

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD
Form 10-Q
August 07, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR
15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2018

OR

o

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 001-34852

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

(State of other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

N/A

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

P.O. Box 271049

Littleton, Colorado

(Address of principal executive offices)

80127

(Zip Code)

(720) 278-2460

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, smaller reporting company and emerging growth company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. S

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

Number of issuer's common shares outstanding as of August 7, 2018: 79,591,880

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Reporting Currency, Financial and Other Information

All amounts in this report are expressed in thousands of United States (U.S.) dollars, unless otherwise indicated.

Financial information is presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (U.S. GAAP).

References to Rare Element, the Company, we, our, and us mean Rare Element Resources Ltd., our predecessors, consolidated subsidiaries, or any one or more of them, as the context requires.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking information within the meaning of Canadian securities legislation and forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (collectively, forward-looking statements). Any statements that express or involve discussions with respect to business prospects, predictions, expectations, beliefs, plans, intentions, projections, objectives, strategies, assumptions, future events, performance or exploration and development efforts using words or phrases (including negative and grammatical variations) such as, but not limited to, expects, anticipates, plans, estimates, forecasts, likely, projects, believes, seeks, or stating that certain actions, events or results may, could, might or will be taken, occur or be achieved are not statements of historical fact and may be forward-looking statements. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot be certain that these plans, intentions or expectations will be achieved. Actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from those contemplated, expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Forward-looking statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the following:

the impact of the transaction with Synchron on our future development, operational and financing plans;

our ability to resume suspended operational, permitting and licensing activities successfully;

our ability and the timing to obtain the necessary permits and licenses, including project development, mining, beneficiation and processing permits and source material licenses;

.

our ability and timing to exercise our right to purchase certain non-mineral lands for waste rock storage and mineral processing operations;

.

the potential liquidation or sale of part or all of the Company's assets and the possible loss by investors of part or all of their investment;

.

anticipated losses in the operation of our business going forward;

.

the narrowed focus or suspension of the Company's near-term operational, permitting and licensing activities;

.

the pursuit of potential financing and strategic alternatives;

.

expectations regarding the ability to raise capital or secure strategic or joint venture partners in order to advance our Bear Lodge rare earth elements project (the Bear Lodge REE Project) or the exploration of our Sundance Gold Project (together, the Projects);

.

future expenditures to comply with environmental and other laws and regulations;

.

expectations regarding the global supply and demand for rare earth elements (REE);

.

the timing and potential conclusions of a future Feasibility Study (FS) on the Bear Lodge REE Project; and

.

expectations as to the marketability and prices of our planned rare earth product(s).

Forward-looking statements are subject to a variety of known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from our expectations, either expressed or implied, and include, among others, the factors referenced in the Risk Factors section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, including, without limitation, risks associated with:

.
our ability to maintain relationships and meet our obligations with significant investors or attract future investors or strategic or joint venture partners;

.
our limited cash resources and our ability to obtain additional financial resources on acceptable terms or at all, in order to (i) maintain our assets, (ii) conduct our Projects activities and (iii) maintain our general and administrative expenditures at appropriate levels;

.
depressed and volatile mineral markets, including fluctuations in demand for, and prices of, rare earth products and gold, including the potential impact of Chinese-dominated production on the rare earth market;

.
our lack of production from our mineral properties;

.
our history of losses and numerous uncertainties that could affect the profitability or feasibility of our Projects;

.
the potential outcome of future feasibility studies that may indicate that the Projects economics are less favorable than previously expected;

.
our ability to resume our currently suspended federal and state permitting and licensing efforts for the Bear Lodge REE Project in a timely and cost-effective manner, or at all;

.
the permitting, licensing and regulatory approval process, with respect to the exploration and development of our Projects and planned operation;

increased costs affecting our financial condition;

.

our ability to establish adequate distribution channels for any products that we may produce in the future;

.

competition in the mining, rare earth and gold industries, including an increase in global supplies or predatory pricing and dumping of rare earth products by our competitors;

.

technological advancements, substitutes, and the establishment of new uses and markets for rare earth products;

.

the specific product(s) from the Bear Lodge REE Project potentially having a limited number of customers, which could reduce our bargaining power, product pricing, and profitability;

.

our proprietary, patent-pending, rare earth processing technology encountering infringement, unforeseen problems, or unexpected costs in development, deployment or scaling up to commercial application;

