

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **March 14, 2022**

TMC THE METALS COMPANY INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

British Columbia, Canada
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

001-39281
(Commission File Number)

Not Applicable
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

595 Howe Street, 10th Floor
Vancouver, British Columbia
(Address of principal executive
offices)

V6C 2T5
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(604) 631-3115**

Not applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
TMC Common Shares without par value	TMC	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC
Redeemable warrants, each whole warrant exercisable for one TMC Common Share, each at an exercise price of \$11.50 per share	TMCWW	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

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. ☐

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On March 14, 2022, TMC the metals company Inc. (the “Company”) entered into a non-binding memorandum of understanding (the “Memorandum of Understanding”) with Epsilon Carbon Pvt, LTD. (“Epsilon”). Epsilon expressed its intent in the Memorandum of Understanding to prepare a pre-feasibility report for the potential construction and operation of a plant in India to process polymetallic nodules from the seafloor and to potentially finance, permit, construct and operate the plant. The Memorandum of Understanding contemplates, among other things, the successful completion of the pre-feasibility report and the Company and Epsilon to execute a binding Heads of Terms satisfactory to each, which is expected to form the basis of the subsequent definitive agreement(s), to move forward with the potential permitting, construction, operation and supply of the proposed plant. There can be no assurance that the Company will enter into such Heads of Terms or subsequent definitive agreement(s) in a particular time period, or at all, or on terms similar to those set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding, or that if such Heads of Terms or definitive agreement(s) are entered into by the Company that the proposed plant will be financed, permitted, constructed, operated or supplied in a particular time period, or at all, or successfully.

Under a binding provision of the Memorandum of Understanding, each of the Company and Epsilon have agreed not to enter into any binding agreements with any other third party for the construction and operation of a processing plant for polymetallic nodules through the earlier of the Company and Epsilon entering into the Heads of Terms contemplated by the Memorandum of Understanding and March 31, 2023.

Forward Looking Statements

Certain statements made in this Current Report on Form 8-K are not historical facts but are forward-looking statements for purposes of the safe harbor provisions under The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements generally are accompanied by words such as “believe,” “may,” “will,” “estimate,” “continue,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “expect,” “should,” “would,” “plan,” “predict,” “potential,” “seem,” “seek,” “future,” “outlook” and similar expressions that predict or indicate future events or trends or that are not statements of historical matters. These forward-looking statements involve significant risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. Most of these factors are outside the Company’s control and are difficult to predict. Factors that may cause such differences include, but are not limited to: the Company’s ability to enter into the Heads of Terms and any subsequent definitive agreement(s) with Epsilon to construct, operate and supply the potential processing plant in India on terms and conditionals substantially similar to those set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding; the successful completion of the pre-feasibility report; the Company’s ability to obtain exploitation contracts for its areas in the Clarion Clipperton Zone (“CCZ”); the Company and Epsilon’s ability to secure binding offtake arrangements for the proposed plant’s production on acceptable terms and in sufficient quantities; regulatory uncertainties and the impact of government regulation and political instability on the Company’s resource activities; changes to any of the laws, rules, regulations or policies to which the Company is subject; the impact of extensive and costly environmental requirements on the Company’s operations; environmental liabilities; the impact of polymetallic nodule collection on biodiversity in the CCZ and recovery rates of impacted ecosystems; the Company’s ability to develop minerals in sufficient grade or quantities to justify commercial operations; the lack of development of seafloor polymetallic nodule deposit; uncertainty in the estimates for mineral resource calculations from certain contract areas and for the grade and quality of polymetallic nodule deposits; risks associated with natural hazards; uncertainty with respect to the specialized treatment and processing of polymetallic nodules that the Company may recover; risks associated with collective, development and processing operations, including the successful permitting, completion and operation of the proposed plant in India; fluctuations in transportation costs; testing and manufacturing of equipment; risks associated with the Company’s limited operating history; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; risks associated with the Company’s intellectual property; and other risks and uncertainties, including those under Item 1A “Risk Factors” in the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2021, filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) on November 15, 2021, and in the Company’s other future filings with the SEC. The Company cautions that the foregoing list of factors is not exclusive. The Company cautions readers not to place undue reliance upon any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. The Company does not undertake or accept any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements to reflect any change in its expectations or any change in events, conditions, or circumstances on which any such statement is based except as required by law.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
10.1†	Non-Binding Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 14, 2022, by and between TMC the metals company Inc. and Epsilon Carbon Pvt. LTD.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

