

# Silex Systems Limited Operational Update – FY2015 (ASX: SLX) (OTCQX: SILXY)

Dr Michael Goldsworthy, CEO / Managing Director 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015

© Silex Systems Limited 2015

### **Forward Looking Statements**

Silex Systems is a research and development Company whose assets are its proprietary rights in various technologies, including, but not limited to, the SILEX technology, Solar Systems technology and Translucent technology. The Company's technologies are in the development stage and have not been commercially deployed, and therefore are high-risk. Accordingly, the statements in this presentation regarding the future of the Company's technologies and commercial prospects are forward looking and actual results could be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward looking statements as a result of various risk factors.

Some risk factors that could affect future results and commercial prospects include, but are not limited to: results from the SILEX uranium enrichment commercialisation program; the demand for natural and enriched uranium; the development of competing technologies; the time taken to develop various technologies; the potential for third party claims against the Company's ownership of Intellectual Property associated with its technologies; the potential impact of government regulations or policies; and the outcomes of various commercialisation strategies undertaken by the Company.

The forward looking statements included in this presentation may involve subjective judgment and analysis and are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties, risks and contingencies, many of which are outside the control of, and are unknown to Silex. Given these uncertainties, you are cautioned to not place undue reliance on such forward looking statements.

### **Disclaimer**

Silex Systems Ltd (Silex) has prepared this presentation based on information available to it. The information in this presentation does not purport to be a complete description of Silex and/or its various business activities. Except as required by law, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made by Silex as to the fairness, accuracy, completeness or correctness of the information, opinions and conclusions contained in this document and discussed in the presentation, or as to the reasonableness of any assumption contained in this presentation. By receiving or viewing this presentation and to the extent permitted by law, you release Silex and its directors, officers, employees, agents and affiliates from any liability (including, without limitation, in respect of direct, indirect or consequential loss or damage, or loss or damage arising by negligence) arising as a result of the reliance by you or any other person on anything contained in or omitted from this presentation.

This presentation should be read in conjunction with other disclosures that have been lodged by the company with the Australian Stock Exchange.

No responsibility is accepted by Silex or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents or affiliates, nor any other person, for any of the information contained in this document and discussed in the presentation or for any action taken by you on the basis of the information or opinions expressed in the course of this presentation. This presentation does not constitute investment, legal, taxation or other advice and the presentation does not take into account your investment objectives, financial situation nor particular needs. You are responsible for forming your own opinions and conclusions on such matters and should make your own independent assessment of the information contained in this document and discussed in the presentation and seek independent professional advice in relation to such information and any action taken on the basis of the information.

This document is not a product disclosure statement or prospectus for the purposes of the Australian Corporations Act 2001 and does not constitute an offer, invitation, solicitation or recommendation in relation to the subscription, purchase or sale of shares or other securities in any jurisdiction, including in the United States or to any U.S. person, and neither this document nor anything in it shall form the basis of any contract or commitment. Securities may not be offered or sold in the United States, or to or for the account of any U.S. person, unless the securities have been registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 or an exemption from registration is available.

Silex Systems is an advanced technology company, primarily focused on the development and commercialisation of its innovative and potentially disruptive laser-based

SILEX uranium enrichment technology

### **Silex Restructure Nearing Completion**

#### Key Points - Silex Systems Strategic Review and Restructure

Strategic review of business undertaken by Silex Board in June 2014 resulting in company restructure

Key decision – to return the primary focus of the company to the development and commercialisation of our foundation technology – the SILEX laser uranium enrichment technology

Cessation of Solar Systems business announced on 30 July 2015, with IP and associated expertise retained in the short term to pursue residual opportunities

Technical due diligence for the Translucent technology well advanced with several third parties involved – divestment process expected to be completed in the near term

The restructure of Silex expected to deliver a significant reduction in cash burn to approximately \$3 million p.a., on a forward recurring basis (current cash reserves approximately \$53 million)

Focussing on the SILEX technology will provide the best path forward to return value to shareholders in the medium term, particularly when nuclear fuel markets return to positive growth