.

our ability to maintain our interest in our patent-pending intellectual property and related technical information licensed to third parties;

.

mineral reserve and mineral resource estimation;

.

our ability to exercise our right to purchase certain non-mineral lands for waste rock storage and processing operations and the ability to acquire another location if necessary;

.

opposition to any of our Projects from third parties;

.

continued compliance with current environmental regulations and the possibility of new legislation, environmental regulations or permit requirements adverse to the mining industry, including measures regarding reclamation, water protection, land use and climate change;

.

our dependence on and the potential difficulty of attracting and retaining key personnel, consultants and qualified management;

.

any shortage of equipment and supplies;

.

mining and resource exploration, development and recovery being a potentially hazardous activity;

.
operating in the resource industry, which can be highly speculative and subject to market forces outside of our control;

.
title to our properties or mining claims;

.
insurance for our operations that could become unavailable, unaffordable or commercially unreasonable or have exclusions from coverage of certain risks to our business;

.
our land reclamation and remediation requirements;

.
information technology system disruptions, damage or failures;

.
our executive officers, directors and consultants being engaged in other businesses;

.
costs associated with any unforeseen litigation;

.
enforcement of civil liabilities in the United States and elsewhere;

.
our common shares continuing not to pay cash dividends;

our securities, including in relation to both Company performance and general security market conditions;

the OTCQB Venture Marketplace standards and the penny stock rules and the impact on trading volume and liquidity due to our listing on the OTCQB Venture Marketplace;

whether we deregister our common shares under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) and delist them from the OTCQB Venture Marketplace and/or list our common shares on a securities exchange; and

other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

This list is not exhaustive of the factors that might affect our forward-looking statements. Although we have attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary, possibly materially, from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. We caution readers not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. Except as required by law, we disclaim any obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events. **We qualify all of the forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q by the foregoing cautionary statements.** We advise you to carefully review the reports and documents we file from time to time with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), particularly our Annual Report on Form 10-K. The reports and documents filed by us with the SEC are available at www.sec.gov.

PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION**ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars, except shares outstanding)

| | June 30, 2018 (unaudited) | December 31, 2017 (audited) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| ASSETS: | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| | \$ | \$ |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,677 | 4,360 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 73 | 41 |
| Total Current Assets | 3,750 | 4,401 |
| Equipment, net | 80 | 88 |
| Investment in land | 600 | 600 |
| | \$ | \$ |
| Total Assets | 4,430 | 5,089 |
| LIABILITIES: | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| | \$ | \$ |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 193 | 52 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 193 | 52 |
| Reclamation obligation | 132 | 132 |
| Deferred intellectual property license income (Note 4) | 834 | 963 |
| Option liability (Note 4) | 364 | 616 |
| Repurchase option | 600 | 600 |
| Total Liabilities | 2,123 | 2,363 |
| Commitments and Contingencies | | |

SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Common shares, no par value - unlimited shares authorized; shares outstanding June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 - 79,591,880 | 106,494 | 106,494 |
| Additional paid in capital | 23,716 | 23,659 |
| Accumulated deficit | (127,903) | (127,427) |
| Total Shareholders' Equity | 2,307 | 2,726 |
| | \$ | \$ |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | 4,430 | 5,089 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated interim financial statements

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars, except share and per share amounts)

| | Three Months Ended June 30, | 2018 | 2017 | Six Months Ended June 30, | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Operating expenses: | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | |
| Exploration and evaluation | | (188) | (2) | | (276) | (20) |
| Corporate administration | | (274) | (295) | | (600) | (573) |
| Reclamation obligation revision | | | 116 | | | 116 |
| Depreciation | | (4) | (5) | | (8) | (10) |
| Total operating expenses | | (466) | (186) | | (884) | (487) |
| Non-operating income/(expenses): | | | | | | |
| Interest income | | 16 | | | 29 | |
| Recognized deferred income on the sale of intellectual property (Note 4) | | 65 | | | 129 | |
| Gain on revaluation of option liability (Note 4) | | 21 | | | 252 | |
| Other income (expense) | | | 21 | | (2) | 22 |
| Total non-operating income/(expenses) | | 102 | 21 | | 408 | 22 |
| | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | |
| Net loss | | 364 | (165) | | (476) | (465) |
| | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | |
| LOSS PER SHARE - BASIC AND DILUTED | | (0.00) | (0.00) | | (0.01) | (0.01) |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF SHARES OUTSTANDING | | 79,591,880 | 52,941,880 | | 79,591,880 | 52,941,880 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated interim financial statements

