DeepGreen / SOAC Advance Deep-Sea Environmental Study in Effort to Develop World's Largest Known Supply of Battery Metals

- *Expedition 5B is part of a multi-year, $75 million deep-sea research program to establish an environmental baseline and analyze the impacts of DeepGreen's proposed operations to source critical battery minerals from deep-sea polymetallic nodules*
- *The Expedition follows DeepGreen's announcement on March 4, 2021, that it will merge with Sustainable Opportunities Acquisition Corporation (NYSE: SOAC) to go public on NASDAQ as The Metals Company*

VANCOUVER, CANADA - April 01, 2021 - DeepGreen Metals, a developer of the world's largest estimated source of battery metals for electric vehicles (EVs), today announced that Environmental Expedition 5B, which focuses on characterizing the pelagic or open sea component of the marine environment in its NORI-D contract area, is conducting research on site in the Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ) of the Pacific Ocean. The research campaign is the first of five science expeditions planned for this year as part of an ongoing, multi-year seafloor-to-surface research program — the most rigorous and integrated deep-sea study to date.

The current expedition on the Maersk Launcher, with a crew of 57 people, includes a team of 37 marine researchers from independent institutions including the University of Hawaii, Texas A&M University and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). The team is currently conducting an extensive examination of the CCZ's pelagic biology from the macro to the microbial level to understand the impacts of sediment plumes on deep-ocean fauna and the mid-water column, among other work streams. The data collected will also inform how DeepGreen plans to collect polymetallic nodules with minimal ecological disruption prior to testing its prototype nodule harvester vehicle – currently being built by its partner Allseas – in the CCZ early next year.

The suite of cutting-edge technologies on Expedition 5B include remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), suction samplers, current/temp/depth rosettes, MOCNESS nets to collect pelagic biota, 4K cameras, and landers to sample seawater and suspended sediments from just above the sea floor. This equipment enables researchers to study the entire water column, from its sunlit surface waters down to where nodules sit atop the sediment on the abyssal plain, which at three miles deep is shrouded in perpetual darkness and under immense pressure. An autonomous Saildrone will also collect information on water chemistry and marine biomass as it tracks the ship throughout the expedition. Other organizations involved in the current research include Pelagic Research Services, LLC, Gravity Marine, and UTEC Services.

"Over the past few years, we've thrown ourselves into the research, completing over ten expeditions to the Clarion Clipperton Zone, which have helped to deepen our understanding of our operating environment, a crucial step in ensuring its protection," said DeepGreen Chairman

and CEO Gerard Barron. “The campaigns planned for 2021 will go even further. By the time we complete these original studies, we will have invested more than $75 million into this research, which will represent the largest ever seafloor-to-surface ocean science research program conducted in the CCZ.”

“This is a challenging mission to prepare for given the number of studies and the complexity of the equipment required,” said DeepGreen Environment Manager Dr. Michael Clarke. "We're motivated by the potential of our research to expand society's understanding of the deep sea and analyze the impact of DeepGreen's proposed operations."

ABOUT DeepGreen

DeepGreen Metals Inc. is a Canadian developer of lower-impact battery metals from seafloor polymetallic nodules, on a dual mission: (1) supply metals for the clean energy transition with the least possible negative environmental and social impact and (2) accelerate the transition to a circular metal economy. The company through its subsidiaries holds exploration and commercial rights to three polymetallic nodule contract areas in the Clarion Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean regulated by the International Seabed Authority and sponsored by the governments of Nauru, Kiribati and the Kingdom of Tonga. Earlier this month, DeepGreen announced that it had entered into a business combination agreement with Sustainable Opportunities Acquisition Corporation (SOAC) to accelerate project development and take it public on NASDAQ as ‘The Metals Company’. More information is available at deep.green.

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