	-	114,437
Resource estimate	10,320	-	-	-	10,320
Property maintenance	490	4,190	1,728	2,565	8,973
Feasibility studies	76,361	-	-	-	76,361
Environmental studies	14,815	4,679	-	-	19,494
	164,279	38,624	321,945	2,565	527,413
Tax credits and credit on					
duties	6,428	(8,851)	(63,013)	8	(65,428)
Balance - end of period	15,702,706	6,135,912	2,319,427	521,624	24,679,669

#### Three months ended December 31, 2015

Balance - beginning of period	Lac Knife \$ 14,750,570	Kwyjibo \$ 5,931,836	Labrador Trough \$ 233,517	<u>Manicouagan</u> \$ 1,236,718	Other \$ 480.653	Total \$ 22,633,294
Balance - beginning of period	14,750,570	5,951,650	233,317	1,230,718	460,055	22,033,294
Additions Drilling Metallurgical analysis Property maintenance Feasibility studies Environmental studies	1,013 - 1,915 69,551 31,282	529 1,098 - -	- - 890 - -	- - 3,372 - -	- - 3,870 - -	1,013 529 11,145 69,551 31,282
	103,761	1,627	890	3,372	3,870	113,520
Balance - end of period	14,854,331	5,933,463	234,407	1,240,090	484,523	22,746,814

#### Kwyjibo Polymetallic (Fe-REE-Cu-(Au)) Project, Côte-Nord Administrative District of Québec

The Kwyjibo project, located in the Grenville Geological Province of northeastern Québec, hosts a Mesoproterozoic polymetallic (iron (Fe), copper (Cu), rare-earth elements (REE), gold (Au)) deposit which is considered to be one of the best iron oxide copper-gold (IOCG) exploration targets in Québec. IOCG-type mineralization has already been traced over a distance of at least 4 km.

The project, totalling 118 map-designated claims (CDC) and covering 6,391.90 ha, is located a few kilometers north of Manitou Lake and 125 km northeast of Sept-Îles, in the Côte-Nord administrative district of Québec. The claim block is also located 25 km east of the Québec North Shore and Labrador (QNSL) rail line and is accessible by air from the port city of Sept-Îles.

On August 3, 2010, the Company announced the signing of an option agreement with SOQUEM Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Société générale de financement du Québec (SGF) (in April 2011, the SGF merged with Investissement Québec), to acquire a 50% interest in the Kwyjibo project.

Under the terms of the agreement, Focus earned the right to acquire a 50% interest in the Kwyjibo project, by investing up to \$3 million in exploration work over a period of 5 years of which \$1 million had to be invested during the first 2 years. As of June 30, 2013, the Company has invested a total of \$3,967,258 on the Kwyjibo project (net of tax credits and mining duties). Having fulfilled its

exploration commitments in August 2012, the Company earned its 50% interest in the project. All expenditures incurred on the Kwyjibo project are now split equally between Focus and SOQUEM. SOQUEM is the operator of the Kwyjibo exploration program.

# Historical Exploration Programs

The Kwyjibo Fe-Cu-REE-(Au) mineralization system was discovered in 1993 during a follow-up of regional geochemical lake sediment anomalies. On surface, more than 10 polymetallic showings, including Josette and Malachite, were found over a strike length of 4 km at that time. Most of the showings discovered on the claim block consist of massive magnetite and breccia zones mineralized with copper and REE. Minerals of economic interest include magnetite, chalcopyrite, apatite, fluorite, allanite, britholite and kainosite. The dominant REE elements are neodymium (Nd) and yttrium (Y) (Strictly not a REE, yttrium is included in the suite of REE as its chemical properties and uses resemble those of heavy rare earths), both of which are included in the list of critical rare earth elements sought by industry as defined by the US Geological Survey.

Work performed in partnership by SOQUEM and IOC on the Kwyjibo exploration project from 1993 to 1996 consisted of airborne and ground geophysics (Mag, VTEM, induced polarization and radiometry), stream and soil sediments geochemical surveys, prospecting and mapping, and 39 shallow core drill holes totalling 5,807 m which tested the various mineralized zones discovered on the claim block. Following withdrawal of IOC in the project, SOQUEM completed 6 more drill holes in 1998 and mandated CERM (Centre d'étude en recherche minerale) of Québec to undertake petrographic and mineralogical studies as well as metallurgical testwork. SOQUEM completed a radiometric survey over the claim block in 2001 and mandated Geotech of Toronto to perform a VTEM survey in 2006. The Kwyjibo Fe-Cu-REE-(Au) mineralization system is still open in many directions and some of the geophysical anomalies (VTEM conductors) have not yet been drill tested.

# Focus and SOQUEM Exploration and Development

# Exploration work

2010 Prospecting, Channel Sampling and Re-assaying Program: Exploration work carried out by Focus and SOQUEM in 2010 comprised follow-up prospecting on geophysical anomalies outlined from the VTEM survey conducted over the claim block in 2006; channel and chip sampling of new trenches on six prospects/targets (Josette; Grabuge; Gabriel; 95-30; 2010-SP-08; and near Hole 95-37); mapping and GPS surveying of historical Cu-REE showings and of new magnetite-rich iron formation occurrences; and the re-logging and re-assaying of historical drill holes for the full range of REE (409 samples). The goal of the 2010 re-analysis of the best 1994-1998 drill core sections mineralized in REE was to bring the geochemical analysis database up to modern analytical standards using Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS). This analytical method is accurate and highly sensitive for the whole range of REE and it is appropriately suited for minerals resistant to acid digestion, like some REE-bearing silicates. Previous geochemical analysis of drill core from the 1994-1998 period were mostly done by neutron activation, except for a few holes where X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) was used, and in many holes not all REE were analyzed. The results from the 1994-1999 core re-assaying program have been published and highlights include an intersection\* of 30 m grading 2.55% TREO\*\*, 0.15% Cu, 3.70% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 49.9% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at the Josette prospect (hole 1088-95-29, refer to Focus Press release dated March 11, 2011).

Hole 1088-95-29									
Azimuth: N31	8°								
Dip: -45°									
Total length: 81.08 m									
341146E; 5658075N									
UTM Nad83, zone 20									
	Unit	Magnetitite							
From	т	29.15							
То	т	59.13							
Length*	т	29.98							
TREO**	%	2.55							
LREO	%	1.74							
HREO	%	0.81							
La2O3	%	0.34							
Ce2O3	%	0.78							
Pr2O3	%	0.10							
Nd2O3	%	0.42							
Sm2O3	%	0.09							
Eu2O3	%	0.01							
Gd2O3	%	0.08							
Tb2O3	%	0.01							
Dy2O3	%	0.09							
Ho2O3	%	0.02							
Er2O3	%	0.05							
Tm2O3	%	0.01							
Yb2O3	%	0.03							
Lu2O3	%	0.00							
Y2O3	%	0.52							
Fe2O3	%	49.90							
P2O5	%	3.70							
Cu	%	0.15							

TREO (total rare earth oxides):

La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3+Eu2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho 2O3+Er2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2O3 LREO (light rare earth oxides): La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3 HREO (heavy rare earth oxides including yttrium): Eu2O3+Cd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho2O3+Er2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2

*Eu*2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho2O3+*Er*2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2 O3

\* Intersections are expressed as core length in meters and not the true thickness. The Josette horizon is oriented N050° and dips at -45° to -50° to the southeast. The hole, oriented N318°, was drilled perpendicular to the Josette Horizon and crosscut the Josette horizon at high angle (dip -45°).

\*\* Rare earth elements assays are expressed as total rare earth oxides (TREO) including yttrium oxide. Strictly not a rare earth element, yttrium is included in the total amount of REE because of the chemical behaviour and uses that are similar to the lanthanides.

# 2011 Drilling Campaign

From August 31 to September 23, 2011, Focus and SOQUEM completed additional line-cutting and geological mapping. From September 23 to November 17, 2011, the Company and SOQUEM implemented a 12-hole (2,604 m) exploration diamond drilling program designed to test geophysical EM and VTEM anomalies; to verify down dip extensions of the Gabriel and Grabuge showings; and to also confirm the extension and thickness of the Josette mineralized showing. Hole 10885-11-57, was drilled on the Josette showing, and returned the best REE grades: 2.40% TREO\*\* over 48.8

m\*, including: 3.40% TREO\*\* over 24.3 m and 6.83% TREO\*\* over 1.1 m (refer to Focus press release dated March 13, 2012, available at www.sedar.com).

<u>Hole 1088-11</u>									
Azimuth: N31	3°								
Dip: -45°									
Total length: 156 m									
341215E; 5658059N									
UTM Nad83,	Zone20	)							
	Unit	Magnetitite	incl.	Incl.					
From	т	65.2	68.5	82.7					
То	т	114	92.8	83.8					
Length*	т	48.8	24.3	1.1					
TREO**	%	2.40	3.40	6.83					
LREO	%	1.62	2.30	4.67					
HREO	%	0.78	1.10	2.16					
La2O3	%	0.32	0.44	0.90					
Ce2O3	%	0.73	1.03	2.10					
Pr2O3	%	0.09	0.13	0.27					
Nd2O3	%	0.39	0.56	1.13					
Sm2O3	%	0.08	0.12	0.24					
Eu2O3	%	0.01	0.01	0.03					
Gd2O3	%	0.08	0.12	0.23					
Tb2O3	%	0.01	0.02	0.04					
Dy2O3	%	0.08	0.12	0.23					
Ho2O3	%	0.02	0.02	0.05					
Er2O3	%	0.05	0.07	0.14					
Tm2O3	<b>Tm2O3</b> % 0.01 0.01 0.02								
Yb2O3	%	0.03	0.04	0.08					
Lu2O3	%	0.00	0.00	0.01					
Y2O3	%	0.50	0.70	1.36					

*incl.* = *including: high grade composites within larger composites TREO* (total rare earth oxides):

La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3+Eu2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho 2O3+Er2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2O3

**LREO** (light rare earth oxides): La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3 **HREO** (heavy rare earth oxides including yttrium):

*Eu*2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho2O3+*Er*2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2 O3

\* Intersections are expressed as core length in meters and not the true thickness. The Josette horizon is oriented N050° and dip at -45° to -50° to the southeast. The hole, oriented N313°, was drilled perpendicular to the Josette Horizon and crosscut the Josette horizon at high angle (dip -45°).

\*\* Rare earth elements assays are expressed as total rare earth oxides (TREO) including yttrium oxide. Strictly not a rare earth element, yttrium is included in the total amount of REE because of the chemical behaviour and uses that are similar to the lanthanides.

These new results also highlighted the significant content of critical rare earth elements at Kwyjibo (Nd+Eu+Tb+Dy+Y). This mineralisation typically contains a high 41-42% REOc\*\*\* (ratio of critical rare earth elements, please refer to Focus press release dated March 13, 2012).

\*\*\* The ratio of critical rare earth elements (REOc) is defined by The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as the sum of Nd+Eu+Tb+Dy+Y oxides divided by total rare earth oxides (TREO) : REOc = ((Nd2O3+Eu2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Y2O3)/TREO)\*100. The REOc ratio is the

expression of the importance of those REEs sought by the industry without considering the technological challenge to recover the REE and all the costs related to a mine development.

# 2012 Drilling, Channel Sampling and Geophysical Survey Program

The 2012 field season at Kwyjibo extended from July to mid-October and included line cutting (total: 40.46 line-km); the preparation of 26 diamond drill sites and 21 helicopter landing pads; additional channel sampling at the Josette horizon and in trenches identified as TR-95-29 and TR-95-30; a ground time-domain electromagnetic (TDEM) geophysical survey (total: 75.77 line-km) targeted selected 2006 VTEM anomalies; a borehole Pulse-TDEM geophysical survey (total of 5,492 m) spread between nine (9) historical holes (1994, 1995 and 1998), 12 holes from the 2011 drilling campaign and nine (9) holes from the 2012 campaign; mini bulk sampling of the Josette horizon for metallurgical testing and a new round of core drilling (31 holes for a total of 4,207 m) that targeted the Josette Horizon aimed at continuing to define the shape, size and REE-Fe-Cu grades of the mineralisation.

On February 6, 2013, the Company and SOQUEM reported new surface geochemical results from the re-sampling (channel sampling) of the Josette showing and of trenches TR-95-29 and TR-95-30. The new sampling was designed to test the mineralisation for the whole suite of REE using ICP-MS. Highlights of the re-sampling program included intersection\* of: 2.95% TREO\*\* and 1.44% Cu over 10 m, including a high-grade sub-zone of: 4.59% TREO\*\* and 2.62% Cu over 2 m at the Josette showing (refer to Focus press release dated February 6, 2013):

Josette showi	ina			
2012 channel				
sampling				
	Unit	Magnetitite	incl.	
Length*	т	10	2	
TRĚO**	%	2.95	4.59	
LREO	%	2.15	3.45	
HREO	%	0.80	1.14	
La2O3	%	0.46	0.78	
Ce2O3	%	1.00	1.60	
Pr2O3	%	0.12	0.18	
Nd2O3	%	0.46	0.73	
Sm2O3	%	0.09	0.15	
Eu2O3	%	0.01	0.02	
Gd2O3	%	0.08	0.13	
Tb2O3	%	0.01	0.02	
Dy2O3	%	0.08	0.11	
Ho2O3	%	0.02	0.02	
Er2O3	%	0.04	0.06	
Tm2O3	%	0.01	0.01	
Yb2O3	%	0.03	0.04	
Lu2O3	%	0.00	0.00	
Y2O3	%	0.54	0.76	
Fe2O3	%	60.48	47.85	
P2O5	%	3.02	3.23	
Cu	%	1.44	2.62	

TREO (total rare earth oxides):

La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3+Eu2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho 2O3+Er2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2O3

**LREO** (light rare earth oxides): La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3 **HREO** (heavy rare earth oxides including yttrium):

*Eu*2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho2O3+*Er*2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2 O3 \* Intersections are expressed as channel length in meters and not the true thickness. The channel sampling was oriented perpendicular to the Josette horizon. The Josette horizon dips at -45.

\*\* Rare earth elements assays are expressed as total rare earth oxides (TREO) including yttrium oxide. Strictly not a rare earth element, yttrium is included in the total amount of REE because of the chemical behaviour and uses that are similar to the lanthanides.

In March 2013, the Company and SOQUEM reported the results of the late summer 2012 core drilling program at Kwyjibo (31 holes for a total of 4,207 m). Most of the holes crossed the massive magnetitite horizon and/or associated magnetite breccia. A total of 1,531 samples (including split in half NQ drill core, duplicates, blanks and standards) were submitted to ALS Minerals of Val-d'Or and Vancouver for base metals, REE, and major and trace elements analysis. The results confirm the grades, thicknesses and continuity of the Fe-REE-Cu mineralization of the northeastern part of the Josette Horizon over a total strike length of 600 m and to a depth of 175 m. Moreover, the new drill results again demonstrate the high content of critical rare earth elements (REOc), in particular Nd, Y and Dy in the Josette mineralization. Highlight intersections\* of the drilling program include 3.04% TREO\*\* and 0.1% Cu over 36.0 m (from 99.0 to 135.0 m), including a high grade sub-interval of 6.67% TREO\*\* and 0.19% Cu over 7.0 m (from 111.0 m to 118.0 m) in hole 10885-12-75, summarized in the following table (refer to Focus Press release dated March 28, 2013):

Hole 10885-12-75										
Azimuth N320										
Dip -45°										
Total length 156 m										
341282E:										
5658048N										
UTM Nad83.										
Zone20										
2011020	Unit	CMZ	incl.							
From	m	99	111							
То	m	135	118							
Length*	m	36	7							
TREO**	%	3.04	6.67							
LREO	%	2.02	4.37							
HREO	%	1.01	2.30							
La2O3	%	0.38	0.77							
Ce2O3	%	0.90	1.97							
Pr2O3	%	0.12	0.27							
Nd2O3	%	0.51	1.12							
Sm2O3	%	0.11	0.24							
Eu2O3	%	0.01	0.02							
Gd2O3	%	0.11	0.24							
Tb2O3	%	0.02	0.04							
Dy2O3	%	0.10	0.23							
Ho2O3	%	0.02	0.05							
Er2O3	%	0.06	0.13							
Tm2O3	%	0.01	0.02							
Yb2O3	%	0.03	0.07							
Lu2O3	%	0.00	0.01							
Y2O3	<b>Y2O3</b> % 0.66 1.50									
Fe2O3	%	35.34	43.81							
P2O5	%	5.13	12.15							
Cu	%	0.10	0.19							

**CMZ** = Composite of mineralized zone: lower breccia, magnetitite (hydrothermal massive magnetite) and upper breccia **incl.** = including: high grade composites within larger composites

**TREO** (total rare earth oxides): La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3+Eu2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho 2O3+Er2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2O3 **LREO** (light rare earth oxides) : La2O3+Ce2O3+Pr2O3+Nd3O3+Sm2O3 **HREO** (heavy rare earth oxides including yttrium) : Eu2O3+Gd2O3+Tb2O3+Dy2O3+Ho2O3+Er2O3+Tm2O3+Yb2O3+Lu2O3+Y2 O3

\* Intersections are expressed as core length in meters and not the true thickness. The Josette horizon is oriented N050 and dip at -45° to -50° to the southeast. The hole, oriented N320, was drilled perpendicular to the Josette Horizon and crosscut the Josette horizon at high angle (dip -45°).

\*\* Rare earth elements assays are expressed as total rare earth oxides (TREO) including yttrium oxide. Strictly not a rare earth element, yttrium is included in the total amount of REE because of the chemical behaviour and uses that are similar to the lanthanides.

# 2013 Drilling Program

The 2013 drilling program at Kwyjibo was extended from August 4 to September 28 and it was designed to extend the area that has been drill tested across the western part of the Josette horizon and to test this horizon at depth along its eastern part in the aim to get sufficient coverage to conduct an initial Mineral Resource Estimate at Kwyjibo. The Company and SOQUEM received the land use permit from the Québec Government on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and began camp construction on June 17, 2013. The drilling was performed by G4 Drilling of Val-d'Or, Québec under the supervision of SOQUEM. At the end of the two drilling rig program, 42 holes for a total of 8,481 m of infill drilling was completed (NQ size core) as well as 14 holes (HQ size core) for a total of 2,018 m of drilling for Phase II metallurgical testing program were also completed (total of 10,499 m). A total of 3,676 samples (including 3,205 half NQ drill cores from the 2013 summer drilling program, 474 half NQ and BQ drill cores not assayed from previous drilling programs, duplicates, blanks and standards) were submitted to Techni-Labs S.G.B. Abitibi Inc. (Actlabs) of Ste-Germaine-Boulé (Québec). Drilling at 50 m spacing is now complete over an area of 1.2 km by 200 m of the Josette Horizon. Most of the drill holes intercepted significant mineralization.

#### QA/QC program

As part of the QA/QC program related with the drill hole assays, Accurassay Laboratories of Thunder Bay has been contracted to verify the assays and review all the results from the past few years. Part of the mandate was to compare the performance of the two laboratories contracted to run the analyses (Actlabs and ALS Minerals) and to determine whether there is any offset between the ICP-MS and XRF methodologies that were used and check for any drift in measurement.

On July 31, 2014, the final report was received. In conclusion, both labs provided acceptable results and the historic ICP-MS results are generally reproducible, confirming the integrity and continuity of the historic data. The use of ICP-MS to measure rare earth elements as the most successful method for Kwyjibo material has been verified.

#### Metallurgical Testing Program

#### Initial Metallurgical Tests (Phase I)

On January 14, 2013, Focus and SOQUEM awarded a contract to the *Consortium de recherche appliquée en traitement et transformation des substances minérales* (COREM) of Québec-City to perform initial metallurgical tests (Phase I) on two representative composite rock samples from the Josette showing under the supervision of Roche Ltd of Québec-City. The objective of the test work was to produce concentrates for critical rare earths, copper and iron, respectively. The first composite was a bulk sample comprised of 97 kg of magnetitite from the Josette showing. The

second composite sample consisted of 235 kg of breccia-type mineralization from quarter-split NQ drill core samples from seven (7) holes drilled below trenches TR-95-29 and TR-95-30 in the main mineralized zone (northeast zone of the Josette Horizon). The breccia-type composite sample was comprised of a representative mixture of magnetitite (60%) and brecciated granitic gneiss (40%) with 20 to 50% of magnetite veins and REE-bearing calcosilicate mineral veins.

