

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RPC Mineral Group Collaborating with Global Team on Rare Earth Metal Project

June 17, 2015, Fredericton, NB - RPC is pleased to announce that our Minerals and Industrial Services (MIS) department will be part of a global collaborative research team on a rare earth metal research project.

The rare earth elements (REE) are widely used in modern technologies including wind turbines, hard disk drives, low energy lighting and electric cars. REE are recognized as critical materials because of security of supply concerns. Recent work has identified neodymium (Nd) and the heavy rare earth elements (HREE) as being most at risk of supply disruption in the near future. The major challenge is to develop new Nd and HREE deposits that can be exploited in an environmentally friendly and economically viable way, so the use of REE in new technologies can continue to expand.

“RPC is proud to be part of this project. Our mineral development group is world class and we are pleased to be recognized for our expertise,” said Eric Cook, RPC CEO and Executive Director.

The SoS RARE project aims to understand the mobility and concentration of Nd and HREE in natural systems, and to investigate new processes that will lower the environmental impact of REE extraction and recovery. The project involves researchers from the United States, Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, Malawi, Namibia, Brazil, France, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

“We are looking forward to working with this exceptional group on such an important project,” said Leo Cheung, Department Head for MIS.

The project is funded by the UK’s Natural Environment Research Council. The project team has begun planning initial activities including fieldwork in Namibia, China and Madagascar, as well as, lab work and computational modelling.

### About RPC

RPC is New Brunswick’s provincial research organization (PRO), an independent contract research and development and technical services organization located in Fredericton and Moncton, NB. RPC’s complement of 95 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories, comprehensive life science capabilities, an internationally recognized fish health lab, extensive prototype design, manufacturing and testing services, and a wide variety of pilot facilities for the development and improvement of industrial and environmental processes and products. RPC is accredited by various organizations including the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and is ISO 9001:2008 certified. Further information about RPC’s services is available from [www.rpc.ca](http://www.rpc.ca).

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