



ETHIOPOTASH B.V.

Our Date  
2024/12/16

Our Ref. No.  
EP / 075 / 24

Subject: Letter of Support for the ICDP Project ADD-ON – Afar Dallol Drilling, Ethiopia

Dear ADD-ON PI Team,

It is to be recalled that Ethiopotash's team have been successfully collaborating with the Universities of Fribourg (Switzerland) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) for the past years through the active exchange of core and well data, logging data and seismic data within the Danakil Depression, Northern Afar in Ethiopia. Also, it has been hosting teams of geoscientists from both universities at its basecamp in Dallol.

Ethiopotash B.V. would also like to express its full support for the ICDP ADD-ON Project 'Afar Dallol Drilling: Onset of sedimentary processes in an active rift basin' at this juncture.

Ethiopotash is a potash-mining company, currently in advance mine development phase of the Potash solution mining in the northern Danakil Depression.

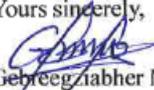
Therefore, based on positive exchange between academia and industry in the past, and such as discussed during the ICDP ADD-ON workshop organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in August 2023, Ethiopotash is fully supporting the ADD-ON project through:

- the active exchange of knowledge and data within the Dallol area
- providing access to a fully functioning basecamp for its scientists and staff in the Dallol area to its best level of capacity.
- providing support through coordination and management experience with previous drilling projects
- providing logging support through experience with previous downhole logging projects (spare parts, logging engineering, winch)
- providing in-kind support through the management and coordination of the basecamp including logistics, maintenance, food & accommodation, geological staff, medical doctor & HSE officer.

It is also to be noted that all the data related to the new ICDP ADD-ON drilling site shall belong to its ADD-ON Science Team intellectual property right.

We are looking forward to the success of the ICDP ADD-ON project and collaborate with the full ICDP ADD-ON scientific team.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gebreeziabher Mekonen Wube  
General Manager



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Letter of support for ICDP ADD-ON drilling proposal by Ethiopotash



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09 January 2025

**ADD-ON PI Team**

**Subject: Letter of Support for the ICDP Project ADD-ON- Afar Dallol Drilling, Ethiopia**

Dear ADD-ON PI Team,

Circum Minerals Ltd. have been successfully collaborating with the University of Fribourg (Switzerland), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), and the University of Southampton for the past years through the active exchange of core and well data, logging data and seismic data from our licence block within the Danakil Depression, Northern Afar in Ethiopia.

Circum Minerals Limited is a private company developing the Danakil Potash Project in northeastern Ethiopia. With a mineral resource of nearly 5 billion tonnes at 18% KCl (potassium chloride) and seismic data suggesting an overall resource size of 12 to 14 billion tonnes of potash-bearing salt beds, the Danakil Potash Project is one of the world's largest undeveloped potash resources, and is the focus of our exploration and development efforts. Details of company and operations in the Danakil are on our website <https://circumminerals.com/>. While the ADD-ON project will not be drilling within our specific licence block, the improved knowledge of detailed stratigraphy, especially below the first potash bearing layer will be incredibly useful knowledge that may drive future exploration efforts.

We express our full support for the ICDP ADD-ON Project "Afar Dallol Drilling: ONset of sedimentary processes in an active rift basin". Therefore, based on positive exchange between academia and industry in the past, and such as discussed during the ICDP ADD-ON workshop organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in August 2023, Circum Minerals Ltd. is fully supporting the ADD-ON project through continued active exchange of knowledge and data within the Dallol area.

We are looking forward to the success of the ICDPADD-ON project and collaborate with the full ICDP ADD\_ON scientific team

Yours sincerely,

  
**Yonas Bekele**  
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General Manager  
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Letter of support for ICDP ADD-ON drilling proposal by Circum Minerals

CONTRIBUTION (USD)	Funding agency	Country	State of Submission	Responsible project partner
800000	Swiss National Science Foundation	Switzerland	April 2024	Anneleen Foubert, Cindy De Jonghe
6300000	European Research Council - Synergy Grant	European Union	November 2025	Derek Keir, Anneleen Foubert, Puri Lopez
2500000	Italian MIUR	Italy	2026 month undefined	Carolina Pagli, Derek Keir
100000	University of Florence - general research account of Keir	Italy	already secured	Derek Keir
400000	UK NERC - Pushing the Boundaries scheme	United Kingdom	January 2026, July 2026	Ian Bastow, Will Hutchison, Derek Keir, Lisa McNeill
500000	UK UKRI - Future Leaders Research Fellowship	United Kingdom	June 2026	Emma Watts
200000	Belgium FNRS Weave Program	Belgium	July each year	Karen Fontijn
1500000	DFG	Germany	likely October 2025	Christian Zeeden
1800000	PEPR Origins	France	Letter of Intention	Puri Lopez
200000	Spanish Government (Ministerio de Ciencia , Innovación y Universidades)	Spain	February 2025	Luis Gilbert
300000	National Science Foundation	US	2025	Tesfaye Kidane
700000	Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (JSPS)	Japan	July 2025	Tomoyo Okumura
100000	J-DESC (Drilling Earth Science Consortium)	Japan	April - September 2025	Tomoyo Okumura
2780000	Ministry of Science and Technology of China	China	June 2026	Hua Wang
800000	National Natural Science Foundation of China	China	March 2026	Hua Wang
1800000	South China Agricultural University	China	already secured	Hua Wang
250000	Open Competition Domain Science – M-ENW-M-1X Scheme	The Netherlands	July 2025	Roberto Rizzo
1673600	Ethiopotash	Ethiopia, Norway	In-kind funding basecamp, secured	Ethiopotash
3500000	External investors Potash Industry/Geothermal	US, EU, Ethiopia	Lot, Contribution fixed drilling costs	Circum Minerals, Ethiopotash, Geothermal
3100000	Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility for Eastern Africa	African Union	Letter of Intention	Tulu Moye Geothermal, Corbetti Geothermal
200000	Africa-EU COFUND Action	African Union-EU	Letter of Intention	LEAP-RE, Jacques Varet
18001600	Total Matching Funds			
1988917	ICDP Contribution Requested (- 10%)			
19988517	TOTAL			

**Table S3** Table summarizing the cost providers (matching funds), including the amount requested from ICDP.

Copy of high-level planned funding sources for the ICDP ADD-ON drilling project. The \$1.67 from Ethiopotash is in-kind support covering various costs (base-camp, technical and medical support).