On January 15, 2014, Focus and SOQUEM received the final report for Phase I metallurgical tests from COREM of Québec City. Results indicate that there is a positive concentration of copper from the magnetitite mineralization (from 71.4% to 98.3% recovery @ 13.5% to 26.6% Cu), but these mineral samples were considered later to be marginal and not representative of the copper content of the overall main mineralized zone known as the Josette Horizon. It was also possible to produce high Fe magnetite concentrates with interesting Fe recovery (68.4% Fe with 92% of recovery rate for the magnetitie and 71.7% Fe with 86.9% of recovery for the breccia) and low silica content, but due to a high phosphorous and sulfur content in the concentrate, it would not be saleable under current market conditions.

A phosphate concentrate that includes rare earth elements can be produced from both samples. The mineralogical study reveals that the principal rare earth element bearing minerals are apatite and britholite (phosphate minerals) and allanite and kainosite (silicate minerals). There are also indications that there is a need to process the magnetitite and the breccia mineralization types individually. The test work also demonstrated that a magnetic separation of the sample after grinding allowed for a significant reduction in mass prior to further upgrading via flotation. The use of magnetic separation will thus help to limit the size of downstream flotation equipment in future test work.

#### Conceptual flowsheet and preliminary leaching tests (Phase II)

On August, 2013, the Company and SOQUEM awarded the Phase II metallurgical testing contract to COREM of Québec City. Testing included: grindability and abrasion tests, cleaning tests of iron concentrates, oriented flotation and concentration tests for rare earth elemental recovery for phosphate phases and silicate phases, a study of rare earth bearing minerals with the aim to identify which ones host critical rare earths elements and also leaching tests.

On August 1, 2014, Focus and SOQUEM received the final report of the Phase II metallurgical tests from COREM of Québec City. Results for grindability and abrasion tests show that the ore is considered soft to medium hard, which will impact positively the cost of the grinding circuit and its operating cost.

Results of Low Intensity Magnetic Separation (LIMS) shows that the magnetic iron concentrate still contains a high concentration of deleterious elements (phosphate or sulfide) and does not meet the industry specification limits. On the other hand, the magnetic separation is essential in the ore treatment as it eliminates up to 50% of the total mass that has to be processed by flotation with a very low rare earth element loss of a maximum of 10%.

Three different flotation methods results show that 84% to 90% of the rare earth elements are recovered, the two best methods being the conventional phosphate flotation or conventional phosphate flotation followed by the depression of silicates that carry rare earth elements with a fatty acid collector. The method using sulfonate collector did not perform as well as the two others and was therefore discarded.

Acid (HCI) lixiviation of the two concentrates allows recovery of 80% to 96% of the rare earth elements and shows that the majority of the rare earth elements bearing minerals are dissolved. The final developed flow sheet includes magnetic separation and desulfurization followed by flotation and lixiviation to produce two concentrates (phosphates and silicates) that contain rare earth elements.

On July 14, 2015, the Company received the final version of the summary report and recommendation from Roche Groupe-Conseil of Montréal mandated to supervise the metallurgical testing program conducted by COREM of Québec-City.

Roche's report highlighted the possibility of using two different conceptual flow sheets for the flotation and recovery of the rare earth elements bearing minerals. The two conceptual flow sheets are based on either conventional phosphate flotation or conventional phosphate flotation followed by the depression of silicates that carry rare earth elements. These 2 flow sheets gave comparable recoveries of rare earth elements with the exception that conventional flotation followed by the depression of silicates carrying rare earth elements, produced 2 different concentrates (phosphates and silicates concentrates) that would have different economic values. The final selection of the most appropriate flow sheet will depend on the economic value of the concentrates and on the capital and operating costs required to recover the rare earth units.

Although the leach test results are promising, it is clear that additional hydrometallurgical test work is required in order to be able to achieve a conceptual flow sheet for the hydrometallurgy plant. Additional leach tests are recommended to better define the kinetics and the different possible leach routes that are required to bring the project to a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) level.

# Hydrometallurgical Testing (Phase III)

On October 30, 2015, the Company and SOQUEM awarded the Phase 3 hydrometallurgical testing contract to Hazen Research Inc., located in Colorado, USA. The work included the production of three different concentrates of rare earth elements. The concentrates were leached in an acidic environment to recover the REE's. The objective of the test work was to determine the most efficient leaching conditions for each individual ore type when making concentrate products. The hydrometallurgical testing report includes recommendations for the development of the Kwyjibo project. The Company has maintained its participation in the project at 50-50% level.

# Environmental and Social Aspects

On October 23, 2013, Focus organized a Kwyjibo's project site visit with two members of the Uashat Mak Mani Utenam Innu First Nation on territory where the project is located. The aim of the visit was to present the nature of the work conducted on site and discuss the environmental concerns of the local Innu families.

In December 2013, the Company and SOQUEM received the final report regarding the monitoring of surface water quality completed by Roche Groupe-Conseil of Québec-City. This follow-up on surface water quality was conducted over the preceding 3 years during Focus-SOQUEM's fieldwork campaigns with the aim to be able to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with drilling campaigns. In general, the provincial and federal criteria for the quality of surface waters were met and the only minor incidents of exceeding water quality criteria that were noted could also be related to the natural environment. Monitoring of surface water quality is still ongoing by Norda Stelo (formely Roche Groupe-Conseil) of Québec-City every year.

# Update for the Three Month Period Ended December 31, 2016

During the three month period ended December 31, 2016 the Company incurred exploration expenses totalling \$38,624 on the Kwyjibo project. The exploration expenses were mainly related to metallurgical analysis. Total capitalized exploration expenditures incurred on the claim block to date (net of tax credits and mining duties) are \$6,135,912.

# Metallurgical Testing Program:

On November 24th, 2016, the results from the 2014-2015 hydrometallurgical tests conducted on the Kwyjibo Poly-metallic Rare Earth Elements-Copper-Iron-Phosphate Project were news released. The release described a relatively simple metallurgical flowsheet, that is a distinctive feature of the

Kwyjibo project among peer rare earth element projects. Test achieved approximately 90% extraction rate from rare earth concentrate for all rare earth elements for the Magnetitite Mineralization Type ("MM1"). The plan is to perform an initial Mineral Resource Estimate, followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment study in 2017-18.

The latest hydrometallurgical leaching test program was conducted at Hazen Research in Colorado, USA. The program studied the use of three types of acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, HCl and HNO<sub>3</sub>) on various types of mineralization and subjected them to a beneficiation flowsheet that was previously developed at COREM, of Quebec City. Hazen research confirmed an average recovery of 90% of rare earth elements also obtained at COREM and Hazen also measured these high extraction rates under non-optimized leaching conditions.

The Hazen program was conducted on two (2) composite samples that are representative of the two types of mineralization that are characteristic of the northeast portion of the Josette Horizon. The first composite sample of MM1 was taken from HQ-diameter drillcore that were split in half from two drill holes (10885-13-61A and 10885-13-69A). The representative MM1 sample is a hydrothermal massive iron formation, with variable amounts of veins containing REE-bearing phosphates and silicates as well as calc-silicate minerals. The second composite sample of Breccia Type ("BR1") mineralization is composed of HQ-diameter drillcore splits from three diamond drill holes (10885-13-73A, 10885-13-74A and 10885-13-69A). The representative BR1 sample is characterized by a stockwork of magnetite veins, REE-bearing phosphates and silicates, and calc-silicate minerals in a granitic host rock. Mineralogical studies performed at COREM in 2013 show that REE occur in phosphate (apatite and britholite) and silicate (allanite and kainosite) phases.

Testwork results to date show that silicate concentrates produced from the composite samples leach well with nitric acid and hydrochloric acid. There is therefore no reason to separate the phosphates and silicates that both contain rare earth elements. Extraction using sulfuric acid gave poor results and therefore it was eliminated as a choice for acid leaching.

"From the work performed, it was determined that the differences between the REE extractions for HCI and HNO<sub>3</sub> were minor." <sup>(1)</sup> Hazen Research, HYDROMETALLURGICAL WORK FOR KWYJIBO PROJECT, PREPARATION AND LEACHING OF RARE EARTH CONCENTRATES, project 12182, August 2016

With the current price of these two types of acids, the use of HCI appears to be a more economical choice when considering operating costs. The following graphs show that the use of a 6 Molar ("6M") concentration of HCI at 90°C, achieved approximately 90% extraction from rare earth concentrate for all rare earth elements for the MM1 Combined and the BR1 mineralization types.

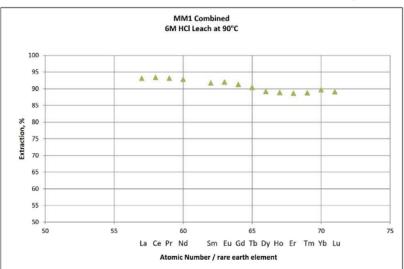


Figure 1. REE Extractions for the MM1 Combined mineralization type in a 6M HCl leach at 90°C

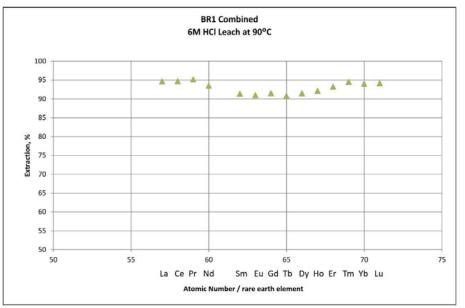


Figure 2. REE Extractions as a Function of Temperature for BR1 Combined with 6M HCI

When considering all the mineral beneficiation processing steps previously developed by COREM (grinding, magnetic separation, flotation), followed by the leaching extraction developed by Hazen the non-optimized global recoveries of rare earth elements are described in the following table:

	Glob	al Rec	overy	(%)											
Composite	Critic	al REE	1												
Sample	Y	Pr	Nd	Eu	Tb	Dy	LREE	HREE	HREE+Y	TREE	TREE+Y				
MM1	73.9	79.4	78.6	77.4	76.7	75.7	78.8	76.4	74.9	78.5	77.6				
BR1	81.1	89.8	88.0	85.6	85.6	86.5	88.8	87.0	87.1	88.5	88.3				
LREE (light rare earth elements): La+Ce+Pr+Nd+Sm HREE (heavy rare earth elements): Eu+Gd+Tb+Dy+Ho+Er+Tm+Yb+Lu TREE (total rare earth elements): La+Ce+Pr+Nd+Sm+Eu+Gd+Tb+Dy+Ho+Er+Tm+Yb+Lu															

#### **REE Global Non-Optimized Recoveries: Beneficiation + HCI Extractions**

The mineral processing flowsheet for the Kwyjibo project will therefore consist uniquely of minimal comminution steps followed by magnetic separation to remove the magnetite. Such a minimal beneficiation flowsheet will simplify operations.

#### Exploration and Development Outlook

The current hydrometallurgical test program ongoing at Hazen research is focused on the leaching of non-magnetic products and the concentration/precipitation of dissolved rare earth elements. Hazen will continue to optimize the process flowsheet by working on the liberation size and grinding, as well as magnetic separation and leaching.

Very encouraging results were obtained with both ore types, but since the in-situ value of the MM1 mineralization type is higher, future efforts will aim to optimize the recovery of REE's from Kwyjibo's MM1 mineralization type. That portion of the mineralization is located closer to surface and would potentially be less costly to mine. This combined with the fact that it is much easier to process than the BR1 mineralization type, the consensus was to proceed towards this objective.

After completion of the current testwork program, SOQUEM and Focus Graphite intend to complete an initial Mineral Resource Estimate followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment in 2017-18.

# Lac Knife Graphite Project, Côte-Nord Administrative District of Québec

The Lac Knife project comprises 57 map-designated claims covering 2,986.31 ha located in Esmanville Township (NTS map sheet 23B/11), 27 km south-southwest of the iron-mining town of Fermont, in the Côte-Nord administrative district of Québec. Focus signed a letter of intent on August 19, 2010, and acquired a 100% interest in the claims titles in October 2010 when it acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of 3765351 Canada Inc. Effective April 1, 2012, 3765351 Canada Inc. was liquidated and its assets were transferred to Focus. 3765351 Canada Inc. was formally dissolved effective September 30, 2012.

The Lac Knife project is host to the historical Lac Knife graphite prospect discovered during regional government geological surveying in 1959. The prospect is located in the Grenville geological province of Northeastern Québec. Graphite mineralisation is set in migmatized biotite-bearing quartz-feldspar gneiss belonging to the Nault Formation of the lower Proterozoic Gagnon Group. According to the Québec Ministry of Natural Resources (MRN), where this gneissic unit is sheared, brecciated and silicified, coarse graphite flakes and associated sulphide minerals make up 5-10% of the rock, with up to 20% or more in the more brecciated zones. Fuchsite and other iron-rich micas accompany the graphite and sulphide mineralisation in the more silicified horizons.

# Historical Exploration Programs

The Lac Knife graphite prospect was the subject of a first detailed investigation by Société Minière Mazarin Inc. ("Mazarin") from 1987 to 1990. Between 1988 and 1990 Mazarin, through some 99 core drill holes defined three main graphite-bearing zones, extending more than 500 m in length and to a minimum depth of 125 m. Mazarin sponsored a first feasibility study on the Lac Knife project which was completed in 1989. An updated study was prepared by Cambior Inc. in 1991. Under this study, Cambior proposed an open-pit mining operation for six months of the year, which would supply enough graphite ore to feed a 400t per day concentrator on a year-round basis for an annual production of 23,000t of graphite concentrate.

In April of 2000, Mazarin concluded an agreement with Tennessee-based Ucar Graftech, a unit of Ucar International, and a leading manufacturer of high-quality natural graphite-based materials, whereby Ucar Graftech was to conduct a feasibility study for the Lac Knife graphite project, including the collection and testing of a 3,500 tonne graphite-bearing sample. All work on the project was suspended in 2001 because of a recession and a decline in graphite prices. In 2002, Graftech and Mazarin planned a joint venture with the goal of starting production in 2004. However, the graphite market again declined and the Project did not proceed. During those years IAMGOLD Management Quebec ("IAMGOLD") purchased Cambior which included the Lac Knife project. The registered owner of Lac Knife project was 3765351 Canada Inc., a subsidiary of IAMGOLD. On October 4, 2010, Focus announced the closing of the acquisition of all of the issued and outstanding shares of 3765351 Canada Inc., in exchange for (i) a cash payment of \$250,000 and (ii) the issuance of 4,016,362 common shares and 2,008,181 warrants of the Company, each warrant entitling IAMGOLD to acquire an additional common share of the Company at a price of \$0.10 for a period of 24 months.

# Focus Exploration and Development Programs

Exploration work by the Company at Lac Knife started in 2010 with a geological and environmental due diligence evaluation of the project and a technical review of the historical project database by Roche Ltd. The results of which were used to plan a new core drilling campaign, the first at Lac Knife in over 20 years.

# 2010-2011 Drilling Campaign

During winter 2010-2011, the Company implemented a twelve-hole (1,233 m) core drilling program on the main graphite prospect which was designed to verify and replicate selected historical holes

from the 1989 Mazarin drilling program. The results of the drilling served as a basis for the estimation by Roche of a first mineral resource estimate of the deposit. The final drill program report from IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Chicoutimi, Québec was received on January 15, 2013.

# Mineral Resource Estimate

## <u>Note: These results related to the first Mineral Resource Estimate have been superseded by the</u> results of the updated Mineral Resource Estimate disclosed January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (see below).

On December 5, 2011, the Company released the results of the first Mineral Resource Estimate (MRE) on the Lac Knife graphite project completed in accordance with National Instrument 43-101. According to Roche of Montréal, the Lac Knife project hosts a Measured and Indicated Mineral Resource totalling 4.972 Mt grading 15.67% graphitic carbon (Cg) as crystalline graphite (637 kt @ 15.59% Cg of Measured Mineral Resource and 4,335 kt @ 15.68% Cg of Indicated Mineral Resource) with an additional Inferred resource of 3.000 Mt grading 15.58% Cg as crystalline graphite. This MRE is based on a database of 112 drill holes (total 8,904 m) comprised of 12 holes drilled by Focus in 2010-2011 and 99 holes drilled by Mazarin in 1989-1990. The resource estimate and accompanying technical report by Roche dated December 5, 2011 was filed on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) on January 18, 2012 and is available on the Company's website at (www.focusgraphite.com). The block model was developed using GEMS<sup>™</sup> software by Gemcom. Mineralisation blocks are 5 m long, 7 m wide and 5 m high. A cut-off of 5% Cg was used. Five different graphite bearing zones are included in the resource estimation; all zones start from surface and extend to a maximum depth of 125 m, for total dimensions of 350 m width by 650 m strike length. Mineral resources are not mineral reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability. The MRE served as the basis of a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) on the Lac Knife project published in 2012.

# Updated Mineral Resource Estimate

On January 28, 2014, the Company released an update of its Mineral Resource Estimate for the Lac Knife deposit (prepared by AGP Mining Consultant Inc. of Barrie, Ontario). The resource estimate is based on both the 2012 and 2013 additional exploration and definition drilling programs for a total of 9,103 m in 92 holes. This is in addition to 105 previous drill holes that totaled 9,217 m. The drilling successfully achieved the designed goal to upgrade the quality of existing Indicated and Inferred Mineral Resources into the Measured and Indicated categories.

The updated Measured and Indicated resources are estimated at 9.6 Mt grading 14.77% graphitic carbon (Cg) at a 3% Cg cut-off grade (432 kt @ 22.66% Cg of Measured Mineral Resource and 9,144 kt @ 14.35% Cg of Indicated Mineral Resource). Additionally there are 3.1 Mt of Inferred Mineral Resources at 13.25% Cg using a 3% cut-off as presented in Table 1. The Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources are inclusive of those Mineral Resources modified to produce the Mineral Reserves.

	Tonnage (t)	Cg (%)	In situ Graphite (t)
Measured	432,000	23.66	102,000
Indicated	9,144,000	14.35	1,312,000
Measured + Indicated	9,576,000	14.77	1,414,000
Inferred	3,102,000	13.25	411,000

 Table 1. Lac Knife Updated Mineral Resource Estimate\*

 @ 3.0 % graphitic carbon (Cg) cut-off

\* Mineral resources are not mineral reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability. The Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources are inclusive of those Mineral Resources modified to produce the Mineral Reserve.

# Highlights

- Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources reported at a cut-off of 3.0% Cg increased in tonnage by 92% to 9.6 Mt grading 14.77% Cg compared to the previous estimate of 4.9 Mt grading 15.76% Cg reported at a cut-off of 5.0% Cg.
- Upgraded 432,000 tonnes of Indicated Mineral Resources to the Measured resource category grading an average of 23.66% Cg using a 3% cut-off grade.
- The updated resource estimate increased the in-situ graphite content by 81%.
- The bulk of the 3.0 million tonnes previously classified as Inferred Mineral Resource was successfully upgraded to the Measured and Indicated categories.
- Delineation of an additional 3.1 million tonnes of Inferred Resources that is located within the southwest extension of the Lac Knife deposit

The updated Mineral Resource estimate is based on 197 diamond drill holes totaling 18,320 m of historic and recent drilling. This includes 104 surface diamond drill holes totaling 10,337 m completed by Focus Graphite since 2010. Mineral Resources have been reported within a constraining pit shell at a cut-off grade of 3.0% graphitic carbon (Cg). The results significantly increase the quality and tonnage of the resource. The Updated Mineral Resource Estimate details on the mineral resource estimation procedures are given in Focus' press release dated January 28, 2014 which is available on the Company's website at (<u>www.focusgraphite.com</u>). The Updated Mineral Resource Estimate was used to determine the estimated mine life based on the mill feed rate for the Feasibility Study.

## Preliminary Economic Assessment

Note: These results related to the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) have been superseded by the results of the Feasibility Study disclosed June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (see below).

On October 29, 2012, the Company released the highlights of its positive Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) of the Lac Knife project completed in accordance with the National Instrument 43-101. The PEA, prepared by RPA, in collaboration with Soutex (responsible for metallurgy and mineral processing) demonstrates that Lac Knife has a positive potential to become a profitable producer of graphite.

**Operational Highlights\*:** 

- Indicated Mineral Resources totalling 4.938 Mt grading 15.76% Cg and Inferred Mineral Resources totalling 3 Mt grading 15.58% Cg.
- Proposed 20 years of life of mine production of 6.0 Mt of mill feed at a grade of 15.66% graphitic carbon (Cg);
- Open pit operation at 300,000 tonnes per year;
- Average graphite recovery of 91.3% at Lac Knife processing plant;
- Life of mine production of 928,000 tonnes of concentrate at 92% Ct on average, or approximately 46,600 tonnes of concentrate per annum;
- Thermal purification upgrade of approximately 40% of the primary concentrate to 99.99% Cg by an existing producer with inherent purification losses of 15%;
- Life of mine project production of 868,000 tonnes of concentrate at 93.5%
   Cg on average, including 338,000 tonnes of high purity 99.95%
   Cg product.

