

## Due Diligence and Valuation Report

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Fair share value bracket:	AUD 0.43 to AUD 0.91 <sup>i</sup>
Share price (03-Dec 2018):	AUD 0.08 <sup>ii</sup>

### Analyst Team

Natasha Agarwal	Auditya Sankaranarayanan
Senior Analyst	Senior Analyst
<a href="mailto:natasha.agarwal@arrowheadbid.com">natasha.agarwal@arrowheadbid.com</a>	<a href="mailto:auditya.sankaranarayanan@arrowheadbid.com">auditya.sankaranarayanan@arrowheadbid.com</a>



Company:	Altech Chemicals Ltd.
Ticker:	ASX: ATC, FRA: A3Y
Headquarters:	Subiaco, Australia
Managing Director:	Iggy Tan
Website:	<a href="http://www.altechchemicals.com">www.altechchemicals.com</a>

### Market Data

52-Week Range:	AUD 0.09 – AUD 0.27 <sup>iii</sup>
Average Daily Volume:	1,342,339 <sup>iv</sup>
Market Cap. on date:	AUD 53.82 mn

**Fiscal Year (FY)** 1<sup>st</sup> July– 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Summary

Altech Chemicals Limited (“Altech” or “ATC” or “the company”) is a high-purity alumina (HPA) development company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The company aims to be a major integrated HPA producer globally. It has 100% ownership of the Meckering Kaolin deposit in Western Australia and has commenced Stage 1, which is, construction of an HPA plant in Johor, Malaysia. The company has finalized the plant site layout and building design and the two year construction period will shortly commence.

The company’s strategy is to become a world-leading producer of HPA with a key economic advantage of owning its own Kaolin deposit (aluminous clay) as feedstock.

The global HPA market is forecasted to grow more than two times to around USD2.2 billion by 2024. The global HPA demand is estimated to have a CAGR of 15% to 16% between 2017 and 2025. Importantly, 4N HPA (99.99%) is estimated to have a CAGR of 16.2% over the same period.

The rise in demand is expected due to HPA’s non-substitutable characteristics in the production of synthetic sapphire, which is used in the manufacture of substrates used in the light-emitting diode (LED) industry, semi-conductors and other sapphire glass applications. HPA is increasingly used in lithium-ion batteries, as a coating on battery separator sheets.

### HPA Project

**Feedstock from Meckering Kaolin deposit:** Kaolin extracted using simple and inexpensive open-pit mine methods. The mine has a total measured, indicated and inferred JORC Mineral Resource of 12.7 Million metric tons (MMT) @ 29.5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (minus 300 micron). From the resource, Altech has determined a 30-year proved and probable ore reserve of 1.2MMT @ 30.0% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (minus 300 micron and 25% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> lower cut-off) to be mined over 10 discrete mining campaigns.

**Meckering Kaolin Deposit:** The deposit occurs in highly weathered granite where high grades of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are concentrated in freely mineable clay. The orebody is flat lying, which allows a very low waste-to-ore-strip ratio of 0.66:1 resulting in low mining costs.

Altech owns 100% of granted mining lease M70/1334 over the Meckering Deposit and approvals to mine and construct a screening and container loading facility were granted by the WA Department of Mines and Petroleum in March 2017.

**Ore Movement and Loading Facility:** The feedstock, mined from the kaolin deposit, will be stockpiled on the Run of Mine stockpile, constructed adjacent to the container loading facility. It is expected 43,538 Tons per year (t/y) of raw material will be transported comprising approximately 36 containers of 22 Tons (T) each of Kaolin per week.

**Malaysian HPA processing plant:** Altech executed the Stage 1 construction agreement in July for its Malaysian HPA plant. Stage 1 construction included bulk earthworks, extensive piling, retaining walls, storm water management and an electrical sub-

station. Work has commenced with the conduct of a detailed geotechnical study. The plant design and layout has also been finalized and Stage-1 construction is poised to commence.

The Malaysian HPA site was secured via payment of the final instalments totaling AUD 5.1 million for the 4 hectares of industrial land in the Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex, Johor, Malaysia in May 2018. Altech has a 30-year lease agreement and a 30-year renewal option with Johor Corporation for the site. The HPA plant is fully designed, costed and Malaysian environmental approval has been obtained. The plant will be ideally located in a low-operating-cost jurisdiction in close proximity to gas, electricity, water, hydrochloric acid and quicklime supply infrastructure, which should provide an operating advantage over competitors.

**Final Investment Decision Study (FIDS):** An FIDS for the 4,500 Tons per annum (tpa) HPA project was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017. The positive FIDS reported a mine life of 30 years, estimated Pre-tax net present value (NPV)<sub>7.5</sub> of USD 505 mn (AUD 656 mn) and full production of 4,500tpa of HPA. The FIDS also defined associated capital development costs for the plant and the mine of USD 298 mn, payback of 3.9 years and an Internal rate of return (IRR) of 22%.

**Off-take agreement with Mitsubishi:** In April 2016, Altech entered an off-take agreement with Mitsubishi Corporation's Australian subsidiary Mitsubishi Australia Ltd. Mitsubishi will be the exclusive buyer and global distributor of 100% of Altech's HPA production for an initial 10 years which is scheduled to commence on the date of first shipment of the final HPA product.

**Project phase:** The company received an indicative non-binding mezzanine debt term sheet for up to USD 90 million from an international investment bank for its HPA project for the quarter ended on June 30, 2018, which would complement the USD 190 senior debt package. The project is at an advanced financing stage with a USD 190 mn Project finance debt package secured. The debt package from the German government-owned KfW IPEX-Bank is linked to a fixed-price lump-sum engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract to construct the HPA plant with German engineering firm SMS Group GmbH. It also includes a fixed-price lump-sum EPC contract for

construction of the Meckering kaolin container loading facility by Perth-based Simulus Engineering Pty Ltd.

Currently, Advisian – the independent technical adviser appointed by the proposed mezzanine lenders – is expected to finalize the work of a 4-month due diligence process prior to year-end. Once the due diligence is complete, the next step for both the proposed mezzanine lender and the stream finance facility provider would be to present the project to the respective internal investment committees for final approval. An updated HPA market report from CRU Consulting is also likely to be commissioned prior to respective investment committee consideration. Upon investment committee approval, a binding term sheet and an exclusive mandate would be executed for each proposed facility. After this, the processes of final loan documentation and the negotiations of inter-creditor arrangements with the senior lender are expected to commence, and this would be ultimately followed by the project finance closure.

Construction has commenced with operations targeted for late 2020, early 2021. The HPA production schedule will be 3,000tpa in year 1, 4,000tpa in year 2 and then full production of 4,500tpa at a grade of 99.99% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (4N) by year 3.

In October 2018, the company also received the Certificate of Grant for an Innovation Patent from the Australian Patent Office, for the process of producing HPA from kaolin. Upon receiving this grant, Altech has been placed favorably amongst its competitors, as this acknowledges that the process of making HPA from kaolin is indeed unique.

## Valuation

We believe Altech is financially well-positioned (after sanction of USD 190 mn debt from KfW IPEX-Bank) and has high potential in its value proposition. If the funding phase of the project goes as per schedule, the construction timetable will be met, and the project can commence initial operations.

Given the due diligence and valuation estimations based on NPV of its HPA project, we believe that Altech's fair share value lies between AUD 0.43 and AUD 0.91.

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## Company Presentation

Altech is an ASX-listed specialty chemicals developer focused on the financing and construction of a HPA processing plant with capacity of 4,500 tpa for delivery into the high-tech manufacturing industries. It is expected that Altech would rank in the top three HPA producers globally and one of the lowest cost producers at full capacity utilization.

ATC has an enormous feedstock source at its 100% owned Meckering Kaolin deposits in Western Australia which comprises high-grade aluminous clay. Current ore reserve is 1.2 MMT @ 30% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (minus 300 micron and 25% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> lower cut-off) for 30 years (Stage 1) with an estimated mineral resource of 12.7MMT @ 29.5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (minus 300 micron) which could supply feedstock for 250 years. ATC has also secured a ~4-hectare (Ha) plot of land in a major industrial park in Johor, Malaysia, where it will build its HPA processing plant. Total capital cost is estimated at USD 297.6 mn.

In October 2017, ATC completed a FIDS for the project and in December 2017 secured a commercially attractive Project Finance Debt Package of USD 190 mn from the German government-owned KfW IPEX-Bank.

The company has conducted extensive laboratory and pilot plant test work, completed detailed capital and operating cost estimates, full plant design and project approvals. It has secured an off-take agreement with Mitsubishi for 100% of up to 4,500tpa HPA plant production for first 10 years. Also, it has entered into a lump sum turn-key contract with SMS group, a German EPC contractor which has agreed to guarantee the finished product quality, production process and throughput level of the HPA plant. KfW IPEX-Bank and the SMS group have conducted full due diligence activities as part of the cost estimates and debt funding package.

*Financial Summary:* In FY 2018, Altech earned an interest income AUD 87,067 as against AUD 100,870 in FY 2017. The company registered a loss of AUD 4,566,331 in FY 2018 in comparison with a loss of AUD 3,791,502 in FY 2017. As on 30 June 2018, the company had cash and cash equivalents worth AUD 261,319, and no debt. In the future, the company targets a debt-to-equity ratio of 65%-70%.

