

# ASX: **CXO** Announcement

28 September 2021

## **Primer Group Awarded EPC Contract for Construction of the Finnis Lithium DMS Plant**

### **Highlights**

- Core has awarded Primer Group the EPC contract to construct the Finnis Dense Media Separation (DMS) Plant in the Northern Territory
- Project execution to start immediately post FID, with site establishment and mining activity commencing during Q4 2021, and on-site process plant construction activities scheduled to commence in March 2022
- Commissioning of the DMS plant and first production of lithium concentrate scheduled for Q4 2022

Advanced Northern Territory (NT) lithium developer Core Lithium Ltd (ASX: CXO) (Core) is pleased to announce the award of the Engineering, Design and Construction (EPC) contract for the Finnis Lithium Project (Project) to Perth-based Primer Group (Primer).

The shovel-ready Finnis Project lies within 25 km of port, power station, gas, rail and one hour by sealed road to workforce accommodated in Darwin and, importantly, to Darwin Port - Australia's nearest port to Asia.

The Project has gained all NT government approvals and is fully funded following the successful raising of \$91 million from institutional investors and \$25 million from eligible Core shareholders via a Share Purchase Plan. In addition, Ganfeng has signed a 4-year offtake agreement with Core and agreed to provide A\$34 million in new equity, subject to Chinese Government approvals.

Core and Primer have worked closely together since 2019 to deliver the Definitive Feasibility Study for the Finnis Lithium Project (see ASX announcement "Stage 1 DFS and Updated Ore Reserves" on 26 July 2021).

Primer is a vertically integrated engineering group that has considerable expertise in delivering large scale construction contracts in the lithium sector and across the

minerals, energy and non-process infrastructure sectors in Australia and around the world.

Primero brings a highly professional team of engineering, drafting and management personnel to the Project to ensure the DMS plant performs as prescribed. Core seeks to benefit from Primero's multi-disciplinary construction approach, as they specialise in supply chain control, optimising capital efficiency and value unlocking.

Primero will be responsible for:

- Project management;
- Engineering and detailed design;
- Equipment and materials procurement;
- DMS plant construction;
- Quality assurance and construction verification, and
- Ore commissioning on receipt of first ore.

Execution of the EPC contract commences immediately post Final Investment Decision (FID) with detailed engineering, procurement of long lead time equipment and securing structural steel to occur before the end of 2021. On-site process plant construction activities are scheduled to commence in March 2022, with DMS plant commissioning and first concentrate production anticipated in Q4 2022

Core Lithium Managing Director, Stephen Biggins said:

*"Today's announcement represents the final stage of the Finniss study phase and the first step to unlocking the value of the Finniss lithium resource in the NT."*

*"We are excited to have Primero on board as an experienced and successful lithium EPC contractor and look forward to working together, delivering the DMS plant, creating an exciting opportunity for the people of the NT."*

*"As we have stated to the market, construction of the Finniss Project is on schedule to commence before the end of 2021, with Primero ready to hit the ground running immediately with initial work, in the lead-up to the commencement of process plant building activities in March next year."*

*"2022 is shaping up to be a defining year for Core Lithium."*

This announcement has been approved for release by the Core Lithium Board.

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## About the Finniss Lithium Project

The Finniss Lithium Project is Australia's most advanced new lithium projects on the ASX and places Core Lithium at the front of the line of new global lithium production.

Finniss has been awarded Australian Federal Government Major Project Status and is also one of the most capital efficient lithium projects and has arguably the best logistics chain to markets of any Australian lithium project.

Lithium is the core element in batteries used to power electric vehicles, and the Finniss Project boasts world-class, high-grade and high-quality lithium suitable for this use and other renewable energy sources.