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)
For the six months ended

| | 2018 | June 30, | 2017 |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Net loss for the period | \$ | | \$ |
| | (476) | | (465) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss for the period to net cash and cash equivalents used in operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation | 8 | | 10 |
| Gain on revaluation of option liability | (252) | | - |
| Recognized deferred income on the sale of intellectual property | (129) | | - |
| Reclamation obligation revision | | | (116) |
| Stock-based compensation | 57 | | 31 |
| | (792) | | (540) |
| Changes in working capital | | | |
| Prepaid expenses and other | (32) | | (19) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 141 | | (26) |
| Net cash and cash equivalents used in operating activities | (683) | | (585) |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (683) | | (585) |
| Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of the period | 4,360 | | 927 |
| | \$ | | \$ |
| Cash and cash equivalents - end of the period | 3,677 | | 342 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated interim financial statements

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.

12NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2018

(all amounts stated in thousands of U.S. dollars except share and per share amounts)

1.

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Rare Element Resources Ltd. (we, us, Rare Element or the Company) was incorporated under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, Canada, on June 3, 1999.

Rare Element has historically been focused on advancing the Bear Lodge REE Project and the Sundance Gold Project, both located near the town of Sundance in northeast Wyoming. The Bear Lodge REE Project consists of several large disseminated REE deposits and a proposed hydrometallurgical plant to be located near Upton, Wyoming. The Sundance Gold Project contains an inferred mineral resource primarily composed of three main gold targets within the area of the Bear Lodge property.

The Company previously announced extensive cost-cutting measures and the placement of the Bear Lodge REE Project on care-and-maintenance to enable us to move the Bear Lodge REE Project forward when market conditions improve. Following the receipt of proceeds from the transaction with Synchron on October 2, 2017 (discussed in Note 4), the Company is pursuing an updated work plan to (i) further progress and enhance our proprietary technology for rare earth processing and separation through pilot plant testing, (ii) progress engineering work to optimize our mine plan, and (iii) determine the timing for the resumption of permitting and licensing efforts. During the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Company focused on Items (i) and (iii) above by entering into a formal engagement with a technical services vendor to continue technology review and advancement (discussed in Note 5), and by communicating with various agencies having jurisdiction over the Bear Lodge REE Project. The Company will remain focused on these two activities through the remainder of 2018.

As a result of the Company's current focus on the Bear Lodge REE Project and in light of ongoing volatile economic conditions for gold, no drilling or exploration on the Sundance Gold Project has been conducted since the end of 2011. Further exploration will be required in order to define the extent of the gold occurrences, and if there is any overlap with the Company's REE deposits.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes the Company will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business beyond the next 12 months following the filing date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The Company has incurred losses since inception and further losses are anticipated in the development of its business. Even with the transaction with Synchron, we do not have sufficient funds to fully complete feasibility studies, permitting, licensing, development and construction of the Bear Lodge REE Project. Therefore, the achievement of these activities will be dependent upon future financings, off-take agreements, joint ventures, strategic transactions, or sales of various assets. There is no assurance, however, that we will be successful in completing any such financing, agreement or transaction.

2.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

In accordance with U.S. GAAP for interim financial statements, these condensed consolidated financial statements do not include certain information and note disclosures that are normally included in annual financial statements prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP. Accordingly, these unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2017, which were included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (which are of a normal, recurring nature) necessary to present fairly in all material respects our financial position as of June 30, 2018, and the results of our operations and cash flows for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 in conformity with U.S. GAAP. Interim results of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 may not be indicative of results that will be realized for the full year ending December 31, 2018.

