

# Mardie Salt An Emerging Australian Project

Roskill International Salt Conference – London UK

**Alwyn Vorster – Managing Director** 



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#### **About BCI Minerals**



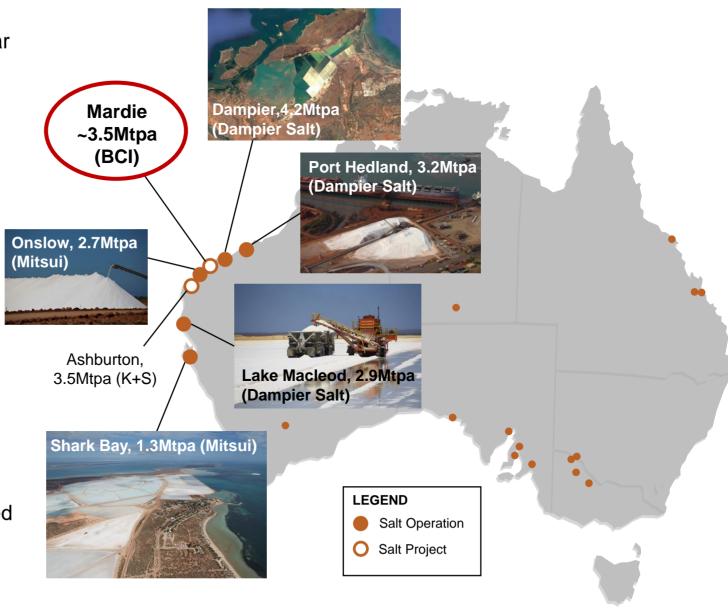
- ASX-listed resources company based in Perth, Australia (ASX: BCI)
- Market capitalisation of ~A\$70M
- A\$19M cash, zero debt and royalty earnings from the Iron Valley mine (~A\$18M EBITDA in FY17)
- BCI aims to become a mining company with multiple earnings streams from iron ore and industrial minerals projects
- Salt and potash have been identified as commodities with an attractive long term demand outlook



## **Australian Salt Projects**



- Ideal climatic conditions for solar evaporation salt production
- Currently ~16Mtpa production capacity – 95% solar salt
- Key production region is the Pilbara/Mid-West coastline
  - Five major operations with a capacity of ~14Mtpa
  - Key players are Dampier Salt (Rio Tinto, Marubeni & Sojitz) and Shark Bay Salt (Mitsui)
- Numerous <1Mtpa producers including Cheetham Salt, Tellus and WA Salt
- BCI's Mardie Salt Project located in the centre of this region

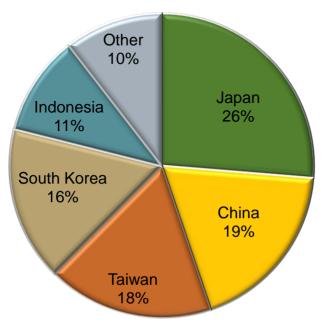


## **Australian Production and Exports**

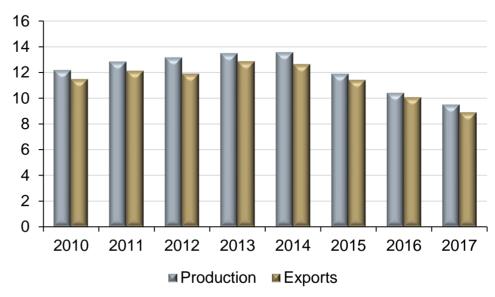


- Production has trended down in recent years from ~14Mtpa to ~10Mtpa due to:
  - Lower quality salt from other countries aggressively priced into Asia
  - Above average weather impacted on Pilbara operations

