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Aqua Metals Announces Change to Executive Management Team

Appoints Frank Knuettel II as Chief Financial Officer

ALAMEDA, Calif., April 12, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Aqua Metals, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ:AQMS), ("Aqua Metals" or the "Company"), which is commercializing a non-polluting electrochemical lead recycling technology called AquaRefining™, today announced that Frank Knuettel II has agreed to join the executive team and will become Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Knuettel will join the Company full-time effective as of April 16, 2018 and will formally assume the CFO role immediately following the filing of the Company's second quarter Form 10-Q. As CFO, Mr. Knuettel will succeed Thomas Murphy, who was named interim CFO after the departure of Mark Weinswig in March 2018. Mr. Murphy will continue as a consultant to the company on a number of matters to ensure a smooth transition. He has also been nominated by the Board of Directors for election to the Board at the Company's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Frank joins Aqua Metals with extensive strategic and operational financial leadership, with over 20 years of management and business experience in public and venture-backed firms. He served as CFO for Marathon Patent Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: MARA) from 2014 to 2018, where he managed the acquisition of nine entities and closed \$50 million on debt financing. From 2007 to 2013, he was CFO for IP Commerce Inc. Previously, he held several senior financial positions at InfoSearch Media, Inc., Internet Machines Corporation and Viking Systems, Inc., from 1999 to 2007. Mr. Knuettel holds an MBA from The Wharton School and a BA in Economics from Tufts University.

"On behalf of the Aqua Metals team, I welcome Frank to Aqua Metals," said Vincent Divito, Independent Director and chair of the Audit Committee. "Frank has exceptional financial and operational experience in growing businesses as well as investor relations and SEC expertise. I want to thank Thomas Murphy for stepping out of retirement and being our interim CFO."

"I'm excited about the opportunity to work with a cutting edge Green Technology company such as Aqua Metals," said Frank Knuettel "and look forward to helping the company achieve its financial and operational goals as it continues to ramp up its revenue-producing operations."

About Aqua Metals

Aqua Metals, Inc. (NASDAQ:AQMS) is reinventing lead recycling with its patented and patent-pending AquaRefining™ technology. Unlike smelting, AquaRefining is a room temperature, water-based process that is fundamentally non-polluting. These modular systems allow the Company to vastly reduce environmental impact and scale lead acid recycling production capacity both by building its own AquaRefineries and licensing the AquaRefining technology to partners. Aqua Metals is based in Alameda, California, and has

built its first recycling facility in Nevada's Tahoe Reno Industrial Complex. To learn more, please visit www.aquametals.com.

Safe Harbor

This press release contains forward-looking statements concerning Aqua Metals. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that contain words such as "expects," "contemplates," "anticipates," "plans," "intends," "believes" and variations of such words or similar expressions that predict or indicate future events or trends, or that do not relate to historical matters. The forward looking statements in this release include the strength and efficacy of Aqua Metals' portfolio of patent applications and issued patents, the lead acid battery recycling industry, the future of lead acid battery recycling via traditional smelters, the Company's development of its commercial lead acid battery recycling facilities and the quality and efficiency of the Company's proposed lead acid battery recycling operations. Those forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially. Among those factors are: (1) the risk that the Company may not be able to produce and market AquaRefined lead on a commercial basis or, if the Company achieves commercial operations, that such operations will be profitable, (2) the fact that the Company only recently commenced production and has not generated any significant revenue to date, thus subjecting the Company to all of the risks inherent in a pre-revenue start-up; (3) the risk no further patents will be issued on the Company's patent applications or any other application that it may file in the future and that those patents issued to date and any patents issued in the future will be sufficiently broad to adequately protect the Company's technology, (4) the risk that the Company's initial patents and any other patents that may be issued to it may be challenged, invalidated, or circumvented, (5) risks related to Aqua Metals' ability to raise sufficient capital, as and when needed, to develop and operate its recycling facilities and fund continuing losses from operations as the Company endeavors to achieve profitability; (6) changes in the federal, state and foreign laws regulating the recycling of lead acid batteries; (7) the Company's ability to protect its proprietary technology, trade secrets and know-how and (8) those other risks disclosed in the section "Risk Factors" included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 15, 2018. Aqua Metals cautions readers not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. The Company does not undertake, and specifically disclaims any obligation, to update or revise such statements to reflect new circumstances or unanticipated events as they occur, except as required by law.

Important Additional Information and Where to Find It

This press release may be deemed to contain solicitation material in respect of the solicitation of proxies from the Company's stockholders in connection with the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders (the "Annual Meeting"). The Company has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") its preliminary proxy statement and GOLD proxy card relating to the Annual Meeting. When such proxy statement is cleared by the SEC Staff, the Company intends to file with the SEC and mail to the Company's stockholders its definitive proxy statement and accompanying GOLD proxy card in connection with the Annual Meeting. The definitive proxy statement will contain important information about the Company, the Annual Meeting and related matters. Stockholders may obtain a free copy of the Company's definitive proxy statement and other documents that the Company files with the SEC (when available) on the SEC's website, at www.sec.gov.

INVESTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT, THE ACCOMPANYING GOLD PROXY CARD AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT SOLICITATION MATERIALS (WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE) BECAUSE THESE DOCUMENTS WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Aqua Metals, its directors and certain of its executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the Company's stockholders in connection with the Annual Meeting. Information regarding the names of the Company's directors and executive officers and their respective interests in the Company will be set forth in the Company's definitive proxy statement, the accompanying GOLD proxy card and other relevant solicitation materials filed by the Company. These documents (when they become available), and any and all other documents filed by the Company with the SEC, may be obtained by investors and stockholders free of charge on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Copies will also be available at no charge on the Company's website at www.aquametals.com.

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