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****JUNE 30, 2018***(all amounts stated in thousands of U.S. dollars except share and per share amounts)***3.****EQUIPMENT**

| | June 30, 2018 | | | December 31, 2017 | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| | Cost | Accumulated depreciation | Net book value | Cost | Accumulated depreciation | Net book value |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Computer equipment | 61 | 61 | - | 61 | 61 | - |
| Furniture | 13 | 13 | - | 13 | 13 | - |
| Geological equipment | 437 | 362 | 75 | 437 | 357 | 80 |
| Vehicles | 87 | 82 | 5 | 87 | 79 | 8 |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| | 598 | 518 | 80 | 598 | 510 | 88 |

4.**SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY*****Transaction with Synchron***

On October 2, 2017, the Company and Synchron, a subsidiary of General Atomics Technologies Corporation (Synchron), completed a transaction in accordance with the following terms. Pursuant to an investment agreement (the Investment Agreement), the Company (i) issued to Synchron 26,650,000 common shares of the Company, which constituted approximately 33.5% of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Company; (ii) received gross proceeds of \$4,752 in cash; and (iii) granted Synchron an option (the Option) to purchase approximately an additional 15.49% of the Company s fully diluted common shares immediately after its exercise for an aggregate exercise price of

an additional \$5,040. Synchron's ownership percentage, immediately after giving effect to such Option exercise, is limited to 49.9% of the Company's issued and outstanding common shares. As set forth in the option agreement (the Option Agreement), the Option is exercisable for a period of up to four years from the initial investment. Additionally, the parties executed an intellectual property rights agreement (the IP Rights Agreement), whereby Synchron received rights to use and improve the Company's intellectual property relating to our patents-pending and related technical information. For a detailed discussion regarding the transaction with Synchron, see Note 6 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC on March 28, 2018.

The Company engaged a third-party valuation firm to determine the fair value of each component of the transaction: the Investment Agreement, the Option Agreement and the IP Rights Agreement. As of the closing date of the transaction, the gross value of each component was determined to be as follows: \$2,900 for the Investment Agreement, \$825 for the Option Agreement and \$1,027 for the IP Rights Agreement. The costs incurred to complete the transaction were allocated to each component based on relative fair value of each respective component.

The value of the common shares was determined using a probability-weighted expected return method (PWERM) analysis, which included six different probability-weighted scenarios based on the calculated enterprise value of the Company utilizing assumptions from the pre-feasibility study completed in 2014 and a trailing 5-year average rare earth pricing in a discounted cash flow analysis.

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****JUNE 30, 2018***(all amounts stated in thousands of U.S. dollars except share and per share amounts)*

Due to the variability in the number of common shares that may be issued upon exercise, the Option is considered a derivative liability. As a result, we revalue the Option liability at the end of each reporting period, until the Option is exercised or expires. Any gains or losses from the revaluation are recorded to the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The fair value of the Option liability as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 was \$364 and \$616, respectively. The gain on the revaluation of the Option liability was \$21 and \$252 for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively. The Option was valued utilizing the Black-Scholes valuation model on both June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017. The significant assumptions are as follows:

| | June 30, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Risk-free interest rate | 2.64% | 2.06% |
| Expected volatility | 75% | 75% |
| Expected dividend yield | Nil | Nil |
| Expected term in years | 3.3 | 3.8 |
| Estimated forfeiture rate | Nil | Nil |
| Exercise price | \$0.34 | \$0.34 |
| Estimated enterprise value per common share | \$0.00 | \$0.07 |

The decrease in estimated enterprise value is primarily due to a decrease in the 5-year trailing average of the market price of rare earth elements, which are utilized for accounting purposes. The incremental difference between the estimated value of the exclusive and non-exclusive IP Rights Agreement was added to the value from the Black-Scholes model to arrive at the total value of the Option.

Because Synchron will obtain exclusive rights to the intellectual property if it exercises the Option, the value of the IP Rights Agreement is considered deferred income as the Company retains exclusive title to the intellectual property until Synchron exercises the Option. We amortize the deferred income using the straight-line method over the term of the Option Agreement as this is the period of the Company's performance obligation related to the IP Rights Agreement. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, we amortized \$65 and \$129, respectively, of deferred intellectual property income. The value of the IP Rights Agreement at the transaction date was determined using a PWERM analysis for six different probability weighted scenarios using the relief from royalty method based on market royalty rates for similar agreements.

Warrants

As of June 30, 2018, the Company had nil warrants outstanding due to the expiration on April 29, 2018 of the 2,876,924 warrants previously outstanding with an exercise price of \$0.85. Each outstanding warrant was exercisable for one of the Company's common shares and was issued to investors in connection with the registered direct offering of the Company that closed on April 29, 2015.