Financial Highlights\*:

- \$246 million pre-tax Net Present Value (NPV) (at a 10% discount rate);
- 32% pre-tax Internal Rate of Return (IRR);
- \$926 million pre-tax undiscounted cash flow;
- \$3.7 billion total net revenue;
- Pre-tax payback period of 2.8 years;
- \$154 million initial capital cost, inclusive of \$33 million and \$24 million in working capital and contingency (25%), respectively;
- \$68 per tonne average unit operating cost at Lac Knife;
- \$435 per tonne average unit operating cost, assuming thermal purification on a contract basis;
- PEA economics assessment for the Project calculated based on graphite market prices of \$10,000, \$1,300, and \$800 per tonne of battery grade (>99.95% Cg, +100 mesh), medium grade (>90% Cg, -100+200 mesh) and fine grade (>80% Cg, -200 mesh) respectively, on a FOB mine basis.

\* Note: The Lac Knife project PEA is considered to meet the requirements of a Preliminary Economic Assessment as defined in National Instrument 43-101 – Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects (NI 43-101). The economic analysis contained in the technical report is based, in part, on Inferred Resources (as defined in NI 43-101), and is preliminary in nature. Inferred Resources are considered too geologically speculative to have mining and economic considerations applied to them and to be categorized as Mineral Reserves (as defined in NI 43-101). Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. There is no certainty that the reserves development, production, and economic forecasts on which the PEA is based will be realized.

Full details of the data analysis and modeling, engineering and economic assessment parameters and assumptions used in the Lac Knife PEA are available in the IRPA technical report filed on SEDAR (<u>www.sedar.com</u>) on October 31, 2012 and available on the Company's website at (<u>www.focusgraphite.com</u>).

## Updated Preliminary Economic Assessment

### <u>Note: These results related to the updated Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) have been</u> superseded by the results of the Feasibility Study disclosed June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (see below).

On November 7, 2013, the Company announced updated results of the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) for the Lac Knife Graphite Project The update was based on improved metallurgical results of the recent Pilot Plant test campaign using an optimized flotation and polishing circuit conducted at SGS Lakefield and announced on August 21, 2013.

The increase in concentrate grades and associated economic assessment results were updated in the project cash flow summary and were validated by RPA Inc. in consultation with Soutex Inc. of Québec-City. Inputs updated in the financial model included: final concentrate average grade increase from 92% Ct to 96.6% Ct within the new flake size distribution categories, a reduction in operating cost by \$367 per tonne milled, due to the elimination of the need to purify the concentrate by a third party and the associated \$27,600,000 in working capital requirements. Pricing is based on "run-of mine" concentrate prices, without the value added price prices used in the original PEA financial model. The original report was filed on October 29, 2012.

The Lac Knife project has a pre-tax internal rate of return (IRR) of 36.4% and of 28.6% after tax and a pre-tax net present value of \$ 316.9 million and of \$185.3 million after tax in the base case using a weighted average price of US\$1,866 per tonne of run-of-mine concentrates. The cost of production is \$458 per tonne of concentrate (refer to the November 7, 2013 news release available at <u>www.focusgraphite.com</u> and on <u>www.sedar.com</u>).

### Highlights of PEA update are summarized below:

	Pre Tax Value (\$ millions)	After Tax Value (\$ millions)
Net Present Value		
8% discount rate	316.9	185.3
10% discount rate	250.1	143.3
12% discount rate	198.4	110.6
Capital Expenditure including a 25% contingency of \$24m	125.95	125.95
Operating cost per tonne milled	\$67.61	\$67.61
Operating cost per tonne of concentrate produced	\$458.20	\$458.20
Pre-Tax IRR Pre Tax Payback Period Exchange rate Strip Ratio	36.4% 2.4 years US\$1.00 = C\$1.00 1.12	28.6% 2.8 years US\$1.00 = C\$1.00 1.12

\*Note: This PEA is considered by RPA to meet the requirements of a Preliminary Economic Assessment as defined in Canadian NI 43-101 regulations. The economic analysis contained in the technical report is based, in part, on Inferred Resources, and is preliminary in nature. Inferred Resources are considered too geologically speculative to have mining and economic considerations applied to them and to be categorized as Mineral Reserves. There is no certainty that the reserves development, production, and economic forecasts on which the PEA is based will be realized.

### Feasibility Study

On November 4, 2013, the Company retained the services of Québec-based Met-Chem Canada Inc. ("Met-Chem") to complete a Feasibility Study and Mine Closure Plan to bring the Lac Knife graphite project closer to a production decision.

The Feasibility Study scope of work involves a comprehensive review of all project characteristics from process validation to capital costs, operational costs, and basic engineering leading to the detailed engineering, marketing, environmental, health & safety, and other considerations in order to further validate and integrate the various technical aspects of the project.

On June 25, 2014, the Company reached a significant milestone in the development of the project when it released the highlights of its positive Feasibility Study (FS) of the Lac Knife project completed by Met-Chem Canada Inc. Results from the FS indicate that the Lac Knife Project is viable economically based on a 25-year mine life that resulted in a Pre-tax Net Present Value (NPV) of \$383 million calculated at a discounted cash flow (DCF) rate of 8%. The financial model has an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of 30.1% and a capital payback period of 3.0 years. The after tax financial model has an NPV of \$224 million calculated at a DCF rate of 8%, with an IRR of 24.1% and a capital payback of 3.2 years.

Table 1: Lac Knife's Feasibility Study - Net Present Values Calculated at Various Discounted Cash Flow Rates for the Base Case Production Scenario and the Forecasted Average Price/t in 2016

Lac Knife Feasibility Results (Pre-Tax)	Base Case	2016 Forecast	Units
Average Price / Tonne of Concentrate:	\$1,713	\$2,256	US\$
Internal Rate of Return (IRR)	30.1	41.8	%
Net Present Value @ 6% Discounted Cash Flow	510	809	\$ million
Net Present Value @ 8% Discounted Cash Flow	383	624	\$ million
Net Present Value @ 10% Discounted Cash Flow	291	488	\$ million
Payback Period	3	2.1	Years
Lac Knife Feasibility Results (After-Tax)	Base Case	2016 Forecast	Units
Internal Rate of Return (IRR)	24.1	32.8	%
Net Present Value @ 6% Discounted Cash Flow	304	476	\$ million
Net Present Value @ 8% Discounted Cash Flow	224	364	\$ million
Net Present Value @ 10% Discounted Cash Flow	165	280	\$ million
Payback Period	3.2	2.4	Years

All monetary values are in Canadian Dollars ("CDN") except where specified otherwise

Results from the FS indicate that the Lac Knife Project is viable economically with a base case scenario that includes a concentrator production line rate of 44,300 tonnes of concentrate annually at an average mill feed rate of 323,670 tonnes per year of Mineral Reserves over a 25-year mine life. A concentrator availability of 93% was used for the study. The additional Measured, Indicated, and Inferred Mineral Resources will continue to be evaluated to develop the mid and long term growth profile for the Company.

Highlights:

- Reduced operating costs from PEA estimate of \$458 per tonne of concentrate to \$441 per tonne.
- Mining costs are 126.95 \$/t of concentrate (\$17.85 per tonne of ore) with the major component associated contract mining costs. Contract mining versus lower cost owner mining will be revisited with further evaluation of mine equipment leasing and associated owner's costs.
- Processing costs for the concentrator are, on average, over the life of mine \$239.37 per tonne of concentrate produced, based on yearly average processing costs of \$33.66 per tonne of ore processed. The low cost hydroelectric power supplied by Hydro Québec contributes to overall low production costs.
- Detailed engineering is planned to start in 2014 and further analysis of each of these cost components will continue during the detailed engineering stage.
- Life of Mine Plan resulted in an overall average strip ratio of 1.8 to 1 for 25 years.
- The open pit design includes 429 kt of Proven Reserves and 7,428 kt of Probable Reserves for a total of 7,857 kt of Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves grading 15.13% graphitic carbon (Cg). The Mineral Reserves which account for mining dilution and ore loss are reported at a cut-off grade of 3.1% Cg. The Mineral Reserve is included within the Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources of 9,576 kt grading 14.77 % Cg (432 kt of Measured Mineral Resources grading 23.66 % Cg and 9,144 kt of Indicated Resources grading 14.35 % Cg). The reference point for the Mineral Reserve Estimate is the mill feed.
- Average prices used in the financial model do not include value added products that can be produced using the typically lower valued finer natural flake

graphite. These finer graphite concentrates can be further processed into value added products for the Lithium Ion battery market because of their high carbon content of 98% carbon and realize a higher margin for a reasonable capital investment and operating cost over and above those outlined in this release. Based on these results it has become an important objective to outline the scope of this secondary transformation project for electrifying transportation and for use by other lithium battery end users

Today, the prices for the Lac Knife graphite concentrates average US\$1,713 per tonne based on the size distribution and high carbon grade. Also included in the table above are the results using forecasted prices for 2016 where the average price for the same concentrates is estimated to increase to US\$2,256 per tonne. These prices are estimated by Industrial Minerals Data of the UK, who are recognized in this field as an independent source of accurate, detailed information for the natural flake graphite market.

Met-Chem's financial model does not include potential value-added, purified, spheronized, and coated battery-grade graphite in its financial and operational calculations.

The exchange rate used is 0.91 US Dollars per Canadian Dollar. Table 1 provides the Net Present Values calculated at various discounted cash flow rates for the Base Case production scenario of 44,300 tonnes of graphite concentrate produced annually. The financial analysis in the FS study used the 24 month price of US\$1,713 per tonne that is a weighted average for the various graphite concentrates that are classified by flake size and also valued by their carbon content.

The annual milling capacity is 323,670 tonnes per year to produce 44,300 tonnes of concentrate annually at a cost of \$441 per tonne of concentrate. The concentrate will grade 97.8% graphitic carbon (Cg) on average for a 25-year open pit mine life based on current open pit reserves. All graphite concentrate produced with flakes larger than 200 mesh contain more than 98% Cg.

The FS is based on the pilot plant test work run by SGS Mineral Services in Lakefield, Ontario, during the spring of 2013 and announced in a news release on August 21, 2013. The concentrator process flow sheet is based on standard flotation circuits followed by a series of polishing mills that upgrade the carbon content by cleaning impurities present in the ore that are generally found on the graphitic carbon flake surfaces of the Lac Knife mineralization. Pilot plant recovery was 91%, full scale, consistent operations should improve on the mill process recovery. Flake size distribution is expected to increase in favor of larger flake as the full-scale plant will start with a SAG mill which is better suited to mitigate flake damage as opposed to crushing and grinding methods used in the pilot plant.

Lac Knife is unique in that all natural flake graphitic concentrates produced with flake size above 200 mesh (75 microns) size are more than 98% total carbon. This allows Focus to divert finer sized products that would typically be difficult to sell due to their flake size to higher value added products such as spherical graphite for batteries due to the high carbon content of 98% (See "Lithium Battery Coin Cell Test Results" below).

#### **Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves:**

The open pit design includes 429 kt of Proven Reserves and 7,428 kt of Probable Reserves for a total of 7,857 kt of Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves grading 15.13% graphitic carbon (Cg). The Mineral Reserves which account for mining dilution and ore loss are reported at a cut-off grade of 3.1% Cg. In order to access these reserves, 2,746 kt of overburden, 10,926 kt of waste rock and 231 kt of Inferred Mineral Resources must be mined. This total waste quantity of 13,903 kt results in a stripping ratio of 1.8 to 1. Table 2 presents the Lac Knife open pit mineral reserves that were estimated for the Feasibility Study.

The Mineral Reserves are included in the Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources of 9,576 kt grading 14.77 % Cg (432 kt of Measured Mineral Resources grading 22.66 % Cg and 9,144 kt of

Indicated Mineral Resources grading 14.35 % Cg). The reference point for the mineral reserve estimate is the mill feed. The remaining Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources within the Lac Knife deposit will help to develop the mid and long-term growth profile for the company (See Table 5 for MRE).

Table 2: Lac Knife's Open Pit Mineral Reserves Estimated

Table 2					
Lac Knife Open Pit Mineral Reserves*					
Category	Tonnage (kt)	Cg Grade (%)			
Proven	429	23.61			
Probable	7,428	14.64			
Proven and Probable	7,857	15.13			

\*The Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources are inclusive of those Mineral Resources modified to produce the Mineral Reserve. The reference point for the Mineral Reserve Estimate is the mill feed.

A pit optimization analysis was carried out using the MS-Economic Planner module of MineSight<sup>®</sup> which ran the Lerchs-Grossmann algorithm to determine the economic limits of the deposit. The analysis showed that the open pit design for the Feasibility Study should be based on a 25-year mine life that includes approximately 82% of the Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources.

The open pit design incorporates 10 m high benches and follows the pit slope recommendations from the 2014 geotechnical investigation. The pit is 700 m long and 400 m wide at surface and has a maximum pit depth of 100 m.

Mining will be carried out by a mining contractor who will use conventional open pit mining methods that include drilling and blasting followed by a hydraulic excavator loading a fleet of 46-tonne haul trucks. The mine will be operated seasonally (7 months of the year) and a front-end wheel loader will be used to feed the processing plant from an ore stockpile during the winter months.

The study was conducted with engineering and estimation methods appropriate to target an estimate accuracy of 15% that is standard and realistic for capital and operating cost estimates in a Feasibility Study. Based on an extensive risk review exercise the contingency is 11.5%. The Capital Expenditures in Table 3 outline what is needed to construct the mine, processing plant, power line and all associated infrastructure that is estimated at a total of \$165.55 million.

Table 3	
Lac Knife Capital Expenditure - Cost Centers	CDN\$ millions
Mine equipment, infrastructure, and pre-stripping	4.21
Infrastructure	11.62
Primary Crushing	7.02
Concentrator	62.24
Environmental and Tailings Management	8.22
Power and Communication at mine site	15.4
Indirect Costs	39.77
Contingency (11.5%)	17.07
Sub Total	165.55

Table 3: Outline of Financial Resources Required to Construct The Mine

The operating costs per tonne of concentrate produced are \$441 (see Table 4 below). This is an improvement over the updated Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) that showed \$458 per tonne of concentrate produced. One key variable to low production costs is Lac Knife's project

location giving relatively easy access to low cost hydroelectric power from Hydro Quebec at the intersection of the access road and Provincial Highway 389.

### Table 4: Operating Expenditures Cost Centers

Table 4	
Lac Knife Operating Expenditures (25 year average) Cost Centers	\$/Tonne of Concentrate
Mining	126.95
Processing Costs (Concentrator)	239.37
General Administration Mine Site	74.70
Total Operating Costs	441.02

On August 8, 2014, the Company filed the complete Feasibility Study (FS) report of the Lac Knife project on SEDAR (<u>www.sedar.com</u>) in accordance with the National Instrument 43-101 standards and guidelines. The Feasibility Study was completed by Met-Chem Canada Inc. with contributions from AGP Mining Consultants, Journeaux Associates and Golder Associates. The FS report is also available on the Company's website at www.focusgraphite.com.

The technical information related to the Feasibility Study was approved by Project Leader Mary-Jean Buchanan Eng., and Jeffrey Cassoff Eng., Lead Mining Engineer, and Ewald Pengel P. Eng., Senior Metallurgist, who was responsible for concentrator design, all from Met-Chem Canada Inc., and all individuals that are Qualified Persons under NI 43-101 guidelines and all independent of the issuer. Pierre Desautels P.Geo. of AGP Inc. completed the NI 43-101 Mineral Resource Estimate report and is also independent of the issuer.

### Off-Take Agreement with a Chinese Industrial Conglomerate

On December, 20, 2013, The Company announced that it had entered into an offtake agreement for the future production from Lac Knife's graphite resource located 27 km southwest of Fermont, Quebec.

The strategic agreement for up to 40,000 tonnes per year, with a minimum amount of 50% of production of graphite concentrate and value added products produced was signed on December 19, 2013 by the Company with an industrial conglomerate, comprised of heavy industry, manufacturing and technology companies located in Dalian City, Liaoning Province, China. The 10-year agreement calls for the supply of up to 40,000 tonnes per year of large, medium and fine flake graphite concentrate and value added graphite products from the proposed Lac Knife mining and processing facility.

On March, 6, 2014, the Company reported that the terms of the agreement announced in December 2013 bind the parties to a minimum floor purchase of 20,000 tonnes per year in addition of the supply ceiling of 40,000 tonnes per year of future production from its Lac Knife graphite deposit. This announcement highlighted the availability of graphite flake concentrate for other strategic offtake buyers.

The specific terms of the agreement, including pricing and renewal rights, are confidential for competitive reasons.

### Summary of Focus' Offtake Agreements

	Date of Agreement	Buyer	Minimum Quantity		Products	Source of graphite concentrates and products	End date	Right to determine actual quantity
China offtake	2013	Chinese industrial conglomerate	20,000	40,000	All flake sizes <sup>1</sup>	Lac Knife Project or other sources owned or controlled by Focus <sup>2</sup>	December 19, 2023	Focus
-	September 24, 2015	Grafoid Inc.	0		High purity (98.3% total carbon) large flake (>80 mesh) concentrate	Lac Knife Project or other sources owned or controlled by Focus <sup>2</sup>	10 years after commercial production start-up	Grafoid
	September 24, 2015	Grafoid Inc.	0	25,000	All flake sizes <sup>1</sup>	Lac Knife Project or other sources owned or controlled by Focus <sup>2</sup>	10 years after commercial production start-up	Grafoid
TOTAL	-	-	20,000	46,000	-	-	-	-

Note:

(1) Estimated yearly production of 44,300 tonnes as per the Feasibility Study dated June 25, 2014

(2) Focus to determine in its sole discretion origin of graphite concentrate to be delivered

## Site Plan and Infrastructure Layout

On February 20, 2013, the Company received from Groupe Synergis of Shawinigan a letter report regarding the constraints related with the utilization of the Hydro Québec road as a Lac Knife project access road.

A contract was awarded to BBA Engineering, an independent consulting engineering firm in Québec in the second quarter of 2013. The mandate awarded includes the determination of any additional physical elements in the aim to complete the environmental baseline study, including site access road design and general mine site infrastructure layout. Part of this exercise was to determine various options for the installation of the concentrator, waste dumps, and tailings impoundment. Also included in the BBA Engineering mandate is a re-design of the project access road in order to abide by Hydro Québec regulations. This is required in order to have regular vehicle circulation during construction and operations without infringing on safety perimeters of the current electrical towers and infrastructure. This was a precursor to meeting with Hydro Québec to initiate discussions regarding the potential connection to the local power grid to service the Lac Knife mill and related project infrastructure. The cost was compared to generating electricity on site as a second option. Connecting to Hydro Quebec's power grid is the recommended option.

## Filtered Tailing Management Conceptual Design Report

On September 25, 2014, the Company received the preliminary version of the conceptual design of a filtered tailings and waste rock management facility report from AMEC Americas Ltd. The filtered tailings and waste rock management design was developed as an alternative to the concept presented in the feasibility study to reduce risk to the environment and to address the requests of the stakeholders.

The concept is to use waste rock berms around the perimeter of the pile and place filtered tailings (dewatered tailings) co-mingled with waste rock in the interior of the pile. Drainage from the pile will

be collected and re-used during operations. The drainage will be kept within the Lac Knife watershed instead of being discharged in the direction of the more sensitive rivière aux Pékans watershed that is part of the proposed rivière Moisie aquatic reserve. Subsequent to the reporting period in November, the concept was presented to the Association de protection de la rivière Moisie.

### Metallurgical Testing Program

### Phase I Metallurgical Testwork

On April 11, 2012, the Company announced the results of the first phase of metallurgical testing for the Lac Knife project. The test work was conducted on a 250 kg sample by SGS Metallurgical Services of Lakefield, Ontario. The results of the initial metallurgical testing showed the deposit holds 46.1% large flake (+48 mesh to +100 mesh); 39% medium flake (+150 mesh to +200 mesh) with an overall global recovery test rate of 85.9%. The Company received the final report for the Phase I testing at SGS on January 4, 2013.

## Dense Media Separation (DMS) Testing Program

On February 28, 2013, the Company received the results from a trial dense media separation (DMS) testing program conducted by Metchib Metallurgical Laboratories of Chibougamau, Québec from November 5, 2012 to February 15, 2013. The test work was performed on a total of 300 kg of medium-grade graphite mineralisation collected from a surface blast at the Lac Knife deposit in 2012. A total of 53 different tests were carried out on the sample to assess critical parameters such as crushing and grinding behaviours and degree of graphite particle liberation and particle shape and size distribution; and DMS cyclone design, pressure, cyclone feed conditions and concentrate recoverability. Select findings from the trial DMS testing program have been incorporated into the design of the flow sheet for the pilot plant testing program which began at SGS on April 17, 2013 (see below).

