

ABx a Partner in two Awarded Australian Government Critical Minerals R&D Programs

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ABx is a partner in the successful bid for the \$240m Critical Metals for Critical Industries Cooperative Research Centre

ABx is a partner in the successful Critical Technologies Challenge Program grant to develop a world-first in-field geometallurgy sensor specifically designed to detect clay-hosted rare earths

These grants will assist ABx to more rapidly develop and create more value from its ionic clay rare earth project in northern Tasmania

ABx Group Limited (ASX: ABX) (**ABx** or the **Company**) is proud to announce that it is a partner in two significant critical minerals R&D programs recently announced by the Federal Government.

Critical Metals for Critical Industries CRC

ABx is a partner in the successful bid for the Critical Metals for Critical Industries (CMCI) Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), jointly announced by Tim Ayres, Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science, and Madeleine King, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia.¹

The CMCI CRC has been awarded \$53 million from the Federal Government to drive the development and commercialisation of new critical minerals refining technologies. The CRC will bring together 62 partners, including 43 Australian businesses, 11 research organisations and 4 peak bodies from the sector – together contributing a further \$185 million to the CRC.

The CMCI CRC will target its research in high-value minerals, breakthrough technologies and sustainable refining methods – creating new job and export opportunities and lifting Australia's processing for our world-class resources supply.

Within the CRC, ABx will play a leading role in developing and piloting next-generation refining and recovery technologies for rare earths. This will enhance the value of ABx's ionic adsorption clay rare earths project in northern Tasmania.

¹ Media Releases, 6 March 2026

For more information, please join ABx Group's interactive [Investor Hub](#)
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Critical Technologies Challenge Program

ABx is a partner with TeraGlo, who have been awarded a \$2.4 million Critical Technologies Challenge Program (CTCP) grant to develop a world-first quantum-enabled, in-field geometallurgy sensor specifically designed for clay-hosted rare earths.²

This project represents a shift in mineral exploration and processing. By bringing quantum-enabled precision directly into the field, the aim is to eliminate the traditional delays of lab-based assays, providing real-time data where it matters most.

The other partners in the project are the Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing at Adelaide University, and Australian Rare Earths.

Dr Mark Cooksey, Managing Director and CEO of ABx Group, commented:

"ABx has deep technical expertise in geology, metallurgy and chemical engineering. This is crucial for developing a rare earth project, because rare earth geology and metallurgy are complex and the knowledge base is much less advanced compared to more traditional mineral commodities, such as gold and copper.

"ABx is using its technical expertise and relationships to identify the most valuable R&D partnerships, and is very pleased to be a partner in these two recently announced R&D programs from the Federal Government. This will assist ABx to more rapidly develop and create more value from its ionic clay rare earth project in northern Tasmania."

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

Go to the ABx [Investor Hub](#) to ask any questions of management.

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² Department of Industry, Science and Resources, \$12.7 million to support innovative quantum technology projects,

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
 - Maiden mixed rare earth carbonate produced
 - 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.