Stock-based compensation

As of June 30, 2018, we had 3,781,400 options outstanding that were issued under the 10% Rolling Stock Option Plan (RSOP).

The compensation expense recognized in our consolidated financial statements for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 for stock option awards was \$28 and \$11, respectively. The compensation expense recognized in our consolidated financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 for stock option awards was \$57 and \$31, respectively. As of June 30, 2018, there was approximately \$80 of total unrecognized compensation cost related to 750,000 unvested stock options that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average remaining vesting period of 1.15 years.

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****JUNE 30, 2018***(all amounts stated in thousands of U.S. dollars except share and per share amounts)*

The following table summarizes our stock option activity for each of the six-month periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017:

| | 2018 | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | 2017 | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| | Number of Stock Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Number of Stock Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | | |
| | | \$ | | \$ | | |
| Outstanding, beginning of period | 4,031,400 | 0.44 | 3,694,900 | 0.94 | | |
| Granted | | | 150,000 | 0.15 | | |
| Cancelled/Expired | (250,000) | 1.34 | (100,000) | 0.04 | | |
| | | \$ | | \$ | | |
| Outstanding, end of period | 3,781,400 | 0.38 | 3,744,900 | 0.93 | | |
| | | \$ | | \$ | | |
| Exercisable, end of period | 3,031,400 | 0.42 | 3,744,900 | 0.93 | | |
| Weighted-average fair value per share of options granted during period | N/A | | \$ 0.15 | | | |

5.**COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

Our commitments and contingencies include the following item:

Potential environmental contingency

Our exploration and development activities are subject to various federal and state laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment. These laws and regulations are continually changing and generally have become more restrictive. The Company conducts its operations to protect public health and the environment and believes that its operations are materially in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. We have made, and expect to make in the future, expenditures to comply with such laws and regulations. The Company's reclamation liability of \$132 as of June 30, 2018 is related to prior exploration activities. The ultimate amount of reclamation and other future site-restoration costs to be incurred for future development and mining activities is uncertain.

Contract commitment

On April 24, 2018, the Company executed an agreement with Umwelt-und Ingenieurtechnik GmbH Dresden (UIT), an affiliate of General Atomics and Synchron, to validate the Company's rare earth processing technology, as well as, progress the Company's intellectual property. Because Synchron is a significant shareholder of the Company, the two directors of Rare Element appointed by Synchron abstained and the remaining members of the board of directors of Rare Element approved the UIT engagement on April 17, 2018. The UIT agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$600 and the work is anticipated to be concluded by December 31, 2018. Since the execution of the UIT agreement, the Company has incurred approximately \$60 in costs related thereto, of which \$50 is included in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities at June 30, 2018.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following management's discussion and analysis of the consolidated financial results and condition of Rare Element Resources Ltd. (collectively, we, us, our, Rare Element or the Company) for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, has been prepared based on information available to us as of August 7, 2018. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included herewith and the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Rare Element for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes thereto filed with our Annual Report on Form 10-K, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of many factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth elsewhere in this report. See Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.

All currency amounts are expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Outlook

During the first quarter of 2016, we placed the Bear Lodge REE Project under care-and-maintenance, and all permitting and licensing activities were suspended as cost-conservation measures. The Company continued these and other cost-conservation measures throughout 2017. Following the receipt of proceeds from the transaction with Synchron on October 2, 2017 (discussed in Note 4 of the unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements), the Company is pursuing an updated work plan to (i) further progress and enhance our proprietary technology for rare earth processing and separation through pilot plant testing, (ii) progress engineering work to optimize our mine plan, and (iii) determine the timing for the resumption of permitting and licensing efforts. During the first half of 2018, the Company focused on Items (i) and (iii) above by entering into a formal engagement with a technical services vendor to continue technology advancement (see Contractual Obligations discussion below), and by communicating with various agencies having jurisdiction over the Bear Lodge REE Project. The Company will remain focused on these two activities through the remainder of 2018.

Results of Operations

Summary

Our consolidated net loss for the three months ended June 30, 2018 was \$364, or \$nil per share, compared with our consolidated net loss of \$165, or \$nil per share, for the same period in 2017. Our consolidated net loss for the six months ended June 30, 2018 was \$476, or \$0.01 per share, compared with our consolidated net loss of \$465, or \$0.01 per share, for the same period in 2017. See the discussion below for the primary drivers regarding the change in net loss period-to-period.