† Pursuant to Item 601(b)(10)(iv) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, certain portions of this exhibit have been redacted. TMC the metals company Inc. hereby agrees to furnish supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon its request, an unredacted copy of this exhibit.

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 hereunto duly authorized.

TMC THE METALS COMPANY INC.

Date: March 17, 2022

By: /s/ Gerard Barron

Name: Gerard Barron

Title: Chief Executive Officer

CERTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT, MARKED BY [***], HAS BEEN OMITTED BECAUSE THE INFORMATION (I) IS NOT MATERIAL AND (II) WOULD LIKELY CAUSE COMPETITIVE HARM IF PUBLICLY DISCLOSED.

Memorandum of Understanding

**Business Collaboration to Establish the World's First Commercial Nodule
Processing Plant in India to Serve Battery Cathode and Steel Manufacturing
Markets**

This Memorandum of Understanding (the “**MOU**”) is made on 14th March 2022 between:

- (1) Epsilon Carbon Pvt. LTD., a company incorporated under the laws of India with CIN No: U24100MH2010PTC207156 and its correspondence address at 2nd & 3rd Floor, Upadrashta House, 48, Dr V.B. Gandhi Marg, Kala Ghoda Fort, Mumbai-400023, India (“**EPSILON CARBON**”); and
- (2) TMC The Metals Company Inc., a company organized under the laws of British Columbia, Canada with registered number BC0901047 and registered address at 10th Floor, 595 Howe Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 2T5, Canada (“**TMC**”).

EPSILON CARBON and TMC are hereinafter jointly referred to as the “**Parties**” and individually a “**Party**.”

This MoU is structured into the following sections:

1. Background
2. Strategic Intent
3. Project Zero Plant: Pre-Feasibility Report (“PFR”)
4. Project Zero Plant: Heads of Terms Agreement

Other than as contemplated in the section titled “Binding Provisions”, nothing herein shall be construed, interpreted, or otherwise deemed to be legally binding, and the Parties expressly acknowledge, except as specifically set forth below, and confirm that they do not intend to create any legal obligations by their signing of this MOU.

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1. Background

About TMC

TMC The Metals Company, Inc. (“**TMC**”) Established in 2011, TMC is a NASDAQ-listed Canadian company developing a polymetallic nodule resource found on the seafloor in the international waters of the Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ) and regulated by the International Seabed Authority. TMC holds exploration and commercial rights to three areas in the CCZ (NORI, TOML, Marawa) and has issued Canadian NI 43-101 and SEC SK 1300 compliant technical resource statements on two of its exploration contract areas (TOML and NORI). [***]

About EPSILON CARBON

Epsilon Carbon Pvt. Ltd., (“**EPSILON CARBON**”) Established in 2010, Epsilon Carbon Pvt Ltd is a leading manufacturer of coal tar derivatives and India's only backward-integrated company with a dedicated source of raw materials generated by the JSW Group’s steel manufacturing plant. EPSILON CARBON has entered the lithium-ion battery materials value chain in 2018 with the vision to develop and manufacture innovative, high performance and quality carbon products for anode components of lithium-ion batteries by founding a dedicated subsidiary Epsilon Advanced Materials Private Limited (“**EPSILON ADVANCED MATERIALS**”). The subsidiary is currently focused on the production of synthetic flake graphite, a precursor material used in battery anodes. EPSILON ADVANCED MATERIALS has built a greenfield plant with a commercial capacity of 2,500 tons per annum for anode precursor material (EMC series) and a pilot facility for coke powder (EMP series) and graphite anodes (EMG series). [***] To complement their presence in the anode space, EPSILON CARBON aims to produce cathode materials in India [***].