#### 2017 Australian Export Destinations – 10Mtpa



#### **Production and Exports (Mtpa)**

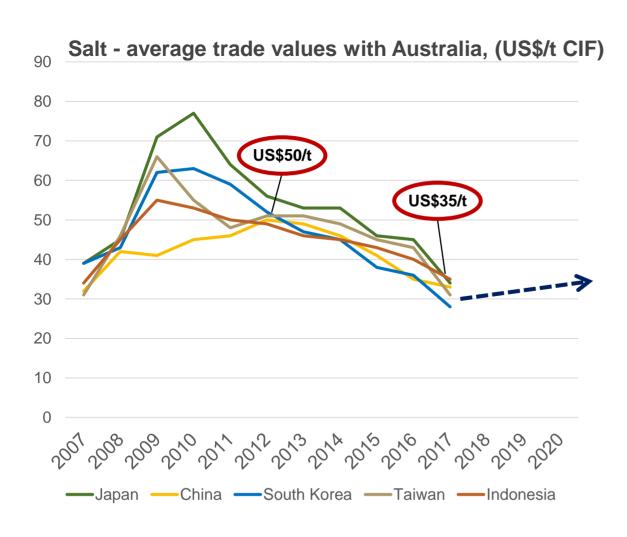


- ~95% of Pilbara production is exported primarily to Asian chemical industry
- China demand is forecast to increase stronger than other countries – likely to become a major market for Australia
- Potential parallels to iron ore market dynamics in 2000-2010 period

## **Australian Export Prices**



#### Positive price outlook for Asian salt market



#### Challenging market during last 7-years

- Prices have been on a downward trend
- Volatile shipping freight rates had a material impact on delivered prices

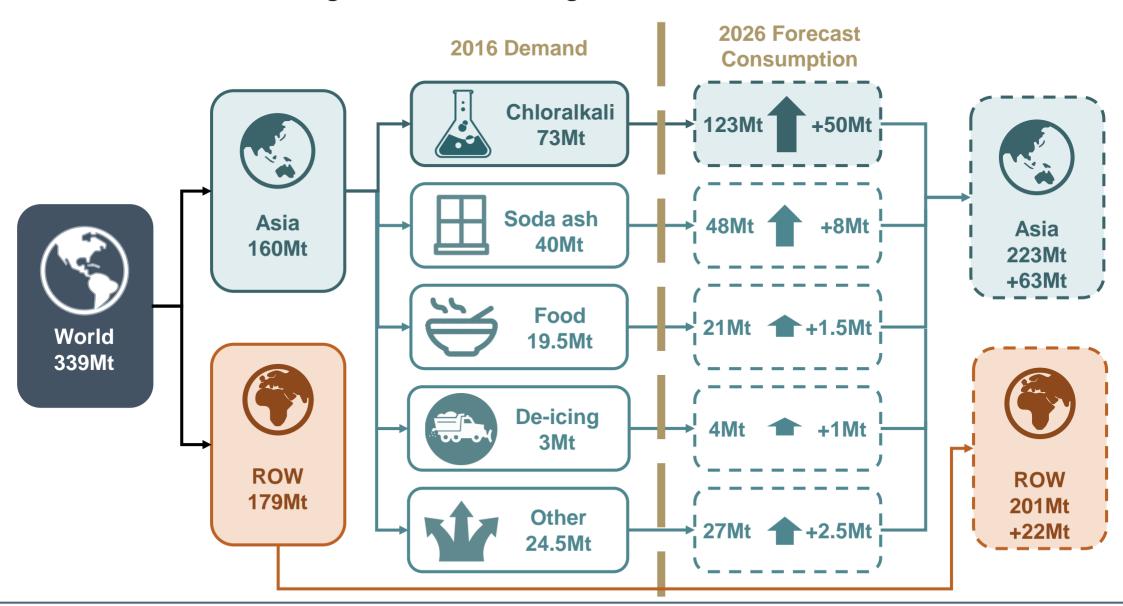
#### However .....

- Maturing Chinese market resulting in competitive prices with rest of Asia
- Limited new supply potential developed during the last few years
- Strong demand forecast in Asia points to more positive price environment