### Phase II Variability Flotation Program

The contract for Phase II metallurgical testing at SGS was signed on September 24, 2012. Phase II testing program was designed to improve graphite flake recovery and to generate additional data required to finalize the operational parameters for the configuration of the pilot flotation plant. In November 2012, a total of seven composite 100-kg samples of low to high grade mineralised P-sized half-core from the Lac Knife deposit were prepared by IOS and then expedited to SGS in preparation for the variability flotation program. Phase II metallurgical testing at SGS began in December 2012 and was completed on March 25, 2013.

On March 4, 2013, The Company released preliminary Phase II locked cycle test\* (LCT) results for the Lac Knife project. The testing was performed on 4 composites core samples comprised of lowgrade and semi-massive graphite mineralisation with a large proportion of large flakes (+80 mesh) in the graphite concentrates that ranged between 35% and 58%.

On July 9, 2013, the Company reported that the results of the final Phase II locked cycle test\* (LCT) metallurgical results performed at SGS in Lakefield, Ontario, continued to confirm an average concentrate grade of 96.4% total carbon (Ct) and a high average flake graphite recovery of 92.5% (see Company's July 9, 2013 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com). SGS has completed all 6 Phase II LCTs on composite core samples comprised of low-grade, semi-massive, and massive graphite mineralization with a head grade ranging between 6.0% Ct and 25.0% Ct.

Highlights of these test results are as follows:

- The carbon content of graphite concentrates produced from the 6 composites averaged 96.4% Ct, including the finest graphite flake concentrate (-200 mesh) produced. This is a 4.4% increase over Phase I LCTs completed in mid-2012.

- The average graphite flake recovery for the overall deposit following the final Phase II LCT's increased to 92.5% which confirms the previous 4 tests and increases the recovery by 0.3% from the previous results.
- The proportion of large flakes (+80 mesh) recovered from the low grade, semi massive, and massive types of mineralization (total: 6 graphite concentrate samples) ranged between 35% and 58%.
- In addition, a LCT was completed on a composite sample of the deposit's host rock grading 1% Ct. The concentrate grade obtained was also very good at 96% Ct with a flake graphite recovery of 94.5%. These results suggest that mining dilution would not impact the recovery nor the final concentrate grade and quality in a negative way.

\* A locked cycle test is a repetitive batch flotation test conducted to assess concentrator flow sheet design. It is the preferred method for arriving at a metallurgical projection from laboratory testing. The final cycles of the test are designed to simulate a continuous, stable flotation circuit

### Pilot Flotation Plant Program

On April 17, 2013, the Company announced the commissioning of its pilot flotation plant (designed, built and operated by SGS in Lakefield, Ontario) and the start-up of circuit testing for the production of high-grade graphite concentrates from the Lac Knife deposit. The principal objectives of the pilot plant test work are to confirm the results from Phase II bench scale LCTs; to assess the technical viability and operational performance of the processing plant design; to generate tailings for environmental testing, and; to produce a range of graphite raw materials for customer assessments and for further upgrading. The test work will also generate data needed for scale up of relevant processing equipment and to identify those critical controls required to maintain consistency of graphite concentrate recovery and purity. The grinding and flotation components of the circuit have been configured specifically to minimize flake wear and breakage and to ensure the maximization of the medium and large graphite flake size recovery content.

Two bulk graphite composites were provided to SGS by the Company to use as feed material for the pilot plant that was designed to operate in continuous mode at a feed rate of 200 kg per hour. The first is a 21.6 tonne bulk sample of weathered semi-massive grade graphite mineralisation that was collected from surface. The second bulk composite sample was assembled from drill core and consists of a 23.3 tonne blend of representative core samples from the massive, semi-massive and low-grade mineralisation types within the Lac Knife deposit. The proposed mine plan for the deposit would not segregate the different mineralization types. Composite drill core samples were used for the pilot plant flotation program as a representative selection of the different types of mineralization throughout the deposit. Results of the earlier stage locked cycle tests demonstrated that there is no benefit in developing different flow sheets for each mineralization type. Both composites were crushed and homogenized by SGS prior to the pilot plant campaign to ensure consistent feed. Once the pilot plant circuit was dialled-in using the surface bulk sample, the composite core sample was introduced into the circuit. The results from the processing of the bulk drill core sample were used to establish the processing plant flow-sheet design. Graphite flake samples produced from the pilot plant was submitted to potential customers for quality evaluations and purification trials designed to generate final saleable products.

On August 21, 2013, the Company reported pilot plant test results from Lac Knife. The average total carbon (Ct\*) head grade of the bulk sample was lower than the deposit average grade at 11.8% Ct in order to be able to increase the amount of mineralized material available for pilot plant testing at that time. Even with the lower head grade, the metallurgical results were excellent confirming the robustness of the concentrator flowsheet design. Refer to the August 21, 2013 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com and on www.sedar.com

- The average grade of the coarse size fraction (+ 80 mesh) was 98.3% total carbon\* (Ct) compared with 97.4% Ct in the Phase II locked cycle tests\*\* (LCTs\*\*)
- The average grade of the medium size fraction, less than 80 mesh and greater than 150 mesh in size, was 98.2% Ct compared with 97.4% Ct in the Phase II LCTs
- The average grade of all size fractions greater than 200 mesh was 98.0% Ct compared with 97.2% Ct in the Phase II LCTs
- The average carbon content of the pilot plant campaign was 96.6% Ct compared to 96.4% Ct reported in the Company's July 9, 2013 press release on the final results of the Phase II LCTs. It is important to note that these results were achieved despite the fact that the less than 200 mesh fraction was not subjected to another cleaning circuit in the pilot plant run as was done in the LCTs, meaning the carbon content of the overall sample would likely have been even higher.
- These results indicate that all three concentrate size fractions may be easier and more cost effective to beneficiate into technology grade graphite due to the high grade carbon content obtained from the pilot plant testing. Higher concentrate grades translates into reduced levels of impurities that have to be removed in the thermal or hydrometallurgical purification processes.

\*All carbon analyses were performed by SGS Canada Inc. ("SGS") and are reported as total carbon (Ct). The analytical methods that were used to determine the metallurgical results included total carbon analysis by Leco on the final concentrates. The lower grade tailings products were analyzed by the graphitic carbon (Cg) method to discount the organic carbon and carbonate carbon in the samples.

\*\* A locked cycle test (LCT) is a repetitive batch flotation test conducted to assess flow sheet design. It is the preferred method for arriving at a metallurgical projection from laboratory testing. In a LCT the intermediate products are incorporated in the following cycles, thus simulating a continuous flotation circuit on a laboratory scale.

The fact that the medium and large graphite flakes could be upgraded to average grades ranging between 98% Ct and 98.3% Ct by flotation only suggests that the impurities are attached to the surface of the graphite flakes. Therefore, the concentrate has the potential to be purified to levels required by battery grade graphite manufacturers. The objective of the pilot plant testing was to produce the highest quality large flake graphite concentrate.

## Exploration Work

## LiDAR Topographic Survey

In August 2012, the Company sponsored a remotely sensed Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) topographic survey of the entire Lac Knife claim block which was supplemented by optical air photography coverage. The Helicopter-supported survey was carried-out by Mosaic 3D of La-Pêche, Québec. Deliverables included a high resolution georeferenced LiDAR image; an ASCII database of XYZ elevation points; a georeferenced air photo mosaic; and a georeferenced topographic contour map in digital format. The high resolution LiDAR survey data will be used for future detailed engineering and site infrastructure studies as well as for the planning of the access road work for the project.

### 2012 Infill, Deposit Margin and Exploration Drilling Programs

In September 2012, the Company completed a second round of infill, deposit margin and extensional core drilling on the Lac Knife graphite deposit. The drilling was performed by G4 Drilling of Val-d'Or, Québec under the supervision of IOS. A total of 56 PQ-sized core holes (total: 5,638 m) were drilled to collect sufficient data on graphite grades and mineral continuity to upgrade the current Inferred mineral resources in the southeastern part of the Lac Knife deposit to the Indicated category; to map the limits of the deposit; and to provide sufficient mineralised feed material for Phase II locked cycle tests (LCTs) and for the pilot plant campaign. A further 13 exploration NQ-sized core holes (total: 1,674 m) were drilled to test the extensions of the deposits to the South (12 holes) and iron formation in the northern part of the project (one hole).

Representative core samples were collected from all holes and shipped to IOS facilities for sample preparation (crushing and grinding). Prepared samples were sent to COREM in Québec City for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. In regards to QA/QC program, 10% of the samples were also analyzed by COREM for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon as well as for total sulphides. Selected core samples were also sent to ACTLABS analytical service provider for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon, total sulphides and for 35 multi-element analysis using ICP methods. IOS introduced standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of its QA/QC program. Final analytical results from the 2012 drilling campaign were received in February 2013.

On March 5, 2013, the Company released the results of the exploration drilling program for the 12 core holes (total: 1,384 m) that were drilled to test the strike-length extension of the Lac Knife graphite deposit up to 375 m to the South of the deposit's West limb. The 12 exploration holes were spread over 4 drill fences spaced 100 m apart. Hole LK-12-170 drilled 175 m south of the deposit on Line 900 S returned the best graphitic carbon (Cg) intersection:

<u>Hole LK-12-170:</u> 66.8 m\* grading 14.68% Cg\*\* (from 54.9 to 121.7 m), including 8.0 m grading 21.73% Cg (from 54.9 to 62.9 m), 21.7 m grading 17.99% Cg (from 70.0 to 91.7 m) and 21.3 m grading 18.22 % Cg (from 100.4 to 121.7 m)

\*Intersections are expressed as core length because the host rocks are highly metamorphosed and locally migmatized and folded. However the drill holes cross-cut the mineralization envelope at a high angle. The interpretation is based on historical data including Focus' drill holes.

\*\*All core sample carbon analyses were performed by COREM and delivered as graphitic carbon (Cg) results, internal analytical code LSA-M-B10, LECO high frequency combustion analytical method with an infrared measurement system.

Significant graphite intercepts<sup>\*\*\*</sup> are still encountered up to 375 m south of the deposit as evidenced by Hole LK-12-174 drilled on Line 1100 S which intersected 20.9 m grading 19.31% Cg (from 20.0 to 40.9 m), indicating that the deposit remains open to the south. All the significant intercepts<sup>\*\*\*</sup> are summarized in table form in the Company's March 5, 2013 news release available at <u>www.focusgraphite.com</u>. On July 4, 2013, the Company received the final report of the exploration drilling campaign from IOS.

On April 9, 2013, the Company released the results of the infill and deposit margin drilling program for the 56 PQ-sized core holes (total: 5,638 m). Hole LK-12-128 drilled on Line 500 S targeted the western zone of the deposit and returned one of the best graphitic carbon (Cg) intersections of the program:

<u>Hole LK-12-128</u>: 42.8 m\* grading 20.43% Cg\*\* (from 60.7 to 103.5 m), including 11.8 m grading 36.08% Cg (from 79.7 to 91.5 m)

Most of the drill holes intercepted significant graphite intersections\*\*\* along the strike length of West, Central and East zones of the deposit as evidenced by the following Holes:

<u>Hole LK-12-135:</u> drilled on section 675 S: 60.5 m grading 17.88% Cg (from 61.0 to 121.5 m), including 13 m grading 32.33 % Cg (from 70 to 83 m) and 11.8 m grading 26.39 % Cg (from 106.7 to 118.5 m)

<u>Hole LK-12-147:</u> drilled on section 375 S: 42.8 m grading 17.59% Cg (from 12.4 to 55.2 m), including 5.4 m grading 39.56 % Cg (from 15.4 to 20.8 m)

\*Intersections are expressed as core length because the host rocks are highly metamorphosed and locally migmatized and folded. However the drill holes cross-cut the mineralization envelope at a high angle. The interpretation is based on historical data including Focus' drill holes.

\*\*All core sample carbon analyses were performed by COREM and delivered as graphitic carbon (Cg) results, internal analytical code LSA-M-B10, LECO high frequency combustion analytical method with an infrared measurement system.

\*\*\* Significant intercepts are defined as Cg >5% over a minimum of 6 m; maximum internal dilution of 6 m; maximum external dilution of 0 m.

All the significant intercepts are summarized in table form in the Company's April 9, 2013 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com. On May 27, 2013, the Company received the final report of the definition drilling campaign from IOS.

On April 30, 2013, the Company received the results of an external QA/QC audit of the complete database of all three drill campaigns on the project (1989-1990, 2010-2011 and 2012). The results of the audit provided a framework for establishing the design of the 2013 infill drilling program on the Lac Knife Project.

#### Horizontal Loop Electromagnetic ("HLEM") Ground Geophysical Survey

From August 13<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, G.L. Géoservice Inc. of Rouyn-Noranda, Québec, completed a magnetic and horizontal loop electromagnetic (HLEM) ground geophysical survey on the Lac Knife Project. The magnetic survey covered 202 line-km and the electromagnetic survey was performed over 182.2 line-km. The line spacing for both geophysical surveys was 100 m. The Company received the survey and the interpretation reports (submitted by Géophysique Camille St-Hilaire of Rouyn-Noranda) in December 2012. The geophysical anomalies identified by the surveys have been followed up during the course of the summer 2013 exploration program and exploration drilling program.

#### 2013 Infill and Exploration Drilling Programs

Two drilling programs with one drill rig were conducted from July 6<sup>th</sup> until the closing of the exploration camp on October 25<sup>th</sup>. A total of 5,932 m distributed in 54 holes was completed by Forages M. Rouillier Inc. of Amos, Québec under the supervision of IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Chicoutimi, Québec. The drilling was uploaded to the resource model in order to update the Mineral Resource Estimate.

The first of two 2013 drilling programs at Lac Knife started on July 6<sup>th</sup> and finished on August 24<sup>th</sup> and included 1368 m of definition drilling (a total of 24 PQ-sized holes) within the deposit, 713 m of twin hole drilling (a total of 8 PQ-sized holes) as well as an extra 630 m of drilling for metallurgical testing purposes (a total of 6 PQ-sized holes) for a total of 2711 m of drilling (30 holes). The objective of the definition drilling was to upgrade the existing Indicated and Inferred Resources into the higher quality Indicated and Measured Resource estimate categories. An additional 2,208 m of exploration drilling (a total of 16 NQ-sized holes) was also completed as part of the first drilling program to test

several geophysical targets, including interpreted adjacent south-east extensions of the deposit and a high priority target located about 200 m west of the deposit.

The second 2013 drilling program, conducted exclusively for exploration, started on October 9<sup>th</sup> and was ended on October 16, 2013. It included 1013 m of exploration drilling (a total of 8 NQ-sized holes) to test some observed showings and geophysical anomalies located north of the deposit.

Representative core samples were collected from definition holes (1310 samples) and exploration holes (474 samples) and then shipped to IOS facilities for sample preparation (cutting, crushing and grinding). Prepared samples were sent to COREM in Québec City for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. In regards to the QA/QC program, 10% of the samples have also been analyzed by COREM for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon as well as for total sulphides. Around 10% of additional selected core samples have been sent to ACTLABS to be analyzed for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon, total sulphides and for a 35 multi-element analysis using the ICP method. IOS introduced approximately 20% of standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of the QA/QC program (288 samples for definition holes and 146 samples for exploration holes).

On December 4, 2013, the Company released the results of the infill drilling program. All the definition holes intercepted mineralization as expected. Hole LK-13-187 drilled on Line 500 S targeted the western zone of the south part of the deposit and returned one of the best graphitic carbon (Cg) intersections of the program:

Hole LK-13-187: 67.8 m\* grading 21.10 % Cg\*\* (from 17.4 to 85.2 m)

All the drill holes (except LK-13-203) intercepted significant graphite intersections\*\*\* along the strike length of the deposit as evidenced by the following holes from different parts of the deposit:

<u>Hole LK-13-209</u>: drilled on section 425 S in central part of the deposit: 7.2 m grading 27.03% Cg (from 21.5 to 28.7 m) and 25.3 m grading 30.94 % Cg (from 38.2 to 63.5 m)

Hole LK-13-201: drilled on section 250 S in northern part of the deposit: 34.7 m grading 19.34% Cg (from 22.0 to 56.7 m)

\*Intersections are expressed as core length because the host rocks are highly metamorphosed and locally migmatized and folded. However the drill holes cross-cut the mineralization envelope interpreted from the historical data and Focus' drill holes at a high angle.

\*\*All core sample carbon analyses were performed by COREM and delivered as graphitic carbon (Cg) results, internal analytical code LSA-M-B10, LECO high frequency combustion analytical method with an infrared measurement system.

\*\*\* Significant intercepts are defined as Cg >5% over a minimum of 6 m; maximum internal dilution of 6 m; maximum external dilution of 0 m.

All 36 significant intercepts and a location map of the drill holes are summarized in table form in the Company's December 4, 2013 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com. On March 12, 2014, the Company received the final report of the definition and exploration drilling campaigns from IOS Services Géoscientifiques.

#### 2014 Infill and Exploration/Condemnation Drilling Program

A Camp construction permit was received from the Caniapiscau MRC on June 5 while the land use permit was received from the MERN on June 19. Construction of the 2014 temporary exploration camp started on June 23, 2014 and was completed on July 6 by IOS Service Géoscientifique of Chicoutimi. The drilling program with one drill rig was conducted from July 17, to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

and the exploration camp was closed on October 10, 2014. In addition to IOS, the Company hired two Innu workers from the Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM) First Nation community.

A total of 7,565 m of drilling (62 holes) were completed including 4,523 m of infill drilling (39 holes) in the southwest extension of the deposit with the aim to upgrade the existing 3.1 million tonnes of Inferred Resources (refer to Focus news release dated January 28, 2014) into the higher quality Indicated and Measured Resource estimate categories. Almost all the infill drill holes have intersected mineralization as expected by the resource model. An additional 3,041 m of exploration/condemnation drilling was also completed to test several geophysical targets located below or nearby the proposed mine infrastructure in the southwest extension of the deposit, west of the deposit and in the northern part of the claim block. The drilling was performed by G4 Drilling of Val-d'Or, Québec under the supervision of IOS Service Géoscientifique of Chicoutimi.

Representative core samples were collected from all holes and shipped to IOS facilities for sample preparation (cutting, crushing and grinding). Prepared samples were sent to COREM in Québec City for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. For the QA/QC program, 10% of the samples will also be analyzed by COREM for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon as well as for total sulphides. Around 10% of additional selected core samples were also sent to ACTLABS to be analyzed for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon, total sulphides and for a 35 multi-element analysis using the ICP method. IOS introduced standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of the QA/QC program.

#### Environmental and Social Aspects of the Lac Knife Project

#### **Environmental Baseline Studies**

During the course of the summer 2012 exploration program, the Company commenced the monitoring of the natural, physical and chemical aspects of the environmental baseline studies as the initial components of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the Lac Knife project. The ESIA is a comprehensive assessment of all potential impacts that could occur throughout the life-cycle of a proposed mining project and it recommends measures to prevent and mitigate these impacts. The start of the ESIA process reflects the Company's commitment to comply with or exceed all Federal, Provincial and municipal regulatory requirements for mine development. The contract to design, implement and manage the environmental baseline studies was awarded to Groupe Synergis Inc. ("Synergis") of Shawinigan, Québec. In addition of managing the environmental baseline studies, Groupe Synergis was in charge of the natural habitat aspect, while the physical and chemical aspects was realized by Terrapex of Brossard, Québec and the social aspect was realized by Del Degan, Massé & Associés Inc. ("DDM") of Québec-City. The data acquisition phase of the environmental baseline study was completed in winter 2014 and all the related reports were received in spring 2014.

#### Natural Habitat Aspect of the Environmental Baseline Studies

In September 2013, Groupe Synergis completed the Phase I collection of information over the claim block with respect to biological components (aquatic and terrestrial) of the environmental baseline studies. The different components regarding aquatic aspect include characterization of water, sediments, fish and benthic fauna for all lakes and streams. The different components regarding the terrestrial aspects included the characterization of ecosystems, the observation of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Groupe Hémisphère delivered the final report on land vegetation on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Phase II of data collection by Synergis was completed in the fall of 2013, including the completion of an aquatic and bird inventory over the Lac Knife Project area. The data acquisition also included the complete aquatic and terrestrial environmental characterization along the current project access road. In order to determine the current noise levels that characterize the project site before its development, a field campaign was also realized in fall 2013. This fieldwork was considered necessary as no data about the noise levels were available for the project site.

In the beginning of 2014, the Company received all the reports related with the natural habitat aspects of the environmental baseline studies from Groupe Synergis of Shawinigan. The herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles) and bird observation reports were received in February while the fish, fish habitat, bottom lake sediments and surface water quality observation and characterization report was received in May 2014. The report regarding noise level characterization was also received in January 2014.

