

## **EASTERN PLATINUM LIMITED**

(Incorporated in Canada)

(Canadian Registration number BC0722783)

(South African Registration number 2007/006318/10)

Share Code TSX: ELR ISIN: CA2768555096

Share Code JSE: EPS ISIN: CA2768555096

("Eastplats" or the "Company")



**May 13, 2022**

**Trading Symbol: ELR (TSX); EPS (JSE)**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **EASTERN PLATINUM LIMITED REPORTS RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022**

May 13, 2022, Vancouver, British Columbia – Eastern Platinum Limited ("Eastplats" or the "Company") is pleased to report that it has filed its condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2022 and the corresponding management's discussion and analysis. Below is a summary of the Company's financial results for the first quarter of 2022 ("Q1 2022") (all amounts in USD unless specified) in comparison to the same respective period in 2021 ("Q1 2021"):

- Revenue for Q1 2022 increased to \$17.4 million (Q1 2021 - \$16.7 million), representing a 4.3% increase. The increase in revenue for Q1 2022 was primarily due to an increase in platinum group metal ("PGM") sales in the period.
- Mine operating income increased by \$2.0 million (or 137.5%) to \$3.4 million in Q1 2022 (Q1 2021 - \$1.4 million), resulting in an improved gross margin of 19.6% in Q1 2022 from 8.6% in Q1 2021.
- Operating income was \$0.1 million in Q1 2022 compared to an operating loss of \$1.7 million in Q1 2021.
- Net income attributable to shareholders was \$3.0 million (\$0.02 earnings per share) in Q1 2022 versus loss attributable to shareholders of \$0.9 million (\$0.01 loss per share) in Q1 2021. The Q1 2022 net income was largely attributable to the foreign exchange gain due to the appreciation of the South African Rand relative to the U.S. Dollar in Q1 2022, while in Q1 2021, the U.S. Dollar strengthened.
- The Company had positive working capital (current assets less current liabilities) of \$17.2 million as at March 31, 2022 (December 31, 2021 - \$14.6 million) and short-term cash resources of \$6.6 million (consisting of cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments) (December 31, 2021 - \$6.1 million).

#### *Operations*

The Company continues its Retreatment Project at Barplats Mines (Pty) Limited's tailings facility (the "Retreatment Project") located at the Company's Crocodile River Mine ("CRM") in South Africa.

Summary of chrome production for the three months ended March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2021:

|                              | Q1 2022 | Q1 2021 |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Total Tailings Feed (Tons)   | 574,242 | 607,606 |
| Average grade Cr concentrate | 38.97%  | 38.47%  |
| Tons of Cr concentrate       | 121,122 | 203,901 |

The majority of the Company's revenue (approximately 84% for Q1 2022) is generated from the offtake agreement with Union Goal Offshore Solution Limited ("**Union Goal**") in relation to chrome concentrate production from the Retreatment Project. The remaining amount of the Company's revenue was from PGM concentrate sales to Impala Platinum Limited ("**Impala**").

The completion of the reconfiguration and optimization of the small-scale PGM circuit ("**PGM Circuit D**") in Q1 2021 continued to successfully utilize the feed, following the recovery of chrome concentrate, to produce PGM concentrate under the respective offtake agreements in Q1 2022. Refurbishment work commenced on the PGM main plant circuit ("**PGM Main Circuit B**") during April 2021 and the circuit was commissioned in October 2021 (see press release of October 29, 2021 for further information). PGM Circuit D and PGM Main Circuit B (collectively, the "**PGM Circuits**") are both operating and continue to drive revenue growth and gross margin improvement for the Company.

Summary of PGM production for the three months ended March 31, 2022 and 2021:

|                         | Q1 2022 | Q1 2021 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Tons of PGM concentrate | 879     | 44      |

During the period, the Company continued work to close the Maroelabult resource project sale with Eland Platinum (Pty) Limited. Eastplats announced the completion of the sale (see press release of March 22, 2022 for further information). Total cash consideration of R20 million (approximately \$1.3 million) was received on March 9, 2022 after the transfer of legal title and various regulatory obligations required in South Africa were completed.

Diana Hu, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director of Eastplats commented, "The Q1 financial results have shown the Company is on the right path to continue its revenue growth and profitability improvements from the Retreatment Project and capacity increases from the PGM circuits. We are confident with the progress made by the team and expect to disclose the updated NI 43-101 compliant independent technical report on the Crocodile River Mine shortly."