### **Global Salt Demand Outlook**



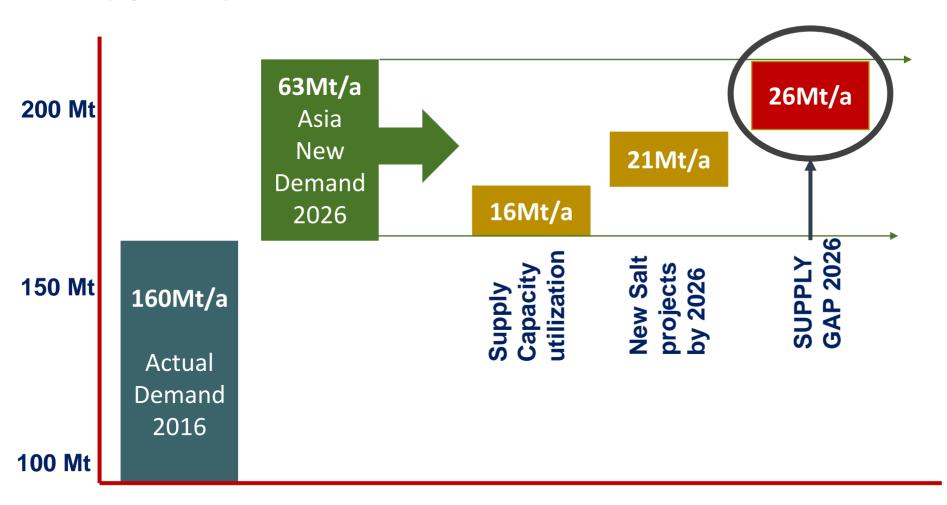
#### Roskill<sup>1</sup> forecast strong Asian salt demand growth



## **Asian Salt Demand & Supply Outlook**



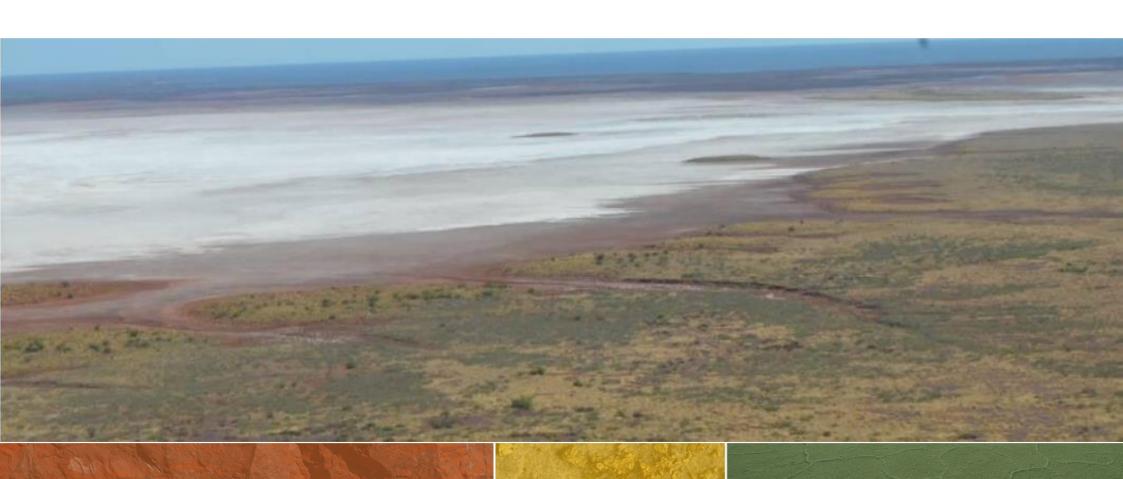
#### Supply gap likely to develop over next decade