In April 2014, a survey was performed by Golder Associates regarding the potential frequentation of the Woodland Caribous during winter and early spring, in the Lac Knife Project area. No caribou were observed and preliminary results suggest that the site was not frequented by the caribou during winter and early spring in the recent years.

#### Physical and Chemical Aspects of the Environmental Baseline Studies

Fieldwork for the physical and geochemical study components of the environmental baseline study were undertaken by Terrapex during fall 2012. The physical and geochemical aspects that were examined as part of the Phase I of the study included: 1) The soil cover (humus and B-horizon) and compositional characteristics; 2) basic hydrogeological characteristics of the area targeted for the proposed open pit; 3) a review of general climatology conditions of the area; 4) hydrology of the proposed mine infrastructure sites; 5) preliminary evaluation of acid mine drainage (AMD) and metal leaching (ML) potentials of mineralized rock (composite samples of low grade, semi-massive and massive mineralization) and host rocks and of acidic soil samples in the old surface pitting areas. With respect to acid mine drainage and metal leaching potential, a series of composite samples (about 5.0 kg each) representative of the mineralisation types and waste rock close to mineralization tested at SGS laboratories in Mississauga for Lock Cycle Tests (LCTs) were prepared by IOS Service Geoscientifiques of Chicoutimi and sent to Terrapex in Brossard. Sub-samples were split (about 1.5 kg) and sent for complete lithogeochemical characterization and static testing (ABA = acid base accounting) at ALS Minerals. The left-over pulps and rejects were recuperated for followup leaching tests (3 leaching protocols: TCLP 1311, acid rain 1312 and water CTEU-9) which were performed at Exova laboratory in Point- Claire in January 2013, under the supervision of Terrapex.

On February 15, 2013, the Company received the final report from Terrapex on the multi-element geochemistry of humus and B horizon soil samples collected as part of the fall 2012 environmental soil survey. This report addresses two of the objectives of the analysis which are to assess the potential for graphite mineralization on other parts of the project based on soil geochemistry, and to evaluate the potential of the project to host other types of mineral deposits.

Two other reports were submitted in line with the environmental baseline studies in early 2013: 1) a report on hydrology of the Lac Knife watershed and climatology aspects dated March 25, 2013; and 2) the main report on physical and chemical aspects (Phase I) covering soil geochemistry characterization, hydrogeology and environmental characterization of mineralized zones, waste rocks and soils, dated April 25, 2013.

A winter geotechnical drilling program was undertaken by Terrapex in collaboration with IOS (in charge of field logistic) from March 18 to April 5, 2013. A total of 16 drill holes, including four observation wells for a total of 211 m, were drilled in the sector of the proposed waste rock and tailings impoundment site south of the Lac Knife deposit to evaluate the nature of the soils below the peat and the quality of the basement and in the small lake proposed to act as a polishing pond during the mine operational period. A total of 128 soils samples were collected. The final report was received on April 11, 2014.

Phase II of the Physical and Chemical Aspects of the environmental baseline studies was also awarded to Terrapex (June 13, 2013). The mandate included additional data collection for hydrology, hydrogeology, climatic conditions, groundwater quality, and evaluation of acid mine drainage and metal leaching (AMD/ML) potential for waste rocks, mineralized rocks, tailings and acidic soils. These AMD/ML tests were used to quantify the geochemical characteristics of the graphite mineralization and various types of unaltered and oxidized waste rock that was sampled close to the

mineralization. The characterized tailing material was obtained from the pilot flotation plant testing that generated sample material. In September 2013, Terrapex of Brossard, Québec completed the Phase II data acquisition of the physical and chemical aspects of the environmental baseline studies consisting of: 1) additional soil sampling in 3 specific sites where acidic soil samples were identified in 2012 in the proposed open pit area; 2) water level in boreholes, groundwater quality sampling in boreholes, pumping tests, hydraulic conductivity tests and sampling of monitoring wells located around the future open pit; 3) measurement of flow at the effluent of Lac Knife and other tributaries; 4) meteorological data compilation from the Wabush and Fermont stations.

A second geotechnical drilling program was undertaken by Terrapex in collaboration with IOS (in charge of field logistics) from September 9 to September 30, 2013. The program was designed to evaluate the nature of the soils and the potential to use these as material for dam and dyke construction. Drilling was located in two areas of potential options for the future waste rock and tailings impoundment sites and in the proposed future open pit location. A total of 32 geotechnical drill holes were completed and sampled. Five monitoring wells were installed in holes surrounding the proposed open pit location. The final report was received on April 15, 2014.

On March 4, 2014, the Company received the final report from Terrapex, of Brossard, Québec regarding hydrology, climatology, hydrogeology and the groundwater quality. A separate detailed report on the geochemical characterization and acid mine drainage and metal leaching potential (AMD/ML) of mineralized and host rocks, tailings and acidic soils was received on February 15, 2014.

From March 31 to May 2, 2014, the Company completed a combined geotechnical, environmental and exploration/condemnation winter drilling program under the supervision of IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Chicoutimi. The land use permit was received from Québec Government on March 19<sup>th</sup>. A drilling contract was awarded to G4 of Val-d'Or on March 24<sup>th</sup> to complete four (4) oriented drill holes for the open pit mine slope stability study, two (2) drill holes were performed for geotechnical study purposes of the proposed concentrator plant site, six (6) drill holes were completed for geotechnical/environmental study purposes related with the proposed tailings impoundment site, four (4) drill holes were performed for environmental purposes related with water and soils characterization and three (3) exploration/condemnation drill holes related with the proposed tailings impoundment site. A total of 10 piezometers have been installed in the environmental drill holes and in some of the geotechnical drill holes.

No significant mineralization was intersected in the 3 exploration holes (total of 375 m). This drilling program was conducted to complete data acquisition related to the Feasibility Study and the ongoing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study.

#### Social Aspects

On October 12, 2012, the Company held a first meeting with senior representatives of the Takuaikan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam Innu First Nation ("ITUM") of Uashat and Mani-Utenam, located near Sept-Îles, Québec. The Lac Knife graphite project lies on land designated as traditional territory by ITUM. A second follow-up meeting was held in Sept-Îles on December 13, 2012 during which future communications and information dissemination protocols between the parties were established and potential business opportunities for the community in connection with the development of the Lac Knife project were discussed.

At this early stage of dialogue, the intent of the Company and of the ITUM Innu is that the social, environmental, educational and economic interests and long term development vision of the community be integrated into the planning of the Lac Knife project. Both parties desire to create a unique sustainable development partnership project at Lac Knife that will enable the mineral diversification of the region and provide lasting economic benefits to the community while supporting mutual environmental and social responsibility objectives.

In the winter of 2013, Synergis in collaboration with consulting firm Del Degan, Massé & Associés inc. ("DDM") of Québec-City commenced assisting the Company in preparing a public information base and organising a first series of community consultation meetings on the Lac Knife project. The principal intent of the meetings was to present the project and the Company, report on the status of the environmental baseline studies and listen to communities' concerns and needs of a social, economic or environmental nature.

As part of the assessment of the social consideration of the Lac Knife project, on May 22, 2013, DDM held a meeting with the Mayor and Councillors of the city of Fermont. This is the closest community to the Lac Knife Project. During the meeting, DDM and the Company presented the scope and development timeline of the project. The presentation was well received and considered to be an excellent start to the public information and consultation process.

The project presentation illustrated the difference between Lac Knife and the more common iron ore mines in production in the area. In comparison to the last iron ore mine built at Bloom Lake in 2010 where approximately 20-25 million tonnes of Run of Mine (ROM) material are sent to the concentrator, Lac Knife will have an annual ROM of 300,000 tonnes, approximately 1% of comparable throughput at Bloom Lake. Resulting mill concentrates are also quite different, with the Bloom Lake mine scale of producing 7-8 million tonnes of concentrate, whereas Lac Knife will produce less than 50,000 tonnes annually. A diagram of the surface area of comparable footprints was used to illustrate that the Lac Knife project will probably cover 1% or less of the surface area compared to the historical and active iron ore mines in the area. In the last 5 years, the community has witnessed a significant increase in mineral development activity and related demands on the community.

A second meeting was held on May 28, 2013, with the citizens of Fermont. At this meeting, the broad elements of the project were presented and DDM and the Company answered questions from members of the community. This was the first public information and consultation meeting and the questions and comments that were raised will be integrated into the ESIA.

In September 2013, the Company completed the baseline work for the components related to the social environment. In October 2013, the Company and DDM went to Sept-Iles to meet the community and some stakeholders to present the project and continue to collect information about the project.

In the beginning of May 2014, the Company met the Mayor and the Councilors of the City of Fermont as well as the General Director of the MRC of Caniapiscau. They also held an open house meeting in Fermont. More meetings with Takuaikan Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam Innu First Nation ("ITUM") Band Council of Uashat and Mani-Utenam, the Innu community and the Association de la protection de la rivière Moisie were organized in Sept-Iles. The Company collected comments from stakeholders, and more meetings are planned following the feasibility study.

On June 18 and 19, 2014, the Company met the Gregoire family which is identified as the principal land user of the traditional Innu territory where the mine is planned. The Gregoire family gave information about the past and actual use of the land by the Innu. They communicated their expectations regarding employment, contracts, education and communication. More meetings are planned with the family in the coming months. A committee composed of former chiefs of ITUM was also met with on June 18 by representatives of Focus Graphite. The chiefs also gave their expectations for the development of the territory. Following these meetings a video (French/Innu) was prepared by Focus Graphite to explain the project. This video is available on line (www.innuwebtv.com) to make sure that the Innu community has all the information related to the Lac Knife project.

During the meetings held in June 2014, the Company was informed by the stakeholders that the protection of the rivière aux Pékans which is part of the proposed rivière Moisie acquatic reserve located west of the claim block is of high importance. Stakeholders requested that Focus Graphite

avoid, if possible, the construction of the tailings facility within the watershed of the rivière aux Pékans, which discharges in the rivière Moisie 55 km downstream. Taking into account these requests, Focus Graphite awarded a contract to AMEC of Dorval, Québec to evaluate alternatives regarding the deposition of the tailings and the management of waste rock and water. AMEC will propose alternatives to the concept presented in the feasibility study to make sure that all the options are analyzed and that the one presenting the lowest risk for the environment, at reasonable cost will be chosen.

### Pre-Development Agreement with the Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam Innu First Nation

On October 28, 2014, the Company announced the signing of a Pre-Development Agreement (PDA) with the Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam Innu ("ITUM") First Nation Band Council (refer to the October 28, 2014 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com and on <u>www.sedar.com</u>). The intent of ITUM-Focus agreement is to enter into a collaborative relationship in order to better understand the impacts of the project and to incorporate ITUM's concerns into the Lac Knife mine development project planning. The PDA further lays out the possibility that future negotiations could pave the way to a long-term partnership that would allow for the sustainable development of the project in the region as well as innovative opportunities in the secondary transformation market, all the while working with ITUM to address the community's social needs and supporting its long term vision and aspirations.

### Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Study

In February 2014, the Company awarded the contract for the writing of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study report to Golder Associates' Montréal office. The scope of the project is to process all information gathered in the field over the last two years and compile the data in a comprehensive report that meets governmental regulations in order to obtain the Global Certificate of Authorisation for the Lac Knife Project from the *Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* (MDDELCC) of Québec.

On December 1, 2014, the Company filed the complete Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study report for the Lac Knife (refer to the December 1st, 2014 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com and on <u>www.sedar.com</u>). Golder Associates completed the study and the report. The ESIA is the main document used to communicate and discuss details of the project to all concerned regulators and community stakeholders regarding the project's impact, risk mitigation, and potential benefits. The Lac Knife ESIA was filed with Québec's provincial authorities at the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC). This is a precursor to obtaining a mining lease for the project and is considered one of the key project milestones.

## Project Regulatory Permitting

#### Lac Knife Project Notice (Avis de Projet)

As part of the environmental permitting process, a formal Project Notice (Avis de Projet) describing the Lac Knife mining project was prepared by Groupe Synergis (Synergis) Shawinigan, Québec, in collaboration with Terrapex and was submitted to the MDDEFP (*Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs*; now MDDELCC) on April 3, 2013. The Company received the environmental study guidelines for the project from the MDDEFP on April 12, 2013.

#### The Lac Knife Mine Project Permitting Process

In February 2014, the Company had retained the services of Golder Associates to assist the Company in obtaining the required federal, provincial and municipal permits and authorizations to develop the Lac Knife Project towards the Company's goal of full commercial production. The mine permitting process in Québec comprises various federal, provincial and municipal authorizations for mine pre-development, permitting (Mining Lease application and the "Mine Closure Plan" per the

requirements of the Québec Mining Act), road construction, mine construction, ore processing, camp installation and other considerations all of which lead to a request to the Québec MDDELCC for a Global Certificate of Authorization for the project, per the requirements of the Québec Environmental Quality Act.

On April 16, 2015, the Company received the first series of questions from the MDDELCC regarding details of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ("ESIA") for the Lac Knife project.

### Update for the Three Months Period Ended December 31, 2016

During the three month period ended December 31, 2016, the Company incurred exploration expenses totalling \$164,279. The expenses incurred are mainly related to feasibility studies and drilling related activities. Total capitalized exploration expenditures incurred on the project to date (net of tax credits and mining duties) are \$15,702,706.

### Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

During the period ended December 31, 2016, and as part of the ongoing environmental permitting review process, the MDDELCC of Québec has received supporting documentation regarding the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ("ESIA") report on the Lac Knife natural flake graphite project submitted in December 2014 (refer to Focus Graphite's news release dated December 1, 2014 available at www.focusgraphite.com). The ESIA support documentation responds to the first series of questions, including some regarding conceptual changes in the design from a tailings management facility that were reported in the ESIA report after the Lac Knife Feasibility Study that was completed and filed on www.SEDAR.com.

The ESIA support documentation also includes the Mine Closure Plan. The Mine Closure Plan will continue to evolve prior to and during the projected mine life. Communication with the MDDELCC is ongoing as the permitting process continues towards the planned detailed engineering phase of the Lac Knife project.

Kinetic tests at SGS laboratories are ongoing and are used to measure any leachable metals from the tailings and mine waste rock. The results from these tests will help to design any water treatment required during production. Ecometrix, performed a third party review of the kinetic test results and a report was filed to complement the responses to the MDDELCC.

## Drilling Program

During the three months period ended December 31, 2016, all results from the 2014 drilling program were obtained and were included in the updated Mineral Resource Estimate released during the period subsequent to the reporting one (see news release available at www.focusgraphite.com).

#### Updated Mineral Resource Estimate

Subsequent to the reporting period, the Company released an update of its Mineral Resource Estimate for the Lac Knife deposit on January 24, 2017. The updated Mineral Resource Estimate is based on 231 drill holes totalling 22,505 metres of historic and recent drilling and has been prepared by AGP Mining Consultants Inc. in accordance with Canadian Securities Administrators' National Instrument 43-101 "Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects" (NI 43-101).

At the 3% Cg cut-off grade, Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources are now estimated at 12.1 million tonnes grading 14.64% Cg (Table 1). Additionally, there are 2.3 million tonnes of Inferred resources at 16.20 % Cg (Tables 1 and 2).

	Tonnage	Cg	In Situ Graphite
	(t)	(%)	(t)
Measured	447,000	21.45	96,000
Indicated	11,654,000	14.38	1,675,000
Measured + Indicated	12,101,000	14.64	1,771,000
Inferred	2,299,000	16.20	372,000

## Table 1. Lac Knife Mineral Resource Estimate @ 3.0 % Cg cut-off

- Mineral Resources are not Mineral Reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability.
- There is no certainty that all or any part of the Mineral Resources will be converted into Mineral Reserves.
- The rounding of tonnes as required by NI 43-101 reporting guidelines may result in apparent differences between tonnes, grade and contained graphite.

### Exploration and Development Outlook

In the second quarter of 2017, the Company anticipates filing final reports for the 2014-drilling program for exploration assessment credits.

Process flow sheet development and engineering is at feasibility level. The next phase of the project will be the detailed engineering and preparation for the engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM). Focus continues to communicate, meet, and listen to local communities and will be increasing these efforts as part of the ongoing ESIA review process.

\* Cautionary notes related to the industrial transformation plant project: Feasibility studies on any value-added industrial projects are not the same as feasibility studies for mineral projects as defined under NI 43-101 and CIM Definition Standards for Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves. Although Focus continues to work towards its objective of developing value-added products using graphite concentrates to be produced at the Lac Knife project or obtained from other graphite concentrate producers, the Corporation reiterates its primary objective of advancing the Lac Knife mineral project towards production of large, medium and fine flake graphite concentrate as demonstrated in the Lac Knife Feasibility Study dated August 8, 2014 (a copy of which is available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com). The feasibility of a transformation plant for value-added products remains to be demonstrated and could be determined to be uneconomical and therefore not feasible for the Corporation. It is therefore possible that Focus never move forward with such transformation plant despite its corporate objective to do so. Readers are therefore cautioned against undue reliance on this corporate objective given its uncertainty at the present time. Focus intends to bring the Lac Knife deposit into production despite any potential negative decision on the fabrication of value-added products.

## Labrador Trough Polymetallic (Cu-Ni-PGE) Projects, Labrador Trough Region of Québec

The Labrador Trough projects, located in Nunavik, Québec, consist of four claim blocks: Minowean (14 claims), Otelnuk (12 claims), Lemming (26 claims) and Diana (17 claims), totalling 69 claims covering a surface area of 3,046.54 ha.

Previous exploration work was conducted by Focus on these projects and was limited to a geological reconnaissance program conducted in 2009 which confirmed base and precious metal showings from historical reports but did not unearth any new significant mineralization occurrences.

In the 2012 fiscal year, the Company implemented the first phase of a new program designed to reassess the base and precious metal potential of the Labrador Trough projects and to identify new targets for ground follow-up. Geotech Ltd. of Aurora, Ontario, was awarded the contract to conduct a high definition airborne TDEM and magnetic survey over all five projects. The 1,414.3 line-km airborne geophysical survey was completed in June 2012, the logistical report was submitted in July 2012, and the interpretation report was delivered in December 2012.

On September 27, 2013, the Company announced that it has entered into a letter agreement with Mincom Capital Inc. ("Mincom"), pursuant to which Focus will sell to Mincom all of its rights, titles and interest in its Romer project. On May 8, 2014, the Company announced the closing of its sale of the Romer project (see news release available at <u>www.focusgraphite.com</u>).

No work was conducted on the projects during the three month period ended December 31, 2016. To date, the Company has incurred exploration expenditures (net of tax credits and mining duties) totalling \$243,274. In the year ended September 30, 2016, the Company wrote down the cost of the Labrador Trough properties to \$Nil (\$6,991 in acquisition costs and \$243,274 in exploration and evaluation assets), as there has been limited exploration activity on these properties in recent years. The Company does however intend to keep these claims in good standing, however no significant exploration expenditure is planned in 2017.

## Manicouagan Reservoir Area Graphite Projects, Côte-Nord Administrative District of Québec

The Manicouagan Reservoir area graphite projects are comprised of 3 claim blocks. Two of these 3 claim blocks were acquired in August 2011 (Lac Tétépisca and Lac Guinécourt), while the third claim block (Lac Tétépisca-Nord) was staked in fiscal year 2012.

The projects are located in the north-eastern part of the Grenville geological province of Québec, in the Gagnon Group which is characterized by various gneisses and meta-sediments that were metamorphosed to the upper amphibolite and granulite facies. The graphite and iron-rich meta-sedimentary formations of the Gagnon Group were derived from the Paleoproterozoic Labrador Trough sedimentary basin. These projects are located within 10 to 20 km from the Lac Guéret graphite deposit.

During the three month period ended December 31, 2016, the Company incurred exploration expenditures totalling \$321,945 on the Manicouagan Reservoir area projects. Most of the exploration expenditure was on activities related to a drill program completed in the summer. To date, exploration expenditures (net of tax credits and mining duties) total \$2,316,427.

## Lac Tétépisca Project

The Lac Tétépisca claim block now consists of 87 contiguous map-designated claims covering 4,692.82 ha. The project is located in the southwest Manicouagan reservoir area, 234 km northnorthwest of the city of Baie-Comeau. The area is accessible year-round by logging roads which starts from Route 389, and is part of SOQUEM Inc. and Quinto Technology Inc.'s former Lac Guéret-Nord project. Focus purchased 100% of the mineral rights in the Lac Tétépisca project in August 2011 (67 claims). In August to November 2013, Focus added 29 contiguous map-designated claims to the claim block. During the year ended September 30, 2014, 6 claims were transferred from the Lac Tétépisca Nord project to the Lac Tétépisca project, increasing the number of claims to 102.

