

Building a world class resources group

Atlantic Ltd Level 29, Bankwest Tower 108 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000

PO Box Z5431 St Georges Terrace WA 6831 ABN 60 009 213 763

t +61 8 6141 7100 f +61 8 6141 7101 info@atlanticltd.com.au www.atlanticltd.com.au

17 December 2012

FUNDING AND RATINGS UPDATE

Atlantic Ltd (ASX: ATI) (**Atlantic** or the **Company**) is pleased to announce that its wholly-owned subsidiary Midwest Vanadium Pty Ltd (**MVPL**) has received notification from the Australian Taxation Office that its research and development tax claim in the amount of \$22.2 million has been approved.

MVPL has been advised that the full amount of the claim is due to be paid in the next week.

In addition, on Friday evening, Moody's Investors Service announced the attached rating review for MVPL's senior secured notes, with a change from Caa1 to Caa2.

Moody's notes in its review that MVPL's liquidity position and overall credit profile would improve if the company receives the research and development tax claim in a timely manner.

-ends-

For further details please contact:

Michael Minosora

Managing Director Atlantic Ltd Ph: + 61 8 6141 7100 **Glen Zurcher** Investor Relations Atlantic Ltd Ph: +61 8 6141 7215

About Atlantic

Atlantic is committed to building a diversified portfolio of world class resources assets that will provide superior returns to shareholders.

Atlantic combines its strong financing capability with a highly disciplined and innovative approach to acquire resources projects that are low cost, long life and near production.

Atlantic subsidiary Midwest Vanadium Pty Ltd owns 100% of the Windimurra vanadium project, located approximately 600 kilometres north of Perth in Western Australia. Windimurra hosts one of the largest proven vanadium reserves in the world.

Additional information on Atlantic can be found at <u>www.atlanticltd.com.au</u>.

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

Rating Action: Moody's lowers Midwest Vanadium's rating to Caa2 from Caa1

Global Credit Research - 14 Dec 2012

Approximately \$335 Million of Debt Securities Affected.

Sydney, December 14, 2012 -- Moody's Investors Service has today downgraded the corporate family and senior secured ratings of Midwest Vanadium Pty Ltd (MVPL) to Caa2 from Caa1. The outlook remains negative.

RATINGS RATIONALE

"The rating downgrade reflects continued concerns with regard to MVPL's capacity to maintain sufficient liquidity to fund ongoing ramp up and meet its obligations to service its debt", says Matthew Moore, a Moody's Assistant Vice President -- Analyst.

Slower than expected ramp-up of ferrovanadium production due to performance issues in its crushing, milling and beneficiation circuit has delayed cash flow generation.

The company recently secured the consent of the majority of its US\$335 million secured note holders to provide for the release of US\$9.9 million from MVPL's existing restricted cash reserves. "The funds released provide much needed funding for project ramp up. However, the release of funds from the restricted cash in the interest reserve account raises the degree of uncertainty around the company's ability to meet future debt service requirements", says Moore.

In addition to the \$335 million secured notes raised in February 2011, MVPL's parent company, Atlantic Limited (unrated), has raised over \$116 million in additional capital in the form of equity and convertible bonds between 2011 and September 2012 to support MVPL's liquidity. While these actions improved liquidity for working capital purposes and project ramp up, the company is yet to reach project completion. The company forecasts production to be in the range of 140-171 tonnes for the quarter ending December 2012, compared to design capacity of 6,200 -- 6,700 tonnes per annum.

The company is currently targeting to reach breakeven levels of production by the March Quarter of 2013. "Moody's believes this would mean MVPL could require additional external funding for working capital and debt service until it reaches breakeven levels " added Moore.

Moody's also understands that the company expects to receive a Research and Development tax claim of around \$22 million from the Australian Taxation Office. The claim related to eligible research and development activities during the commissioning of the Windimurra plant in 2011/12 financial years. Moody's notes that MVPL's liquidity position and overall credit profile would improve if the company receives this claim in a timely manner.

The negative outlook reflects our expectation that the company's liquidity will continue to be tight until at least it reaches breakeven levels of production. A further downgrade would be considered if liquidity deteriorates more rapidly than expected or there are further material delays in production ramp up.

A delay in the company receiving the expected tax claim prior to the next interest payment on the bonds would also place negative pressure on the rating.

The rating/outlook could undergo a favorable trend if MVPL is able to achieve the current ramp up schedule and start generating positive free cash flow, receives the \$22 million tax refund as expected and/or the company secures further external funding, such that liquidity position strengthens to a level that Moody's views as comfortably supporting its ramp up and financial obligations.