~26 Mt/a supply gap possible by 2026 – equal to 7 Mardie sized projects



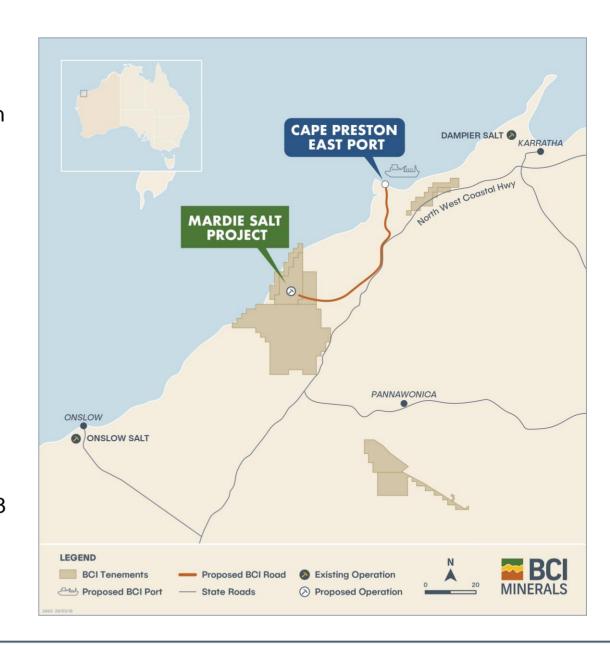
## Mardie - Salt & Potash Project



## **Mardie Project Overview**



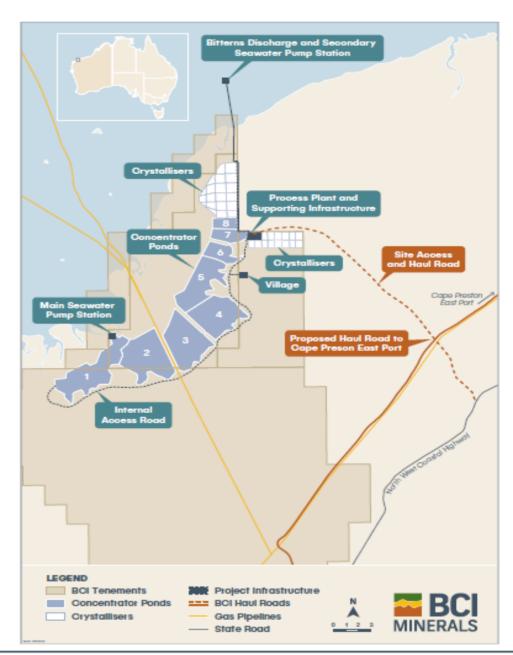
- Project 100% owned by BCI
- ~300km² tenements located on Pilbara coast in ideal proximity to Asian growth markets
- Site conditions highly favourable for solar salt production
  - Long dry season with <300 mm rainfall p.a.</li>
  - High net evaporation rates of >2,900mm p.a.
  - Large low-permeability mudflats for location of evaporation ponds
  - Access to sea water via 30km of coastline with natural inflow channels
- Positive Scoping Study completed in Jul-17<sup>1</sup>
- Pre-Feasibility Study to be completed in Jun-18



## **Design and Site Layout**

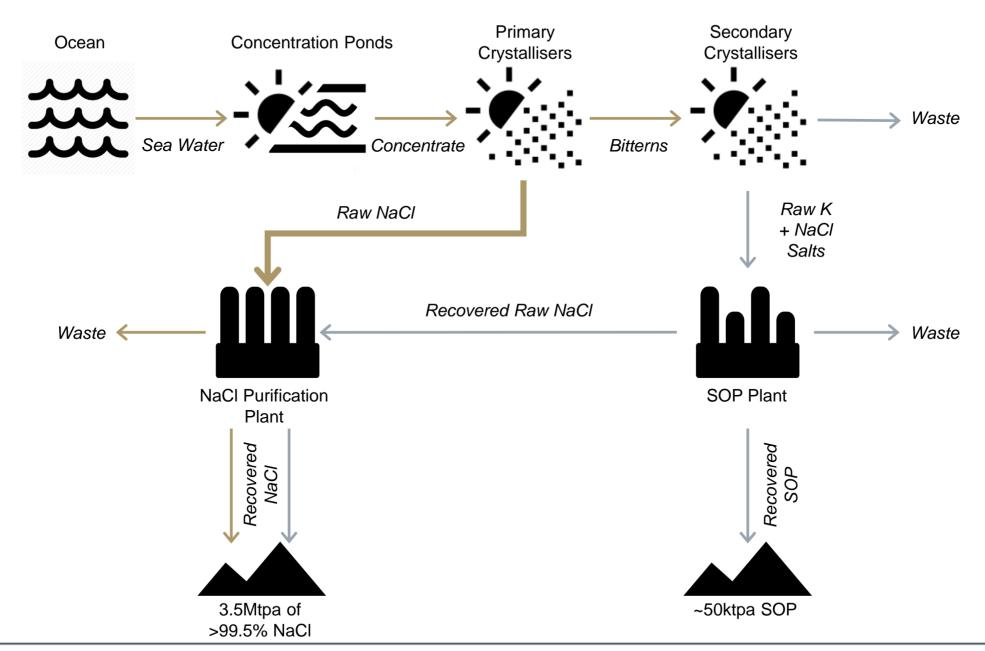


- Eight concentrator ponds continuous flow methodology
- 12 primary NaCl salt crystallisers
- Up to 24 secondary K+NaCl salt crystallisers
- Pond design avoids most of sensitive coastal vegetation and allows natural two-way water flow
- ~3.5Mtpa high purity salt production via 700t/hr salt purification plant being designed by Salt Partners
- ~50ktpa sulphate of potash (SOP) production via SOP circuit being designed by K-UTEC