During the year ended September 30, 2015, the Company wrote down the cost of the Lac Tétépisca by \$173,414 subsequent to it allowing its interest in 15 claims to lapse as the results of the exploration work completed to date on the claims in question were not encouraging and did not support further exploration. This reduced the number of mineral claims that make up the Lac Tétépisca Project from 102 to 87 at September 30, 2015.

#### Exploration Work

#### 2012 Prospecting Program

On November 15, 2012, the Company announced the discovery of a new graphite bearing corridor. Reconnaissance bedrock sampling carried out during the summer of 2012 identified a 900 m long

and 100 m wide graphite bearing corridor on the claim block. A total of 25 mineralized grab samples were collected from the new "Manicouagan-Ouest" graphitic corridor, 17 of which host graphitic carbon (Cg) grades in excess of 5.59% Cg (range: 5.59% to 45.80% Cg). The remaining eight grab samples which delineate the graphitic trend show Cg grades below 5.00%.

The Manicouagan-Ouest graphitic corridor is hosted in meta-sedimentary rocks of the Nault Formation, which is part of the Gagnon Group. The graphite-bearing outcrops within the corridor are composed of fine to medium grained quartz-feldspar-biotite schists with local occurrences of garnet and kyanite. Fine to coarse graphite flakes and associated sulphides compose 10% to 20% of the rocks, and up to 50% in strongly mineralized zones.

### 2013 Airborne Geophysical Survey

In March 2013, the Company awarded a contract to Novatem Inc. of Mont Saint-Hilaire, Québec to perform an airborne Mag-TDEM geophysical survey to cover the claim block. A total of 476 line-km were surveyed with 100 to 200 m flight line spacing. The survey started on April 24, 2013 and was completed on May 2, 2013. The final report was received in May 2013 and the survey identified two important electromagnetic conductors, one over the area of the Manicouagan-Ouest corridor and another anomaly in the southern part of the claim block.

### 2013 Trenching and Prospection Programs

From July 1 to July 21, 2013 and from August 6 to August 15, 2013, the Company conducted a comprehensive follow-up exploration program over the best EM anomalies delineated from the MAG-EM survey. Fieldwork consisted of prospecting using portable electromagnetic survey equipment (Beep-Mat<sup>™</sup> and VLF) and grab sampling over of the Manicouagan graphitic corridor as well as follow-up prospecting in other areas of the claim block. Thirty-three (33) grab samples were collected from outcrops, sub crops and boulders. They were sent to ALS Minerals in Val d'Or for preparation and then to ALS in Vancouver for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction and for 48 multi-element analysis using ICP methods. Twelve (12) of which host grades in excess of 5.00% Cg (range: 6.33% to 56.10% Cg). The remaining 21 grab samples show Cg grades below 5.00%. With respect to the QA/QC program, 10% of blanks and standards were introduced. This work helped to more accurately delineate the Manicouagan Ouest graphitic corridor and help to design a trenching and channel sampling program.

From September 17 to October 5, 2013, the Company completed a trenching program on the Manicouagan-Ouest showing to confirm thickness and grade of the mineralized zone. Two trenches were dug on previously delineated targets and named MO-TR-01 and MO-TR-02. The contract was awarded to IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Chicoutimi, Québec and supervised on site by the Company.

The trenches, MO-TR-01 and MO-TR-02, measured 175 m and 167 m, respectively. The trenches are perpendicular to the graphitic corridor and are spaced at 225 m. A total of 104 representative 1.5 m long channel samples from the trench MO-TR-01 and 98 samples from the trench MO-TR-02 were collected and shipped to IOS facilities for sample preparation (crushing, grinding and sub-sampling). Prepared samples were sent to ALS Minerals in Vancouver for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. One for every three samples was also sent to ALS for a 48 multi-element analysis using ICP methods. With respect to the QA/QC program, blanks, standards and duplicates were introduced, representing roughly 15% of the analyses.

A disseminated to semi-massive graphitic mineralization was observed in both trenches over significant widths<sup>\*\*</sup> of 84 and 88.5 meters. Subsequent to the reporting period, on October 20, 2014, the Company announced the assays results for the two trenches (refer to the October 20, 2014 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com and on www.sedar.com).

	TABLE 1: 2013 TRENCHING PROGRAM RESULTS									
Trench	Azimuth	Total Length (m)	Intercepts	From (m)	To (m)	Intersection Length (m)**	Cg (%)			
MO-TR-01	N 128	175	Intersection	78.0	162.0	84.0	11.01			
				78.0	127.5	49.5	15.03			
			Intersection	39.0	45.0	6.0	6.49			
MO-TR-02	N 128	167	Intersection	45.0	133.50	88.5	12.82			
			Including	69.0	78.00	9.0	16.51			
			Including	94.5	133.50	39.0	18.04			

\*\*Intersections are not true thicknesses but expressed as channel sample lengths. However, the trenches crosscut the strike of the mineralized zone envelope at a high angle. Mineralized Intersections are calculated with Cg > 5% over a minimum of 6 m; maximum internal dilution was 3 m; there is no external dilution considered.

## 2014 Ground Geophysical Survey

On May 15, 2014, the Company awarded a contract to Abitibi Géophysique of Val-d'Or, Québec to conduct a ground combined magnetic-time domain electromagnetic geophysical survey (MAG-TDEM) with 100 m line spacing over the "Manicouagan-Ouest" graphitic corridor area with the IMAGEM system.

On September 6, 2014, Abitibi Geophysics, completed the survey that covered 47 km of grid-lines over the "Manicouagan-Ouest graphitic corridor" and over its southwestern extension. This time domain IMAGEM geophysical system has a high spatial resolution to allow for a more detailed analysis of the EM conductors within the anomalous zone. The final report was received on October 8, 2014. A total of 452 EM anomalies were identified and interpreted as well as several magnetic zones mostly associated with the Manicouagan-Ouest graphitic corridor.

### 2014 Prospecting Programs

From July 23, 2014 to July 31, 2014, a total of five days of fieldwork consisting of prospecting using portable electromagnetic survey equipment (Beep-Mat<sup>™</sup>) and grab sampling over 4 different areas in the northern part of the claim block was completed. A conductor has been followed over 1.8 km of strike length on the opposite limb of the regional fold that contains the Manicouagan-Ouest graphitic corridor.

In February 2015, the Company received the results from assays and lithogeochemical sampling. A total of 22 samples were collected from outcrops and sub crops within the principal horizon of paragneiss (from a total of 24 outcrops and sub crops of observed paragneiss). The samples were sent to ALS Minerals in Val d'Or for preparation and then to ALS in Vancouver for graphitic carbon analysis using LECO induction (Cg; ALS internal code: C-IR18) and 48 multi-element analysis using combined ICP-AES and ICP-MS methods (ALS internal code: ME-MS61). With respect to the QA/QC program, 10% of blanks and standards were introduced.

The graphitic carbon (Cg) content of the eleven (11) outcrops and sub crops grab samples<sup>\*</sup> located in the western limb of the regional fold varies from 3.86% to 54.20% with 7 of them containing over 16% Cg. These geological mapping and prospection work enable the recognition of the same stratigraphic units as for the Manicouagan Ouest graphitic corridor area. With the grab samples covering about 900 m in strike length within the paragneiss horizon, the western limb area of the fold appears to have potential to host significant graphitic mineralization. Moreover, the grab samples are also associated with a conductive electromagnetic zone of 20 to 120 m of thickness that have been defined using a portable electromagnetic device (Beep Mat<sup>™</sup>). \*Grab samples are selected samples collected to determine the presence or absence of mineralization and are not intended to be representative of the material sampled. Channel sampling or drilling are required to determine representative grades.

### 2014 Exploration Drilling Program

The exploration drilling contract was awarded to Forage Rouillier of Amos, Québec, on May 22, 2014. On July 2, 2014, the Company received a land use permit from the MERN, the industrial lease from the MERN was granted on July 7, 2014 and the certificate for camp construction from the Manicouagan MRC was issued on July 8, 2014. The temporary camp construction under the supervision of IOS Services Géoscientifiques commenced on July 14, 2014 and was completed on July 24, 2014.

From August 18 to September 11, 2014 the Company completed an exploration drilling program with one drill rig. Exploration drilling included 1875 m of drilling in 16 drill holes oriented perpendicular to the strike of the km-long EM conductor defined by a combined MAG-EM airborne geophysical survey conducted in the spring of 2013. The periphery of the zone was more accurately outlined by ground geophysics using a portable Beep Mat<sup>™</sup> instrument in the summer of 2013 and by the MAG-IMAGEM ground survey completed the following summer in 2014. Based on these geophysical survey results, 4 fences of drill holes spaced 200 m apart were positioned, covering a 600-m strike length of this new zone. The drill program was designed to test surface mineralization found in trenches down to a vertical depth of approximately 100 m. The Company supervised the drilling campaign that was performed by Forage Rouillier of Amos, Québec with the logistical support of IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Chicoutimi.

Representative core samples were selected from all holes and shipped to IOS facilities for sample preparation (cutting, crushing and grinding). Prepared samples were sent to COREM in Québec City for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. For the QA/QC program, 10% of the samples will also be analyzed by COREM for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon as well as for total sulphides. Around 10% of additional selected core samples were also sent to ACTLABS to be analyzed for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon, total sulphides and for a 35 multi-element analysis using the ICP method. IOS introduced standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of the QA/QC program.

On October 20, 2014, the Company announced that significant widths of disseminated to semimassive graphitic mineralization ranging from 95 to 110 m in thickness\* were intersected in each of the 4 fences of holes. The drill intercepts correlate very well with the EM anomalies and the mineralization previously observed in trenches. The discovery zone that was drilled has a geophysical signature that extends for more than 200 m to the northeast and over 700 m to the southwest for a total strike length of 1500 m. The mineralization is open at depth. Drilling results confirm the significant widths of mineralization observed in trenches and the potential that this new discovery may hold.

> \*Intersections of graphitic mineralization are expressed as core length; however the drill holes always crosscut the envelope of the mineralized zone strike and dip at a high angle.

On August 17, 2016, the Company announced the results obtained from the 2014 drilling program (refer to the August 17, 2016 news release available at www.focusgraphite.com and on www.sedar.com). The 2014 drilling identified a significant graphitic zone 60 to 100 m wide that extends down to these intersections at depth and within the main kilometric geophysical MAG-EM anomaly known as the "Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor". A secondary graphitic zone is located 10 m to the northwest of the main zone and is 6-12 m wide. The encouraging initial drilling results at Lac Tétépisca further indicate that there is potential for a new large volume-high grade graphite deposit in the South Manicouagan reservoir area. In particular, interest for this type of deposit could come from the future graphite-based plastic polymer industry.

TABLE 1: 2014 DRILLING PROGRAM RESULTS									
Drillhole	Section	Azimuth	Total Length (m)	Intercepts	From (m)	To (m)	Intersection length (m)*	Cg (%)	
LT-14-01	0+00	302	126	Intersection	25.5	88.8	63.3	11.25	
				Including	65.65	85.2	19.55	17.67	
				Intersection	100.45	108.0	7.55	7.76	
LT-14-02	0+00	302	126	Intersection	7.0	41.6	34.6	13.71	
				Including	18.0	37.1	19.1	17.21	
				Intersection	58.1	64.5	6.4	6.96	
LT-14-04	2+00 S	302	144	Intersection	32.3	137.2	104.9	10.25	
				Including	36.8	59.15	22.35	17.34	
		-		Including	89.5	109.5	20.0	13.93	
LT-14-05	2+00 S	302	126	Intersection	6.25	67.5	61.25	8.69	
				Intersection	77.55	85.0	7.45	7.19	
LT-14-07	2+00 S	302	126	Intersection	21.25	33.0	11.75	5.78	
				Intersection	40.45	46.75	6.3	5.92	
				Intersection	96.2	102.9	6.7	22.55	
LT-14-08	4+00 S	302	153	Intersection	43.5	144.45	100.95	10.19	
		-		Including	49.1	77.9	28.8	17.80	
LT-14-11	4+00 S	302	119	Intersection	3.2	43.0	39.8	9.52	
				Including	13.3	23.5	10.2	12.93	
				Intersection	55.0	67.0	12.0	7.28	
LT-14-12	6+00 S	302	143	Intersection	44.5	117.4	72.9	13.81	
				Including	46.9	83.9	37.0	17.27	
				Including	89.05	100.9	11.85	17.53	
				Intersection	130.9	140.8	9.9	7.22	
LT-14-13	6+00 S	302	114	Intersection	2.0	61.4	59.4	10.39	
				Including	12.0	24.0	12.0	17.51	
				Intersection	71.9	78.6	6.7	8.23	
LT-14-14	6+00 S	302	114	Intersection	2.1	13.5	11.45	5.46	
				Intersection	23.6	33.7	10.1	11.12	
LT-14-16	5+50 S	302	150	Intersection	40.95	119.5	78.55	13.28	
				Including	40.95	73.5	32.55	16.79	
				Including	89.4	98.1	8.7	17.59	
				Including	100.9	109.1	8.2	16.67	
				Intersection	128.1	137.0	8.9	6.88	

\*Intersections reported in Table 1 are not true thicknesses but are expressed as core lengths. However the HQ drill holes crosscut the envelope of the mineralized zone's strike and dip at a high angle. Mineralized intersections are calculated with  $C_g > 5\%$  over a minimum of 6 m.

## 2016 Infill and Extension Drilling Program

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016, the Company completed a second phase of drilling mainly designed to test the strike-length extensions of the known graphitic mineralisation within the limits of the main EM anomaly. The exploration-drilling contract was awarded to Forage Chibougamau of Chibougamau, Québec, on July 8, 2016. The temporary camp construction under the supervision of IOS Services Géoscientifiques commenced on July 8, 2016 and was completed on July 13, 2016.

From July 23 to August 23, 2016 the Company completed an exploration-drilling program with one drill rig. Drilling included 2,424 m in 18 drill holes oriented perpendicular to the strike of the kilometric EM conductor anomaly. The 2016 drilling program consisted of three fences of holes, along sections spaced 200 m apart and designed to test 600 m of strike length along the southwest extension of the anomalous graphitic corridor, and another fence of holes was spaced 200 m further towards the northeast extension.

Five holes were drilled between the sections described above, were designed to drill the wider geophysical response that represents the more semi-massive portion of mineralization. The Company supervised the drilling campaign with logistical support from IOS Services Géoscientifiques.

Drill core samples were selected from all holes and shipped to IOS facilities for sample preparation (cutting, crushing and grinding). The prepared samples were sent to COREM in Québec City for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. For the QA/QC program, COREM will also analyze 10% of the samples for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon as well as for total sulphides. Around 10% of additional selected core samples were also sent to ACTLABS to be analyzed for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon, total sulphides and for a 35 multi-element analysis using the ICP method. IOS introduced standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of the QA/QC program.

## Metallurgical and Mineralogical Studies

With the aim to get a more complete picture of the mineralization, the Company awarded a contract to SGS Canada of Lakefield, Ontario in November, 2013 to conduct a scoping level evaluation of one 10 kg composite graphite sample. Work included batch cleaner test and flake size fraction analysis. The final report was received on March 29, 2014. The results show a high head grade of 20.5% total carbon (Ct), a good carbon recovery of 94.2% and a very good response to concentration yielding a very good purity of 91.3% Ct for all fractions including 97.7% Ct for +80 mesh flake, a quality that is critical to the lithium ion battery market.

Notably, the combined carbon recovery into the flash and rougher concentrates was 98.1% total carbon suggesting that only a coarse primary grind is required to release the flakes. While the sample did not contain a substantial amount of large and medium flakes, the very high grades achieved in a preliminary cleaner flotation test suggests that impurities are only attached loosely at surface of the flakes and that a secondary polishing and cleaning could improve the concentrate grade. Further tests are warranted, as this gives Focus a second option to enhance the Company's mid-term growth profile and show a potential for a larger quantity of spherical graphite.

The company also granted IOS Services Géoscientifiques de Chicoutimi, Québec a mandate to conduct a petrographic study of two samples from the Lac Tétépisca trenches in the aim to characterize the in-situ content of big graphite flakes in the mineralized rocks. The final report was received on April 4, 2014. Visual observation under the microscope shows that both samples contain approximately 25% of graphite with a high proportion of large and very large flakes (> 200 microns or > 48 mesh). The important amount of large flakes observed in the rocks (80% and 74% respectively) contrasts the low content of large flakes observed in the concentrate suggest again that only a coarse primary grind is likely required to release and separate the large flakes from their mineralized rocks.

## Social Aspect

On June 3, 2014, the Company had an initial meeting with the band council of the Pessamit Innu First Nation located near Baie-Comeau, Québec. The Manicougan graphite projects of Focus lie on land designated as traditional harvesting territory. During the meeting, the representatives of Focus presented the Company and the Lac Tétépisca project and established a base for further communication. Future communication and information dissemination protocols between the parties were also established and potential business opportunities for the community in connection with the development of the Lac Tétépisca project were discussed. In line with the business opportunities for the community, the Company hired workers from the Pessamit community on July 28, 2014 and July 21, 2016 for woodcutting, access trails clearing and drill rig pad preparation.

#### Update for the reporting period

#### 2016 Infill and Extension Drilling Program

During the three months period ended December 31, 2016, the Company received the complete assay results for the 2016 exploration-drilling program that will be followed by a report to be filed for assessment credits in the next quarter. The results were announced during the subsequent period to the reporting one, on January 20, 2017. Fifteen (15) holes intersected significant graphitic mineralization with grades ranging from 5.6% Graphitic Carbon (Cg<sup>(1)</sup>) to 19.35% Cg over a minimum true thickness<sup>(2)</sup> of 6.2 m (Table 1). The best intersection<sup>(2)</sup> is (Hole LT-16-32, drilled at -45 degrees to a depth of 159 m) 102.1 m grading 10.7% Cg (from 42.0 m to 145.15 m (core length: 103.15 m)), including 30.2 m grading 16.7% Cg (from 45.75 m to 76.25 m (core length: 30.5 m)) and 13.0 m grading 14.4% Cg (from 100.4 m to 113.5 m (core length: 13.1 m)).

		TA	BLE 1: 2016 [	DRILLING P	ROGRAI	I RES	ULTS		
Drillhole	Section	Azimuth	Total Length (m)	Intercepts	From (m)	To (m)	Core Intersection Length (m)	True Thickness (m) <sup>1</sup>	Cg (%)
LT-16-17	2+00 N	302	135	Intersection	10.4	34.55	24.15	23.9	6.81
				Intersection	81.35	111.0	29.65	29.4	7.24
				Including	92.0	101.2	9.2	9.1	10.14
LT-16-18	2+00 N	302	129	Intersection	16.55	52.1	35.55	35.2	11.21
				Including	18.7	42.2	23.5	23.3	14.13
LT-16-19	2+00 N	302	126	Intersection	63.25	69.55	6.3	6.2	8.34
LT-16-34	1+00 S	302	150	Intersection	25.0	55.1	30.1	29.8	9.09
				Including	44.0	53.0	9.0	8.9	16.50
				Intersection	64.25	115.05	50.8	50.3	13.13
				Including	84.1	111.7	27.6	27.3	16.06
LT-16-33	3+00 S	302	156	Intersection	31.3	133.0	101.7	100.7	10.15
				Including	31.3	55.85	24.55	24.3	17.07
				Including	100.3	110.4	10.1	10.0	14.52
LT-16-32	5+00 S	302	159	Intersection	42.0	145.15	103.15	102.1	10.70
				Including	45.75	76.25	30.5	30.2	16.69
				Including	100.4	113.5	13.1	13.0	14.42
LT-16-31	7+00 S	302	147	Intersection	25.55	124.6	99.05	98.1	12.37
				Including	38.0	79.7	41.7	41.3	16.64
				Including	107.4	122.6	15.2	15.0	14.56
LT-16-20	8+00 S	302	150	Intersection	46.4	130.45	84.05	83.2	11.62
			-	Including	58.35	104.05	45.7	45.2	15.62
LT-16-21	8+00 S	302	126	Intersection	3.0	70.5	67.5	66.8	12.42
				Including	3.0	31.3	28.3	28.0	19.36
LT-16-30	9+00 S	302	147	Intersection	22.5	110.5	88.0	87.1	11.3
				Including	39.0	85.5	46.5	46.0	15.06
LT-16-23	10+00 S	302	144	Intersection	60.0	72.27	12.27	12.1	7.74
				Intersection	81.0	111.5	30.5	30.2	9.71
				Including	82.9	104.5	21.6	21.4	11.28
				Intersection	126.5	132.95	6.45	6.4	7.95
LT-16-24	10+00 S	302	123	Intersection	18.55	73.55	55.0	54.5	9.60
				Including	37.0	57.55	20.55	20.3	11.79
LT-16-27	12+00 S	302	156	Intersection	79.2	117.3	38.1	37.7	6.41
LT-16-28	12+00 S	302	126	Intersection	6.5	20.0	13.5	13.4	6.84
				Intersection	28.75	43.55	14.8	14.7	6.64
LT-16-29	12+00 S	302	114	Intersection	6.5	16.8	10.3	10.2	5.6
			l with Cg > 5% over a mii						

<sup>(1)</sup> Carbon analyses were performed by the Consortium de Recherche Appliquée en Traitement et Transformation des Substances Minérales ("COREM") of Québec-City, an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified facility using LECO high frequency combustion method with infrared measurement (code LSA-M-B10) and are reported as graphitic carbon (Cg).