## Portfolio and Premiums

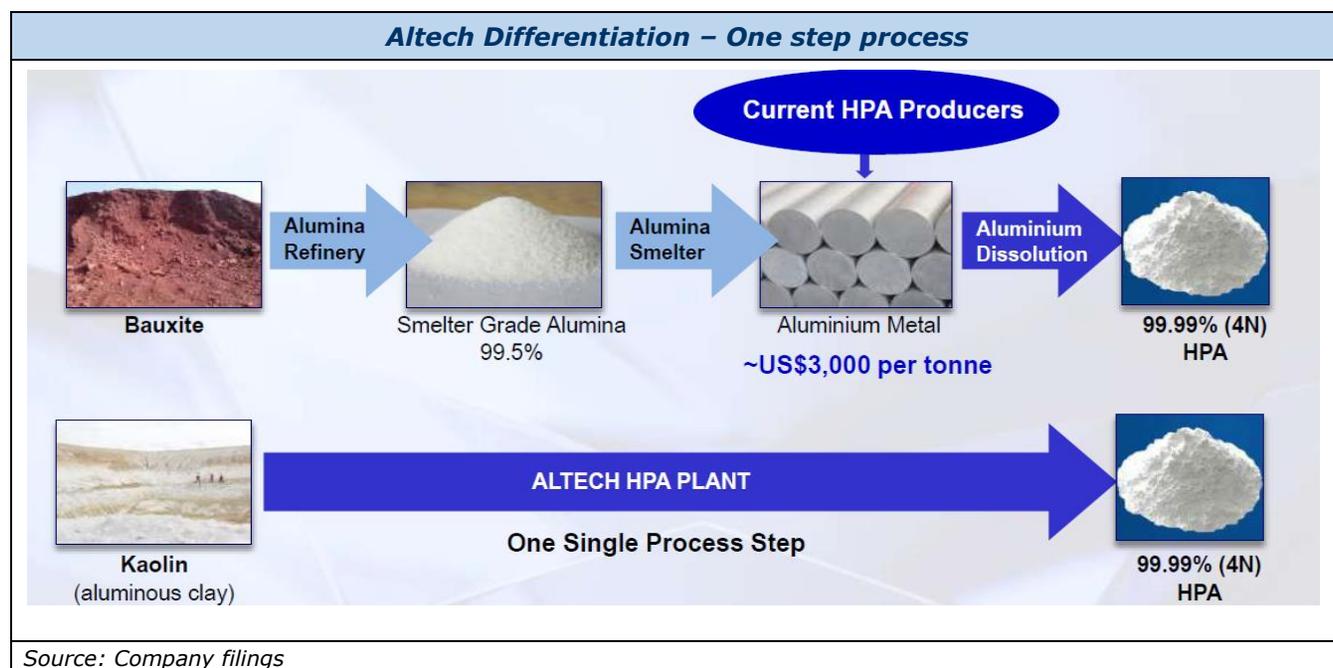
*The kaolin feedstock location at Meckering in Western Australia and the HPA processing plant location in Johor Malaysia offer accessibility to existing infrastructure facilities and government incentives:* The Meckering kaolin mine will have a low environmental impact due to simple geology and mining methods and it is located a mere 130 km from Fremantle port. The Johor HPA site has access to nearby international sea container ports, hydrochloric plants, natural gas, and electricity supply. Government and tax incentives will also be available for the Malaysian operations.

For Altech to become a global leader, its HPA cost base must be low and this can be achieved due to the 100% ownership of kaolin feedstock, and application of the acid leaching process and operating in Malaysia.



**Having obtained required operating permits and licenses ensure kaolin feedstock:** On 14 March and 25 August 2017, Altech was granted mining and works approvals by the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for the open pit mine at Meckering. Construction of the kaolin screening, loading facility infrastructure and Run of Mine (ROM) stockpile can commence.

**One single-step process:** The distinguishing feature of ATC’s operations is the one-step processing route from aluminous clay to HPA using hydrochloric acid leaching, rather than having to derive HPA by re-refining aluminum metal that has been produced from bauxite via the Bayer process.



**Off-take agreement secured sales of 100% of HPA production:** A purchase commitment for 100% of Altech’s HPA (originally 4,000 tpa with the intent for 4,500 tpa) production in the initial 10 years reduces the commercial risk aspect of the project and secured a major step towards project financing. This helped to demonstrate to banks and other potential project financiers that the product has a solid market to underpin debt financing and construction.

**High HPA demand projected:** The global HPA market is forecast to grow two-fold and is set to reach around USD 2.2 bn by 2024 and global HPA demand is estimated to have a CAGR of 15% to 16% (2017-2025).

In case of 4N HPA (99.99%), the global demand is estimated to have a CAGR of 16.2% over that period. HPA is a non-substitutable constituent in the production of synthetic sapphire, which is used in the manufacture of substrates used in the LED industry, semi-conductors and other sapphire glass applications. HPA is increasingly used in lithium-ion batteries, as a coating on battery separator sheets and/or directly on the anode and cathode battery components.

**Low-impurity kaolin feedstock:** The company uses a conventional chemical process which is suitable for its aluminous clay deposit. This clay deposit contains lower levels of impurities (very low iron due to weathering) which aids the production of a very pure alumina product and should prove a competitive advantage for Altech.

%	Bauxite Darling Range*	Canadian HPA Project	Altech HPA Project
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	34.5	22.77	30.5
SiO <sub>2</sub>	21.5	53.29	56.3
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	21.2	8.36	0.7
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.00	0.98	0.7
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.25	3.41	0.1
NaO	0.005	1.42	0.1

*Source: Corporate presentation as on October 2018 \*Typical Mean Analysis*

**Experienced and qualified leadership team helps in efficient management:** The company's executives are highly experienced with industrial commodities, project construction and operating in Malaysia and Australia. The board is highly experienced in the Alumina industry and through project development, has worked with some of the largest organizations across the globe.

## Portfolio and Risks

**Capital expenditure financing:** The company has an estimated capital expenditure of USD 297.6 mn for near-term production and construction of the HPA processing plant as per the recent FIDS. For its financing, the company has taken USD 190 mn from KfW IPEX-Bank – with USD 170 mn of the debt at very long tenure (+10 years) and at low interest rates (~4%) as it has been awarded German government export credit cover; the remaining USD 20 mn will be at normal commercial terms. Altech needs to ensure raising the balance of funds to achieve its objectives and to fast track the development of its HPA plant and kaolin mine. The company has also received an indicative non-binding mezzanine debt term sheet for up to USD 90 mn from an international investment bank for its proposed HPA project during the quarter ended on 30 June 2018. Apart from this, Altech also executed an indicative non-binding term sheet for a USD 60 million stream finance facility from a US-based global alternative investment group during the June-ended quarter.

**Commodity price risk:** The company is exposed to commodity price risk. Its projected revenue and operating margins significantly depend on the price of HPA, which might fluctuate significantly due to numerous factors beyond the control of the company. In such a situation, Altech must closely monitor the price of HPA to determine the appropriate course of action.

**Single mine risk:** Currently, ATC is fully reliant on revenues from its Meckering kaolin feedstock mine and HPA plant. This might adversely impact its cash flow, profitability and share price, in case of any unexpected interruptions at the Meckering operations.

## Corporate Strategy

**Target business is to produce HPA 99.99% (4N) and earn high margins:** ATC continuously thrives to establish itself as a leading producer of HPA and is focused on transition from developer to producer. The company has already signed a long-term off-take agreement with the major global distributor Mitsubishi for the first 10 years' sales of 100% of 4,000tpa (intent for 4,500tpa) HPA production. The current demand of high purity alumina globally provides an exciting opportunity for the company to enter the market.

current demand of high-purity alumina globally provides an exciting opportunity for the company to enter the market.

*Product-related strategy:* ATC has conducted tests to demonstrate that its HPA is suitable for synthetic sapphire production and use in lithium-ion batteries. Typical li-ion battery specifications demand a minimum purity of 99.99% HPA. The 99.99% purity is a significant step forward in demonstrating that its alumina is suitable for li-ion batteries and therefore a larger market.

## Patent Application Update

Altech has been consistently applying for patents to protect its intellectual property rights. Currently (on 14 November 2018), seven patent applications have been lodged for Altech HPA process. Out of these, 5 have been lodged in Australia, and 2 patent applications have been lodged in Malaysia. One innovation patent has been granted in Australia, and is currently under examination.

<b>Schedule of Patent Applications</b>						
Number	Country	Type	Title	Description	Priority Date	Status
2014253487	Australia	Standard Patent Application	A Method for the Preparation of Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by HCl, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination	26/02/2014	Pending Application
2018233001	Australia	Standard Patent Application	A Method for the Preparation of Smelter Grade Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by HCl, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination	22/09/2017	Pending Application
P12018704039	Malaysia	Standard Patent Application	A Method for the Preparation of Smelter Grade Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by HCl, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination	20/09/2018	Pending Application
2018900572	Australia	Provisional Patent Application	A Method for the Preparation of Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by HCl, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination, bead milling, spray drying, produce high density beads and fine powder	22/02/2018	Pending Application
P12018700927	Malaysia	Standard Patent Application	A Method for the Preparation of Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by HCl, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination, bead milling, spray drying, produce high density beads and fine powder	22/02/2018	Pending Application
2018903911	Australia	Provisional Patent Application	A Method for the Preparation of Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by evaporation, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination, bead milling, spray drying, produce high density beads and fine powder	16/10/2018	Pending Application
2018101228	Australia	Innovation Patent	A Method for the Preparation of Alumina	Including, Kaolin beneficiation, calcination, leach, ACH precipitation by HCl, ACH Purification, ACH Decomposition, alumina calcination	22/09/2017	Granted

*Source: Company filings*

## News

**HPA plant site layout and building design finalized:** On 6 November 2018, the company announced that it had finalized the site layout and building design for its proposed Malaysian HPA plant.

**Schedule of patent applications to protect Altech HPA process:** On 2 November 2018, the company provided an update on the numerous patent applications it has filed. So far, Altech has lodged 7 patent applications for the Altech HPA process. Five patent applications have been lodged in Australia, with one granted, and 2 have been lodged in Malaysia.

**Patent granted for kaolin to HPA production process:** On 16 October 2018, the company announced that it had received the Certificate of Grant for an innovation patent from the Australian Patent Office, for the company's process of producing HPA from kaolin.

**Mezzanine debt due diligence update:** On 10 October 2018, the company provided an update on the progress of detailed project due diligence. The independent adviser – Advisian – anticipated that the due diligence would be completed by November-end 2018, thus, resulting in a 4-month due diligence process.

**Official Geotech Survey at Johor HPA site well advanced:** On 5 September 2018, the company announced that it completed the geotechnical ground drilling and survey program. The work included an assessment of soil types, soil stability and a detailed assessment of site topography.

**Official ground-breaking ceremony at Johor HPA site:** The company completed official ground-breaking ceremony on 8 August 2018, which, led to the commencement of Stage 1 construction of its HPA plant at Johor, Malaysia.