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Interactions between parties to date

[***]

2. Strategic Intent

[***]

[***]

[***]

The intent of the Parties is to develop a greenfield Project Zero nodule processing plant in India wherein EPSILON CARBON would finance, permit, build, and operate the Project Zero Plant in India for the sole purpose of processing polymetallic nodules collected from NORI-D area. Moreover, the parties intend to jointly market manganese silicate to manganese alloy producers or their steel manufacturing customers in India, and precursors of battery cathode materials to global customers initially, and India subsequently, [***].

[***]

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The high-level timeline contemplated by the Parties is as follows:

- [***]
- [***]
- [***]

As the immediate next steps, the Parties will:

- Complete a PFR for Project Zero Plant (incl. Rotary Kilns, Electric Arc Furnaces and Pierce-Smith Converters) at a suitable site in India with access to deep-water port and powered by renewables;
- Start negotiating the commercial arrangement for Project Zero, and may mutually agree to enter into a binding Heads of Terms Agreement by September 30, 2022 to capture the commercial structure [***] of the Project Zero Plant.

3. Project Zero Plant: PFR

As mentioned in the timeline above, TMC and EPSILON CARBON currently intend to jointly complete a Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) for Project Zero Plant in India [***].

Objective	The objective of the PFR is to establish feasibility and business case for a Project Zero Plant to process nodules from NORI-D area in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone to a NiCuCo matte and a Mn Silicate product at a selected site in India.
[***]	[***]
[***]	[***]

4. Project Zero Plant: Heads of Terms Agreement

TMC and EPSILON CARBON may mutually agree to enter into a binding Heads of Terms Agreement by September 30, 2022 to capture the commercial structure [***] of the Project Zero Plant.

[***]	[***] [***] [***]
Cooperation	During the Term (as defined below), the Parties agree to keep each other reasonably informed about any changes in circumstance which may affect the delivery of a completed PFR, or this MOU or, in the case of NORI, any changes in the timeline to issuance of the exploitation contract.

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Public disclosure	Within three (3) business days of the execution of this MOU the Parties shall issue a joint press release in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Press Release”). Except as set forth above, each Party shall not, without the prior written consent of the other Party issue any news release, advertisement or public communication in which any of the other Party, any of its affiliates or their respective activities or relationship with the Party are mentioned, except where the issuance of any news release or other public communication may be required by a Party in order to comply with applicable law or rules of a stock exchange.
Confidentiality	Each of the Parties agrees that the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement executed by the parties on December 9, 2021 continues to govern the information exchanged between the parties until the earlier of (i) the execution of the Heads of Terms Agreement and the Termination Date (as defined below).
Term	This MOU shall be valid from the date of execution until the earlier of (the “Term”) (i) mutual execution of the Heads of Terms Agreement or (ii) March 31, 2023 (the “Termination Date”).
Exclusivity	From the date of execution of this MOU until the Termination Date, the Parties mutually agree not to enter into any binding agreements with any third party for the construction and operation of a processing plant for polymetallic nodules such as the ones found on the seafloor of the international waters of the Clarion Clipperton Zone (CCZ).
Governing Law	This MOU shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with Indian law. The Courts of India will have exclusive jurisdiction in relation to any claim or dispute arising under this MOU. Each Party irrevocably waives any right it may have to object to any action being brought in those courts, to claim that the action has been brought in an inappropriate forum, or to claim that those courts do not have jurisdiction.
Binding Provisions	The only provisions of this MOU that are binding upon the Parties as of the execution of this MOU by both Parties are the paragraphs captioned (i) Cooperation, (ii) Confidentiality (iii) Term (iv) Exclusivity, (v) Public Announcements, (vi) Governing Law and (vii) Binding Provisions and the definition of any defined term used but not defined therein.
[***]	[***]
[***]	[***]

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/s/ Gerard Barron

Gerard Barron
Chairman and CEO
The Metals Company

/s/ Vikram Handa

Vikram Handa
Managing Director
Epsilon Carbon Pvt. Ltd.