<sup>(2)</sup> True thicknesses are listed in this news release. The drill holes have been loaded into Gemcom and the three-dimensional deposit envelope has an azimuth of 210 degrees and dips at -40 degrees. HQ drill holes crosscut the envelope of the mineralized zone' strike and dip at a high angle. The conversion factor for true thickness is 0.99 of the core intersection length.

This second phase of core drilling targeting the Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor further indicates the potential for the Lac Tétépisca project (and the Southwest Manicouagan reservoir area) to host a new large volume - high grade natural graphite deposit. Drill intercepts reveal that the highest-grade section of the Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor is continuous over a strike length of 1 km and down to approximately 100 m depth. Graphitic grades within this section range

from 10 to 13% Cg. The average thickness of the main graphitic horizon is 85 m with a higher-grade zone lying along the eastern edge, stratigraphically above a lower grade zone.

### Metallurgical Testing

During the three month period ended December 31, 2017, the Company awarded a contract to SGS Metallurgical Services of Lakefield, Ontario to conduct metallurgical testing (flowsheet development and bench-scale variability). The conceptual flowsheet was developed using results from a series of 14 flotation tests and the closed-circuit performance was evaluated in a Locked Cycle flotation Test<sup>1</sup> (LCT). The flotation test program was completed on a 155 kg Master composite and six variability samples (total: 108 kg) originating from representative Lac Tétépisca graphite mineralization.

Subsequent to the reporting period, the Company reported initial LCT results on February 1, 2017. The LCT produced an overall graphite recovery of 92.7% at a combined concentrate grade of 96.2% Ct<sup>2</sup>. The flake size distribution in the concentrate that was generated in the LCT using the 2016 Master composite is presented in Table 1. A total of 17.2% of the concentrate mass reported to the "jumbo" flake category (+48 mesh). The "large" flake category (-48/+80 mesh) contained 20.5% of the concentrate mass. Another 7.9% of the mass reported to the "medium" flake size fraction (-80/+100 mesh) (Table 1). Interestingly, the finer flake size distribution classes (+400/-100 mesh) also reported carbon grades above 95% Ct.

	Size Fraction	Size Fraction	Weight	Assays	Distribution
Category	Mesh	Microns	%	% Ct	% Ct
Jumbo	+32 mesh	+500	4.2	95.8	4.1
Jumbo	+48 mesh	+300	13.0	95.6	12.9
Lorgo	+65 mesh	+212	13.5	95.0	13.4
Large	+80 mesh	+180	7.0	95.0	6.9
Medium	+100 mesh	+150	7.9	96.3	7.9
Fine	+150 mesh	+106	13.0	97.8	13.2
FILIE	+200 mesh	+75	15.4	97.7	15.7
	+325 mesh	+45	15.8	96.7	15.9
Very Fine	+400 mesh	+38	3.6	95.2	3.6
	-400 mesh	-38	6.6	92.9	6.4
		Total:	100.0		100.0

Table 1: Lac Tétépisca concentrate flake size distribution and total carbon (Ct) grades.

A total of six variability composites ranging from low-grade disseminated material grading 3.81% graphitic carbon (Cg) to high-grade massive mineralization grading 22.3% Cg produced consistent metallurgical results when subjected to the developed flowsheet conditions. The combined concentrate grades for the six variability samples ranged from 95.4% Ct to 97.8% Ct with open circuit graphite recoveries of 84.9% to 91.6%. The mass recovery into the "large" and "jumbo" flake categories for the six variability composites ranged between 31.8% for the massive mineralization composite, to 62.0% for the low-grade disseminated composite.

<sup>1</sup> A Locked Cycle Test (LCT) is a repetitive batch flotation test conducted to assess flow sheet design. It is the preferred method for arriving at a metallurgical projection from laboratory testing. In a LCT the intermediate products are incorporated in the following cycles, thus simulating a continuous flotation circuit on a laboratory scale.

<sup>2</sup> All carbon analyses were performed by SGS Canada Inc. ("SGS") and are reported as total carbon ("Ct"). The analytical methods that were used to determine the metallurgical results included total carbon analysis by Leco on the final concentrates. Total carbon assays are for the higher graphite concentrate grades, whereas

### Exploration and Development Outlook

In 2017, the Company anticipates receiving the 2014 and 2016 drilling technical reports that will be filed for assessment credits. The results of 2016 drilling program combined with the results of the maiden core drilling program carried out on the Project in 2014 will form the basis of an initial Mineral Resource Estimate to be followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA).

## Lac Guinécourt Project

The Lac Guinécourt graphite claim block consists of 42 map-designated claims covering 2,277.37 ha located 20 km southwest of Manicouagan Reservoir and about 210 km to the North of the city of Baie-Comeau. Focus purchased 100% of the mineral rights in the Lac Guinécourt project in August 2011 (74 claims). In 2013, a total of 14 claims with no potential for an economic discovery were allowed to lapse reducing the number of claims to 60. From August to October 2015 additional 15 claims with no potential have been allowed to lapse reducing the number of mineral claims to 42. During the year ended September 30, 2015, the Company wrote down the cost of the Lac Guinécourt by \$101,837 subsequent to it allowing its interest in 18 claims to lapse as the results of the exploration work completed to date on the claims in question were not encouraging and did not support further exploration.

A geological reconnaissance program was executed on the Lac Guinécourt project and was completed in July 2012 that included the surveying and sampling of a series of historical and new graphite occurrences. Assay results show that from the 50 grab samples, 24 of them contain over 5% graphitic carbon (from 6.12% to 46.90% Cg). The historical Graphi-Centre showing is particularly interesting with 22 of the 32 chosen samples containing 3.10% to 45.90 % Cg.

Following the initial reconnaissance program, G.L. Géoservice Inc. of Rouyn-Noranda, Québec, was awarded a contract to lay out a ground geophysical survey grid (totalling 41 line-km) and conduct a horizontal loop electromagnetic (HLEM) ground geophysical survey over the central part of the Lac Guinécourt project (the Graphi-Centre showing area). The survey was completed on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and the Company received the survey report on December 17, 2012. The survey outlined the presence of 9 electromagnetic conductors.

From July 1 to July 21, 2013, and from August 6 to August 15, 2013, the Company conducted a comprehensive follow-up exploration program over the best HLEM anomalies delineated from the ground survey. The fieldwork was comprised of prospecting using portable electromagnetic equipment (Beep-Mat<sup>™</sup>) and grab sampling of priority HLEM geophysical anomalies. The principal objective was to delineate the thickness of the 2-km long conductor associated with the historical Graphi-Centre showing. Fieldwork also included geological reconnaissance on the western part of the Lac Guinécourt project. A total of 24 samples were collected from outcrops, sub crops and boulders. They were sent to ALS Minerals in Val d'Or for preparation and then to ALS in Vancouver for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction and a 48 multi-element analysis using ICP methods. Twelve (12) of which host graphitic carbon (Cg) grades in excess of 5.00% (range: 5.60% to 59.60% Cg). The remaining 12 grab samples show Cg grades below 5.00%. With respect to the QA/QC program, 10% of blanks and standards were introduced. The results of the ground geophysical work, prospecting, and sampling outlined the presence of several relatively thin horizons approximately up to a few meters-thick that host high grade graphitic horizons in the area of Graphi-Centre showing.

No work was conducted on the project during the three months period ended December 31, 2016. In 2017 the Company plans to complete preliminary metallurgical tests and petrographic studies on the Lac Guinécourt project.

# Lac Tétépisca Nord Project

The Lac Tétépisca Nord graphite claim block consists of 51 contiguous map-designated claims covering 2,747 ha located 5 km to the north of the Company's Lac Tétépisca project. The claim block (57 claims) was map-staked during the fall of 2012 following the publication of a new government airborne geophysical survey data, which identified graphite, and iron-rich meta-sedimentary formations similar to those encountered at Lac Tétépisca and Lac Guinécourt. During the year ended September 30, 2014, six claims were transferred from Lac Tétépisca project to the Lac Tétépisca Nord project, decreasing the number of the claims to 51.

## 2013 Prospection Program

From July 1 to July 21, 2013, and from August 6 to August 15, 2013, the Company conducted an initial geological reconnaissance field program on the Lac Tétépisca-Nord project. Fieldworks comprise of ground geophysical prospecting using portable electromagnetic equipment (Beep-Mat<sup>™</sup> and VLF) and grab sampling. A total of 25 grab samples were collected from outcrops, subcrops and boulders. They were sent to ALS Minerals in Val d'Or for preparation and then to ALS in Vancouver for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction and a 48 multi-element analysis using ICP methods. Fourteen (14) of which host graphitic carbon (Cg) grades in excess of 5.00% (range: 5.09% to 29.20% Cg). The remaining 11 grab samples show Cg grades below 5.00%. In regards to QA/QC program, 10% of blanks and standard were introduced.

## 2014 Ground Geophysical Survey

On May 15, 2014, the Company awarded a contract to Abitibi Géophysique of Val-d'Or, Québec to conduct a ground combined magnetic-time domain electromagnetic geophysical survey (MAG-TDEM) with 100 m line spacing over the previously defined graphitic horizon with the IMAGEM system. The survey was completed on August 24, 2014 and the final report was received on September 19, 2014. A total of 288 EM anomalies and several magnetic zones are interpreted. The EM survey results were used to design a trenching and channel sampling program to test the lateral continuity, the thickness and the grade of the graphitic mineralization outlined by the previous 2013 ground prospecting program.

## 2014 Trenching Program

On July 11, 2014, the Company received the land use permit for trenching from the MERN. The same temporary camp under the supervision of IOS Services Géoscientifiques as for the Lac Tétépisca project was used for the Lac Tétépisca Nord Project 2014 field work. The trenching program was under the supervision of the Company with the logistic support of IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Chicoutimi. One trench was dug over a length of 84 m from September 24 to September 27, 2014. Channel sampling and geological mapping were completed on September 30, 2014. Disseminated to semi-massive large to fine graphite flakes were observed. A total of 49 channel samples that vary in length from 0.5 to 1.5 m for a total of 53 samples were taken for assaying. Representatives samples were taken with a rock saw and put in a bag with identification tag and shipped to IOS' facilities in Chicoutimi for sample preparation (cutting, crushing and grinding). Prepared samples were then sent to ALS Minerals in Val d'Or and Vancouver for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction, and for 48 multi-element analyses using combined ICP-AES and ICP MS methods. IOS introduced standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of the QA/QC program. Two rock saw duplicates were also sampled in the trench for the QA/QC program.

On August 24, 2016, the Company announced the results of a trenching program conducted in 2014.

The highlights are:

- A single 86.8 m long trench was excavated at the Project in September 2014. Trench No. TN-TR-01 was positioned perpendicular to the trend of a 2.4 km long by 80 m wide magnetic

(MAG) - electromagnetic (EM) anomaly identified by ground geophysical surveys conducted in August 2014;

- Best channel section: Trench No. TN-TR-01 intersected 67.2 m<sup>1</sup> grading 6.75% graphitic carbon (Cg<sup>2</sup>) (from 19.6 to 86.8 m), including: 24.5 m grading 11.72% Cg (from 19.6 to 44.1 m)
- The initial channel sampling results indicate the potential for a second new significant graphitic corridor in the southwest Manicouagan reservoir area, in addition to the Company's "Manicouagan-Ouest Graphitic Corridor" at its nearby Lac Tétépisca project (refer to Focus news release dated August 17, 2016 available at www.focusgraphite.com and at www.sedar.com)

<sup>1</sup> Reported channel sample sections are not true thickness but expressed as channel sample lengths. However, the trench crosscut the mineralized zone strike at a high angle.

<sup>2</sup> All carbon analyses were performed by ALS Minerals ("ALS") in North Vancouver, an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified facility, using LECO high frequency combustion method with infrared measurement (code C-IR18) and are reported as graphitic carbon (Cg).

## 2016 Exploration Drilling Program

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016, the Company completed a maiden core drilling campaign designed to test the subsurface graphite mineralization in areas with the strongest MAG-EM response down to a vertical depth of approximately 100 m. This drilling program was completed during the drilling campaign at its Lac Tétépisca project.

From August 8 to August 15, 2016, the Company completed an exploration drilling program with one drill rig. Exploration drilling included 786 m of drilling in 6 drill holes oriented perpendicular to the strike of the km-long EM conductor. This drilling will also provide mineralized samples for initial metallurgical testing. The Company supervised the drilling campaign with the logistical support of IOS Services Géoscientifiques of Saguenay. Core was shipped to IOS facilities for logging, sample preparation (cutting, crushing and grinding) and storage.

## Update for the Reporting Period

During the three month period ended December 31, 2016, logging and sample preparation were completed. All prepared samples were sent to COREM in Québec City for graphitic carbon (Cg) and total sulphides analysis using LECO induction. For the QA/QC program, 10% of the samples will also be analyzed by COREM for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon as well as for total sulphides. Around 10% of additional selected core samples were also sent to ACTLABS to be analyzed for total, organic, inorganic and graphitic carbon, total sulphides and for a 35 multi-element analysis using the ICP method. IOS introduced standards, duplicates and blank samples as part of the QA/QC program. Assays results are pending.

## Exploration and Development Outlook

In 2017, the Company anticipates receiving the complete assay results for the 2016 exploration drilling program and a technical report will be filed for assessment credits.

# Laurentides and Mauricie Administrative Districts Graphite Projects, Québec

The Laurentides and Mauricie area projects comprise three (3) graphite claim blocks acquired from a third party in August 2011 (Lac au Sorcier project, located in the Mauricie district, 10 claims) and January 2012 (Asbury and Island projects, located in the Laurentides district, 17 claims on each project). The Lac-au-Sorcier project contains 2 claims that cover 118.21 ha, the Island project contains 8 claims for 474.33 ha and the Asbury project contains 17 claims for an area of 1,012.62 ha.

No work was conducted on the projects during the three month period ended December 31, 2016. During the year ended September 30, 2015, the Company wrote down the cost of the Lac-au-Sorcier by \$37,927 subsequent to it allowing its interest in 8 claims to lapse as the results of the exploration work completed to date on the claims in question were not encouraging and did not support further exploration. During the year ended September 30, 2016, the Company wrote down the Lac-au-Sorcier property to \$Nil (\$6,226 in acquisition costs and \$3,210 in exploration and evaluation assets), further to the Company's decision to let all remaining claims lapse as poor exploration results to date did not warrant further evaluation.

In the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, the Company wrote down the cost of Island project by \$41,088 subsequent to it allowing its interest in 9 claims to lapse as the results of the exploration work completed to date on the claims in question were not encouraging and did not support further exploration.

# Asbury and Island Projects

Best results from the 2012 reconnaissance geological surveying and surface rock sampling summer program were associated to the Island project (9 samples with 2.14 to 8.65 % graphitic carbon) and the Asbury project where the graphitic horizon associated with the former Asbury Mine was identified over 2 km.

Subsequent to the 2012 reconnaissance program, in March 2013, the Company awarded a contract to Prospectair of Gatineau, Québec to perform an airborne Mag-TDEM geophysical survey over the Asbury and Island projects of the Outaouais administrative district. The survey was designed using a 100-m line spacing. A total of 266 line-kms covering the Asbury claim block and a total of 177 line-kms over the Island project were surveyed on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Survey results identified one isolated anomalous zone of 600 X 500 m for the Island project and a multi-kilometric long anomalous zone over the Asbury project.

From June 14 to 21, 2013, the Company conducted a comprehensive follow-up exploration program over the best airborne TDEM anomalies on the Island and Asbury projects. The field work was comprised of prospection with portable electromagnetic devices (Beep-Mat<sup>™</sup>) and sampling.

In 2017, the Company plans to complete a historic data compilation on the Asbury and Island projects.

## Lac-au-Sorcier Project

From June 5 to 13, 2013, the Company completed a geological reconnaissance program (started in 2012) over the Lac-au-Sorcier project of the Mauricie administrative district. The fieldwork comprised prospecting using portable electromagnetic equipment (Beep-Mat<sup>™</sup>) and grab sampling. The 2013 program resulted in discovering several occurrences of flake graphite and relocating of the historical Dugré showing (41% graphite; source: SIGEOM database). The best 11 surface grab samples assays contained a range of 5.26% to 36.90 % graphitic carbon.

In 2017, no significant exploration expenditure is planned further to the Company's decision to let all remaining claims lapse.

# Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option and Eastmain-Léran Polymetallic (Cu-Au-Zn) Projects, James Bay Territory, Québec

On October 12, 2012, the Company secured the exclusive rights to exercise a purchase option to acquire a 100% interest in the Eastmain-Léran project from Ressources Minières Alta Inc. ("Alta"). On October 16, 2013, the Company entered into a claims titles acquisition agreement with Alta to purchase 100% interest of the Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option project. In consideration for the purchase of the 100% interest in the project, the Company paid the Vendor a total of \$50,000 in cash and

issued 689,655 common shares. The Company granted a 2% net smelter return (NSR) royalty that can be purchased at any time by paying \$500,000 to the vendor.

The Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option claim block consists of 32 mineral claims covering an area of 1,678.81 ha. The copper-gold project is located 25 km north-east of the Otish Mountains, directly north of the Eastmain River in James Bay Territory, northern Quebec. The project is 10 km east of the new Otish Mountains access road (HWY 167 extension), which link Chibougamau and Mistissini to Stornoway's Renard diamond project.

In October 2012, following the signing of the letter agreement with Alta, the Company staked an additional 241 contiguous claims covering 12,625.49 ha along the northeast extension of the Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option claims. This new claim block constitutes the Eastmain-Léran project.

Both the Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option project and Eastmain-Léran project have the potential to host volcanogenic polymetallic targets and precious metal mineralization as well as the potential to host kimberlite pipes that host diamond mineralization. The claim blocks host several copper-gold occurrences in quartz veins (ie. Norducan showing: 6.8 g/t Au and 2% Cu; Freewest and Fancamp Resources, 1993, GM 52249) or are associated to sulphide-rich horizons such as the main Alta Eastmain copper showing (1.72% Cu/7.62 m; Nethery, W.A., 1959, GM 09871-A). The Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option and Eastmain-Léran projects are part of the Wahemen volcano-sedimentary greenstone belt traceable over a distance of 60 km and having a width of about 6 to 10 km. The mafic, ultramafic and felsic volcanic rocks are intercalated with arkose, greywacke and quartzite. The former Eastmain Gold Mine, currently owned by Eastmain Resources Inc. is located about 30 km south of the two projects and Stornoway's flagship Renard diamond project is located about 38 km north towards the North.

On November 7, 2013, the Company awarded a contract to Geotech of Toronto to perform an airborne Mag-VTEM<sup>Plus</sup> geophysical survey over the Eastmain-Léran/Alta Option and Eastmain-Léran projects. The survey was designed using 50-m line spacing. A total of 3,361 line-kms covering the both projects were surveyed from November 10 to December 7, 2013. The final report was received in February 2014. Based on the geophysical results obtained, a number of anomalous electromagnetic zones typical of polymetallic massive sulphides as well as structural NE-SW conductors have been identified on both projects.

In 2017, the Company plans to complete a property-scale prospecting and mapping program focussing on geophysical VTEM and Magnetic anomalies, and Consorem Anomalies.

#### **Qualified Person**

The above scientific and technical information regarding exploration activities as defined in National Instrument (NI) 43-101 s. 1.1, was either prepared, reviewed and approved by Marc-André Bernier, M.Sc., P.Geo. (Québec and Ontario), a consultant for the Company and a Qualified Person under NI 43-101 guidelines.

### **Financial Information**

The following selected financial data is derived from the audited financial statements of the Company, which were prepared in accordance with IFRS.

