Search Minerals and USA Rare Earth Enter Into Technical Collaboration Framework Agreement

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Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 10, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- via NewMediaWire -- **Search Minerals Inc. (TSXV: SMY)** ("**Search**" or the "**Company**") and **USA Rare Earth, LLC** ("**USA Rare Earth**") are pleased to announce that they have entered into a Technical Collaboration Framework Agreement ("**Collaboration Agreement**") to govern initial cooperation between USA Rare Earth and Search in a number of important areas of mutual interest.

Search holds patented Direct Extraction Process technology and owns 100% of a Critical Rare Earth Element District in SE Labrador, Canada. USA Rare Earth is establishing an integrated mine-to-magnet strategy independent of China, including funding and developing the Round Top Heavy Rare Earth and Critical Minerals Project in West Texas.

In January 2020, the U.S. and Canada announced the U.S. - Canada Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Collaboration, intended to advance "mutual interest(s) in securing supply chains for the critical minerals needed for important manufacturing sectors, including communication technology, aerospace and defence, and clean technology." In June 2020, the Canadian and U.S. Governments reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the North American supply chain for critical minerals - essential to both countries' national security and economic growth.

USA Rare Earth is the development and funding partner of the Round Top Mountain critical minerals and heavy rare earth project in Hudspeth County, West Texas. It also owns sintered rare earth magnet manufacturing equipment previously owned and operated by Hitachi Metals in North Carolina, and earlier this year opened a rare earth and critical minerals facility in Wheat Ridge to commission a pilot plant using Continuous Ion Exchange (CIX) extraction, separation and recovery methods using feedstock from Round Top and other non-Chinese sources.

Search's Critical Materials District ("**District**") in southeast Labrador, Canada currently has a Preliminary Economic Assessment ("**PEA**") report for the Foxtrot Project along with a mineral resource estimate for the Deep Fox Project. In addition, the 2020 exploration program has been completed, as the Company worked on its Fox Meadow, Silver Fox and Awesome Fox prospects within the District. In addition to the rare earth elements, Search is testing a flowsheet to obtain additional value from the high Zirconium and Hafnium values which has been discovered on surface at Silver Fox.

Under Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and Department of Energy (DoE) grants, USA Rare Earth's JV partner and prior operator Texas Mineral Resources Corp. (OTCQB: TMRC), demonstrated the ability to produce high-purity separation of rare earth oxides. The work currently underway at USA Rare Earth's Wheat Ridge facility is to produce high purity (+99.5%) separated rare earth oxides, lithium compounds, zirconium, hafnium and other metals from Round Top and for other strategic partners. Under the Collaboration Agreement with Search, USA Rare Earth will expand this scope to include material from Search's Labrador project.

USA Rare Earth and Search have established this technical collaboration for the purpose of working jointly and collaboratively to advance the development of the mineral resources held by each company. This will involve technical assistance through joint technical meetings, sharing of data, site visits and reviews and collaboration around the engineering and development of the Critical Material projects.

Greg Andrews, President/CEO of Search, stated: "We believe our synergies both with our technical collaboration and our resources will provide a strong partnership to help with our goals to support a North American rare earth supply chain. We are excited to work with USA Rare Earth, as they build out their Mine to Magnet strategy."

"We see many opportunities to work with Search in the spirit of the U.S. - Canada Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Collaboration. Search's Labrador projects and USA Rare Earth's Round Top project are highly complementary in terms of supplying our sintered neo magnet plant with all four neo magnet rare earths," stated Pini Althaus, CEO of USA Rare Earth.

Mr. Althaus continued, "Our collaboration with Search Minerals offers an opportunity to underscore the versatility of our Continuous Ion Exchange processing system in separating rare earths and critical minerals from multiple feedstocks, building on our ongoing evaluation of Heavy Rare Earth concentrate from Arafura's Nolans Project in Australia's Northern Territory." Mr. Althaus noted that Canada, the U.S. and Australia are three of the four members of the U.S. National Technology Industrial Base ("**NTIB**") before concluding, "This new collaboration with Search advances our Wheat Ridge, Colorado facility as a hub for rare earth separation in Canada, Australia and the U.S., focusing on rare earth oxides, particularly for neo magnets."

Growth in rare earth markets is being driven by rare earth (neo) magnets used in electric motors for electric vehicles and generators in wind turbines. Neo magnets used in these high-temperature applications use alloys including neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium, and terbium. USA Rare Earth expects Round Top to become the core, long-term supplier of dysprosium and terbium for its sintered neo magnet manufacturing. However, it will also be seeking long-term supplies of neodymium and praseodymium over and above its expected capacity at Round Top.

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About Search Minerals Inc.

Led by a proven management team and board of directors, Search is focused on finding and developing resources within the emerging Critical Rare Earth Element ("CREE") District of South East Labrador. The Company controls a belt 63 km long and 2 km wide including its 100% interest in the **FOXTROT** and **DEEP FOX** Projects, which are road accessible and at tidewater. Exploration efforts have advanced **FOX MEADOW, AWESOME FOX** and **SILVER FOX** as new CREE prospects very similar to and in close proximity to **FOXTROT** and **DEEP FOX**.

Search has continued to optimize our patented Direct Extraction Process technology with the generous support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and from the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency. We have completed two pilot plant operations and produced highly purified mixed rare earth carbonate concentrate and mixed REO concentrate for separation and refining.

Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

About USA Rare Earth, LLC

USA Rare Earth, LLC has an option to earn and acquire an 80% interest in, and is the operator of, the Round Top Heavy Rare Earth and Critical Minerals Project located in Hudspeth County, West Texas from Texas Mineral Resources Corp. (TMRC: OTCQB). Round Top hosts a wide range of critical heavy rare earth elements, high-tech metals, including lithium, zirconium, hafnium and beryllium, and, based on the Preliminary Economic Assessment (dated August 16, 2019) projects a pre-tax net present value using a 10% discount rate of $1.56 billion based on a 20-year mine plan that is only 13% of the identified measured, indicated and inferred resources. The PEA estimates an internal rate of return of 70% and average annual net revenues of $395 million a year after average royalties of $26 million a year payable to the State of Texas. Based on the cost estimates set forth in the PEA, Round Top would be one of the lowest-cost rare earth producers, and one of the lowest cost lithium producers in the world. The Round Top Deposit hosts 16 of the 17 rare earth elements, plus other high-value tech minerals (including lithium) and is well located to serve the US internal demand. In excess of 60% of materials at Round Top will be used directly in green or renewable energy technologies. Round Top contains 13 of the 35 minerals deemed "critical" by the Department of the Interior and contains critical elements required by the United States, both for national defense and industry. For more information about USA Rare Earth, visit www.usarareearth.com

Cautionary Statement Regarding "Forward-Looking" Statements:

This news release includes certain "forward-looking information" and "forward-looking statements" (collectively "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable Canadian and United States securities legislation including the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein, without limitation, statements relating the future operating or financial performance of the Company, are forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are frequently, but not always, identified by words such as "expects", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "potential", "possible", and similar expressions, or statements that events, conditions, or results "will", "may", "could", or "should" occur or be achieved.. Actual future results may differ materially. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Forward-looking statements reflect the beliefs, opinions and projections on the date the statements are made and are based upon a number of assumptions and estimates that, while considered reasonable by the respective parties, are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors, both known and unknown, could cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from the results, performance or achievements that are or may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements and the parties have made assumptions and estimates based on or related to many of these factors. Readers should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements and information contained in this news release concerning these times. Except as required by law, the Company does not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements of beliefs, opinions, projections, or other

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