Exploration and evaluation

Exploration and evaluation costs were \$188 and \$2 for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and were \$276 and \$20 for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The increase from the prior period was the result of increased activities on the Bear Lodge REE Project as we have started activities at the Bear Lodge REE Project related to permitting, licensing, maintaining our environmental obligations and initial spending under the UIT technology agreement (see Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements).

Corporate administration

Corporate administration costs for the three months ended June 30, 2018 were \$274 were comparable to the same period in 2017 of \$295. Corporate administration costs for the six months ended June 30, 2018 were \$600 were comparable to the same period in 2017 of \$573.

Amortization of intellectual property income

During the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, we amortized \$65 and \$129, respectively, of deferred intellectual property income. We incurred deferred intellectual property income in connection to the intellectual property rights agreement with Synchron (see Cash Flows, Financial Position, Liquidity and Capital Resources - Transaction with Synchron discussion below). Because Synchron will obtain exclusive rights to the intellectual property if it exercises the Option (as defined below), the value of the IP Rights Agreement (as defined below) is considered deferred income. We will amortize the deferred income using the straight-line method over the term of the Option Agreement (as defined below). There were no similar transactions for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017.

Gain on revaluation of option liability

The gain on the revaluation of the Option liability was \$21 and \$252 for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively. This gain is directly related to the valuation of the Option Agreement with Synchron (see Cash Flows, Financial Position, Liquidity and Capital Resources Transaction with Synchron discussion below) and is primarily due to a change in the 5-year and 10-year trailing average of the market prices of rare earth elements, which is utilized for the enterprise valuation model. Because the Option Agreement is considered a derivative liability, we revalue the Option liability at the end of each reporting period, until the Option is exercised or expires. Any gains or losses from the revaluation are recorded to the Consolidated Statements of Operations. There were no similar transactions for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017.

Cash Flows, Financial Position, Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net cash used in operating activities was \$683 for the six months ended June 30, 2018, as compared with \$585 for the same period in 2017. The increase of \$98 in cash used is primarily the result of increased spending on exploration and evaluation activities and corporate administration expenses.

Financial Position, Liquidity and Capital Resources

At June 30, 2018, our total current assets were \$3,750, as compared with \$4,401 as of December 31, 2017, which is a decrease of \$651. The decrease in total current assets is primarily due to a decrease in the combination of cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$683 due to funding our operations. Our working capital as at June 30, 2018 was \$3,557, as compared with \$4,349 at December 31, 2017.

We had previously placed the Bear Lodge REE Project under care-and-maintenance, and all permitting activities had been suspended. Additionally, corporate cost containment measures were implemented to preserve remaining cash balances as we pursued additional financings, asset sales and/or strategic alternatives, including joint ventures and the potential sale of all, or a portion of, the Bear Lodge REE Project and/or the Sundance Gold Project. Following the receipt of proceeds from the transaction with Synchron on October 2, 2017 (discussed in Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements), the Company is pursuing an updated work plan to (i) further progress and enhance our proprietary technology for rare earth processing and separation through pilot plant testing, (ii) progress engineering

work to optimize our mine plan, and (iii) determine the timing for the resumption of permitting and licensing efforts. During the first half of 2018, the Company focused on Items (i) and (iii) above by entering into a formal engagement with a technical services vendor (see Contractual Obligations discussion below) to continue technology advancement, and by communicating with various agencies having jurisdiction over the Bear Lodge REE Project. The Company will remain focused on these two activities through the remainder of 2018.

Notwithstanding the transaction with Synchron in October 2017, we do not have sufficient funds to fully complete feasibility studies, permitting, development and construction of the Bear Lodge REE Project. Therefore, the achievement of these activities will be dependent upon future financings, off-take agreements, joint ventures, strategic transactions, or sales of various assets. There is no assurance, however, that we will be successful in completing any such financing, agreement or transactions. Ultimately, in the event that we cannot obtain additional financial resources or complete a strategic transaction, we may have to liquidate our business interests, and investors may lose all or part of their investment.