### **Selected Financial Information**

	Three months	Three months	Three months
	ended	ended	ended
	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Statements of Comprehensive			\$
Income			
Loss from Operations	(602,436)	(905,513)	(844,227)
Interest Income	4,619	2,398	1,937
Net Loss	(783,309)	(1,440,150)	736,567
Basic and Diluted Net Loss per Common Share	(0.005)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Basic and Diluted Weighted-Average			
Number of Common Shares Outstanding	169,749,010	129,067,000	110,942,837
Statements of Cash Flows			
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	(499,561)	(372,918)	(163,294)
Net Cash (Used In) Provided By Investing Activities	(708,612)	87,418	(1,927,109)
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	810,473	1,381,976	-
(Decrease) Increase in Cash	(397,700)	1,096,476	(2,090,403)
As at	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015	September 30, 2016
	\$	\$	\$
Statements of Financial			
Position			
Cash	688,031	1,496,919	1,085,731
Mineral Exploration Properties	1,380,857	1,394,074	1,380,857
Exploration and Evaluation Assets	24,679,669	22,746,814	24,217,684
Total Liabilities	2,254,938		2,467,789
Shareholders' Equity	26,176,933	25,697,074	26,314,769
Total Assets	28,431,871	27,507,326	28,782,558

### **Dividend Payment**

Since its incorporation, the Company has not paid any cash dividends on its outstanding common shares. Any future dividend payment will depend on the Company's financial needs to fund its exploration and development programs, future growth, and any other factors the board may deem necessary to consider. It is highly unlikely that any dividends will be paid in the near future.

#### Net Loss For The Three Month Period Ended December 31, 2016

During the three month period ended December 31, 2016, the Company realized a net loss of \$783,309 (\$0.005 per share) compared to \$1,440,150 (\$0.011 per share) for 2015. The net loss was comprised of the following:

- The Company lost control over an associate it invested in, Grafoid, on July 3, 2013 further to the dilution of its equity position. Focus continued to have significant influence over Grafoid, as such its investment in Grafoid was recorded as an investment in an associate and accounted for using the equity method. The Company's share of Grafoid's net loss for the three month period ended December 31, 2016 is \$212,837, compared to \$499,535 for 2015.

#### **Operating Expenses**

During the three month period ended December 31, 2016, the Company realized a loss from operations of \$602,436 compared to \$905,513 for 2015. This decrease in the operating expenses is mostly attributed to the following:

- Stock-based compensation was \$Nil for the for the three month period ended December 31, 2016, compared to \$319,110 incurred in 2015. No stock-based compensation was recognised as no options were granted and no options vested during the three month period ended December 31, 2016.
- Salaries and benefits expenses were \$57,383 for the three month period ended December 31, 2016, compared to \$116,010 incurred in 2015. The decrease is attributed to a reduction in the employees engaged by the Company.
- Travel and promotion expenses incurred during the three month period ended December 31, 2016, were \$25,280 compared to \$32,750 incurred in 2015. The decrease was attributed to the Company attending fewer trade shows and conferences during the year.
- Professional fees were \$121,001 for the three month period ended December 31, 2016, compared to \$134,310 incurred in 2015. The decrease is attributed to the Company completing fewer transactions that require professional services.

### **Quarterly Information**

The following summarized financial data has been prepared in accordance with IFRS.

Quarter Ended	Other Income (Loss)	Net Earnings (Loss)	Earnings (Loss) per Share
30/12/16	(180,873)	(783,309)	(0.005)
30/09/16	10,873	(788,517)	(0.005)
30/06/16	(234,824)	(763,109)	(0.005)
31/03/16	(59,945)	(670,781)	(0.005)
31/12/15	(534,637)	(1,440,150)	(0.01)
30/09/15	(1,424,747)	(2,421,175)	(0.02)
30/06/15	(223,548)	(1,025,128)	(0.01)
31/03/15	(53,401)	(832,463)	(0.01)

Other loss recognized in the quarter ended September 30, 2015 was significantly higher than that recorded in other quarters. This was mainly attributed to the Company's share of net loss of associate for the quarter recorded as \$1,577,917.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

As at December 31, 2016, the Company had a working capital deficit of \$869,926, including \$688,031 in cash and current liabilities totalling \$2,254,938. The Company will require additional financing, through various means including but not limited to equity financing, to continue exploring, evaluating, and developing its projects. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in raising the additional required funds. Refer to the 'Going Concern Assumption' section of the MD&A. During the quarter ended December 31, 2016 the Company closed two equity financings for gross proceeds of \$912,500. Refer to 'Corporate Development Highlights' section of the MD&A for more details.

## **Commitment and Proposed Transactions**

As of December 31, 2016, and as of the date of this report, the Company did not have any commitments outstanding other than the offtake agreements previously disclosed. There are no undisclosed pending proposed transactions that would materially affect the performance or operation of the Company.

#### **Contractual Obligations and Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As of December 31, 2016, the Company has no off-balance sheet arrangements and contractual obligations other than the offtake agreements previously disclosed in the 'Corporate Development Highlights' and 'Technical' sections of the MD&A.

### **Issued Not Yet in Effect**

The IASB has issued the following new and revised standards and amendments, which are not yet effective which may have future applicability to the Company.

### IFRS 9, Financial Instruments ("IFRS 9")

The IASB issued the final version of IFRS 9, bringing together the classification and measurement, impairment and hedge accounting phases of the project to replace IAS 39 "Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement." IFRS 9 is to be applied retrospectively with some exemptions for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018. Early application is permitted. The extent of the impact on the Company of adopting IFRS 9 has not yet been determined.

#### IFRS 16, Leases ("IFRS 16")

In January 2016, the IASB issued IFRS 16, completing its project to improve the financial reporting of leases. The new standard will replace IAS 17 "Leases" (IAS 17), and it sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases for both parties to a contract. For lessees, IFRS 16 eliminates the classification of leases as either operating or finance leases that exist under IAS 17, and requires recognition of assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. IFRS 16 substantially carries forward the lessor accounting requirements under IAS 17. IFRS 16 is to be applied retrospectively, using either a full retrospective approach or a modified retrospective approach, for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2019. Early application is permitted, but only if IFRS 15 has also been adopted. The extent of the impact on the Company of adopting IFRS 16 has not yet been determined.

#### Disclosure Initiative – Amendments to IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements ("IAS 1")

The IASB issued amendments to IAS 1 that provide additional guidance to help entities apply judgment when meeting the presentation and disclosure requirements in IFRS. The amendments clarify that materiality applies to the whole financial statements and that the inclusion of immaterial information can inhibit the usefulness of financial disclosures. The amendments clarify that entities should use professional judgment in determining where and in what order information is presented in the financial statements. The amendments are to be applied for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2016. Earlier application is permitted. The Company is not expecting a material impact from adopting these amendments.

#### Disclosure Initiative – Amendments to IAS 7, Statement of Cash Flows ("IAS 7")

In January 2016, the IASB issued amendments to IAS 7 requiring entities to provide disclosures about changes in their financing liabilities to assist readers in evaluating changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including changes from cash flows and non-cash changes (such as foreign exchange gains or losses). IAS 7 is to be applied prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2017. Early application is permitted. The extent of the impact on the Company of adopting IAS 7 has not yet been determined.

#### **Transactions with Related Parties**

Related parties include the Board of Directors and key management personnel, as well as, close family members and enterprises that are controlled by these individuals as well as certain persons performing similar functions.

#### JAG Sky Inc.

During the three months ended December 31, 2016, the Company was charged \$Nil by JAG Sky Inc. ("JAG Sky") (2015 - \$Nil), a private air charter services company wholly-owned by an Officer and Director, Gary Economo, and Director, Jeff York, of Focus, for air travel. As at December 31, 2016, the Company has a prepaid balance of \$33,070 (\$33,070 as at September 30, 2016), included in prepaid expenses, for air travel to be used at a later date.

### Alcereco Inc.

During the three months ended December 31, 2016, the Company was charged \$Nil by Alcereco Inc., a private company which shares common management, for research work (2015 - \$3,990). As at December 31, 2016, \$Nil was included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities (\$36,718 as at September 30, 2016).

### GGTC Inc. and JAG Property Holdings Inc. (formerly 2390540 Ontario Inc.)

Under a lease agreement between the Company and GGTC Inc. ("GGTC") (Note 18), a privatelyheld company wholly-owned by an Officer and Director, Gary Economo, and a Director, Jeff York, of Focus, the Company leases laboratory space in Kingston, Ontario. The lease was previously with JAG Property Holdings Inc. (formerly 2390540 Ontario Inc.), a private entity which is also wholly-owned by the abovementioned Officer and Director of Focus, however it was transferred to GGTC upon GGTC's acquisition of the building. During the three months ended December 31, 2016, the Company was charged a total of \$13,871 for rent (2015 - \$13,871). As at December 31, 2016, \$Nil was included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities (\$Nil as at September 30, 2016).

### Grafoid Inc.

During the year ended September 30, 2016, the Company loaned Grafoid Inc. \$360,000. As at December 31, 2016, there were no terms of repayment and, accordingly, the entire amount is included as a long-term receivable (\$360,000 as at September 30, 2016). Subsequent to quarterend, the loaned amount was evidenced by a promissory note repayable on January 12, 2018 and bearing interest at 10%.

#### Shared costs

During the year ended September 30, 2016, the Company charged Mincom Capital Inc. and Stria Lithium Inc., both of which share common management, \$5,000 and \$5,000, respectively, for accounting and administrative services and other administrative expenses. As at December 31, 2016, balances of \$Nil and \$5,650 (\$5,650 and \$5,650 as at September 30, 2016), respectively, are included in amounts due from related parties.

As at December 31, 2016, included in amounts due from related parties was an amount of \$28,385 (\$29,452 as at September 30, 2016) due from the following companies, which are wholly or partially owned by an Officer and Director of the Company, related to general shared costs:

	December 31,	September 30,
	2016	2016
	\$	\$
JAG Property Holdings Inc. (formerly 2390540 Ontario Inc.)	598	598
9174893 Canada Inc.	-	1,067
GGTC Inc.	1,945	1,945
JAG Sky Inc.	20,395	20,395
SP2 Wafer Pte Ltd.	5,447	5,447
	28,385	29,452

As at December 31, 2016, included in amounts due from related parties was an amount of \$63,395 (\$61,920 as at September 30, 2016) due from the following companies, which share common management, related to general shared costs:

	December 31, 2016	September 30, 2016
	\$	\$
Grafoid Inc. (including subsidiaries)	61,920	61,920
Stria Lithium Inc. (1)	1,475	-
	63,395	61,920

(1) Excludes amounts receivable in respect of charges for accounting/administrative services and other administrative expenses described above.

#### Transactions with Key Management Personnel

The following table reflects compensation of key Management personnel, including the CEO, CFO and Directors:

	Three months ended December 31,	
	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Salaries (including bonuses) (1)	40,000	40,000
Consulting fees	111,250	120,624
Benefits	2,061	2,061
Stock-based compensation	-	262,123
	153,311	424,808

(1) Includes director's fees which have been included in *Management and consulting fees* in the statements of comprehensive loss.

(2) The figures above have not been adjusted to reflect the allocation of salaries and short-term benefit compensation paid to key Management personnel that the Company charged out to Mincom Capital Inc. and Stria Lithium Inc.

### Mining Property Book Value

At the end of each reporting period, management reviews the carrying values of its resource properties and intangible assets to determine whether any write-downs are necessary. Following this analysis, management determined that write-downs were not required for the three month period ended December 31, 2016.

#### **Financial Instruments**

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash, amounts receivable (net of sales taxes receivable), amounts due from related party, long-term investment, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and deposit. The long-term investment is carried at fair value. The fair value of the other financial instruments approximates their carrying value due to their short-term nature.

#### **Outstanding Share Data**

Common shares and convertible securities outstanding at February 27, 2017 consist of the following:

Securities	Expiry Date	Range of Exercise Price	Number of Securities Outstanding
Common shares	-	-	174,557,434
Warrants	Up to December 2020	\$0.10 to \$0.60	34,408,044
Options	Up to December 2020	\$0.10 - \$0.89	7,110,000

### Subsequent Events

Focus Reports 102.1 m Grading 10.7% Graphitic Carbon (Cg) from its Infill and Extension Drilling Program at Lac Tetepisca, Québec (Refer to the 'Corporate Development' section)

Focus Graphite Reports a 26% Increase in Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources at its Lac Knife Flake Graphite Project, Quebec (Refer to the 'Corporate Development' section)

Focus Graphite Reports that Initial Locked Cycle Flotation Tests on Lac Tétépisca Mineralisation Achieve 92.7 % Graphite Recovery and Concentrate Grades of 96.2% Carbon for all Flake Sizes Combined

(Refer to the 'Corporate Development' section)

### **Risk Exposure and Management**

The Company is exposed to a certain amount of risks at different levels. The type of risk and the way the exposure is managed are described hereafter.

### Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates and equity prices will affect the Company's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimizing the return.

### Credit, Liquidity, Interest Rate, and Price Risk

The Company thoroughly examines the various financial risks to which it is exposed and assesses the impact and likelihood of those risks. These risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. Where material, these risks are reviewed and monitored by the Board of Directors.

## Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of an unexpected loss if a party to its financial instruments fails to meet its contractual obligations. The Company's financial assets exposed to credit risk are primarily composed of cash, amounts receivable (excluding sales taxes receivable) and amounts due from related parties and maximum exposure is equal to the carrying values of these assets, totalling \$1,240,765 at December 31, 2016 (\$1,643,707 as at September 30, 2016). The Company's cash is held at several reputable financial institutions with high external credit ratings. The exposure to credit risk for the Company's receivables is considered immaterial. It is Management's opinion that the Company is not exposed to significant credit risk. No impairment loss has been recognized in the periods presented.

None of the Company's financial assets are secured by collateral or other credit enhancements.

Management considers that all the above financial assets that are not impaired or past due for each of the reporting dates are of good credit quality. There are no financial assets that are past due but not impaired for the periods presented.

#### Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Company manages its liquidity needs by carefully monitoring cash outflows due in day-to-day business. As at December 31, 2016, the Company had a working capital deficit of \$869,926. During the three months ended December 31, 2016, the Company had negative cash flows from operations of \$499,561. The Company's ability to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business, meet its corporate administrative expenses and continue its exploration activities for the next twelve months, is dependent upon Management's ability to obtain additional financing, through various means including but not limited to equity financing. No assurance can be given that any such additional financing will be available, or that it can be obtained on terms favorable to the Company.

The Company has financial liabilities of \$2,059,688, all of which are due within twelve months.

#### Currency Risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Company has limited exposure to financial risk arising from fluctuations in foreign exchange rates given that its transactions are carried out primarily in Canadian dollars.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Company's financial assets exposed to interest rate risk include cash held in investment savings accounts bearing variable interest rates. The Company has not entered into any derivative contracts to manage this risk. The Company's policy as it relates to its cash balances is to invest excess cash in highly liquid, low-risk, short-term interest-bearing investments with maturities of 360 days or less from the original date of acquisition. As at December 31, 2016, the Company had cash balances of \$688,031 (\$1,085,731 as at September 30, 2016) and interest income derived from these investments during the three months ended December 31, 2016 was \$4,619.

The Company has limited exposure to financial risk arising from fluctuations in variable interest rates earned on cash given the low interest rates currently in effect and the low volatility of these rates.

#### Other Price Risk

The Company holds publicly listed shares of a company in the mineral exploration industry. The Company is exposed to other price risk regarding these shares as unfavorable market conditions could result in the disposal at less than their value at December 31, 2016. As at December 31, 2016, the value of these listed shares was \$100,000. At December 31, 2016, had the bid price for these publicly listed shares been 10% lower, the comprehensive loss for the year would have been \$10,000 higher. Conversely, has the bid price been 10% higher, the comprehensive loss would have been \$10,000 lower.

#### **Capital Management**

The Company manages its capital to ensure its ability to continue as a going concern and to provide an adequate return to its shareholders as well as ensuring that all flow-through monies obtained are utilized in exploration activities and spent by the required deadline. In the management of capital, the Company includes the components of shareholders' equity. As long as the Company is in the exploration stage of its mining properties, it is not the intention of the Company to contract additional debt obligations to finance its work programs. The Company manages the capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets. To maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Company may attempt to issue new shares. When financing conditions are not optimal, the Company may enter into option agreements or find other solutions to continue its activities or may slow its activities until conditions improve. While the Company is not subject to any external capital requirements, neither regulatory nor contractual, funds from flow-through financings to be spent on the Company's exploration properties are restricted for this use. In order to facilitate the management of its capital requirements, the Company prepares annual budgets that are updated as necessary depending on various factors, including successful capital deployment and general industry conditions.

### **Properties Titles**

According to the mining law and regulations of the Province of Quebec, the Company, to renew its claims, must do a minimum of exploration expenditures and pay to the Quebec government a rent per claim for every 2 year renewal period. To ensure the Company's mineral claims are kept in good standing, the Company engaged the services of a third party professional mineral claim management entity to manage the renewal of its mineral claims.

#### Additional Financing

The Company requires additional funds to finance the exploration or development work on the Company's properties, to pay for the renewal of the claims forming the properties and to cover the

costs of managing the Company. The main sources of funds available to the Company are the issuance of additional shares or the sale of interests in its properties. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in its efforts to arrange additional financing on terms satisfactory to the Company. Refer to the 'Going Concern Assumption' section of the MD&A.

### Conditions of the Industry in General

The exploration and development of mineral resources involves significant risks. Although the discovery of a deposit can prove extremely lucrative, few properties where exploration and development work are conducted progress to producing mines. Significant expenditures are necessary to find and establish ore reserves, out the metallurgical processes and build the processing plant and mining operations. It is not possible to provide assurance that the exploration and development programs contemplated by the Company will generate a profitable mine.

Economic viability of a deposit depends on many factors, of which some are due to the particular characteristics of the deposit, in particular its size, its average grade, and its proximity to infrastructures as well as the cyclic character of the prices of metals as well as governmental regulations, royalties, limits of production, import and export of minerals and protection of the environment. The impact of these factors cannot be evaluated in a precise way, but their effect can negatively impact the project's potential profitability.

Mining activities comprise a high risks. The activities of the Company are subject to all the dangers and the risks usually dependent on the exploration and the development, including the unusual and unforeseen geological formations, explosions, collapses, floods and other situations which can occur during drilling and the removal of material and of which any could cause physical or material or environmental injuries and, possibly, legal responsibility.

### Government Regulation

The activities of the Company are subject to, among others, various federal, provincial and local laws, which relate to the exploration and development, tax, standard of work, disease and occupational safety, the safety in mines, toxic substances, and protection of the environment.

The exploration and development activities are subject to legislative measures mandated by federal, provincial and local g o v e r n m e n t s to the protection of the environment. These laws impose high standards on the mining industry, in order to control the waste material from the exploration, development, production, and processing related activities on projects and reduce or eliminate possible environmental impacts.

## **Risks of Lawsuits and No Insurable Risks**

The Company could be held responsible for pollution or for other risks against which it could not be insured or against which it could choose not to be insured, being given the high cost of the premiums or for other reasons. The payment of sums in this respect could involve the loss of the assets of the Company.

### **Conflicts of Interests**

Some of the directors and officers of the Company are also engaged as directors or officers of other company's involved in the exploration and development of mineral resources. Such engagement could result in conflicts of interest. When a conflict of interest exists, the affected directors and/or officers declare their interest and abstain to vote on any resolution in which they have a conflict of interest.

### Permits, Licences, and Authorizations

The activities of the Company require obtaining and maintaining permits and licences from various governmental authorities. The Company considers that it holds all the permits and licences required for its exploration activities; it currently carries on, in accordance with the relevant laws and by-laws. Changes brought to the by-laws could affect these permits and licence. Nothing guarantees that the Company can obtain all the permits and all the necessary licences in order to continue its exploration and development activities, to build mines and processing plants and exploit any future reserves.

Moreover, if the Company begins the exploitation of a project, it will have to obtain the necessary mine permits and licences and to conform to all the required obligations concerning the use of water, removal of waste etc. It cannot be guaranteed that the Company will be able to obtain these permits and licences, nor that it will be able to conform to their requirements.

### Dependence on the Management

The Company is dependent on its management team. The loss of its services could have an unfavorable impact on the Company.

## Price of Graphite

The price of the Company's common shares, its financial results, and its future exploration and development activities may be negatively impacted by a fall of the price of graphite. This may also impact the Company's ability to finance its activities on favorable terms. The Company has no control over the fluctuation of graphite prices which may be affected by the sale or the purchase of graphite and graphite end products by end users, brokers, central banks and financial institutions, interest rates, foreign exchange rates, the rates of inflation, of deflation, the fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar and the currencies, the regional and global supply and demand of graphite, regional and global economic policies, particularly in China and other countries that produce graphite.

### Additional Information and Continuous Disclosure

This Management's Discussion and Analysis has been prepared as of February 27, 2017. Additional information on the Company is available through regular filings on SEDAR (<u>www.sedar.com</u>).

(s) Gary Economo

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Financial Officer

(s) Judith T. Mazvihwa-MacLean