DeepGreen is a company proposing to mine polymetallic nodules from the Pacific seabed. It is one of the main companies promoting experimental deep sea mining and has forged contractual relationships with several Pacific Island Countries.¹

This briefing paper aims to explain DeepGreen’s relationship to various types of corporate actors, namely its shareholders, financiers, directors and state sponsors. More information on DeepGreen advisors and employees are available on the DeepGreen website.² A more detailed report is available upon request.

DEEPGREEN SHAREHOLDERS

The following is a list of external shareholders who have invested in DeepGreen.

MAERSK
Maersk (A.P. Moeller Maersk) is a large Danish integrated container logistics company founded in 1904. Maersk engaged with DeepGreen through its subsidiary Maersk Supply Service, which provides vessels and integrated solutions to offshore energy players, including subsea contractors. Maersk Supply Service started to work with DeepGreen in March 2017, with Maersk committed to support up to five experimental voyages between 2018 and 2020, including the contribution of two vessels as well as project services valued at approximately US$ 26 million, which were converted to DeepGreen shares.³ Maersk was also granted an option to purchase 50 million Class B Preferred Shares of DeepGreen at $1.50 per share.⁴ Maersk is primarily a family-owned through different structures, including direct investments, a holding company and family trust funds.

GLENCORE
Glencore is an Anglo-Swiss diversified natural resource company, founded in 1974 and headquartered in Switzerland. It is a major producer and marketer of commodities with around 150 mining and metallurgical sites and oil production assets. In May 2012, Glencore International AG and DeepGreen signed an off-take agreement whereby DeepGreen agreed to deliver to Glencore 50% of the annual quantity of copper and nickel that it produced from its leases agreed with Nauru. Both the nickel and copper off-take agreements are for the life of the NORI licence area. At the same time, Glencore subscribed for 2 million DeepGreen shares at CDN$2.50, i.e. CDN$ 5 million (US$ 4.85 million).⁵ The main institutional investor in Glencore is the Qatar’s sovereign wealth fund Qatar Investment Authority, with US$ 3.6 billion invested solely in shareholdings. The second largest Glencore investor is BPCE Group with US$ 2 billion, followed by BlackRock with US$ 922 million.

ALLSEAS
AllSeas is an offshore company, founded in 1985. It is specialised in offshore pipeline installation, heavy lift, and subsea construction. DeepGreen and AllSeas agreed in June 2019 to form a strategic partnership. According to DeepGreen, this partnership will help them “open up a new, disruptive source of battery metals for the green revolution and transform the mining industry”. As part of this partnership, AllSeas became a shareholder of DeepGreen and acted as a lead strategic investor to secure a US$ 150 million investment round with Macquarie Capital and Fearnley Securities.⁶ AllSeas is owned by its founder Edward Heerema.

SAF GROUP
SAF Group is a Canadian private equity firm founded in 2014, focussing on primarily on energy, but also
metals and mining and commodities. The Head of Merchant Banking at SAF Group, Brian Paes-Braga, is also a Director at DeepGreen. In 2015 he co-founded Lithium X Energy Corp (sold to NextView in 2018) with fellow DeepGreen – Paul Matysek. Lithium X Energy Corp is a lithium exploration and development company aiming to be a low-cost supplier for the lithium battery industry. Brian Paes-Braga is also a Partner at Fiore Corporation, which is focused on capitalizing and building resources companies, and was backing DeepGreen’s failed attempt to become a publicly listed company in 2017.

**ACAC INNOVATION**

ACAC Innovation is a small family-run Australian fund specialising in start-up businesses. ACAC has invested in 31 firms to date, of which four are from the mining and construction industries. Andrew Greig, the founder of ACAC Innovation, is also a Director at DeepGreen.

**ERAS HOLDINGS**

ERAS Holdings is a funding vehicle for the Karkar family founded in 1959 by Edward Karkar. His son, Andrei Karkar, is CEO of the Karkar Family Office and a Director of DeepGreen. It is assumed that Karkar is a shareholder of DeepGreen through ERAS Holdings.

**DEEPGREEN FINANCIERS**

The following are organisations who have raised finances for DeepGreen as loans.

**MACQUARIE CAPITAL & FEARNLEY SECURITIES**

Macquarie Capital is part of the Macquarie Group, which is an Australian investment bank and financial services company. Fearnley Securities is an investment bank with a concentrated focus on maritime industries. It is part of the Astrup Fearnley Group, which is a provider of shipping, offshore, energy, real estate and financial advisory, research and brokerage services worldwide. In 2019, DeepGreen engaged with both Macquarie Capital and Fearnley Securities to co-lead a US$150 million investment round in order to finance the company through feasibility studies, targeted for completion in 2023.

**FIORE GROUP**

Fiore Group describes itself as a private firm managing a broad portfolio of investments, including natural resources. Fiore Management & Advisory Corp. planned to raise up to US$20 million in 2017 in order to help DeepGreen become a public company.
company so as to raise more funds. The plan was for DeepGreen to take over a publicly listed Canadian mining company managed by the Fiore Group, DV Resources. This would have avoided a number of administrative and regulatory steps for DeepGreen. This so-called reverse merger did not happen by “mutual agreement” and DeepGreen intends to raise capital privately.

