

ALCORE Pilot Plant Enters Infrastructure Preparation Phase

Engage with this announcement on our interactive [Investor Hub](#)

Legacy equipment removed at ALCORE Technology Centre adjacent to Rio Tinto’s Bell Bay aluminium smelter in northern Tasmania

Auxiliary systems have been manufactured by external suppliers, and will be delivered and installed after equipment foundations and utilities are prepared

Detailed mechanical designs and fabrication drawings have been completed for two of three major process equipment packages,

ABx Group Limited (ASX: ABX) (**ABx** or the **Company**) is pleased to provide an update on progress made by 83%-owned subsidiary ALCORE Limited (**ALCORE**) at its Technology Centre (**ATC**) adjacent to Rio Tinto’s aluminium smelter in Bell Bay, Tasmania (Figure 1). The ATC will be used to demonstrate a world-first proprietary process to produce industrial chemicals, including hydrogen fluoride, from a by-product from the aluminium smelting process.

Following the demolition and removal of legacy equipment, ALCORE is preparing the ATC to receive the pilot plant equipment packages.



Bell Bay aluminium smelter

ALCORE Technology Centre

Figure 1: ALCORE Technology Centre; internal view (left) and satellite view (right)

For more information, please join ABx Group’s interactive [Investor Hub](#)
ABx Group Limited

Suite 2, Level 11, 385 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia
 ABN 14 139 494 885
 P: +61 3 9692 7222 | F: +61 2 9956 7355



For personal use only

Pilot Plant Progress

All key equipment for the pilot plant was ordered in April 2025, including the oleum plant, bath reactors, scrubbers and cooling tower.¹

Infrastructure upgrades, including power supply expansion, low-voltage electrical distribution, equipment foundations and hazardous chemical bunding are being designed according to equipment specifications and Australian regulatory standards.

Auxiliary systems have been manufactured by external suppliers, including the wastewater treatment plant, demineralised water system and air compressor package. These systems will be delivered to site and installed after equipment foundations and utilities are prepared.

Detailed mechanical designs and fabrication drawings have been completed for two of three major process equipment packages, with the remaining design expected by early November.

Council permit applications and the Environmental Effects Report are being prepared.

Next Steps

Each of the major process equipment packages will be reviewed by Australian-registered professionals to ensure compliance with Australian Standards, safety regulations, site-specific criteria and process operability requirements.

All three major equipment packages are expected to be delivered in Q1 2026. This will be followed by 2-3 months of construction time.

ABx Group Managing Director and CEO Dr Mark Cooksey said:

"We are exceptionally pleased with the progress at Bell Bay, where the ALCORE team has delivered critical milestones in site preparation and equipment package design.

With key auxiliary systems ready for shipment and the design of the three major process equipment packages nearing completion, we are well positioned to move into the installation phase.

This progress reflects the strong capability of the ALCORE team and the high standard of engineering being applied to this world-first technology."

The Company will continue to provide further updates as the project progresses toward commissioning.

This announcement is approved for release by the board of ABx Group Limited.

Go to the ABx [Investor Hub](#) to watch a video of this announcement and ask any questions of management.

¹ ASX announcement, 9 April 2025

For personal use only

For further information please contact:

Dr Mark Cooksey

MD & CEO

ABx Group

+61 447 201 536

mcooksey@abxgroup.com.au

www.abxgroup.com.au

Media

Chapter One Advisors

David Tasker / Alex Baker

+61 433 112 936 / +61 432 801 745

dtasker@chapteroneadvisors.com.au /

abaker@chapteroneadvisors.com.au

About ABx Group Limited

ABx Group Limited (ABx) is a uniquely positioned Australian company delivering materials for a cleaner future.

The three priority projects are:

- **Heavy rare earths:** Supplying light and heavy rare earths from Tasmania into Western supply chains
 - Processing Options Analysis conducted in partnership with external experts
- **Clean fluorine chemical production:** Producing industrial chemicals from aluminium smelter by-product (ALCORE)
 - Continuous pilot plant under construction in Bell Bay, Tasmania
- **Near-term bauxite production:** Mining bauxite resources for the aluminium, cement and fertiliser industries
 - Agreements executed with Good Importing International for bauxite projects in Queensland and New South Wales, and \$2.7 million initial payment has been received
 - Approvals well advanced for DL130 bauxite project in northern Tasmania

ABx endorses best practices on agricultural land and strives to leave land and environment better than we find it. We only operate where welcomed.

Disclaimer Regarding Forward Looking Statements

This ASX announcement (Announcement) contains various forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to uncertainties in that they may be affected by a variety of known and unknown risks, variables and factors which could cause actual values or results, performance, or achievements to differ materially from the expectations described in such forward-looking statements.

ABx does not give any assurance that the anticipated results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied in those forward-looking statements will be achieved.