**Share Purchase Plan raised AUD 4.3 million:** The company received an extremely positive response from existing shareholders for AUD 4.3 million of new shares at an offer price of AUD 0.165 per share under the share purchase plan.

**Altech completed HPA site clearance works at Johor, Malaysia:** The company completed clearing the 4 Hectare (Ha) site for its proposed HPA plant in Johor, Malaysia. Site clearance commenced in early July followed by the execution of the Stage 1 construction agreement for the HPA plant with appointed German engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor, SMS group.

**Altech raised AUD 20 million to fund the construction of its plant in Malaysia:** In July 2018, the company announced that it has received positive commitments from various institutional and professional investors for a share placement of AUD 17 million. The company also stated that it will be offering a share purchase plan for the existing shareholders to raise AUD 3 million.

**Altech Chemicals signed USD 60 million stream finance facility for alumina project:** The company has signed an indicative non-binding term sheet for a USD 60 million stream finance facility for its proposed HPA project in Malaysia. The company has signed this stream finance facility with a US-based global investment group with USD 4.5 billion under management.

**Altech Chemicals deploying 'disruptive technology' that slashes HPA production costs:** Altech managing director Iggy Tan stated that the company is following a different process that is disruptive and found that the cost of production is nearly one third of the traditional cost.

**Altech ideally positioned to capitalize on forecast increase in HPA demand:** The total HPA demand is expected to reach 92,473 tpa in 2025 on average basis, which is equivalent to approximately 20 plants at 4,500 tpa.

**Altech made final installments for Johor HPA site:** Altech paid the final installments totaling AUD 5.1 million for 4 Ha of industrial land within the Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex, Johor, Malaysia.

**Altech received first Mezzanine Debt Term Sheet:** Altech received mezzanine debt term sheet for up to USD 120 million from an international bank, for its proposed Malaysian HPA plant and associated Kaolin Western Australia Project.

**Altech completed purchase of Meckering mining lease freehold land:** Altech's wholly owned subsidiary Altech Meckering Pty Ltd has completed the purchase of approximately 92 hectares of freehold land covering its granted mining lease M70/1334, at Meckering, Western Australia.

**Altech advanced final stage of project financing:** On 2 February 2018, Altech announced that it will be getting a senior debt package of USD 190 million from German government-owned KfW IPEX-Bank as the company executed a commitment letter together with agreed terms and conditions to formalize this debt package.

**Altech filed new provisional patent application:** Altech Chemicals Limited lodged a new provisional patent application with the Australian Patent Office, which incorporates the finished product HPA technology developed by it for its HPA project. The new patent application integrates various refinements made to the company's HPA processing route during project due diligence, and incorporates the company's latest invention, the flexible finished product line that is capable of producing HPA products for both the synthetic sapphire industry and HPA for the lithium-ion battery industry.

**Manufacturing License approved for HPA plant:** Altech got the approval of a manufacturing license from Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) for its 4,500 tons HPA plant at Johor, Malaysia.

**Export credit cover increased to USD 170MM:** On 20 December 2017, Altech announced that German government-owned KfW IPEX-Bank approved the credit facility for a total project finance debt package of USD 190 mn for its HPA project. The increase in finance package than the initial proposed USD 185 mn amount signified strong scope of the project and was due to increase in Export Credit component of the project from USD 165 mn to USD 170 mn. Altech found the proposed debt package attractive, and along with KfW IPEX-Bank as the sole lender, planned to execute a formal loan facility agreement.

**Optimistic IMC decision for Export Credit Cover:** On 15 December 2017, Altech announced the positive decision of a German Government inter-ministerial committee (IMC), pertaining to the company's project finance export credit cover application. It also emphasized the fact that this "offer for cover" would be beneficial for the HPA project.

**SMS approves USD 15 mn equity investment in Altech:** On 9 November 2017, Altech announced the approval of an additional USD 11 mn equity investment by SMS. It would make the total commitment of USD 15 mn, subject to financial closure of targeted USD 185 mn of debt, which was to be accomplished during the first half of 2018. The involvement of SMS, Altech's lead EPC contractor as appointed on 16 May 2017, instilled confidence and support for the company.

**Successful share placement of AUD 17 mn:** On 27 October 2017, Altech announced the successful fund raising of AUD 17.2 mn through share placement of around 122.9 mn fully paid ordinary shares at an issue price of AUD 0.14 per share for the development of its HPA project. The placement included contribution from both the SMS group and the Melewar Group with a commitment of AUD 5.1 mn and AUD 3.0 mn, respectively, subject to shareholder approval at the company's annual general meeting (AGM), held on 30 November 2017.

**Positive FIDS:** On 23 October 2017, Altech announced the affirmative outcome of the FIDS for the 4,500tpa HPA plant at Johor, Malaysia, and kaolin mine at Meckering, Western Australia. The financials depicted robust metrics, projecting NPV of USD 505.6 mn at a discount rate of 7.5%, with a payback of 3.9 years, annual EBITDA of USD 75.7 mn, IRR of 21.9% and a gross margin of 63% at full production. The HPA price assumptions are based on the forward HPA price curves generated by ATC commissioned Persistence Market Research. Considering a conservative stance, the weighted average HPA price is calculated at USD 26.9/kg over a 30-year project life. KfW IPEX-Bank proposed a revised total target debt

of USD 185 mn; of which USD 165 mn was expected to be ECA cover, subject to approval of export credit cover by IMC on 14 December 2017. The balance of USD 20MM was to be 5-year tenure commercial loan.

**Completion of 4,500tpa HPA plant layout:** On 20 October 2017, Altech announced the finalization of design for upgraded capacity from 4,000tpa HPA to 4,500tpa HPA for its Malaysian HPA plant. Altech also optimized the plant process flow sheet, along with the SMS group, incorporating a flexible finished product line capable of producing HPA for both the synthetic sapphire industry (up to 4,500tpa of high-density pellets) and HPA for the lithium-ion battery industry (up to 1,500tpa of powder at sub-micron particle size), resulting in maximum plant output at 4,500tpa HPA.

**Option exercised for purchase of Meckering land:** On 17 October 2017, Altech announced the exercise of its option to purchase the 94 hectares of land at Meckering, Western Australia, which included the fully permitted kaolin mining lease, containing an estimated kaolin mineral resource of 12.7MMT at 29.5% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, encompassing an estimated kaolin ore reserve of 1.224MMT at 30% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Feedstock for the Malaysian HPA plant was to be sourced from kaolin ore, where the mining activities of approximately 140,000 tons of Kaolin in two-month mining campaigns, once every three years, were planned. Initially, the kaolin was planned to be stockpiled and then loaded into shipping containers at approximately 43,500tpa and shipped to Malaysia weekly. Altech's Mining Permit M70/1334 was approved on 14 March 2017. The approval for construction of the Kaolin screening and loading facility was granted in August 2017 and could move ahead subject to finance.

**Altech set target date for export credit finance:** On 15 September 2017, Altech announced the target date of 14 December 2017 for decision making by the German Government's inter-ministerial committee (IMC) for the application of export credit project finance. An affirmative decision of the SMS group & KfW IPEX-Bank ECA application would result in legally binding offer of cover by the Federal Republic of Germany for securing debt portion of the funding requirements for HPA project and subsequently to secure equity investments. All due diligence consultants committed to submit final reports to the expert opinion consultant by mid-October 2017, to enable submission of the expert opinion report by 9 November 2017.

**Work approval granted for Meckering Kaolin deposit:** On 30 August 2017, Altech announced the approval of screening and loading facility at Meckering Kaolin deposit (M70/1334) as granted by the DWER on 25 August 2017. After the approval, the construction of Kaolin screening and loading facility infrastructure was permitted, which was to be located adjacent to the proposed Run of Mine stockpile. Mined Kaolin ore was to be screened to a size of <12mm via a trommel screening unit.

**SMS group appointed as the new EPC contractor:** On 18 July 2017, Altech announced the transition of EPC from its previously appointed EPC contractor M+W Group to the SMS group for its Malaysian HPA plant. SMS guaranteed that it would strengthen Altech's export credit project finance cover application and mitigate project risk. Key engineering personnel would be available to assist SMS/Altech team to ensure complete information transfer. Inspection of the site was secured by SMS's project team to Johor, Malaysia and it was expected to finalize the EPC capital cost estimate by the end of September 2017.

## Listing Information

Altech was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX- ATC) in Australia on 27 January 2010 as Australian Minerals and Mining Group. It was also listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (FRA- A3Y) in Germany on 4 April 2017.

## Contacts

<b>Head office</b>	Suite 8, 295 Rokeby Road, Subiaco, WA, 6008, Australia
<b>Telephone</b>	+61 (08) 6168 1555
<b>Facsimile</b>	+61 (08) 6168 1551
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:info@altechchemicals.com">info@altechchemicals.com</a>

## Major Shareholders

Equity Holder	No. of ordinary shares held (mn)	Percentage shareholding
SMS Investments S A	38.9	6.81
MAA Group Bhd	33.1	5.77
Lake Macleod Gypsum P/L	22.4	3.90
Melewar Int Inv Co	17.9	3.13
Morgan Stanley Australia Securities Ltd	13.8	2.41
Atkins Luke Frederick	10.1	1.76
Tenardi Daniel Lewis	7.8	1.36
Tan Ignatius Kim - Seng	7.7	1.35
Chang Si Fock	6.5	1.14
Gwynvill Trading Pty Ltd	6.1	1.07