GERARD BARRON
Gerard Barron has worked with DeepGreen since July 2014, and became Chairman and CEO in 2017. He was involved in the early strategic development and financing of DeepGreen during its formation in 2011. Between May 2001 and June 2008, Gerard Barron was an early investor in Nautilus Minerals. He is said to have ‘turned his $226,000 investment in Nautilus into $31 million’ before Nautilus went bankrupt, leaving its government partner, Papua New Guinea, with an estimated US$ 125 million loss. The founder of Nautilus, David Heydon, who started DeepGreen in 2011, brought Barron into DeepGreen as CEO. He helped David Heydon and his son, Robert Heydon, with providing access to capital in order to set up DeepGreen.

GREGORY STONE
Gregory Stone has been Chief Ocean Scientist and Board Member at DeepGreen as of February 2018. He is responsible for “finding sustainable ways to extract metal-rich nodules from the seafloor of the Clipperton Fracture Zone to provide minerals needed for the global transition to renewable energy.” Gregory Stone describes himself as “a globally celebrated oceanographer”, worked for Conservation International and hosts a DeepGreen sponsored set of podcasts called ‘The Sea has Many Voices’.

JONAS MUNCH AGERSKOV
Jonas Munch Agerskov represents Maersk’s interests in DeepGreen. He has been Director of DeepGreen since June 2018. He joined A. P. Møller - Maersk A/S in 2012 where he has worked as General Manager, in the field of business development, finance and strategy, until May 2013. As of June 2020 he is Managing Director Offshore Renewables at Maersk Supply Service.

ANDREW C. GREIG
Andrew C. Greig is also the non-Executive Chair/Senior Director and Founder of ACAC Innovation since 2015. His son, Bryce Greig has taken over the position of CEO at ACAC. Since ACAC is a venture capital company, Greig holds a stake in DeepGreen. He is also Founding Chairman and Director of Greig-Asbury Foundation as of January 2013, where his son Bryce is chair.

ANDREI KARKAR
Andrei Karkar has been Director at DeepGreen since 2019. His CEO of the Karkar family office called ERAS Holdings, and appears to represent ERAS Holdings.

BRIAN PAES-BRAGA
Brian Paes-Braga is member of the Board of Directors of DeepGreen Metals since 2017. As of 2016, he is Partner and Managing Director at Fiore Corporation, sits on the Board of Directors of two Fiore Group portfolio companies of which DeepGreen Metals is one. As of 2018, he is Principal, Head of Merchant Banking at SAF Group, which is one of DeepGreen’s investors. And Paes-Braga is a major stakeholder in DeepGreen.

PAUL MATYSEK
Paul Matysek has been building companies in the mining industry for more than 30 years. He was ex-chair Lithium X Energy Corp which fellow director Brian Paes-Braga founded.

JOHAN DROST
Johan Drost is the Commercial Director at Allseas and a member of the Allseas Executive Team. He has been with Allseas for more than 30 years.

SPONSORING STATES
The following are organisations who have raised finances for DeepGreen as loans.

NAURU
Nauru Offshore Resources Inc (NORI), was a subsidiary of Nautilus before it was transferred to DeepGreen. In June 2011, NORI obtained a 15 year licence from the ISA providing for exclusive rights to explore for polymetallic nodules in an area covering 74,830 km² in the CCZ years. The contract was acquired for US$ 250,000 and requires NORI to pay US$ 20,000 per calendar year to Nauru as an administration fee as well as US$ 2 per tonne of polymetallic nodules recovered from the tenement area.

KIRIBATI
Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd is a State enterprise owned and controlled by the Republic of Kiribati. DeepGreen has several agreements with Marawa. In 2012, DeepGreen entered into a 40 year
agreement with Marawa where it has an option to purchase tenements granted by the ISA or any other regulatory body, for US$ 300,000. xxvi DeepGreen entered into an ISA Application Loan Agreement with Marawa. Under this agreement, DeepGreen complied to lend with no interest up to US$ 50,000, to fund the expenses paid by Marawa for its ISA exploration application. DeepGreen has the right to convert this US$ 50,000 loan or any part of it into fully paid and non-assessable shares of Marawa at a conversion price of AUD 1 per share. xxvii In 2013, DeepGreen entered into a services agreement with Marawa, which grants DeepGreen the exclusive right for 40 years to carry out all exploration and mining in the Marawa area. It also grants DeepGreen the right to purchase polymetallic nodules recovered during commercial production from the Marawa area for US$ 2 per wet tonne of polymetallic nodules (adjusted for inflation) xxviii. xxix

**TONGA**

In April 2020, DeepGreen acquired Tonga Offshore Mining Limited (TOML) from Deep Sea Mining Finance which is overseeing Nautilus’s restructuring. This acquisition gave DeepGreen access to a 74,713 km² block that contains an inferred resource of 756 million wet tonnes of polymetallic nodules. DeepGreen will be benefiting from the exploration contract that the ISA granted to TOML and that is sponsored by the Kingdom of Tonga. xxx