### **GLE Restructure Completed**

#### Key Points - GE-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) Restructure

SILEX technology Licensee GLE announced a major restructure in July 2014, slowing the commercialisation project in response to adverse conditions in nuclear fuel markets (Fukushima effect)

Downsized team in Wilmington, North Carolina making significant progress with process and engineering improvements, potentially improving process efficiency and overall economics

Our small team in Lucas Heights, Sydney is also making significant progress, having just completed a major development and demonstration milestone for a prototype plant scale laser system

GLE continues to pursue the tails reprocessing plant opportunity in Paducah, KY – negotiations with the US Department of Energy are nearing completion

Medium to long term outlook for the global nuclear industry suggests a return to growth and recovery in the nuclear fuel markets

Nuclear power will remain a key component of the global electrical generation capacity with electricity demand expected to increase by around 80% by 2040 (compared to 2012 demand – International Energy Agency 2014)





### SILEX Laser Uranium Enrichment Technology

© Silex Systems Limited 2015

### **Advantages of the SILEX Technology**

 $\bigcirc$ 

. SOD:

- Enrichment is the most difficult and costly step in making nuclear fuel for power reactors (~35% to 40% of total cost based on current market prices)
- All enrichment today performed by gas centrifuge technology developed initially in the 1940's
- Current enrichment market ~50 million Separative Work Units p.a. (SWU's = the unit of enrichment) @
- ~US\$80/SWU for term contracts global market currently worth up to US\$4 billion p.a.
- Market pre-Fukushima ~ 60MSWU p.a. @ ~US\$160/SWU market was worth around ~US\$9 billion p.a.
- SILEX is a breakthrough in efficiency most cost effective enrichment method
- Anticipated to have the lowest capital costs of all enrichment technologies
- The only 3<sup>rd</sup> generation laser-based enrichment technology in the world
- Classified technology protected by the strictest security measures



### **Commercialisation and License Agreement**

### Perpetual Royalty Agreement with Global Laser Enrichment (GLE)

- Exclusive worldwide commercialisation and license agreement for the SILEX Technology signed in 2006
- Phase I milestone completed in May 2013 triggered US\$15 million payment to Silex
- Next milestone payment triggered by start of construction of initial commercial plant: US\$5 million
- Final milestone payment US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) verification of construction compliance of initial commercial plant: US\$15 million
- Perpetual royalty range of 7 12% of future GLE revenues from commercial operations (based on calculation of cost per unit production installed)



### **SILEX Technology Royalty Business Model**

Our business model for uranium enrichment:



### **GLE's Phased Approach to Commercialisation**

#### **Commercial Plant Options**

 Plans include possible enrichment plant of up to 6MSWU in Wilmington, NC (US NRC construction & operating License received in 2012)
Additional opportunity for a commercial plant in Paducah, Kentucky – subject to negotiations with US Department of Energy (refer slide 12)
Commercial plant decisions by GLE are dependent on market conditions
Focus for the next few years on advancing the Phase II project to demonstrate full scale commercial production equipment



| Phase      | Objectives                                                                       | Status            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Phase I:   | Test Loop technology demonstration and NRC commercial plant license approval     | Completed         |
| Phase II:  | Economic and engineering validation for the initial commercial production module | Commenced in 2012 |
| Phase III: | Construction of the first full-scale commercial production facility              | To be confirmed   |

© Silex Systems Limited 2015

### Paducah Enrichment Plant Opportunity Update

#### Negotiations between GLE and the DOE continue

- Closure of last 1<sup>st</sup> generation gaseous diffusion plant in May 2013 – led to Department of Energy (DOE) bid process for future operations
- GLE submitted a proposal to the DOE in August 2013 involving construction of a SILEX-based laser enrichment plant at the Paducah site
- DOE selected the GLE proposal exclusively in November 2013 for possible future commercial operations at Paducah
- Enrichment of DOE tails stockpiles potentially equivalent to one of the largest uranium mines in the world operating for around 40 years
- Plans will ultimately depend on a recovery in uranium market pricing from currently depressed levels
- Negotiations between the GLE and DOE are nearing completion with an outcome likely in the next few months