The principal methodology used in rating Midwest Vanadium Pty Ltd was the Global Mining Industry Methodology published in May 2009. Please see the Credit Policy page on www.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

Midwest Vanadium Pty Ltd (MVPL) a 100% owned subsidiary of Atlantic Ltd (Atlantic), an Australian publicly listed company. The company has completed the redevelopment of the Windimurra vanadium mine, located approximately 400km east of Geraldton in central Western Australia. MVPL holds tenements covering a 27

kilometer strike length. The project is expected to produce 6,300 tonnes of contained vanadium and has an expected mine life of over 28 years.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

The Global Scale Credit Ratings on this press release that are issued by one of Moody's affiliates outside the EU are endorsed by Moody's Investors Service Ltd., One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E 14 5FA, UK, in accordance with Art.4 paragraph 3 of the Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 on Credit Rating Agencies. Further information on the EU endorsement status and on the Moody's office that has issued a particular Credit Rating is available on www.moodys.com.

For ratings issued on a program, series or category/class of debt, this announcement provides relevant regulatory disclosures in relation to each rating of a subsequently issued bond or note of the same series or category/class of debt or pursuant to a program for which the ratings are derived exclusively from existing ratings in accordance with Moody's rating practices. For ratings issued on a support provider, this announcement provides relevant regulatory disclosures in relation to the rating action on the support provider and in relation to each particular rating action for securities that derive their credit ratings from the support provider's credit rating. For provisional ratings, this announcement provides relevant regulatory disclosures in relation to the provisional rating assigned, and in relation to a definitive rating that may be assigned subsequent to the final issuance of the debt, in each case where the transaction structure and terms have not changed prior to the assignment of the definitive rating in a manner that would have affected the rating. For further information please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page for the respective issuer on www.moodys.com.

Information sources used to prepare the rating are the following: parties involved in the ratings, public information, confidential and proprietary Moody's Investors Service information.

Moody's considers the quality of information available on the rated entity, obligation or credit satisfactory for the purposes of issuing a rating.

Moody's adopts all necessary measures so that the information it uses in assigning a rating is of sufficient quality and from sources Moody's considers to be reliable including, when appropriate, independent third-party sources. However, Moody's is not an auditor and cannot in every instance independently verify or validate information received in the rating process.

Please see the ratings disclosure page on www.moodys.com for general disclosure on potential conflicts of interests.

Please see the ratings disclosure page on www.moodys.com for information on (A) MCO's major shareholders (above 5%) and for (B) further information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities as well as (C) the names of entities that hold ratings from MIS that have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%. A member of the board of directors of this rated entity may also be a member of the board of directors of a shareholder of Moody's Corporation; however, Moody's has not independently verified this matter.

Please see Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions on the Rating Process page on www.moodys.com for further information on the meaning of each rating category and the definition of default and recovery.

Please see ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on www.moodys.com for the last rating action and the rating history.

The date on which some ratings were first released goes back to a time before Moody's ratings were fully digitized and accurate data may not be available. Consequently, Moody's provides a date that it believes is the most reliable and accurate based on the information that is available to it. Please see the ratings disclosure page on our website www.moodys.com for further information.

Please see www.moodys.com for any updates on changes to the lead rating analyst and to the Moody's legal entity that has issued the rating.

Matthew Moore Asst Vice President - Analyst Corporate Finance Group Moody's Investors Service Pty. Ltd. Level 10 1 O'Connell Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia JOURNALISTS: (612) 9270-8102 SUBSCRIBERS: (612) 9270-8100

Terry Fanous Associate Managing Director Corporate Finance Group JOURNALISTS: (612) 9270-8102 SUBSCRIBERS: (612) 9270-8100

Releasing Office: Moody's Investors Service Pty. Ltd. Level 10 1 O'Connell Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia JOURNALISTS: (612) 9270-8102 SUBSCRIBERS: (612) 9270-8100



© 2012 Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and/or its licensors and affiliates (collectively, "MOODY'S"). All rights reserved.

