



# Mediaportal Report

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▶ **IN THE BLACK**

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# IN THE BLACK

with John Beveridge



It is not often that a single \$15 million share market float opens up the chance to launch an entirely new local industry and replace at least part of \$225 million of imports.

Potash West does just that with the hope of kick-starting domestic production of potash — an essential fertiliser ingredient.

Like all pioneering ideas there are significant risks, but Potash West chief executive Patrick McManus said high potash prices and global fertiliser demand were significant positives.

Rather than the deep, high-grade potash deposits mined in Canada, Russia and Belarus, the idea is to mine shallow, low-grade deposits of glauconite or green sand to produce potash.

Nobody makes potash from glauconite yet, although Toronto-listed Amazon Mining is developing the Cerrado Verde glauconite project in Brazil.

The idea is to trade off the low grade with lower mining costs and then process the glauconite through acid leaching.