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CleanTech Lithium PLC
28 November 2024

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CleanTech Lithium PLC ("CleanTech Lithium" or the "Company")
Corporate Activity Update and Appointment of CEO Designate

CleanTech Lithium PLC (AIM: CTL, Frankfurt:T2N, OTCQX:CTLHF), an exploration and development companyadvancing sustainable lithium projects in Chile, is pleased to provide a corporate activity update which includes appointment of Anthony (Tony) Esplin as the Chief Executive Officer Designate ("CEO Designate") and an update to the planned Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX") listing.

Highlights:

- Tony Esplin has been appointed CEO Designate of CleanTech Lithium.
- Mr Esplin, who has over 30 years of experience at international mining companies including in Latin America, Australasia and Indonesia, is joining the Company with immediate effect under a part-time consultancy contract and will subsequently assume the role of CEO on a full-time basis, and become a board director, once the Company lists on the ASX.
- Given the various holidays and the fact that the Company needs to update the ASX prospectus a decision was made to target the ASX listing in early Q1 2025.
- The Company confirms it is working towards submitting the Special Lithium Operating Contract ("CEOL") for the Laguna Verde project before the deadline of 31st December 2024.
- Significant quantities of battery-grade lithium carbonate will be produced before the end of the year for potential strategic partners to start product qualification.

A conversation between Executive Chairman, Steve Kesler, and CEO Designate, Tony Esplin, is available to watch here:https://www.investormeetcompany.com/meetings/appointment-of-ceo

Steve Kesler, Executive Chairman and Interim Chief Executive Officer, CleanTech Lithium PLC, said:
"We are delighted that Tony has agreed to join us as CEO, initially under a consultancy arrangement to assist us with our planned ASX listing, and then as our full-time CEO once we commence trading on the ASX. This concludes a relatively long process to identify the right candidate for this important role and we were very encouraged at the quality of the candidates who were keen to take up the reins at CleanTech Lithium.

"Tony's experiences of leading challenging international gold and base metal projects of scale through development into production, especially in Latin America, will be invaluable as the Company moves our Laguna Verde project forward towards the commercial production of battery grade lithium from 2027 onwards. As a fluent Spanish speaker, he will also be in prime position to engage with the Chilean Government, regulatory bodies and especially the local communities whose continuing support for our projects will be critical to their success.

"In the meantime, I will continue in my role as Executive Chairman intending to move back to being the Company's Non-Executive Chairman when our Board believes the time is right. I look forward to working with Tony and continue to be confident in the future potential of our Company".

Tony Esplin, CEO Designate, said:

"I am excited to be joining CleanTech Lithium and looking forward to the opportunity to work in Latin America again. It is well known that the lithium market is going through a challenging time, but all analysts agree that the lithium price will recover in due course to meet the growing international demand for EVs and other forms of battery storage. In the meantime, CleanTech Lithium has placed itself very nicely to be the next major mover in the lithium sector in Chile, through the use of Direct Lithium Extraction ("DLE") and by adopting more sustainable methods of extracting lithium for a market keen to see more "green lithium" supply. We intend to be delivering on this vision for our shareholders over the next few years.

"I am impressed at the results I have seen from the Company's DLE pilot plant and downstream processing, as well as the innovative community relations programmes where the Company has entered into alliances with local communities and universities. I look forward to working with the Board, management and staff to deliver a successful project at Laguna Verde. Whilst that project will be our major focus for the time being, we also have other assets in Chile which we can progress over time, adding real upside to our Company's value proposition for investors".

Appointment of CEO Designate

Since April 2024, when the Company's Executive Chairman, Steve Kesler, also took on the role of Interim CEO, the Board has been actively searching for a CEO with the skills and experience to move the Company from its early "exploration & technical testing phase" in Chile towards a "development and production phase" on its key assets. This role requires experience in driving and managing mineral resource projects in Latin America, delivering on development plans, raising the necessary funds for such projects and working with Government representatives and local communities to ensure those projects achieve their objectives in a sustainable manner. Following completion of the Laguna Verde "PFS" due to complete in Q1 2025, the Company will enter a new phase. Key activities will be bringing in a strategic partner, negotiating offtake agreements, completing the Definitive Feasibility-Study "DFS", permitting and putting in place the project finance to start construction and commencement of production at Laguna Verde, which is anticipated by end 2027. The Company has been working with executive search firm Heidrich & Struggles, based out of Melbourne Australia, to identify the best candidate for this important role and the Board is confident that Tony Esplin is the right appointment.

Tony Esplin

Mr Esplin is an Australian national who has over 30 years' experience in mining including at senior executive and board level positions primarily with tier one gold and base metals producers, including with Newmont Corporation, which ranked for more than a decade amongst the leading miners on the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index.