*Source: Bloomberg as on December 04, 2018*

## Management and Governance

Personnel	Designation	Current and total experience
<b>Luke Frederick Atkins LLB</b>	<b>Non-Executive Chairman</b>	Mr. Atkins is a lawyer and has significant experience in the areas of capital raisings, mining, exploration, and corporate governance. Formerly, he was the Executive Chairman of Bauxite Resources Ltd (BRL), where he successfully negotiated as third party to access funding, joint venture partnerships, land and infrastructure. He has held a number of executive and non-executive positions of private and public companies including a number of mining and exploration companies. He is also a Non-Executive Director of BRL.
<b>Iggy Tan B.Sc MBA GAICD</b>	<b>Managing Director</b>	Mr. Tan has more than 30 years of chemical and mining experience in various aspects including capital raisings, funding, construction, start-ups and operations. He holds an MBA from the University of Southern Cross, a BSc from the University of Western Australia and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has been involved in commissioning and start-up of seven resource projects in Australia and overseas, including high purity technology projects, making him an accomplished project builder and developer. Previously, he had held positions of MD at Nickelore Limited, Galaxy Resources Limited and Kogi Iron Limited. At Galaxy, he played a key role in fund raising, construction and start-up of Mt Cattlin spodumene mine and the Jiangsu lithium carbonate plant, which resulted in Galaxy becoming the world's leading producer of high purity lithium carbonate. Currently, he is responsible for managing and implementing the next stage of the company's strategic business objectives, which include the commercialization of the HPA project.
<b>Shane Volk BBus (Acc), GradDip (ACG), CSA</b>	<b>Company Secretary &amp; Chief Financial Officer</b>	Mr. Volk is a qualified Chartered Secretary and has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He has significant experience in accounting and corporate governance of Australian and international mining operations. He has worked previously in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Australia across various mining-related verticals such as exploration, operations, business development and corporate governance. Formerly, he was the CFO and company secretary for African Iron Ltd, Emerson Resources Limited, and Kogi Iron Limited.
<b>Daniel Lewis Tenardi</b>	<b>Non-Executive Director</b>	Mr. Tenardi has over 40 years of experience as mining executive for various commodities, including iron ore, gold, bauxite, and copper. He previously worked with Alcoa for around 15 years at its bauxite mines in Western Australia and Kwinana refinery. He gained a substantial amount of gold mining experience at Roche Mining at the Kalgoorlie Superpit and at Anglo Gold Ashanti's Sunrise Dam. Subsequently, he was part of executive management at Rio Tinto's Robe River Iron Associates and their East Pilbara Division and was later appointed as a Director of Robe River Iron Associates. He also held the positions of General Manager of Operations and Chief Operating Manager at CITIC Pacific Mining. He was the MD at Bauxite Resources Ltd, where he drove the rapid development of the company from its initial exploration phase, expansion of land holdings, to the commencement of trial shipments and securing strong key associations with Chinese partners.
<b>Peter Bailey</b>	<b>Non-Executive Director</b>	Mr. Bailey is a qualified engineer with over 40 years' experience in the mining and industrial mineral production industry, dealing with various industries including iron ore mining, bauxite mining, zinc-lead-copper mining, alumina refining and alumina chemicals industries, respectively. He has an electrical engineering degree from the University of London. In 1996, he was the President of Alcoa Bauxite and Alumina; was responsible for Alcoa's eight alumina plants outside of Australia. He was also the chairman of the Alcoa Bauxite joint venture in Guinea, Africa. He became the President of Alcoa Worldwide Chemicals' industrial chemicals department in 1998. He played a key role in Alcoa's worldwide chemicals business, which comprised of 13 plants across eight countries. Subsequently, he was appointed as the CEO of Sherwin Alumina, an alumina refinery based in Texas, US.

<p><b>Tunku Yaacob Khyra</b></p>	<p><b>Non-Executive Director</b></p>	<p>Mr. Tunku holds a BSc in Economics and Accounting from City University, London. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England &amp; Wales and a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants. He started off as an Auditor with Price Waterhouse, London from 1982 to 1985 and subsequently joined Price Waterhouse Kuala Lumpur from 1986 to 1987. He later joined Malaysian Assurance Alliance Berhad in 1987 and retired as its Chief Executive Officer in 1999. He is the Executive Chairman of the Melewar Khyra Group of Companies. He sits on the Boards of Khyra Legacy Berhad, Mycron Steel Berhad, MAA Group Berhad, Melewar Industrial Group Berhad, Ithmaar Bank B.S.C. and several other private companies.</p>
<p><b>Uwe Ahrens</b></p>	<p><b>Alternate Director</b></p>	<p>Mr. Uwe holds a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration from the Technical University Darmstadt, Germany. He started his career from KOCH Transporttechnik GmbH in Germany and later he held a senior management position for 12 years, working mainly in Germany, US and South Africa. In 1997, he was the General Manager of KOCH in South East Asia based in Kuala Lumpur and became its Managing Director in 1999. Later, he joined Melewar Group in 2002 and is currently the chief technical officer of the Melewar group of companies, executive director of Melewar Industrial Group Berhad and managing director of Melewar Integrated Engineering Sdn Bhd. He also sits on the boards of several other private companies.</p>

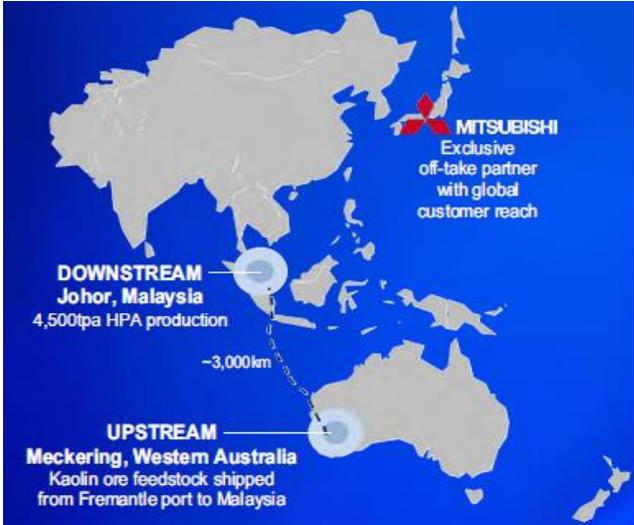
## Assets and Projects

Listed on ASX, Altech is a HPA processing company with the objective of becoming one of the world’s leading suppliers of 99.99% (4N) HPA (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>). It is the first fully integrated HPA production company globally and is in the advanced stage of commencing construction of a new HPA plant and starting production. It owns the Meckering Kaolin Deposit in Western Australia and intends to build the HPA plant at a secured site in Johor, Malaysia.

The company has completed a BFS and FIDS for the construction and operation of a 4,500tpa HPA (4,000tpa previously) plant at Tanjung Langsat, Malaysia. The plant will produce HPA directly using kaolin clay feedstock sourced from Meckering. Altech will employ “off-the-shelf” plant and equipment to extract HPA using a hydrochloric acid- based process.

Along with completion of the plant process flow sheet optimization, Altech has appointed German EPC contractor SMS group GmbH (SMS).

### Company’s Asset Portfolio

Altech Kaolin Deposit and Processing Plant	Project overview
 <p><b>UPSTREAM</b> Meckering, Western Australia Kaolin ore feedstock shipped from Fremantle port to Malaysia</p> <p><b>DOWNSTREAM</b> Johor, Malaysia 4,500tpa HPA production</p> <p>~3,000km</p> <p><b>MITSUBISHI</b> Exclusive off-take partner with global customer reach</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h3>High Purity Alumina (HPA)</h3> </div> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Malaysia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Target Commodity: High Purity Alumina (HPA)</li> <li>•Interest - 100%</li> </ul>
<p>Source: Company filings</p>	<p>Source: Company filings</p>

### Project

**Company’s interest in the project:** 100%-owned kaolin deposit at Meckering, Western Australia.

**Asset Summary:** Altech aspires to be one of the world’s leading suppliers of 99.99% (4N) HPA. The company owns a site where a 4,500tpa HPA plant will be built in Malaysia. The HPA plant will procure the required feedstock from the company-owned Meckering Kaolin (clay) deposit via road transport to the port of Fremantle and then shipped to Malaysia.

### Target Commodity: HPA

**Location:** Located over private freehold farmland which is 140km east of Perth and 8km south-east of Meckering in Western Australia, the kaolin deposit will supply the feedstock required for the proposed HPA processing plant in Malaysia to produce 99.99% (4N) HPA.

The plant site at Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex is situated 40km to the south-east of the city of Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

## Meckering Kaolin Deposit

**Geological interpretation:** The kaolin deposit will be open pit mined and an initial 30-year mine life has been designed. It is anticipated that around 1.2MMT of the 12.7MMT kaolin mineral resource will be mined in 30 years over 10 discrete mining campaigns.

Kaolin's prospective Indicated Mineral Resources is 11MMT @ 82.7% ISO brightness (JORC 2012). The updated Mineral Resource is 11MMT of Kaolin clay containing 45% minus 45 micron clay with a brightness of 82.7% (ISO standard), which has been classified as Indicated. The estimates of mineral resources are done using an 80% brightness cut-off and a 30% minus 45-micron cut-off and is in accordance with JORC 2012.

The Meckering Kaolin deposit has low impurities, particularly iron and sodium, which makes it an ideal feedstock for hydrochloric acid processing to HPA.

**Mineralization:** In October 2016, the company announced a maiden ore reserve (JORC 2012) of 1.2MMT @ 30% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the minus 300-micron fraction with a cut-off grade of 25% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. This is considered to be sufficient HPA plant feedstock supply for an initial 30-year mine-life. The Ore Reserve is within the mineral resource which is 12.7MMT at 30% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The currently known mineral resource could support the HPA processing operation for >250 years.

The tables below highlight the mineral resource estimation and ore reserves for the HPA project:

Resource estimate	Tonnage (MMT)	Minus 300µm Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (%)
Measured	1.5	30.0
Indicated	3.3	30.0
Inferred	7.9	29.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>29.5</b>

Ore Reserve estimate	Tonnage (MMT)	Yield % of minus 300	Minus 300 µm Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (%)
Proved	0.45	69	30.1
Probable	0.75	71	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30.0</b>

## Ore Movement and Loading Facility

The conventional open pit mined ore will be stockpiled on the ROM stockpile situated adjacent to the container loading facility. The loading facility is located just south of the mining operation. The mine is planned to include a small site office, crib room and toilet facilities. Raw kaolin is to be transported from the ROM stockpile with a front-end loader put through a trommel screen designed to reject material over 12mm. Undersize material is to be stored in a loading shed.