## Simplified Process Flow – 3.5Mtpa NaCl





## **Export Logistics**



- 50km sealed road linking Mardie site with BCI's proposed Cape Preston East Port
- Heavy haul road trains (~220t) used for efficient and low cost transport
- Port designed to service BCl's Buckland Iron Ore (15Mtpa) and Mardie Salt (3.5Mtpa) projects
- Dedicated salt infrastructure including 200kt storage shed, covered conveyors and shiploader
- Modern self-unloading & self-propelled transhipment vessels transport to ships (up to Capesize) 14km offshore
- All environmental and heritage approvals secured
- Alternate design case for a small independent port at the Mardie site (avoids road transport opex)
- SOP export planned via existing container port (e.g. Dampier)





## **Mardie Minerals – Marketing Approach**



#### **PRODUCT**

- NaCl: >99.5% (dry), Ca <0.06%, Mg <0.03%
- SOP: >50% K<sub>2</sub>0, <1% CI

#### **PLACEMENT**

- NaCl: 70% Chloralkali; 15% Food; 15% Soda ash [Asia focussed]
- SOP: Agricultural [Australia, Asia]

#### **PRICE**

- NaCl: LT price >US\$35/t CIF Asia
- SOP: LT price >US\$450/t FOB WA

#### **PROMOTION**

- Testwork with potential offtake partners
- Offtake partners as potential joint venture partners
- Strategic investors (construction; current suppliers etc) as potential partners

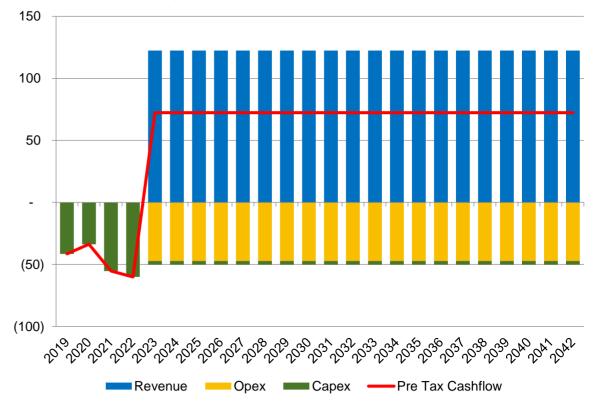
## **Attractive Scoping Study<sup>1</sup> Economics**



#### **Key Metrics** (Salt only – SOP excluded)

NaCl Production	3.5Mtpa
Operating Life	20 years
Capex	US\$190M
Opex (FOB)	US\$14/t
EBITDA	US\$70M p.a.
Pre-tax NPV <sub>10</sub>	US\$285M
Pre-tax IRR	27%
Payback Period	5 years

