

## Media Release

19 December 2024

# US investor picks NZ based clean-tech Aspiring Materials to join global portfolio

Ōtautahi Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand, 19 December 2024:

US investor **Elemental Impact** has picked **Christchurch based clean-tech start-up Aspiring Materials** for the non-profit's latest investment portfolio expansion.

Aspiring Materials was selected from a worldwide pool of over 700 companies, developing First-of-a-Kind (FOAK) technologies that offer impact across four themes:

- Building resilient supply chains
- Accelerating the next era of US manufacturing
- Strengthening rural and Tribal access
- Scaling a regenerative food system.

**The start-up, who has developed a unique, globally scalable process that provides critical minerals, carbon removal and clean energy solutions for the industrial sector,** is just one of 16 companies selected to join the portfolio.

**CEO Mark Chadderton says** *“Elemental Impact’s investment demonstrates confidence in the immediate beneficial impact Aspiring Materials offers industrial operators, local communities and ultimately the planet. The markets for our solutions are already there, we fit seamlessly into existing supply chains and, most importantly, we can help turn around the emissions impact of these industries without any disruption to their day-to-day operations. Our partnership with Elemental Impact will further accelerate our scale-up by connecting us with a network of industry leaders and injecting the all-necessary capital*

*many startups struggle to obtain in this space between demonstration and commercial deployment.”*



Alongside capital investment, Aspiring Materials’ partnership with Elemental Impact will provide connection into a global network of companies moving the climate impact dial on energy, agriculture, transportation, industry and nature-based solutions.

*“Aspiring Materials stands out for their innovative approach to industrial decarbonization and their intentional integration of community engagement into their business. They recognise the importance of working together with iwi in New Zealand and, in the future, with other indigenous communities as they scale,”* **says Danya Hakeem, Vice President of Portfolio at Elemental Impact.**

To date, Aspiring Materials has been supported with seed investment and non-dilutive grant funding from both private investors and NZ government sponsored organisations.

**Ara Ake**, New Zealand’s future energy centre, has been among those actively supporting Aspiring Materials, recognising the crucial role the company plays in Aotearoa New Zealand’s energy transition. **Cristiano Marantes, CE of Ara Ake** says *“We’re proud partners of Aspiring Materials as they showcase New Zealand’s innovation on the global stage and accelerate cost-effective solutions for permanent carbon dioxide removal. Congratulations to co-founders Christopher Oze and Mark Chadderton, and the entire Aspiring Materials team on this significant milestone.”*

The Aspiring Materials operational model supports the creation of sustainable regional employment opportunities and through providing clean, carbon-free materials to the industrial sector, also supports existing heavy industries to transition to low-carbon operations.

**Aspiring Materials is currently building a FOAK pilot plant in Bromley, Christchurch and employs 8 full-time staff.** Their patented process takes advantage of a currently under-utilized but globally accessible ‘waste’ rock and transforms it into carbon-free

critical minerals, like magnesium, silica and iron, that are direct replacements to existing fossil fuel derived minerals. One of the unique applications of their products is carbon mineralisation for point source carbon capture and storage (CCS). The single optimized process also produces hydrogen, a clean energy source, realising a complete solution for industrial decarbonisation.



[ends]

[Media images available here](#)

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Anna Reid, Brand and Communications Lead, Aspiring Materials

[areid@aspiringmaterials.com](mailto:areid@aspiringmaterials.com) | +64 27 244 6204 | [aspiringmaterials.com](http://aspiringmaterials.com)

## **About Aspiring Materials**

Aspiring Materials is a clean-tech company based in Ōtautahi Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand. They have developed a world-first process that produces carbon-free critical minerals, clean energy and carbon capture solutions for the industrial sector from a single feedstock and process.

The company was founded by geologist Dr Christopher Oze and an engineering colleague after a decade of collaborative scientific research into developing construction materials that could be produced from the scarce resources available on Mars.

Today, the focus is all about Earth, pivoting decades of research and experience towards removing carbon dioxide from essential but hard-to-abate industries, using a commonly found and abundant ultramafic rock.

Aspiring Materials has already been well recognised by the global climate and clean-tech sector. Co-founders Dr Chris Oze and Mark Chadderton are Breakthrough Energy Fellows, and the company is an APAC Cleantech25, NZ Hi-Tech finalist, 1 of 10 PepsiCo APAC

Greenhouse Accelerator participants, an XPRIZE Carbon Removal Top 100, and a nominee for 2025 The EarthShot Prize.



The start-up has been supported with seed investment from Icehouse Ventures, Outset Ventures and more recently lead investor Motion Capital who have brought K1W1, among others, into the fold. The focus for Aspiring Materials is to complete and commence operations at their pilot plant facility in Bromley, Ōtautahi Christchurch, enabling scale up for industrial applications and commercial trials.

### **About Elemental Impact**

[Elemental Impact](#) is a non-profit investor with 15 years of experience scaling innovative technology projects with deep climate and community impact. Elemental invests catalytic capital and provides expert services to a growing portfolio of 160+ companies in energy, agriculture, transportation, industry, and nature-based solutions. The Elemental non-profit is supported by more than 40 philanthropic and government funders and is part of an expanding family of funds working in concert to mobilize capital from philanthropy, government, and private investors.

### **Elemental Impact MEDIA CONTACT:**

Email: [comms@elementalimpact.com](mailto:comms@elementalimpact.com)