South Star Hosts Harvard Students for Potential AI Use at Santa Cruz

VANCOUVER, B.C., October 1,2026 – **South Star Battery Metals Corp.** ("**South Star**" or the "**Company**") (TSXV: STS) (OTCQB: STSBF) is pleased to provide information on a site visit by students from Harvard University studying critical mineral processing. The goal is to determine how AI applications can provide streamlined data collection. Their research is bringing a fresh perspective on process improvement, optimization opportunities and the potential application of new technologies.

Harvard Students

Members of the inaugural Q-Fellows cohort at the Harvard Innovation Labs toured the Santa Cruz project September 16 – September 19, 2026. The group included Raymond Jiang (Applied Mathematics), Mary McColm (Environmental Science and Engineering), Fiona Millan (History of Science and Computer Science) and Ethan Tan (Computer Science and Statistics). Ethan was unable to travel to site but worked on the project.

Critical Minerals

The team researched the critical minerals supply chain. This included over 100 interviews across mining, processing, national laboratories and government. This research showed that the major bottleneck for critical minerals is processing. With approximately 90% of critical mineral processing capacity concentrated in China, the group identified that non-China critical mineral processing is hindered by the transition from pilot scale to commercial production. The team considered graphite due to its direct input to lithium-ion batteries.

South Star Battery Metals

The company was considered for inclusion in the study due to the fact that Santa Cruz has production and building capacity outside of China. The Santa Cruz project is the first graphite mine to go into production in North America in decades (click for source at Mining.com).

The team's goal is to determine whether the data already being generated at the plant can be used more effectively to support process decisions.

According to Raymond Jiang, "We spent ten weeks interviewing people about mineral processing before any of us had set foot in a plant. It was incredibly valuable to see how much of this work depends on judgement that you can't see in a spreadsheet. Our aim is to work with data and

determine what statistical analysis can surface that is genuinely useful to the team on the ground. We are approaching this as research, and we are deliberately not promising outcomes."

About South Star Battery Metals Corp.

South Star is a Canadian battery metals project developer focused on the selective acquisition and development of near-term production projects in the Americas. South Star's Santa Cruz graphite project, located in southern Bahia, Brazil, is the first of a series of industrial and battery metals projects that is anticipated to be put into production. Brazil is the second largest graphite producing region in the world with more than 80 years of continuous mining. With excellent infrastructure and logistics, Santa Cruz is slated to be the newest graphite producer in the Americas. South Star trades on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol STS, and on the OTCQB under the symbol STSBF. South Star is committed to a corporate culture, project execution plan and safe operations that embrace the highest standards of ESG principles, based on transparency, stakeholder engagement, ongoing education, and stewardship. To learn more, please visit the Company website at southstarbatterymetals.com.

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