Transaction with Synchron

On October 2, 2017, the Company and Synchron, a subsidiary of General Atomics Technologies Corporation (Synchron), completed a transaction in accordance with the following terms. Pursuant to an investment agreement (the Investment Agreement), the Company (i) issued to Synchron 26,650,000 common shares of the Company, which constituted approximately 33.5% of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Company; (ii) received gross proceeds of \$4,752 in cash; and (iii) granted Synchron an option (the Option) to purchase approximately an additional 15.49% of the Company's fully diluted common shares immediately after its exercise for an aggregate exercise price of an additional \$5,040. Synchron's ownership percentage, immediately after giving effect to such Option exercise, is limited to 49.9% of the Company's issued and outstanding common shares. Pursuant to an option agreement (the Option Agreement), the Option is exercisable for a period of up to four years from the initial investment. Additionally, the parties executed an intellectual property rights agreement (the IP Rights Agreement), whereby Synchron received rights to use and improve the Company's intellectual property relating to our patents-pending and related technical information. For a detailed discussion regarding the transaction with Synchron, see Note 6 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC on March 28, 2018.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have no off-balance sheet arrangements.

Contractual Obligations

During the six months ended June 30, 2018, the only material change to the contractual obligations disclosed in Item 7 of Part II of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 is as follows:

On April 24, 2018, the Company executed an agreement with Umwelt-und Ingenieurtechnik GmbH Dresden (UIT), an affiliate of General Atomics and Synchron, to validate the Company's rare earth processing technology, as well as, progress the Company's intellectual property. Because Synchron is a significant shareholder of the Company, the two directors of Rare Element appointed by Synchron abstained and the remaining members of the board of directors of Rare Element approved the UIT engagement on April 17, 2018. The UIT agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$600 and the work is anticipated to be concluded by December 31, 2018. Since the execution of the UIT agreement, the Company has incurred approximately \$60 in costs related thereto, of which \$50 is included in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities at June 30, 2018.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risk. Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Our market risk is comprised of various types of risk: interest rate risk, commodity price risk and other price risk.

Interest rate risk. Our cash and cash equivalents consist of cash held in bank accounts and, at times, short-term investments that earn interest at variable interest rates. Due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments, fluctuations in market rates did not have a significant impact on estimated fair values as of June 30, 2018. Future cash flows from interest income on cash and cash equivalents will be affected by interest rate fluctuations. We manage interest rate risk by maintaining an investment policy that focuses primarily on preservation of capital and liquidity.

Commodity price risk. We are indirectly exposed to commodity price risk of rare earth products and gold, which are, in turn, influenced by the price of and demand for the end products produced with rare earth and gold mineral

resources. A significant decrease in the global demand for these products may have a material adverse effect on our business. None of our mineral properties are in production, and we do not currently hold any commodity derivative positions.

Other price risk. Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices, other than those arising from interest rate risk or commodity price risk. We are not exposed to significant other price risks.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, an evaluation was carried out under the supervision of, and with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Principal Financial Officer (PFO), of the effectiveness of the design and operations of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)). Based on that evaluation, the CEO and the PFO have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective in ensuring that (i) information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms and (ii) information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our CEO and PFO, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Controls

There has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended June 30, 2018, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are not aware of any material pending or threatened litigation or of any proceedings known to be contemplated by governmental authorities that are, or would be, likely to have a material adverse effect upon us or our operations, taken as a whole.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

During the three months ended June 30, 2018 there were no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

We consider health, safety and environmental stewardship to be a core value for Rare Element.

Pursuant to Section 1503(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, issuers that are operators, or that have a subsidiary that is an operator, of a coal or other mine in the United States are required to disclose in their periodic reports filed with the SEC information regarding specified health and safety violations, orders and citations, related assessments and legal actions, and mining-related fatalities under the regulation of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (the Mine Act). During the quarter ended June 30, 2018, the Company was not subject to regulation by MSHA under the Mine Act.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

| <u>Exhibit</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------|---|
| <u>Number</u> | |
| 31.1+ | <u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14 promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended</u> |
| 31.2+ | <u>Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14 promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended</u> |
| 32.1+ | <u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u> |
| 32.2+ | <u>Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u> |
| 101.INS+ | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH+ | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL+ | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF+ | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB+ | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE+ | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |

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Filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES LTD.

By: */s/ Randall J. Scott*
Randall J. Scott
President, Chief Executive Officer and
Director
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: August 7, 2018

By: */s/ Adria Hutchison*
Adria Hutchison
Principal Financial Officer

Date: August 7, 2018