### Meckering screening/loading facility site layout



Source: Company filings

The container loading facility is anticipated to run for 3,120 hours per year (h/y), based on 5 day, 12hour shift operation. Overall, 43,538 t/y of raw material are planned to be loaded into sea containers.

The container loading facility is planned to be a two-man operation, and it is to operate at 2,210 h/y, based on a 5 d/w at 12-hour per shift and 96% capacity utilization. Around 36 containers, each with capacity of approximately 22 (T) of Kaolin will be loaded and transported per week.

## Malaysian HPA Processing Plant

Standard sea containers will be shipped to Tanjung Pelepas port, Johor, Malaysia. Once they arrive at Tanjung Pelepas, the loaded containers will be either stored at the port, or will directly be moved to Altech's proposed HPA plant site.

The proposed HPA plant site is to be established within the Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex of Johor, Malaysia as per the 30-year lease agreement with a 30-year renewal option with Johor Corporation.

The Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex is located approximately 40km to the south-east of the city of Johor Bahru. The strategic position of the company's HPA plant site was chosen for its proximity to hydrochloric acid and quicklime plants – all required consumables for the HPA plant. Additionally, the location has access to reticulated natural gas, high voltage power and access to processing water.

In November 2016, a local site office was opened for the Malaysian subsidiary Altech Chemicals Sdn Bhd., located within the Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex. The site office serves as the temporary base for visiting EPC engineers working on the HPA project's detailed design along with various contractors involved in soil survey drilling (as part of the civil engineering design requirements) at the HPA plant site, throughout the year.

Currently, the company has finalized the site layout and building design for its HPA plant in Malaysia. The layout incorporates results from the recently completed site geotechnical survey and feedback from pre-construction consultation meetings between SMS group GmbH, local authorities, and Malaysian permitting consultant – WKL & Associates. The final design is the basis for the submission of a development order application and the commencement of Stage 1 construction.



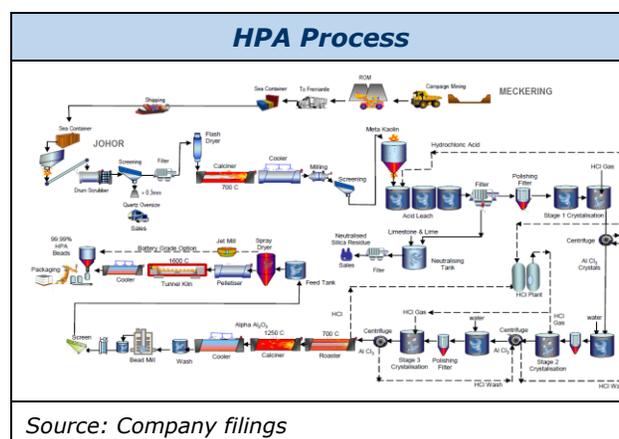
**Altech's HPA Process:** Altech's HPA process utilizes hydrochloric acid leach. The process has the following steps:

- simple recovery of acid
- natural low-impurity ore feedstock

- calcination to alpha HPA
- micronization to product requirement

This processing technique is advantageous as it allows for simple recovery of acid which is reusable at the front-end of the process therefore reducing operating costs.

This process is a conventional, proven and robust chemical process and has been in existence since the early 1980s. This process is suitable for Altech's aluminous clay deposit. The raw material contains lower levels of impurities; hence the high-quality feedstock aids the production of a very pure alumina product, providing the company a competitive advantage among peers.



Altech's process exhibits strict control over product characteristics such as purity, size and crystal structure. The company's design philosophy involves minimizing technology risk by utilizing proven off-the-shelf equipment avoiding prototypes, for example:

- Conventional leaching technology
- Use of standard rotary kilns
- Off-the-shelf evaporative crystallizers used in the chemical industry

The design of the process is carried out in a way to meet all stringent environmental standards and limits associated with Malaysian standards.

**FIDS:** On 29 June 2015, a BFS was completed and this was recently updated to a FIDS in October 2017. The successful completion of the FIDS provided vital support in achieving construction finance and ongoing capital requirements.

All the major aspects, such as final capital cost estimate, a fixed-price lump-sum EPC contract value for construction of the HPA plant by the consortium led by SMS and a fixed-price lump-

sum EPC contract value for construction of the Meckering Kaolin container loading facility by Perth-based Simulus Engineering Pty Ltd are covered under FIDS estimates.

Altech has accomplished the significant milestone of extensive lender due diligence process, thereby de-risking the project considerably.

FIDS financial metrics are extremely robust as they have considered the fact that the company has managed to get the final fixed-price lump-sum EPC contract that includes completion guarantee, throughput and process/quality guarantees, as a remarkable outcome.

- Pre-tax NPV<sub>7.5</sub> USD 505 mn
- Internal Rate of Return (IRR) 22%
- Payback (full rate) 3.9 years
- EBITDA USD 76 mn per annum
- Capital cost USD 298 mn
- Total target debt of USD 185 mn
- Production costs – USD 9.90/kg
- Avg. sale price – USD 26.9/kg
- Gross Margin – 63%

German government-owned KfW IPEX-Bank has found the capital and operating costs assumed in FIDS to be reasonable. Altech's project finance debt is being funded by German government-owned KfW IPEX-Bank, with the below details:

- Target total debt of USD 190 mn
- USD 170 mn export credit finance
- 50% of plant – German suppliers
- Low interest, long tenure
- Export Credit Approval date 20 December 2017

**Off-take agreement with Mitsubishi:** The off-take agreement is a follow-on step to a previous deal with Mitsubishi, which dealt with the sales and distribution of Altech's HPA within Japan only. After the prior deal, further discussions led to the appointment of Mitsubishi as the exclusive buyer and global distributor for all of Altech's HPA production.

Signing an exclusive off-take agreement with Mitsubishi Australia Ltd. as the exclusive off-taker, backed by the Mitsubishi Corporation, has positive implications:

- Firstly, it is considered to be a **strong vote of confidence for the project from Mitsubishi.**

Along with this, Mitsubishi maintains long-term relationships with customers from around the world in virtually every industry, including energy, metals, machinery, chemicals, food and general merchandise. Hence, this association provides **support in making projects and partnering** toward realization of the targets and the objective of becoming the world's largest and lowest-cost producer of HPA.

This alliance was a major step towards **securing project financing on favorable terms.** A signed purchase commitment for 100% of production in the initial 10 years reduces the commercial risk of the project. This assisted in demonstrating to banks and other potential project financiers that every ton of HPA produced in the first 10 years will be purchased. With this, Altech achieved a significant de-risking milestone.

The off-take sales agreement with Mitsubishi is scheduled to commence on the date of first shipment of the final HPA product.

**Approvals granted:** Below are the approvals received by Altech:

*A. Meckering approvals:* All the statutory WA state Government approvals required for the commencement of mining at the Meckering kaolin mine have been obtained during 2017.

- In December 2016, the company submitted a mining proposal and mine closure plan for Mining Lease M70/1334 which was approved by the WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) in March 2017.
- Altech also submitted a works approval application pertaining to the kaolin screening and loading facility and consequently was granted by the DWER in August 2017.
- Altech also submitted a works approval application pertaining to the kaolin screening and loading facility and consequently was granted by the DWER in August 2017.
- Altech has to consider the Native Title and Aboriginal heritage aspects of the proposed mine however; the Mining Lease M70/1334 does not contain any registered sites under Section 5(b) or 5(c) of the Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA) and it is not required to request approval by the

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs under Section 18 of the AHA in order to proceed with the works.

**B. Johor approvals:** The approvals granted to the company are:

- The Department of Environment, Johor (DOE) has approved the Preliminary Site Assessment for the HPA plant at a production rate of 4,500tpa, signifying the proposed location of the HPA plant at Tanjung Langsat and the related proposed activity are compatible with gazette structures, local plans, surrounding land use, set-back provisions or buffer zones and waste disposal requirements.
- The DOE has also advised that an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for the HPA plant, as the processing capacity of the plant is less than 100 tons per day.
- International environmental standards, along with the standards of the Malaysian Environmental Quality Act (EQA) 1974, are to be met as per the proposed HPA plant's design.

**Project Schedule:** The project schedule for the HPA process plant in Malaysia is:

- 18 months are reserved for construction of the Meckering screening/container loading plant. This duration also includes six months for equipment procurement and delivery.
- 24 months are set aside for construction of the HPA plant in Malaysia with five months for commissioning.
- The schedule also includes a total of 20 months for equipment procurement, manufacture and delivery.
- Approximately 30 months have been allotted for activities such as installation of underground utilities, site infrastructure and landscaping at the plant site.

As per the FIDS, full production of 4,500tpa HPA at a grade of 99.99% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (4N) is expected to be achieved in Year 3 of operations, while HPA production is scheduled to commence in 2020.

The major project phases are;

- Engineering Phase – Project Months 1 to 14
- Procurement Phase – Project Months 5 to 25
- Construction Phase – Project Months 7 to 31

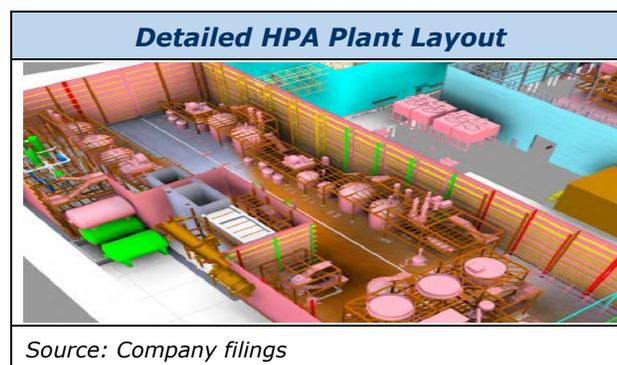
- Commissioning & Start-up Phase – Project Months 25 to 39

An Altech team is planned to manage the plant operations.

**Recent developments:**

**A. Detailed Design of HPA Plant:** Altech dedicated 2017 towards significant detailed design and engineering work on the Malaysian HPA plant.

This detailed design work for the HPA plant generated the final construction cost and EPC contract value which was incorporated into the company's application for German-government export credit agency (ECA) project dealing with debt finance cover.



The plant layout and building design has been finalized.