## Projected Project Cashflows (US\$M)

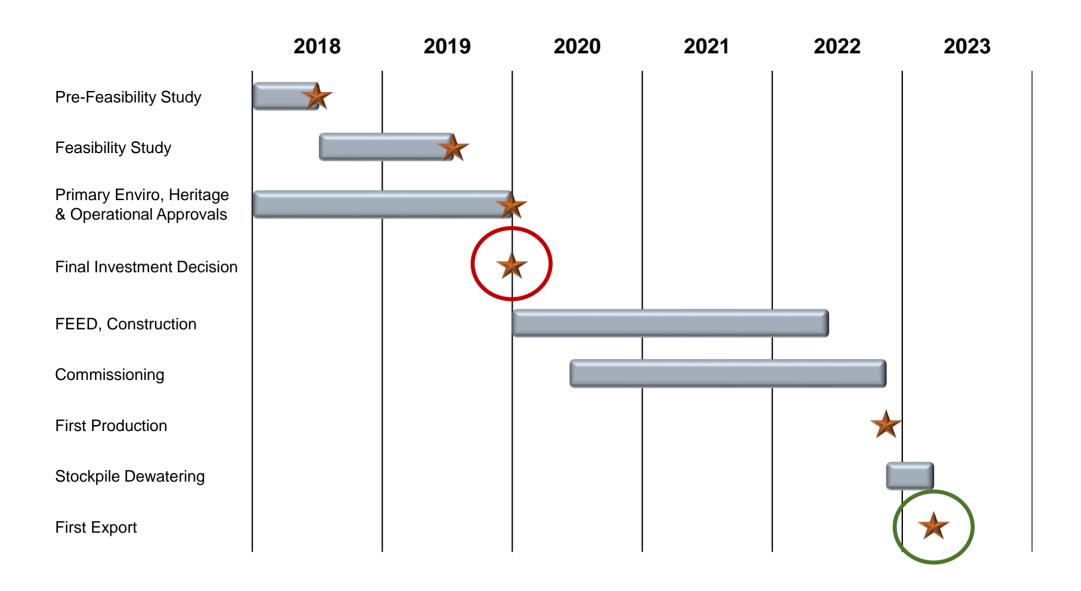


## **Upside value potential from including SOP production**

1: BCI ASX Release 18 July 2017

## **Project Timeline**





## Mardie PFS: BCI's Supporting Teams



#### **Engineering**



Salt purification plant design



SOP production circuit design



**Evaporation consultant** 



Civil design and engineering



Port design and general engineering



Geotechnical assessment

**Dalesford** 

Cost estimation review

#### **Environment**



Flora and fauna studies (Marine), ocean studies



Fauna studies (Turtles)



Flora and fauna studies (Terrestrial)



Flora and fauna studies (Algal Mat)



Hydrology studies (surface water, storm surge and inundation)

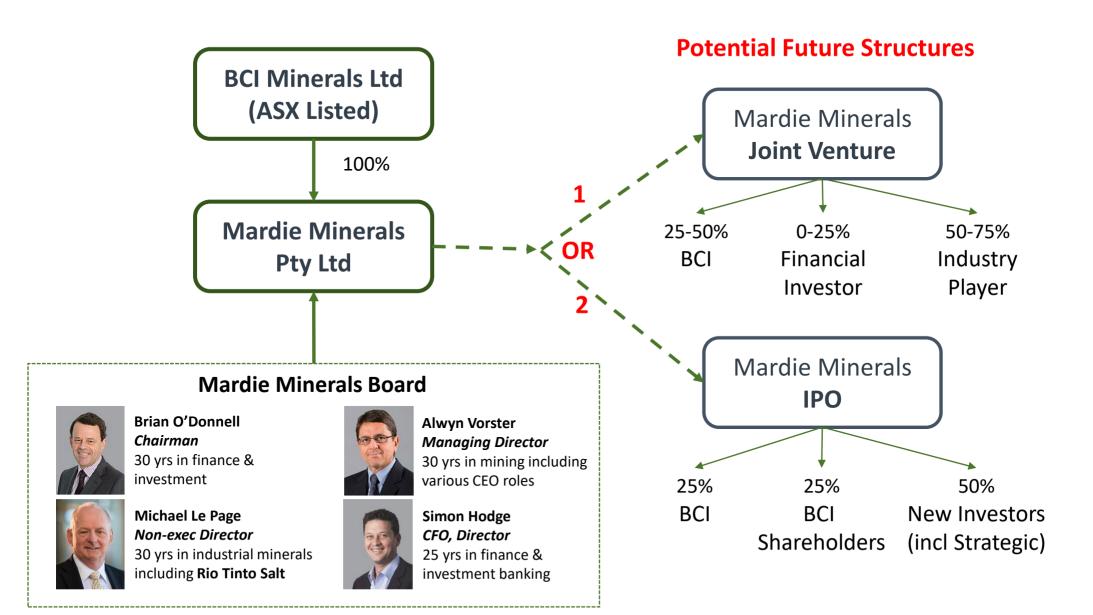
#### **Economics**



Salt market and pricing intelligence

## **Ownership Structures**





## **Mardie Salt – Attractive Development Project**



- ✓ Project in stable investment country close to Asian growth markets
- ✓ Ideal project location and site conditions for a solar evaporation project
- Potential<sup>1</sup> for >US\$250M NPV and >US\$70M p.a. EBITDA from Salt
- ✓ Upside value potential from production of Sulphate of Potash by-product
- ✓ BCI seeking funding and development partners to progress development

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