EARTH MOVES FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN EXPLORERS

Explorers searching for gold in Central Australia will soon strike it lucky thanks to the Territory Government’s Tanami Deep Seismic Project.

The project has completed a seismic survey of the Tanami region to provide a clearer understanding of the crustal architecture and mineral systems.

Data was collected over a 720km long traverse by transmitting energy waves into the Earth using vibrating plates in contact with the ground. These plates are specially mounted on large 4WD trucks.

The survey was conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments, Newmont Australia and Tanami Gold NL.

Minister for Mines and Energy Kon Vatskalis said today that the project, partly funded by the Northern Territory Geological Survey under the Government’s $15.2 million Building the Territory’s Resource Base initiative, is the largest government/industry seismic survey ever conducted in Australia.

“Seismic surveying is a highly sophisticated and expensive technique, but it gives us very accurate information about the rocks and structure by collecting data from as deep as 50 km down into the earth’s crust.

“This project will enhance the ability of mineral explorers to predict the location of new gold deposits in the Central Australian region. The partnership with industry has enabled us to use techniques far superior to others that are currently available.

“The Territory Government welcomes mineral exploration in Central Australia and we have a lot to look forward to in terms of new mining activities in the Tanami region,” said Mr Vatskalis.

The data is currently being processed and a final report is expected in August 2006.


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