

20 May 2026 | ASX: CRI

MRIWA and RTCM Trailblazer research funding secured to accelerate Jupiter's metallurgical program

Critica Limited (ASX: CRI) ("Critica" or "the Company") is pleased to announce that funding has been secured from the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) and Curtin University-led Resources Technology and Critical Minerals (RTCM) Trailblazer to accelerate mineral processing understanding of the Jupiter critical minerals project, including the investigation of alternative metallurgical methods such as REE bioleach extraction.

The MRIWA award of \$150,000 and RTCM Trailblazer funding of \$150,000 provides a combined \$300,000 in non-dilutive funding to support Research and Development (R&D) into Jupiter REE Project mineral processing and aligns with Critica's strategy of reducing technical risk and advancing the project to build shareholder value and while also considering alternative and potentially economically significant processing routes through targeted R&D initiatives.

Critica's broader Research and Development (R&D) strategy is underpinned by its partnership with the RCTM Trailblazer programmes at Curtin and James Cook universities, and the Critical Metals for Critical Industries Cooperative Research Centre (CMCI CRC), which has received more than \$53 million in Australian Government funding (see ASX announcement 14 October 2025). As a Partner in the CMCI CRC, Critica is positioned to access national research capabilities and collaborate with industry and government participants to support ongoing technical development.

In parallel with its Australian funding and research initiatives, Critica has recently joined the Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) in the United States, representing a strategic step to access international funding and defence-aligned opportunities. The DIBC is a U.S. Department of Defense-supported consortium that provides a structured pathway for private companies to engage directly with defence programs, respond to targeted capability requirements and access potential funding opportunities. Participation in the DIBC positions Critica to align with U.S. government initiatives focused on securing critical minerals supply chains and may provide access to future funding, strategic partnerships and procurement pathways.

Critica remains focused on attracting non-dilutive funding and strategic support and continues to engage with industry and government to pursue grants and strategic support to advance Jupiter. This approach is designed to accelerate development while preserving shareholder capital.

Critica's CEO Jacob Deysel commented:

"We are delighted to receive MRIWA support for the Jupiter critical minerals project, which also provides strong third-party validation of the technical work underway at Jupiter.

The grant will accelerate additional metallurgical testwork, including evaluating bioleaching and optimising mineral processing pathways, as we continue to progress Jupiter toward the next phase of studies.

Importantly, this is non-dilutive, government-backed funding for R&D that supports disciplined technical de-risking and strengthens our development pathway.

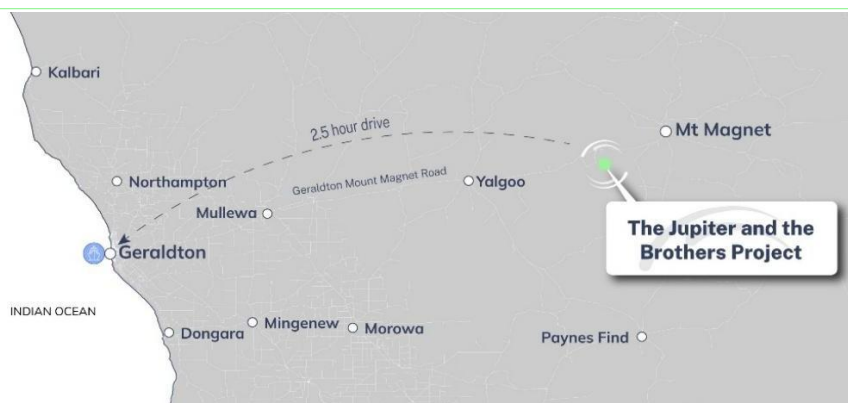
We remain focused on progressing Jupiter efficiently and creating long-term value for shareholders through targeted R&D, strategic partnerships and active engagement with funding bodies."



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Critica (ASX: CRI) is rapidly advancing the Jupiter Project in WA, Australia's largest clay-hosted rare earth resource, with a mine-to-magnet plan to meet surging AI, EV, renewables and defence demand.



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