Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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700 scientists converge on Hobart to examine ore deposits

More than 700 geoscientists from 44 countries are converging on Hobart for a major conference focussed on ore deposits.

The Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) runs the annual conference – the most important gathering of its type globally – which is being held for the first time in Tasmania and only the second time in Australia.

It also the first time it will be run in full partnership, between SEG and the Australian Research Council’s Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES), which is based at the University of Tasmania.

“We are very pleased that the SEG has decided to bring this major international conference to Hobart, and proud that CODES is playing such a key role,” Centre Director Professor Bruce Gemmell said.

“We have worked hard over many years to establish our centre as a genuine world-leader in ore deposit research, and this is an ideal opportunity to showcase our research to an international audience, while on home soil.”

The SEG 2015 Conference, entitled World-Class Ore Deposits: Discovery to Recovery, began yesterday at Wrist Point, and will continue until September 30.

With the downturn in the minerals industry, organisers were concerned that attendance for a conference on economic geology could be relatively low. Early estimates predicted that it may attract around 250 delegates.

“There is no doubt our global standing in research is a drawcard,” Professor Gemmell said. “But so too is the State of Tasmania, itself a geological wonder of world standing.”

The conference covers the discovery of world-class ore deposits, their geology, and the recovery of metals from ores. It is also addressing the key issues and controversies that affect exploration.

The full program includes a number of pre and post conference workshops and field trips, including excursions to major mining districts in Australia, Indonesia, and New Zealand.
Many of the workshops are being held at CODES, on the University of Tasmania’s Sandy Bay campus. CODES researchers are leaders in three of the field trips, and three short courses. Many of its staff are also presenting talks at the main conference and the allied workshops.

An exhibition runs concurrently with the conference, and has attracted more than 40 national and international participants.

**About CODES:** CODES is the Australian Research Council’s Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits. Established in 1989, it has grown substantially over the years and is now widely regarded as a global leader in ore deposit research, with an international reputation for the quality of its postgraduate education. It currently has over 35 major research projects, in more than 30 countries, spread across six continents. It also has more than 120 postgraduate students, and is the leading academic group to publish in *Economic Geology.*


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