

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 3 August 2015

University of Tasmania research adopted by Rio Tinto to boost greenfields mining prospects

Rio Tinto, one of the world's major miners, has announced today that non-confidential laser mineral analysis technology developed by geoscientists at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Ore Deposit Science (CODES) over the last decade, will be offered to junior explorers for free to facilitate discovery of the next major mineral deposit in Australia.

The technology, developed by a team of geoscientists led by Professors David Cooke and Bruce Gemmell at the University of Tasmania was supported by AMIRA International research projects. Rio Tinto was one of the companies that helped finance this research.

Rio Tinto adapted the technology for their Bundoora Research laboratories, in Melbourne, and have been testing it on their own mineral projects for the last two years.

The technology uses the changes in the concentration of trace elements in minerals to define the location of buried ore deposits. The technique has been tested by the CODES research team on many major deposits world-wide and shown to have a very high success rate for discovery.

The University of Tasmania's ARC Centre has developed the most advanced laser ablation ICPMS labs in the world, and is the international leader in this field of research applied to exploration for ore deposits.

Professor Bruce Gemmell, the director of CODES said "the fact that Rio, one of the largest global miners, has comprehensively adopted the technology for their exploration programs and is now proposing to use this to assist junior companies to discover the next major ore deposit is testimony to the high quality and industry relevant research carried out at University of Tasmania".

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 61 3 6324 3218

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au