CREDIT RATINGS ISSUED BY MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC. ("MIS") AND ITS AFFILIATES ARE MOODY'S CURRENT OPINIONS OF THE RELATIVE FUTURE CREDIT RISK OF ENTITIES, CREDIT COMMITMENTS, OR DEBT OR DEBT-LIKE SECURITIES, AND CREDIT RATINGS AND RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS PUBLISHED BY MOODY'S ("MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS") MAY INCLUDE MOODY'S CURRENT OPINIONS OF THE RELATIVE FUTURE CREDIT RISK OF ENTITIES, CREDIT COMMITMENTS, OR DEBT OR DEBT-LIKE SECURITIES. MOODY'S DEFINES CREDIT RISK AS THE RISK THAT AN ENTITY MAY NOT MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL, FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AS THEY COME DUE AND ANY ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LOSS IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT. CREDIT RATINGS DO NOT ADDRESS ANY OTHER RISK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: LIQUIDITY RISK, MARKET VALUE RISK, OR PRICE VOLATILITY. CREDIT RATINGS AND MOODY'S OPINIONS INCLUDED IN MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT STATEMENTS OF CURRENT OR HISTORICAL FACT. CREDIT RATINGS AND MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE OR PROVIDE INVESTMENT OR FINANCIAL ADVICE. AND CREDIT RATINGS AND MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT AND DO NOT PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PURCHASE, SELL, OR HOLD PARTICULAR SECURITIES. NEITHER CREDIT RATINGS NOR MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS COMMENT ON THE SUITABILITY OF AN INVESTMENT FOR ANY PARTICULAR INVESTOR. MOODY'S ISSUES ITS CREDIT RATINGS AND PUBLISHES MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS WITH THE EXPECTATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH INVESTOR WILL MAKE ITS OWN STUDY AND EVALUATION OF EACH SECURITY THAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASE, HOLDING, OR SALE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS PROTECTED BY LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COPYRIGHT LAW, AND NONE OF SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE COPIED OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCED, REPACKAGED, FURTHER TRANSMITTED, TRANSFERRED, DISSEMINATED, REDISTRIBUTED OR RESOLD, OR STORED FOR SUBSEQUENT USE FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM OR MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER, BY ANY PERSON WITHOUT MOODY'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT. All information contained herein is obtained by MOODY'S from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, however, all information contained herein is provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind. MOODY'S adopts all necessary measures so that the information it uses in assigning a credit rating is of sufficient quality and from sources Moody's considers to be reliable, including, when

- OF DEFSONAL USE ON V

appropriate, independent third-party sources. However, MOODY'S is not an auditor and cannot in every instance independently verify or validate information received in the rating process. Under no circumstances shall MOODY'S have any liability to any person or entity for (a) any loss or damage in whole or in part caused by, resulting from, or relating to, any error (negligent or otherwise) or other circumstance or contingency within or outside the control of MOODY'S or any of its directors, officers, employees or agents in connection with the procurement, collection, compilation, analysis, interpretation, communication, publication or delivery of any such information, or (b) any direct, indirect, special, consequential, compensatory or incidental damages whatsoever (including without limitation, lost profits), even if MOODY'S is advised in advance of the possibility of such damages, resulting from the use of or inability to use, any such information contained herein are, and must be construed solely as, statements of opinion and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, sell or hold any securities. Each user of the information contained herein must make its own study and evaluation of each security it may consider purchasing, holding or selling. NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ANY SUCH RATING OR OTHER OPINION OR INFORMATION IS GIVEN OR MADE BY MOODY'S IN ANY FORM OR MANNER WHATSOEVER.

MIS, a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Corporation ("MCO"), hereby discloses that most issuers of debt securities (including corporate and municipal bonds, debentures, notes and commercial paper) and preferred stock rated by MIS have, prior to assignment of any rating, agreed to pay to MIS for appraisal and rating services rendered by it fees ranging from \$1,500 to approximately \$2,500,000. MCO and MIS also maintain policies and procedures to address the independence of MIS's ratings and rating processes. Information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities, and between entities who hold ratings from MIS and have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%, is posted annually at <u>www.moodys.com</u> under the heading "Shareholder Relations — Corporate Governance — Director and Shareholder Affiliation Policy."

Any publication into Australia of this document is by MOODY'S affiliate, Moody's Investors Service Pty Limited ABN 61 003 399 657, which holds Australian Financial Services License no. 336969. This document is intended to be provided only to "wholesale clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001. By continuing to access this document from within Australia, you represent to MOODY'S that you are, or are accessing the document as a representative of, a "wholesale client" and that neither you nor the entity you represent will directly or indirectly disseminate this document or its contents to "retail clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, credit ratings assigned on and after October 1, 2010 by Moody's Japan K.K. ("MJKK") are MJKK's current opinions of the relative future credit risk of entities, credit commitments, or debt or debt-like securities. In such a case, "MIS" in the foregoing statements shall be deemed to be replaced with "MJKK". MJKK is a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Group Japan G.K., which is wholly owned by Moody's Overseas Holdings Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of MCO.

This credit rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a debt obligation of the issuer, not on the equity securities of the issuer or any form of security that is available to retail investors. It would be dangerous for retail investors to make any investment decision based on this credit rating. If in doubt you should contact your financial or other professional adviser.