He has significant experience in managing large-scale emerging markets assets, including in Peru, Mexico, Suriname, Indonesia, Australia and Papua New Guinea ("PNG"). Mr Esplin worked and lived for over 12 years in Latin America and is fluent in Spanish. Most recently, he was Chief Operating Officer at Discovery Silver Corporation, a TSX-listed company with development projects in Mexico, where he also had broader responsibilities in developing project finance options and investor relations.

Prior to this, Mr Esplin spent three years as Executive Managing Director of Barrick Niugini, responsible for all facets of the business in PNG. Barrick Niugini is a joint venture between Barrick Gold and Zijin Mining and the role involved challenging negotiations with the PNG Government, regulators and with local community stakeholders, as well as establishing complex licence extensions.

Before Barrick Niugini Mr Esplin spent over 10 years at Newmont in various roles including as General Manager for the Suriname Merian project, a joint venture with state-owned petroleum company, Staatsolle Maatschappij

Suriname N.V., which was successfully brought onto commercial production on time and under budget. The role encompassed all aspects of managing the business in Suriname.

Before that, Mr Esplin spent 10 years at Newmont´s Yanacocha project in Peru, latterly as General Manager Operations responsible for mining, processing and infrastructure activities.

Anthony (Tony) Ian Esplin, aged 58, has held the following directorships and/or partnerships in the past 5 years:

Current	*Past*
Sierra Nevada De Santa Maria Pty Ltd	Barrick (Nuigini) Limited

Mr Esplin currently holds no ordinary shares or other securities in the Company.

There is no further information on Tony Esplin required to be disclosed under Schedule Two, paragraph (g) (i)-(viii) of the AIM Rules for Companies.

Mr Esplin will support the Board immediately in the planned dual listing on ASX in a part-time consultancy role, with his full-time appointment commencing immediately upon the Company listing on the ASX. A further announcement will be made on that in time. He will be based in Australia increasing CleanTech Lithium's profile with investors, analysts and media before and after the ASX listing, developing relationships with potential strategic partners and off-takers whilst travelling to Chile to work with the team on the Company's projects, build a team with capacity to take the Laguna Verde project into production and liaise with Government, regulators and local communities.

Steve Kesler will continue as Executive Chairman for a few months to support Mr Esplin in his new position and will then step back to being Non-Executive Chairman as corporate governance guidelines in UK and Australia recommend.

A conversation between Executive Chairman, Steve Kesler, and CEO Designate, Tony Esplin, is available to watch here:https://www.investormeetcompany.com/meetings/appointment-of-ceo

Update on ASX Listing

After thorough discussion with the Company's ASX advisors, the Company considered various time constraints, including Australian summer holidays, and decided that it will be better positioned for a successful ASX listing by proceeding in early Q1 2025.This is a strategic move as the revised timeline means the Companywill have produced substantial amounts of battery grade lithium carbonate for potential strategic partners to start product qualification, will have submitted the CEOL application for the Laguna Verde project and will be nearing completion of the Laguna Verde PFS.This will ensure the timing of the proposed listing is optimal to deliver the highest possible value to investors. It will also allow Mr Esplin to get up to speed on the Company's position and plans and then actively participate in the ASX listing.

CEOL application and sample lithium product

The Company is working towards submitting the CEOL for the Laguna Verde project before the deadline of 31st December 2024 and a further announcement confirming submission will be made in due course.

As announced on 21st November 2024, the downstream conversion process is successfully producing pilot scale samples of lithium carbonate. CleanTech Lithium is a leader in Chile in producing lithium carbonate using Direct Lithium Extraction ("DLE") at the pilot scale, marking a major milestone for the Company. The samples will be sent to a laboratory to confirm the grade and impurity profile, which is expected to be battery-grade and prepared for strategic partner qualification.

The information communicated within this announcement is deemed to constitute inside information as stipulated under the Market Abuse Regulations (EU) No 596/2014 which is part of UK law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. Upon publication of this announcement, this inside information is now considered to be in the public domain. The person who arranged for the release of this announcement on behalf of the Company was Gordon Stein, Director and CFO.

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Notes

CleanTech Lithium (AIM:CTL, Frankfurt:T2N, OTCQX:CTLHF) is an exploration and development company advancing lithium projects in Chile for the clean energy transition. Committed to net-zero, CleanTech Lithium's mission is to become a new supplier of battery grade lithium using Direct Lithium Extraction technology powered by renewable energy.

CleanTech Lithium has two key lithium projects in Chile, Laguna Verde and Viento Andino, and exploration stage projects in Llamara and Arenas Blancas (Salar de Atacama), located in the lithium triangle, a leading centre for battery grade lithium production. The two most advanced projects: Laguna Verde and Viento Andino are situated within basins controlled by the Company, which affords significant potential development and operational advantages. All four projects have good access to existing infrastructure.

CleanTech Lithium is committed to utilising Direct Lithium Extraction with reinjection of spent brine resulting in no aquifer depletion. Direct Lithium Extraction is a transformative technology which removes lithium from brine with higher recoveries, short development lead times and no extensive evaporation pond construction. www.ctlithium.com

****ENDS****

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