

Eldridge, Brightstar, Claire Group Announce Definitive Agreement to Acquire Ausenco

September 21, 2023

Ausenco, a global integrated engineering and consulting services provider to the minerals and metals industries, and energy transition market (the “Company”), today announced Eldridge, Brightstar Capital Partners (“Brightstar”), and Claire Group have signed a definitive agreement to acquire a majority stake of Ausenco from Resource Capital Fund VI L.P. and other co-investors. The Company’s co-founder, Zimi Meka, will remain CEO, Board member and investor in Ausenco. Mike Burke, former Chairman and CEO of AECOM, served as an advisor and partner to Eldridge and the buyer consortium. Mr. Burke is expected to join Ausenco’s Board of Directors as Chairman.

Founded in 1991, Ausenco’s 3,000 employees are focused on the world’s most challenging engineering and consulting projects, drawing on deep technical expertise with a commitment to sustainably delivering end-to-end solutions for its clients and their communities.

Ausenco’s team of scientists, engineers and professionals design and build efficient mine and metal extraction facilities; deliver sustainable mine waste and water management, and mine closure and remediation solutions; and engage with local and Indigenous communities to create lasting benefit.

“We’ve always been about challenging what’s possible and delivering services sustainably and with integrity,” said Mr. Meka. “From permitting to closure, our people are finding better ways to plan projects, efficiently use resources, protect the environment, and deliver value to clients and communities. In Eldridge, Brightstar, and Claire Group we have partners that understand this ambition and our culture.”

“We invest in what people need and what people want – both qualities expressed in Ausenco’s activity the past three decades,” said Todd Boehly, Tony Minella, and Duncan Bagshaw, co-founders of Eldridge. “Ausenco has worked around the world to deliver minerals critical to nearly every aspect of our lives and to the ongoing energy transition. We are excited to partner with a world-class management team to further enhance and diversify their service offerings.”

“Ausenco plays a vital role in facilitating the global transition to electrification and electric vehicles,” said Andrew Weinberg, Founder and CEO of Brightstar Capital Partners. “Brightstar is confident that Ausenco is strategically positioned for future growth due to its impressive track record of performance, and the anticipated increased demand for metals and minerals that are essential to sustainable solutions.”

“With the shift to more sustainable energy gaining momentum, Latin America will have a key role to play as the main producing region for essential minerals, such as copper and lithium,” said Marcelo Claire, Founder and CEO of Claire Group, who will join Ausenco’s Board of Directors and has focused investments in Latin America and the energy transition. “Given Ausenco’s strong presence and pipeline of projects in the region, we believe the Company will be at the forefront of this transition, actively contributing to the electrification of the world.”

Link to original press release:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230921678800/en/Eldridge-Brightstar-Claire-Group-Announce-Definitive-Agreement-to-Acquire-Ausenco>