**B. Patent granted for kaolin to HPA production process:** On 16 October 2018, Australian Patent Office granted the Certificate of Grant for an Innovation Patent, for the company's process of producing HPA from kaolin.

**C. Due diligence update on mezzanine debt:** On 10 October 2018, Altech provided an update on the mezzanine debt term sheet for a drawdown facility of USD 90 mn from a global investment bank for its proposed Malaysian HPA project. Advisian – the appointed independent technical adviser – stated that the due diligence would be expected to be completed by November-end of 2018, thus resulting in a 4-month due diligence process. Once the due diligence is complete, the next step for both the proposed mezzanine lender and the stream finance facility provider would be to present the project to the respective internal investment committees for final approval.

**D. EPC Contracts to SMS group:** On 16 May 2017, Altech announced appointment of German engineering firm SMS group as EPC contractor for the construction of its Malaysian HPA plant.

SMS provided a fixed-price lump-sum EPC contract value via a consortium led by SMS for the construction of the Malaysian HPA plant.

Further, SMS has agreed to clear and concise guarantee with liquidated damages provisions and throughput and process/quality guarantees supported by a substantial performance bond to Altech. Also, SMS has proposed process and final product guarantees based on its prior experience with Kaolin-HPA hydrogen chloride processing, hence strengthening Altech's export credit project finance cover application and significantly mitigating project risk. This SMS EPC contract also facilitates entire coverage of the capital costs of the Malaysian HPA plant.

**E. Works Approval granted for Meckering Kaolin deposit:** On 25 August 2017, DWER granted approval for Altech's application for the proposed kaolin screening and loading facility at the Meckering kaolin deposit (M70/1334).

This allows the construction of the proposed Kaolin screening and loading facility infrastructure, to be positioned within Altech's granted mining lease, approximately 86 Ha in size, adjacent to the proposed ROM stockpile.

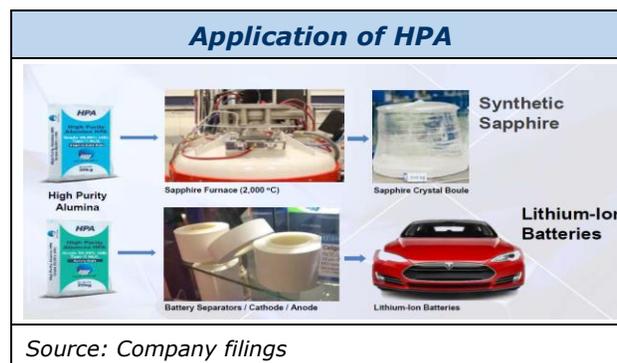
**F. Altech finalizes 4,500tpa HPA plant design:** The company finalized the upgraded design for the increase in capacity of the planned Malaysian HPA plant from 4,000 tpa to 4,500 tpa.

Altech completed the optimization of the plant process flow sheet, while working with its appointed German EPC contractor SMS. Most of the changes encompassed the newly introduced flexible finished product line capable of producing HPA for both the synthetic sapphire industry (up to 4,500tpa of high density pellets) and the lithium-ion battery industry (up to 1,500tpa of powder at sub-micron particle size).

According to the plan, both the products will be bagged via an automated bagging machine.

- **Sapphire Grade 4N HPA:** Altech's proposed synthetic sapphire grade HPA product is 4N (99.99%) HPA ( $Al_2O_3$ ) in the form of high-density beads of around 3mm-4mm each in size. The target loose bulk density of Altech's high-density beads is around 2.2 Tons per cubic meter ( $t/m^3$ ).
- **Lithium-ion battery grade 4N HPA:** The objective is to produce ultra-fine HPA used in

the lithium-ion battery sector. The demand of lithium-ion batteries with separator sheets coated with 99.99% (4N) HPA is going high as a result of advances in the electric vehicle industry.



**G. Successful AUD 17MM share placement:**

In Q4 2017, the company completed a AUD 17.2 mn share placement. The placement was underwritten by SMS group with a USD 4.0 mn (AUD 5.1 mn) subscription, and an AUD 3.0 mn subscription from major Malaysian shareholder, the Melewar Group.

The proceeds will continue to be utilized for the development of its HPA project. It includes payments for land at the project sites in WA and Malaysia, detailed engineering design, working capital and general corporate purposes.

**H. SMS commits further USD 11 mn equity support:** SMS group approved an additional equity investment of USD 11 mn in Altech.

As of November 2017, Altech had a total of USD 15 mn equity support from the SMS group. It demonstrated SMS group's strong assurance and commitment to Altech and its HPA project.

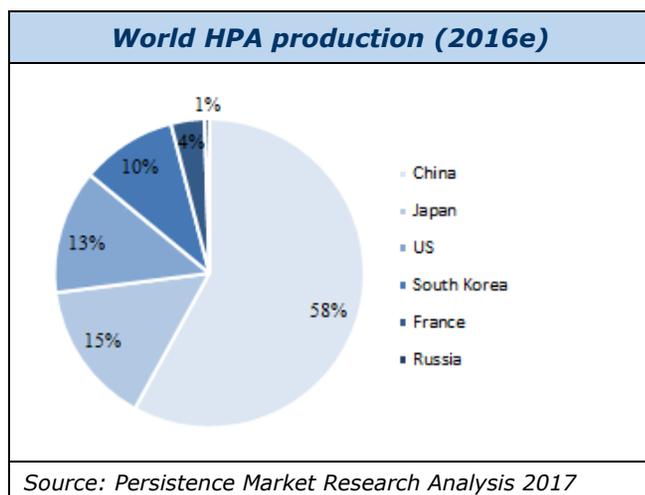
## Technologies and Markets

### High Purity Alumina (HPA)

**Chemistry and Properties:** HPA, a high-end product of the non-metallurgical alumina market, is a high-value, white, granular chemical.

**Production:** HPA is commercially produced by treating aluminum with specific chemicals or by use of others aluminous feed stock. Various production processes include alkoxide process, thermal decomposition process, choline hydrolysis process and modified Bayer process. The product types include 4N HPA – 99.99% Purity; 5N HPA – 99.999% Purity; and 6N HPA – 99.9999% Purity.

Total global production of HPA amounted to 25.4 Kilo Tons (KT), with China accounting for 58%, followed by Japan, US and South Korea with 15%, 13% and 10%, respectively. Top seven HPA producers contribute to nearly 63% of the global market volume.



**Applications:** HPA is used as a base material in manufacture of sapphire substrates with various applications such as scratch-resistant artificial sapphire glass, LEDs, semiconductor wafers, and lithium-ion battery separator coatings. HPA is also used as an input in manufacture of automotive sensors, ceramics, abrasives, dental implants.

**Demand:** Increasing demand from application in electronics industry coupled with that from some of the other relatively smaller applications such as lithium-ion battery, sapphire glass for optical applications such as lenses, optical windows, mobile screens are some of the factors that are expected to fuel growth of the HPA market. A large

portion of surge in HPA demand is driven by the lithium-ion battery sector. As per the information provided by Altech, there has been a shift by lithium-ion battery manufacturers to the use of HPA coated battery separators during the June-ended quarter.

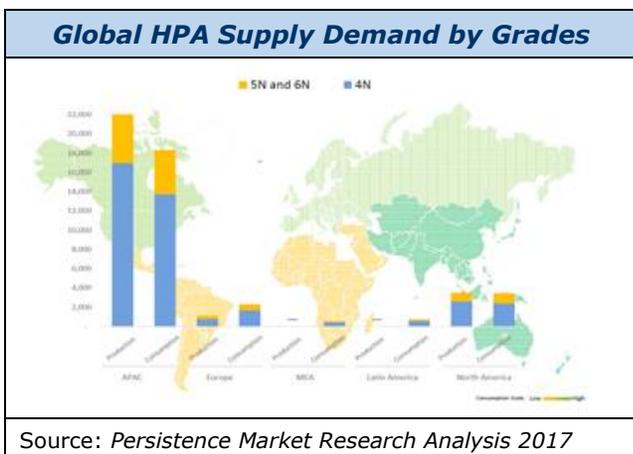
As per Persistence, the total HPA demand by 2025 would be 62,519 tpa whereas Petra Capital and CRU estimated the HPA demand 122,000 tpa and 92,900 tpa, respectively. The average estimate of total HPA demand is 92,473 tpa by 2025, which is approximately equivalent to 20 proposed Altech plants producing 4,500 tpa.

#### Total HPA Demand forecast by 2025

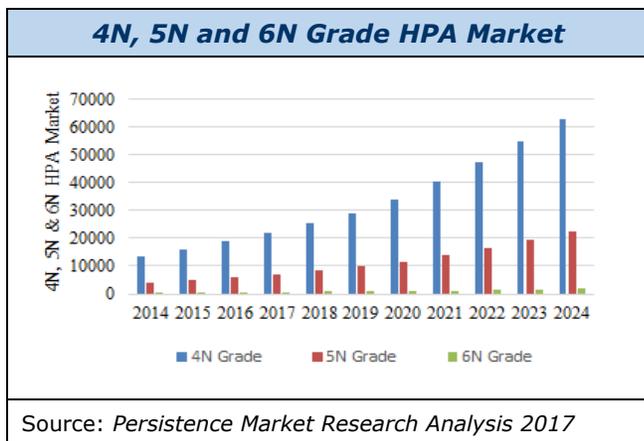
Organisation	Total HPA Demand tpa 2025	Equivalent Number of Altech Plants
Persistence	62,519tpa	14 x
Petra Capital	122,000tpa	27 x
CRU Consulting	92,900tpa	20 x
Average	92,473tpa	20 x

**Supply:** Global sales of HPA, valued at USD 970.8 mn in 2016, and are projected to increase at a CAGR of 11.2% to be valued at USD 2,267.4MM by 2024.

Asia Pacific dominated the overall market in 2015 with over 72% share. North America ranked second, accounting for over 14% market share, followed by Europe with 9% in 2015. Meanwhile, Asia Pacific is anticipated to be the fastest growing region, both in terms of value and volume, during the forecast period.



In 2015, 4N was the largest product segment, accounting for 74.2% share of the overall market, while the remaining 23.3% and 2.5% market shares were held by 5N and 6N product segments, respectively.



