



Resources sector to feature strongly at mega-conference on earth sciences

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With a major focus on exploration, new technologies and potential discoveries in Australia and across the globe, the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention is a must-attend event for mining and energy sector geologists, explorers, executives and investors.

The mega-conference—*New generation advances in geosciences*—will be held in Perth from 20 to 24 July 2008. Hosted by the Geological Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists, it will feature more than 135 presenters, 450 papers and a wide-ranging program of workshops and field trips.

“Put simply, technological advances in the mineral and energy sectors will enjoy exceptional exposure at this year’s Convention” says Marcus Harris, Chairman of Krucible Metals Ltd and an organising committee member.

“One of the Convention’s five major streams is *Resources: foundation for our future*, and we have left no stone unturned in extracting a really comprehensive program for it. Keynote speakers will be coming from all corners of the planet and many critical research papers and posters will also be featured.

“The resources stream will cover the full gamut of topics, from greenfields prospectivity analysis to the re-interpretation of old mining camps leading to amazing new discoveries. Multiple papers on mining company exploration strategies and pre-competitive geoscience by government agencies will also feature prominently.

“We’ll also be considering international hydrocarbon prospects, advances in clean coal technology and carbon sequestration, developments in geothermal energy, uranium deposits and their production in a global context, cutting-edge technologies in resource exploration and assessment, and developments in resource imaging.”

With the Convention being held in Perth for the first time since 1994, there is also a strong focus on mineral exploration and potential discoveries in Western Australia itself. Just some of the many papers focusing on the state’s resource sector will consider:

- WA’s pre-competitive geoscience program – underpinning exploration
- evaluating the geology and petroleum prospectivity of frontier exploration areas within the offshore north Perth Basin

- the Flying Fox Nickel Deposit, Forrestania Greenstone Belt, WA
- the Canning Basin's oil and gas potential
- the Tropicana Deposit: a new gold province in WA
- using numerical modelling to target undiscovered gold in a brownfields environment (an example from Tarmoola in WA)

The Convention program will also look at the business end of exploration, such as:

- the psychology of decision-making in mineral exploration – a key to improving return on investment
- the transfer of research initiatives into practice – how effectively are new concepts driving exploration outcomes?
- Australian junior exploration floats and their implications for IPOs
- Fortescue Metals Group Ltd – creating shareholder value from exploration
- Integra Mining's exploration strategy and discoveries: does one size fit all?
- initiatives to attract exploration investment
- being smarter with our data
- long-term mineral exploration and development planning – the key to reducing risks

The Convention will also feature papers from some of the big players such as Rio Tinto, ConocoPhillips and AngloGold as well as CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and UWA's Centre for Exploration Targeting.

For those who want to look at the geosciences from more than just a resource perspective, the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention provides the ideal opportunity.

Effectively several major conferences wrapped into one, the Convention boasts five key themes:

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

“This year's program features everything from Australia's future energy mix to what parts of Australia (and what infrastructure assets) are most likely to be affected by a Tsunami, from groundwater exploration in Australia to groundwater contamination in the Himalayas, from food traceability to geo-tourism” says Dr Jon Hronsky, Director of the consulting group Western Mining Services and the Convention's Program Director.

“Our mega-program will also consider climate change, asteroids and their impact with Earth, the geological history and future of Earth and the solar system, marine eco-systems and even the geochemistry of termite mounds!

“Put simply, the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention is a must-attend for every geoscientist.”

- The full program and registration information for the 2008 Australian Earth Sciences Convention can be found at www.iceaustralia.com/aesc2008. A brief snapshot of the program can be found in the Media section of that website.