### *Outlook*

The Company's targets for 2022 are as follows:

- Optimize the operations of the Retreatment Project and maximize returns (ongoing)
  - Completion of the Optimization Program for the Retreatment Project (ongoing);
  - Assess the value of the chrome recovery plant after optimization (ongoing);
- Operate and optimize the PGM Circuits (ongoing);

- Capital raise to restart Zandfontein underground operations at the Crocodile River Mine (initiated);
- Completion of the second phase of the tailings storage facility (“**TSF**”) capital works program (ongoing);
- Mareesburg project environmental work to complete the legal analysis on the Environmental Impact Assessment (“**EIA**”) and other environmental studies and amendments (ongoing);
- Prospecting and assessment work in relation to Zandfontein, Crocette and Spitzkop ore bodies (ongoing);
- EIA and other assessment work regarding a vertical furnace and pelletizer of chrome concentrate (ongoing); and
- Update other capital assessments upon completion of capital fundraising.

Care and maintenance with respect to the underground portion of the CRM will continue while the Company assesses the Zandfontein underground operations for restart.

The Company has a primary listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange and a secondary listing on the JSE Limited.

The Company has filed the following documents, under the Company’s profile on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com):

- Condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2022; and
- Management’s discussion and analysis for the three months ended March 31, 2022.

The condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2022 are available for download at <https://eastplats.com/investors-2/reports/> and are also available on the JSE’s website at: <https://senspdf.jse.co.za/documents/2022/JSE/ISSE/EPS/Q122.pdf>.

#### *Covid-19*

The Government of South Africa lifted the National State of Disaster in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on April 5, 2022. The Company continues to follow the health guidelines of the Government of South Africa. The chrome and PGM production and delivery remains in full operation. The effects of COVID-19 are uncertain and the consequences of a further temporary shutdown of any operations or other related issues cannot be reasonably estimated at this time but could potentially have material adverse effects on the Company’s business, operations, liquidity and cashflows.

## ***About Eastern Platinum Limited***

Eastplats owns directly and indirectly a number of PGM and chrome assets in the Republic of South Africa. All of the Company's properties are situated on the western and eastern limbs of the Bushveld Complex, the geological environment that hosts approximately 80% of the world's PGM-bearing ore.

Operations at the Crocodile River Mine currently include re-mining and processing its tailings resource to produce PGM and chrome concentrates from the Barplats Zandfontein tailings dam.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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### ***Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information***

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" or "forward-looking information" (collectively referred to herein as "**forward-looking statements**") within the meaning of applicable securities legislation. Such forward-looking statements include, without limitation, forecasts, estimates, expectations and objectives for future operations that are subject to a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond the control of the Company. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally, but not always, identified by the words "will", "plan", "intends", "may", "could", "expects", "anticipates" and similar expressions. Further disclosure of the risks and uncertainties facing the Company and other forward-looking statements are discussed in the Company's most recent Annual Information Form available under the Company's profile on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

In particular, this press release contains, without limitation, forward-looking statements pertaining to: profitability; revenue growth and gross margin improvements derived from the PGM Circuits; completion of the updated NI 43-101 compliant independent technical report on the CRM; the Company's targets for 2022 including optimization of the Retreatment Project operations; completion of the Optimization Program for the Retreatment Project, assessment of the value of the chrome recovery plant; operations and optimization of the PGM Circuits; capital raise to restart Zandfontein underground operations at the Crocodile River mine; completion of the second phase of the TSF capital works program; Mareesburg project environmental work to complete the legal analysis on the EIA and other environmental studies and amendments; prospecting and assessment work in relation to Zandfontein, Crocette and Spitzkop ore bodies; EIA and assessment work regarding a vertical furnace and pelletizer of chrome concentrate; the update of other capital assessments upon completion of capital fundraising; care and maintenance with respect to the underground portion of the CRM; and the potential effects of COVID-19 and any future measures taken by the Government of South Africa and their impact on the Company and its business, operations, liquidity and cashflows. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions made by and information currently available to the Company. Although management considers these assumptions to be reasonable based on information currently available to it, they may prove to be incorrect. By their very nature, forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from the beliefs, plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, unanticipated problems that may arise in the Company's production processes, commodity prices, lower than expected grades and quantities of resources, need for additional funding and availability of such additional funding on acceptable terms, economic conditions, currency fluctuations, competition and regulations, legal proceedings and risks related to operations in foreign countries.

All forward-looking statements in this press release are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement, the "*Cautionary Statement on Forward-Looking Information*" section contained in the Company's most recent Management's Discussion and Analysis available under the Company's profile on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). The forward-looking statements in this press release are made as of the date they are given and, except as required by applicable securities laws, the Company disclaims any intention or obligation, and does not undertake, to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

***No stock exchange, securities commission or other regulatory authority has approved or disapproved the information contained herein.***

The Company has a primary listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange and a secondary listing on the JSE Limited.

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