

Mining News

Big investor interest delivers an upsized placement for Ioneer

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STRONG demand has been reported by US-focused lithium-boron player Ioneer, with the company raising 33% more than it sought for its flagship Rhyolite Ridge project.

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While the company yesterday put out the call for A\$60 million in new equity at 38c per share, such was the interest from new and existing institutional investors that it was able to raise an extra \$20 million.

Europe's BNP Paribas Energy Transition Fund was a key backer of the \$80 million placement, building on its existing shareholding.

Managing director Bernard Rowe said the company was now in a position to advance Rhyolite Ridge's construction, and advance offtake and strategic funding discussions.

He claimed the project in Nevada was "the most advanced and highest quality lithium project in the US".

The company was aiming to become part of the US lithium supply chain as quickly as possible, with detailed engineering for the project now about 60% complete.

Prior to the increase, around \$30 million was expected to be allocated towards completing that work, and \$14 million towards pre-construction activities.

The company anticipates receiving the final permits to commence construction before the end of the year.

Goldman Sachs and Ord Minnett acted as joint lead managers and bookrunners to the placement, aided by Loop Capital Markets and Stifel GMP as co-managers.

The stock has traded between 7.2-49c over the past year, and was off 14% today to 38c, capitalising it at \$742 million.