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MEDIA RELEASE

ERG's Graduate Programme for Young Geologists Fosters Skills and Innovation in Saudi Arabia

ERG Arabia, a fully owned subsidiary of Eurasian Resources Group (ERG), a leading diversified natural resources company headquartered in Luxembourg, has initiated a three-year programme for geology graduates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Geology Graduate Intake Programme is aimed at developing long-term mining skills and technological advancements in the related economic sector in the Kingdom.

"Our programme is key to unlocking the potential of local geology talent in the Kingdom's mining sector. By providing Saudi graduates hands-on experience and mentorship, we are fostering a new generation of skilled explorers," said **Shawn Crispin, Head of Exploration, ERG**. "We want to contribute to the growth and development of Saudi Arabia's mining industry and help to position it as a global leader in exploration and resource development."

The three-year initiative will help train and prepare exceptional geologists to lead major resources exploration projects to world-class standards. The programme will provide an opportunity for graduates to gain valuable experience, training, and mentorship within ERG, under the supervision and guidance of experienced professionals.

"At ERG, we are very passionate about this programme and about the next generation of mining specialists. The graduate programme in Saudi Arabia embraces the spirit of dedication and is complementary to our existing educational initiatives in ERG's other regions," said **Benedikt Sobotka, CEO, ERG and Co-Chair, Global Battery Alliance**.

As part of Saudi Arabia journey towards economic diversification, it's the equipping of local talent with skills, fostering technological advancement and promoting research excellence which are of paramount importance. It is also where deeper cooperation between leading local stakeholders and international corporations is key.

"This programme embodies our dedication to driving sustainable development in the Kingdom's mining sector. By investing in local talent and providing young geologists with the necessary tools and opportunities, we are establishing a strong foundation for sustainable growth," said **Jonathan Cordero, Head of Corporate Development, ERG**. "We look forward to nurturing and supporting Saudi geology graduates, empowering them to become future leaders and contributing to the long-term success of the Kingdom's mining industry."

The Geology Graduate Intake Programme reflects ERG's commitment to investing in the Kingdom's human capital and contributing to the sustainable development of the region's mining sector. The Programme commenced on Monday, July 3, at ERG's Jeddah office, and the first three junior geologists have already started - all of them are graduates from the King Abdulaziz University (KAU) Department in earth sciences.

The key objectives of the programme include:

1. **Skills development:** Participants will undergo comprehensive training and development initiatives, equipping them with the necessary skills to excel in the field of geology.
2. **Knowledge transfer:** The programme facilitates close collaboration with experienced industry professionals, enabling the transfer of cutting-edge techniques, best practice, and advanced technologies, to strengthen exploration expertise and foster innovation in the region.
3. **Employability:** Graduates of the programme will benefit from a clear career progression pathway within the resources sector. Having gained practical hands-on experience, they will have broader opportunities to excel in their future careers in the sector.
4. **Economic impact:** By empowering local talent, ERG aims to support economic diversification in the Kingdom. The programme will create new job opportunities, stimulate local industries, and contribute to the development of a robust and sustainable mining sector.

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About Eurasian Resources Group:

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) is a leading diversified natural resources group headquartered in Luxembourg with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics, and marketing operations. The Group operates in 16 countries and is a major employer in the industry with more than 75,000 people working for it.

In **Kazakhstan**, ERG represents one third of the metals and mining industry. It is also a key power supplier and a large railway operator in Central Asia. ERG is the world's largest high-carbon ferrochrome producer by chrome content. It is also one of the largest suppliers of alumina and iron ore in Eurasia and the only producer of high-grade aluminium in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In 2022 ERG announced plans to invest nearly KZT 110 billion (ca. USD 230 million) in building a major wind power plant in Kazakhstan to be commissioned in 2024. The new renewable energy facility will have a capacity of up to 155 MW and is expected to reduce CO2 emissions by around 520,000 tons annually.

In the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, ERG is focused on adopting a technological leadership position through industry partnerships, with the Kingdom serving as a strategic base for an advanced, high-impact hub to sustainably meet mineral demand. ERG intends to expedite early-stage exploration in the Kingdom to help meet the surging demand for battery metals, by deploying innovative and sustainable exploration technologies through its Technology Intelligence division.

In **Africa**, ERG mines and produces copper and cobalt hydroxide in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is the world's second largest standalone cobalt producer. The Group has further development projects in thermal coal, manganese, platinum, bauxite and fluorspar in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mali and Mozambique. ERG controls its own supply chain on the continent through its logistics company SABOT.

In the State of Bahia in **Brazil**, ERG is pioneering an integrated mining and logistics project comprising the Pedra de Ferro iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated new FIOB broad-gauge railway.

ERG is a Strategic Partner Associate of the **World Economic Forum** and a founding member of the **Global Battery Alliance** (GBA) which is dedicated to establishing a sustainable and responsible global supply chain for the lithium-ion batteries that can power the Fourth Industrial Revolution and a low carbon economy through mobile devices, electric vehicles and renewable energy systems. Since its establishment in 2017, the GBA has grown into a partnership with of more than 120 businesses, governments, academics, industry actors, international and non-governmental organisation.

ERG is also a co-founder of the **Re|Source** initiative, working together with CMOC, Glencore, Umicore and Tesla. The initiative uses blockchain to track cobalt and other battery materials in real operating conditions from the mine to an electric vehicle.

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