Alice Springs Hosts 9th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar

Mines and Energy Minister Chris Natt will fly to Alice Springs today to open this week’s 9th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES).

“Mining exploration is worth more than $100 million to our economy – up by $80 million since 2001,” Mr Natt said.

“Mining and energy extraction and production is worth more than $6 billion to our economy.

“The Territory is a vast land of rich minerals and future opportunities and AGES is one of many Territory Government programs targeted towards expanding the mines and energy industries.

“Mining is the largest contributor to our economy and the resources industry underpins much of the Territory’s strong economic growth.

“Vast and prospective areas of the Territory remain under-explored and tremendous opportunities remain for new world-class discoveries.

“AGES is a critical element of the Territory Government’s strategy to spread this message and to grow and develop the Territory’s exploration and mining industry.

“About 200 delegates representing numerous national and international mining companies and Territory Government agencies will attend and/or give presentations at this week’s Seminar.

“Delegations from CITIC Resources Australia, Nanjing Iron & Steel Group International Co and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation will be among those attending.

“Attendees will be provided with an overview of exploration in the Territory with key insights into several parts of the Territory.

“AGES is the flagship of the Territory Government’s NT Geological Survey, which will present nine papers covering new geoscientific results from across the Territory.

“The seminar is a proven platform for mining and exploration companies to access high quality geoscience data and meet key people to drive mining and exploration projects forward.”

AGES is being held from 17-19 March in partnership with the Mining Services Seminar 2008 – a showcase of Central Australian businesses that support mining and exploration ventures. Both seminars officially open tomorrow.

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