Paducah Enrichment Plant Site

### **Nuclear Energy Market Outlook**

- Potential for significant increase in nuclear capacity over the next two decades
- Energy security and climate change are two key drivers for nuclear power deployment

| 5   | Nuclear plant forecasts to 2030* |      |      |  |
|-----|----------------------------------|------|------|--|
|     | Country                          | 2015 | 2030 |  |
| (D) | TOTAL – all Countries            | 437  | 635  |  |
|     | US                               | 99   | 109  |  |
|     | China                            | 26   | 94   |  |
|     | India                            | 21   | 49   |  |
|     | Japan**                          | 43   | 50   |  |

N D

\* Approximate only - excludes 'proposed' plants, and includes ~ 60 older units shutdown

\*\* Currently 42 operable reactors offline, 2030 assumes 10 units shutdown

#### Source: World Nuclear Association (WNA) – July 2015

#### Key Statistics

- 11 percent of global electricity  $\checkmark$
- $\checkmark$ 437 operable reactors currently
- 66 new plants under construction  $\checkmark$
- **168 plants planned**
- 322 plants proposed  $\checkmark$

### **Uranium Enrichment Market Outlook**

#### Short Term Market Outlook – 'Negative'

- · Short term market likely to remain depressed due to impact of Japanese industry shutdown
- Japanese reactor restarts slower than anticipated, with first unit at Sendai just back online
- Uranium market price down, but turning Uranium is up ~30% since June 2014
- Enrichment market prices (term and spot) still very weak, but anticipated to recover



#### Medium Term Market Outlook – 'Recovery'

- Medium term highly dependent on several macro factors
  - Pace of Japanese reactors restarts up to 35 units to come back online in the next few years
  - o Russian trade sanctions and possible effect on Tenex world's largest enrichment player
  - o Pace of global nuclear build and influence of environmental drivers (climate change)
- Potential supply pressures in medium term timeframe possible opportunity for introduction of SILEX capacity

#### Long Term Market Outlook – 'Bullish'

- Plans for nuclear capacity to increase significantly from 380 GWe currently, to ~630 GWe by 2035 (UxC data, 2015)
- Accordingly, potential for significant increase in demand for natural and enriched uranium within 'accessible' market

### **Recent Industry Developments**

#### Japanese Reactor Restarts

- First reactor at 'Sendai' restarted August 2015 and producing power with second unit to restart in coming months
- Two units at 'Takahama' to restart later in 2015 and early 2016, with the Ikata 3 unit also expected to restart in 2016
- Applications have now been submitted to the Japanese regulator NRA for the restart of 25 of 43 operable reactors

#### **Russian Sanctions**

- Threat of sanctions being imposed against Russian nuclear fuel with both Europe and the US stating their willingness to impose new sanctions should the Ukrainian situation remain unresolved
- · Western utilities looking at Russian supply with greater uncertainty

#### South Australian Royal Commission

- South Australia is home to approximately 30% of the world's known Uranium deposits currently exported as oxide ('Yellowcake') with no additional value added
- Commission is undertaking a comprehensive investigation into South Australia's participation in the areas of activity that form part of the nuclear fuel cycle including enrichment
- The Royal Commission has advanced through the submission phase, with public sessions to commence shortly
- Silex lodged its submission to the Royal Commission on 3rd August available on Silex website

## Summary

The Company is nearing completion of a major restructure, resulting in a significant reduction in cash burn going forward (current cash reserves ~\$53m)

Restructure resulted in a cessation of the Solar Systems business on 30 July, with the Translucent divestment process also nearing completion

- Primary focus going forward the 'SILEX' uranium enrichment technology the only third generation laser-based enrichment technology in the world
- SILEX technology is under exclusive licence to Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) a business venture of GE (51%), Hitachi (25%) and Cameco (24%)

GLE and Silex continue to support the uranium enrichment commercialisation program, albeit at a reduced pace in line with adverse short term market conditions

Expect program to ramp up as the global nuclear fuel markets recover and grow again

Silex will be entitled to a perpetual royalty of 7 to 12% (depending on plant capex) - on any of GLE's future uranium enrichment revenues



# Thank you