



## **Strong interest from resources sector in Earth Sciences mega-conference**

### **2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention**

**20-24 July 2008, Perth**

[www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008](http://www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008)

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The resources sector has responded enthusiastically to the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention, with many representatives from mining companies already registering to attend the conference.

With a major focus on minerals and energy exploration, new technologies and potential discoveries in Western Australia, Australia and internationally, the Convention is being hailed as a must-attend event for the sector's geologists, explorers, executives and investors.

The conference—*New generation advances in geosciences*—will be held in Perth from 20 to 24 July 2008. It is Australia's premier geoscience conference and a major event on the international geosciences calendar.

Hosted by the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and the Geological Society of Australia, it is expected to attract more than 1000 delegates and will feature more than 135 Australian and international presenters, 450 papers, numerous workshops and field trips, and a major trade exhibition.

Effectively several conferences wrapped into one, this year's Convention boasts five key streams:

- **Resources – foundation for our future**
- Geoscience in the service of society
- The evolution of life and the solar system
- Earth's environments – past, present and future
- The dynamic Earth – from crust to core

“The resources stream at this year's Convention is extremely timely when you consider the enormous mining boom that is currently underway in Australia and elsewhere” says Marcus Harris, Chairman of Krucible Metals Ltd and the convenor of the stream.

“There are some very big resource projects underway in Australia at the moment, and the resources stream at the conference strongly reflects this.

“For example, Chief Geologist from Fortescue Metals, Stewart Robinson, will speak at the Convention about creating shareholder value from exploration – at a time when Fortescue’s share price has been soaring with its first shipload of iron ore recently setting sail for China.

“We’ll also have the Managing Director of Integra Mining, Chris Cairns, speaking on that company’s exploration strategy and gold discoveries, and there will be a presentation on Australian junior exploration floats and their implications for IPOs.

“Delegates at the Convention will also hear from the big players such as Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, ConocoPhillips and Anglo, and there will be multiple papers looking at a raft of new minerals and hydrocarbon exploration opportunities in Australia, New Zealand, PNG and other countries.

“Our unique program will feature a keynote address by Professor Michael Etheridge on the psychology of decision-making in mineral exploration as a key to improving return on investment.

“And topics such as initiatives to attract exploration investment, greenfields prospectivity analysis, being smarter with data, long-term mineral exploration and development planning as a key to reducing risk, and mineral exploration’s new frontier – the ocean floor – will all be covered by experts in their field.

“A wide range of other papers will consider developments in resource imaging, the reinterpretation of old exploration sites, mining company exploration strategies and pre-competitive geoscience by government agencies.

“On the research side, Convention delegates will be briefed on CSIRO’s multi-million dollar Minerals Down Under research flagship, which aims to assist the Australian minerals industry to realise up to \$1 trillion worth of new resources through cutting-edge research in exploration, mining and processing.

“Delegates will also hear about Geoscience Australia’s energy security programs which aim to encourage and support exploration for hydrocarbons and other energy resources onshore and offshore Australia, including through the provision of reliable geoscientific data and scientifically-based assessments.

“The unique thing about the Convention is that it will bring the commercial and research arms of the resources sector under one roof. Many of our presenters will consider cutting-edge geoscientific research and exploration technology firmly within the context of what it means for commercially successful exploration and development outcomes.

“And with the Convention being held in Perth, multiple papers will focus on mineral and energy exploration – and potential discoveries – in Western Australia itself.

“Importantly, this year’s conference will look at the big policy issues impacting on the resources sector, including Australia’s future energy mix, global warming, clean coal

technology, carbon sequestration, geothermal energy, and uranium production in a global context.

“Given the Convention will cover minerals and energy exploration and production from a unique research, commercial and policy mix, resource sector professionals really cannot afford to miss this major international conference.”

**The full program and registration information for the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention can be found at [www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008](http://www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008). A brief overview of the Convention program can be found on the Media page of the website.**