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## Itronics Completes Successful Start Up Tests of Centrifuge to Eliminate Production Bottleneck in Its Hydromet Processes

Centrifuge Will Facilitate "Zero Waste" Technologies Scale Up

RENO, Nev., Nov. 13, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Itronics Inc. (ITRO), a diversified producer of GOLD'n GRO zinc fertilizers and silver products, and a green "Zero Waste" technology development Company, today reported that it has successfully completed start up testing of its centrifuge that will be used in its hydrometallurgical operations to perform liquid solids separations.

Dr. John Whitney, Itronics President, said: "This technology is a revolutionary breakthrough in the development of the Company's hydromet processes, and is expected to significantly lower operating costs, which is very important. The centrifuge technology will be used for the FeLix (iron), SuLix (sulfur), and ZinLix (zinc) leaching processes, and will be tested for use in KAM-Thio silver/gold mine applications."

The hydromet (leaching) processes produce the high silver content concentrate used in Itronics breakthrough "Zero Waste" E-scrap refining which uses the silver to extract gold, silver, palladium, tin, and copper, from E-Scrap (computer waste).

The hydromet leaching operations have been a production bottleneck due to the length of time required to separate the leaching liquid from the residual silver-bearing solids using standard filtration methods. It has been taking about five months to do the liquid/solid separations for both process steps to produce enough high silver content solids to support a refining campaign to produce a bullion shipment.

Based on start-up operational testing which has now been completed, the centrifuge is expected to shorten the elapsed production time to less than a month and to completely eliminate the bottleneck. The Company now believes that further significant operational improvements in its processing operations may be achievable by adding two more centrifuges. Testing and planning for these is now being initiated.

With the hydromet leaching circuit production bottleneck eliminated, the Company's e-scrap refining operations focus will shift to expanding output, first by converting the operation from intermittent to continuous, and then by adding additional refining furnaces. Planning has already begun for adding up to eight additional refining furnaces.

The hydromet technology is expected to lower the operating costs of the KAM-Thio silver/gold mine recovery technology, and make it possible to process zinc bearing flue dusts and other zinc bearing powders to recover all of the zinc and to convert the non-zinc residuals into saleable products. Doing this is expected to lead to the development of at least two more "Zero Waste" technologies.

In addition, successful development of the centrifuge applications is expected to provide operations and engineering information that will be used to plan for expanded Hydromet Leaching operations at the Company's new 60,000 square foot 48-acre Wabuska, Nevada facility which has rail service.

## **About Itronics**

Headquartered in Reno, Nevada, Itronics Inc. is a "Creative Green Technology" Company which produces GOLD'n GRO specialty liquid fertilizers, silver bullion, and silver-bearing glass. The Company's goal is to achieve profitable green technology driven organic growth in specialty GOLD'n GRO fertilizers, silver, zinc, and minerals. The Company's technologies maximize the recovery and uses of metals and minerals and by doing this maximize sustainability.

Through its subsidiary, Itronics Metallurgical, Inc., Itronics is the only company with a fully permitted "Beneficial Use Photochemical, Silver, and Water Recycling" plant in the United States that converts 100 percent of the spent photoliquids into GOLD'n GRO liquid fertilizers, silver bullion, and silver bearing glass. This is internationally recognized award winning "Zero Waste" Technology. The Company is developing a portfolio of environmentally beneficial "Zero waste" processing and mining technologies. Itronics has received numerous domestic and international awards that recognize its ability to successfully use chemical science and engineering to create and implement new environmentally green recycling and fertilizer technologies.

The Company's environmentally friendly award winning GOLD'n GRO liquid fertilizers, which are extensively used in agriculture, can be used for lawns and houseplants, and are available at the Company's "e-store" on Amazon.Com. Due to expanded retail customer interest, GOLD'n GRO fertilizer may now be purchased in Reno, Nevada at the "Buy Nevada First Gift Shop" at 4001 S. Virginia St.

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