**LEDs:** LED was the leading segment in 2015, accounting for 57% market share and was estimated to reach 61% share of the overall market by 2024. This segment's growth has been attributed to increasing demand for synthetic single crystal sapphire, used as a base substrate in the manufacture of LEDs. APAC region accounted for 42.4% share in overall global LED lighting market in 2015.

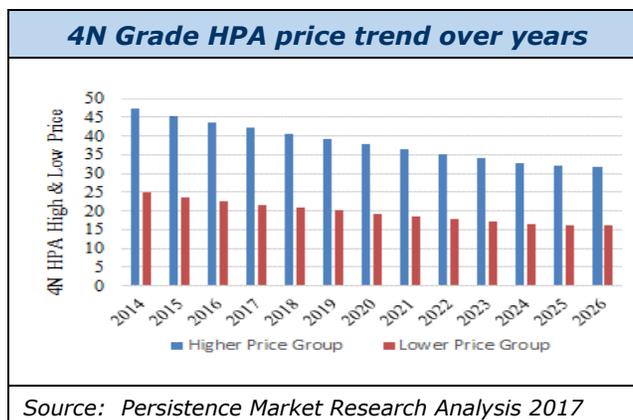
**Semiconductors:** Consumption of HPA for semiconductor application is expected to reach 17,271T, valued at USD 450.8 mn by 2024. Global semiconductor market is expected to register a steady YoY growth of around 6% to 7%.

**Phosphor:** Sales of HPA for phosphor applications is expected to be valued at USD 183.2 mn by 2024 end with CAGR of 7.2%.

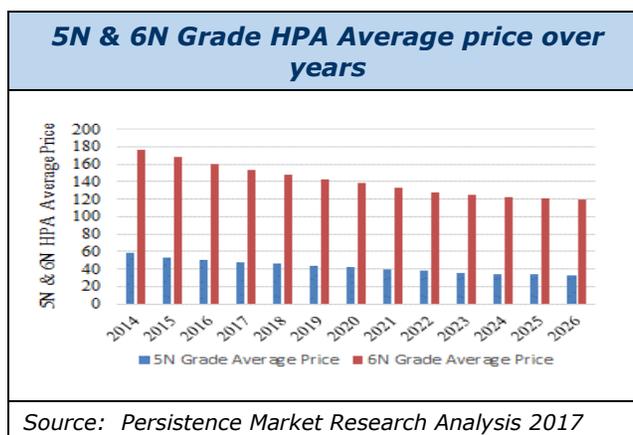
**Market Trends: Commodity Prices:** Pricing of HPA depends upon the product density, particle size distribution, and degree of purity. Processing costs are significantly higher for highly pure HPA.

Prices of smelter grade alumina range from around USD 0.4 per kg to USD 0.5 per kg, whereas those of 4N grade HPA are around USD 45 per kg.

Average price per kilogram for 4N grade HPA declined drastically from USD 60 and USD 33 in 2008 to USD 45.6 and USD 23.6 for high and low price groups respectively by 2015 end. Prices for 4N grade HPA product ranged from USD 40 per kg to USD 45 per kg of HPA as of mid-2017.



Weighted average price of 5N and 6N grade HPA stood at USD 51.0 per kg and USD 160 per kg in 2016.



Significant reduction in prices of HPA has been attributable to increased supply, capacity additions, existing capacity ramp-ups and proliferation of local companies, especially in China, offering relatively lower priced products and improvement and emergence of lower-cost alternative feedstock-based production processes.

## Project Risk Profile Analysis

Based on our analysis of the project stage, resource characteristics and management expertise, we believe that the HPA project has a LOW to MEDIUM Risk Profile.

### HPA Project – LOW to MEDIUM

#### Project Stage Risk – LOW to MEDIUM

- Meckering kaolin deposit has an ore reserve (JORC 2012) of 1.2MMT @ 30% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> with a cut-off grade of 25% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. It has mineral resources estimation of 12.7MMT @ 30% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> – which could support a long-life HPA processing operation.
- BFS on the kaolin deposit, released in March 2015, also suggested the economic feasibility of the mine. The financial and technical outcomes of the BFS have also been confirmed in the FIDS in October 2017.
- The HPA project is currently at the construction stage of its processing plant. There is an execution risk on production and commissioning.

Based on the above factors, we consider the HPA project to have a LOW to MEDIUM project risk.

#### Financing/Capex Risk – LOW to MEDIUM

- The company is continuously putting efforts to bring in sufficient investment to commence construction and production.
- The company has estimated its final capital costs to be USD 297.6 mn under FIDS in the near term.
- For the financing of the above capital, the company plans to have total debt of USD 190 mn from KfW IPEX-Bank – with USD 170 mn export credit finance and USD 20 mn at commercial terms.
- USD 15 mn of equity support from SMS group will also act as a strong catalyst to begin their operations.
- The off-take agreement with Mitsubishi for secured sales of 100% of 4,000tpa HPA production (intent for 4,500tpa) for the first 10 years of HPA operations is critical for the company to enter the market.

Based on the above factors, we consider the HPA project to have a LOW to MEDIUM financing risk profile.

Based on the above factors, we consider the HPA project to have a LOW to MEDIUM financing risk profile.

A delay in equity financing would significantly impede the company's production plans for starting up the production on time and further finance could be required for working capital requirements.

#### Operational Risk – LOW

- Altech owns 100% of the kaolin deposit in Western Australia. It is well connected to the road network, and is 140 km from the Fremantle port.
- The financial metrics from the FIDS are extremely robust. Project NPV is USD 505 mn at a discount rate of 7.5%, payback (at full rate) is 3.9 years and annual EBITDA is USD 7.6 mn at full production. IRR is estimated to be 22% with a gross margin on sales of 63%.
- Altech's mining permit M70/1334 was approved on 14 March 2017. The approval for construction of the Kaolin screening and loading facility was granted in August 2017 and could move ahead, subject to finance.
- Altech exercised the option to purchase Meckering freehold land over granted mining lease M70/1334.
- Furthermore, the project has no known regulatory or environmental interferences which will hamper the development.

Considering the above factors, we believe that the project has attractive operational characteristics. As such, we believe the project to have a LOW operational risk profile.

#### Key Personnel Risk – LOW

- The current management has experience in exploration, project development, mining operations and also in financing and construction.
- The management team have also been involved in the development of industrial and mining projects in Malaysia and other jurisdictions.

Considering the diversified experience of the management, we consider the project to have a LOW Key Personnel Risk profile.

## Risk Parameters – Definition

### Project Stage Risk

The following are the various stages of a project:

- **Early stage exploration:** In this stage, the exploration location is decided using a combination of various techniques such as samplings, drilling, geophysics, and other extensive geological and exploration services.
- **Pre-feasibility study:** A preferred base-case option is identified from the possible options available to the company. The preferred base-case option provides some level of confidence in the production capacity, ore grades, metal recovery, capital and operating costs, project schedule, and project risks/opportunities. A financial analysis is also carried out to assess the economic viability of the project.
- **Feasibility study:** This includes a collection of more detailed information, additional designs, and project-specific cost information to refine the project cost and schedule. It also addresses information gaps, issues of concern, risks, and opportunities identified in the advanced exploration stage.
- **Detailed engineering:** Detailed designs based on the project scope, concept designs, and the purchase of key plant equipment are completed.
- **Site construction:** Site construction starts as per the field engineering designs and is expected to confirm adherence to appropriate quality-control practices.
- **Commissioning and start of operations:** After the completion of construction, operability testing, and acceptance, the owner is asked to confirm if the project construction and performance are as per the design and meet the required plant performance and safety requirements. The final operating control programs are then completed, installed, and tested for functional efficiencies.

*High risk:* We consider a project to have high risk when it is in the initial stages of development and is yet to report a resource estimate on the prospect.

*Medium risk:* On the completion of a pre-feasibility report having initial evaluations of mine characteristics and other operational estimates like

capex and opex, project stage risk is reduced from high to medium.

*Low risk:* As the project advances to site construction and commissioning, the project stage risk is reduced further to the low risk category.

### Project Financing Risk

Initial stages of project development, including exploration and resource estimation, require higher levels of capital investment. Investments in the exploration stage can be riskier as the economic viability of deposit is not established. The risk level of the capital reduces as it advances through various exploration stages.

Initial stages of exploration and development of the project attract high-risk-capital investors. As the project stages proceed, the company has varied options such as equity (IPO) and debt financing, among others.

*High risk:* Companies in the initial stages of project development, without proper estimates on fund requirement and clear view on financing options, are considered to have high financing risk.

*Medium risk:* When a company has established reasonable estimates on fund requirement and has visibility on early funding for planned project milestones, it is estimated to have medium financing risk.

*Low risk:* When the company's fund requirements are clearly stated and has already secured adequate funding, the company has low financing risk.

### Operational Risk

Following are the various parameters considered to measure operational risk:

- **Geopolitical and Regulatory factors:** The locations of projects and their regulatory environments are key factors in acquiring licence and the subsequent development of the project. Obtaining necessary approvals can be time consuming, the delay of which could result in monetary losses, and operational delay.
- **Environmental factors:** The potential for environmental damage caused by mining activity and the likely cost to be covered by the company contribute to the economic viability of the project.

- **Mining technique:** The development plan for the mines, including the extraction methodology and the corresponding capex estimates, together define the operational efficiency of the project. The high quality of ore reserves (grade) and the ease for extraction provide higher return on investment and reduce the operational risk involved.
- **Geotechnical and other factors:** Mining machinery transportation, implementation of new technology for operations, and availability of power supply in areas with complicated geological and climatic conditions determine operational risks. Other risks include chances of flooding, pit slope, rim slide and accidents caused by the use of mining transport equipment in adverse weather conditions.

We consider a project based on all the above parameters and assign high/medium/low risk profiles in comparison with peers. Also, as the company moves to advanced stages, operational risk is reduced considerably.

*High risk:* The company has a high operational risk profile with assets that are in an early stage of

development and located in countries with regulatory uncertainties.

