

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Global mining industry to benefit from new minerals research laboratory at UTAS

The global mining industry will benefit from a \$3 million, state-of-the-art expansion to a minerals research laboratory based at the University of Tasmania, which will be officially opened tomorrow (**Tuesday 6 August 2013**).

Newcrest Mining, one of the largest gold producers in the world, has provided \$2.5 million for the new development at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES), with the balance coming from the University of Tasmania and the ARC.

“This is a major extension to the existing laser analytical facility, which is already considered to be one of the best in the world,” the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, who will officially open the expanded facility at 5.30pm tomorrow, said today.

“CODES is leading the world in the application of laser ablation analysis to sulfide ores and mineral exploration targeting.

“There are very few facilities as well equipped as the Newcrest Laser Analytical Facility to undertake this type of highly advanced and technological research,” Prof Rathjen said.

The Director of CODES, Professor Bruce Gemmell, said that the new facility represented “a major vote of confidence” in CODES by Newcrest.

Prof Gemmell said that more than 30 companies are using technology developed by his centre. “These include companies operating in the Canadian Yukon, Peru, the great Witwatersrand Basin in South Africa, and here in Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.”

Apart from Newcrest, companies supporting and benefitting from CODES research include BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, MMG, Sandfire Resources, AngloGold Ashanti, Newmont, Barrick Gold, Teck, Vale, Gold Fields, Freeport, Anglo American and Bendigo Mining (operator of the Henty Gold Mine on Tasmania’s west coast).

The facility's manager, UTAS Distinguished Professor Ross Large, said the extension has the potential to build on a number of CODES-led breakthroughs that are helping to answer major fundamental questions in earth science.

"For example, a CODES team is using the laser technique to track trace element concentrations of gold, nickel, copper, arsenic and other metals in the oceans over the past three billion years.

"A significant breakthrough has also been made in developing a new theory about four of the major mass extinction events on earth over the past 500 million years," Prof Large said.

Brief Summary - CODES

Formed in 1989 and located on the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay campus, the ARC Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits (CODES) has grown substantially over the years and is now widely regarded as a global leader in ore deposit research. It is home to 40 highly qualified research scientists and nearly 90 postgraduate students, further cementing its position as the largest university-based team of ore deposit researchers in the world. It currently has 46 major research projects in 29 countries.

<http://www.utas.edu.au/codes/>

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