



Orion Minerals

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Orion Signs Renewable Energy Generation Collaboration Agreement with juwi for the Prieska Zinc-Copper Project

- ▶ Orion finalises collaboration agreement with the leading global renewable energy company juwi to investigate renewable energy supply for the Prieska Zinc-Copper Project, South Africa.
- ▶ The preliminary scope is to assess the feasibility of establishing a dedicated solar and wind hybrid power plant for the Prieska Project.
- ▶ The results of this work will inform the long-term power supply strategy for the Prieska Project and are in line with local government Integrated Development Plans.

Orion's Managing Director and CEO, Errol Smart, commented:

"This agreement is in line with our strategy to make best use of our geographic advantage in the semi-arid Northern Cape Province of South Africa. This region has the highest irradiance levels in the country with its hot, dry climate and is also very well-suited for wind farms. It is already a well-established renewable energy generating region with 190MW of solar power plants in operation and 240MW of wind power currently under construction immediately adjacent to our Prieska Project.

This opportunity can only improve our long-term power supply security, while at the same time lessening the burden on the national electricity grid and reducing our carbon and water footprint. Our decision to pursue renewable power supply options is another illustration of our commitment to build a modern 21st century mine at Prieska that employs innovative technologies and embraces sustainability. Investing in a long-term renewable energy solution also makes perfect sense for a long-life production asset such as Prieska."

Orion Minerals Limited (**ASX/JSE: ORN**) (**Orion** or **Company**) is pleased to announce that through its subsidiary, Repli Trading No 27 (Pty) Ltd, it has entered into a collaboration agreement with juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd South Africa (**juwi**) to investigate renewable energy generation for its flagship Prieska Zinc-Copper Project (**Prieska Project**), in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

The preliminary scope is to investigate the feasibility of generating and supplying 35MW of electricity for the Prieska Project, from a hybrid power system using integrated wind and solar technologies. The renewable energy generation site will be located within 20km of the Prieska Project, making the establishment of a dedicated feed via an overhead power transmission line possible.

juwi is part of the international juwi Group, one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. juwi's business is focused on both solar energy and onshore wind energy. juwi is a recognised leader in off-grid hybrid solar/wind-diesel-storage energy solutions. To date, juwi South Africa has built five utility-scale solar plants totalling 121MW and developed the 138MW Garob Wind Farm, which will soon start construction – all developed under the South African Government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP) – with a further three solar projects (totalling 250MW) currently under construction.

juwi South Africa also participates in the South African Government's Small Independent Power Producer (IPP) Program and operates and maintains all its solar projects on behalf of their owners.

In Australia, juwi was recently responsible for the project development, design, construction and now operations of a highly successful \$40 million, 10MW solar power facility which came into commercial operation in 2016 at Sandfire Resources' (ASX: SFR) DeGrussa Copper-Gold Mine in Western Australia. This facility has since attracted international attention as the largest off-grid integrated solar and battery storage facility in the world. With close to three years of operational data and 100% uptime, this successful project has established juwi as leaders in hybrid power supply solutions for mines.

The investigations into renewable energy solutions at Orion's Prieska Project will complement the ongoing Bankable Feasibility Study, with the additional benefit of potentially improving the base case plan of obtaining national grid power directly from the Cuprum sub-station already established on site.

Developing the renewable energy potential of the region is also a strategic goal of local government, as communicated in its Integrated Development Plans. Orion and juwi intend to continue to work closely with local government, under the auspice of the collaboration agreement entered into with the Siyathemba Municipality in October 2017, to maximise the employment and enterprise development in the local communities.



Errol Smart
Managing Director and CEO

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