*Medium risk:* As the company progresses toward the acquisition of necessary licenses and environmental clearances, regulatory risks are reduced. Also, depending on the resource grade and the possible methodologies of extraction, an operational risk profile is assigned in comparison with peers.

*Low risk:* A company that is in the advanced stages of development has attractive project characteristics such as ore grade, capex, opex. NPV and IRR too have low operational risk profile.

### **Key Personnel Risk**

We consider a project to be of a lower risk profile if the management team is highly qualified, has good experience in the resource sector and has lower dependability on a few people. It is desirable that the company has independent directors on its board and does not rely heavily on a few individuals.

## Value

The Fair Market Value of Altech Chemicals Limited's shares stands between AUD 144.3 mn and AUD 304.7 mn.

The Fair Market Value for one of Altech Chemicals Limited's publicly traded shares stands between AUD 0.43 and AUD 0.91.

### Altech Chemicals Ltd. Balance Sheet Forecast

#### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

*all figures in 'AUD  
thousands, unless  
stated differently*

*High bracket estimates*

<i>year ending June 30</i>	<b>2019E</b>	<b>2020E</b>	<b>2021E</b>	<b>2022E</b>	<b>2023E</b>
Total Current Assets	247,836	19,574	49,758	90,856	171,755
Total Non-Current Assets	235,558	400,891	354,913	303,039	261,493
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>483,394</b>	<b>420,464</b>	<b>404,672</b>	<b>393,895</b>	<b>433,248</b>
Total Current Liabilities	3,409	3,572	20,376	13,779	15,867
Total Non-current Liabilities	472,261	472,261	463,928	430,363	384,298
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>475,670</b>	<b>475,834</b>	<b>484,304</b>	<b>444,142</b>	<b>400,165</b>
Total Shareholders' Equity	7,724	(55,369)	(79,632)	(50,246)	33,083
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES and EQUITY</b>	<b>483,394</b>	<b>420,464</b>	<b>404,672</b>	<b>393,895</b>	<b>433,248</b>

#### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

*all figures in 'AUD  
thousands, unless  
stated differently*

*Low bracket estimates*

<i>year ending June 30</i>	<b>2019E</b>	<b>2020E</b>	<b>2021E</b>	<b>2022E</b>	<b>2023E</b>
Total Current Assets	247,826	19,543	23,906	28,537	52,055
Total Non-Current Assets	235,558	400,891	354,913	303,039	261,493
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>483,384</b>	<b>420,434</b>	<b>378,819</b>	<b>331,576</b>	<b>313,548</b>
Total Current Liabilities	3,409	3,572	18,690	12,926	14,993
Total Non-current Liabilities	472,261	472,261	463,928	430,363	384,298
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>475,670</b>	<b>475,834</b>	<b>482,618</b>	<b>443,289</b>	<b>399,292</b>
Total Shareholders' Equity	7,714	(55,399)	(103,799)	(111,713)	(85,744)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES and EQUITY</b>	<b>483,384</b>	<b>420,434</b>	<b>378,819</b>	<b>331,576</b>	<b>313,548</b>

### Important information on Arrowhead methodology

The principles of the valuation methodology employed by Arrowhead BID are variable to a certain extent, depending on the sub-sectors in which the research is conducted. However, all Arrowhead valuation researches possess an underlying set of common principles and a generally common quantitative process. With Arrowhead commercial and technical due diligence, the company researches the fundamentals, assets and liabilities of a company, and builds estimates for revenue and expenditure over a coherently determined forecast period.

Elements of past performance such as price/earnings ratios, indicated as applicable, are mainly for reference. Still, elements of real-world past performance enter the valuation through their impact on the commercial and technical due diligence.

### Arrowhead BID Fair Market Value Bracket

The Arrowhead Fair Market Value is given as a bracket. This is based on quantitative key variable analyses such as key price analysis for revenue and cost drivers or analysis and discounts on revenue estimates for projects, especially relevant to projects estimated to provide revenue near the end of the chosen forecast period. Low and high estimates for key variables are produced as a valuation tool.

In principle, an investor comfortable with high brackets of our key variable analysis will align with the high bracket in the Arrowhead Fair Value Bracket, and, likewise, in terms of low estimates. The investor will also note the company's intangibles to analyze the strengths and weaknesses, and other essential company information. These intangibles serve as supplementary decision factors for adding or subtracting a premium in investor's own analysis.

The bracket should be taken as a tool by Arrowhead BID for the reader of this report and the reader should not solely rely on this information to make his decision on any particular security. The reader must also understand that while on the one hand global capital markets contain inefficiencies, especially in terms of information, on the other, corporations and their commercial and technical positions evolve rapidly. This present edition of the Arrowhead valuation is for a short-to medium-term alignment analysis (one to twelve months). The reader should refer to important disclosures on page 29 of this report.

### **Information on the Altech Chemicals Limited valuation**

**ATC Valuation Methodology:** The Arrowhead fair valuation of Altech is based on the NPV of its HPA project.

**Time horizon:** The Arrowhead fair valuation for Altech is based on a NPV method. The time period chosen for the valuation is the life of mine of 30 years. HPA production is expected to commence from FY 2020 with a ramp-up plan towards its full utilization in three years. The later years are heavily discounted and have a marginal effect on valuation, which are included primarily to present a full project cycle situation.

**Underlying business plan:** Altech is currently focused on bringing its HPA project into production to generate revenues.

**Prudential nature of valuation:** This Arrowhead Fair Value Bracket estimate is a relatively prudential estimate, as it is based on the company's current HPA project.

## Key variables in Altech Chemicals Limited revenue estimations

### Variable 1 – Hypothesis for production

We have considered production to be in line with company estimates, with a ramp up plan to be start with third year of production onwards.

The company targets to produce only the 4N grade from FY 2023 onwards.

HPA (Smelter Grade) and HPA 99.9 (3N) Production (tons)	2021	2022	
Low	275	75	
High	300	80	
HPA 99.99 (4N) Production (tons)	2021	2022	2023
Low	2,200	3,600	4,250
High	2,400	3,840	4,500

### Variable 2 – Commodity Price

We have estimated the commodity prices based on current FIDS report. As per FIDS, the lower estimate is to be weighted average HPA price of USD 26,900/ton over the 30-year project life, and we have assumed higher to be maximum at USD 35,000/ton.

(USD/ton)	Price of HPA Smelter Grade	HPA 99.9	HPA 99.99
Low	300	5,000	26,900
High	400	6,000	35,000

### Variable 3 – Exchange rate

We have estimated the USD/AUD exchange rate based on current FIDS report for both low and high estimates as 0.72.

## Valuation (NPV)

### FCFF (High) Time Period

	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E
Net Cash from operating activities	(3,426)	(3,465)	45,293	92,510	140,893	161,431
Capital Expenditure	(212,677)	(212,678)	(11,750)	(1)	(1)	(1)
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	(216,102)	(216,143)	33,543	92,509	140,892	161,430
Discount Factor	0.99	0.91	0.84	0.78	0.71	0.66
<b>Present Value of FCF</b>	(214,408)	(197,550)	28,242	71,751	100,667	106,252

### FCFF (Low) Time Period

	2019E	2020E	2021E	2022E	2023E	2024E
Net Cash from operating activities	(3,436)	(3,485)	24,057	50,037	85,213	99,625
Capital Expenditure	(212,677)	(212,678)	(11,750)	(1)	(1)	(1)
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	(216,112)	(216,163)	12,307	50,036	85,212	99,624
Discount Factor	0.99	0.91	0.84	0.78	0.71	0.66
<b>Present Value of FCF</b>	(214,418)	(197,568)	10,362	38,808	60,883	65,571

\*In the model, the valuation is continued for extended years

<i>in AUD thousands, unless otherwise stated</i>	Low	High
<b>Implied Equity value</b>	<b>144,344</b>	<b>304,694</b>
Shares Outstanding (in thousands) <sup>v</sup>	333,832	333,832
<b>Fair Value Bracket (AUD)</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.91</b>
Current Market Price (AUD)	0.09	0.09

## **Analyst Certifications and Important Disclosures**

### **Analyst Certifications**

I, Natasha Agarwal, certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject security and the subject company.

I, Auditya Sankaranarayanan, certify that all of the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject security and the subject company.

### **Important Disclosures**

Arrowhead Business and Investment Decisions, LLC received fees in 2017 and 2018 from Altech for researching and drafting this report and for a series of other services to Altech, including distribution of this report, investor relations and networking services. Neither Arrowhead BID nor any of its principals or employees own any long or short positions in Altech. Arrowhead BID's principals have a mandate for investment banking services from Altech and expect to receive compensation for investment banking activities from Altech in 2018 or 2019.

Aside from certain reports published on a periodic basis, the large majority of reports are published by Arrowhead BID at irregular intervals as appropriate in the analyst's judgment.

Any opinions expressed in this report are statements of our judgment to this date and are subject to change without notice.

This report was prepared for general circulation and does not provide investment recommendations specific to individual investors. As such, any of the financial or other money-management instruments linked to the company and company valuation described in this report, hereafter referred to as "the securities", may not be suitable for all investors.

Investors must make their own investment decisions based upon their specific investment objectives and financial situation utilizing their own financial advisors as they deem necessary.

Investors are advised to gather and consult multiple information sources before making investment decisions. Recipients of this report are strongly advised to read the information on Arrowhead Methodology section of this report to understand if and how the Arrowhead Due Diligence and Arrowhead Fair Value Bracket integrate alongside the rest of their stream of information and within their decision-making process.

Past performance of securities described directly or indirectly in this report should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future results. The price, value of, and income from any of the financial securities described in this report may rise as well as fall and may be affected by simple and complex changes in economic, financial and political factors. Should a security described in this report be denominated in a currency other than the investor's home currency, a change in exchange rates may adversely affect the price of, value of, or income derived from the security.

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## Notes and References

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- i Arrowhead Business and Investment Decisions (ABID) Fair Value Bracket. See information on valuation on pages 25-28 of this report and important disclosures on page 29 of this report*
- ii Bloomberg as on December 03, 2018*
- iii Bloomberg as on December 03, 2018*
- iv 3-month average volume from Bloomberg as on December 03, 2018*
- v Bloomberg as on December 03, 2018*