

# INDO-AUSTRALIAN

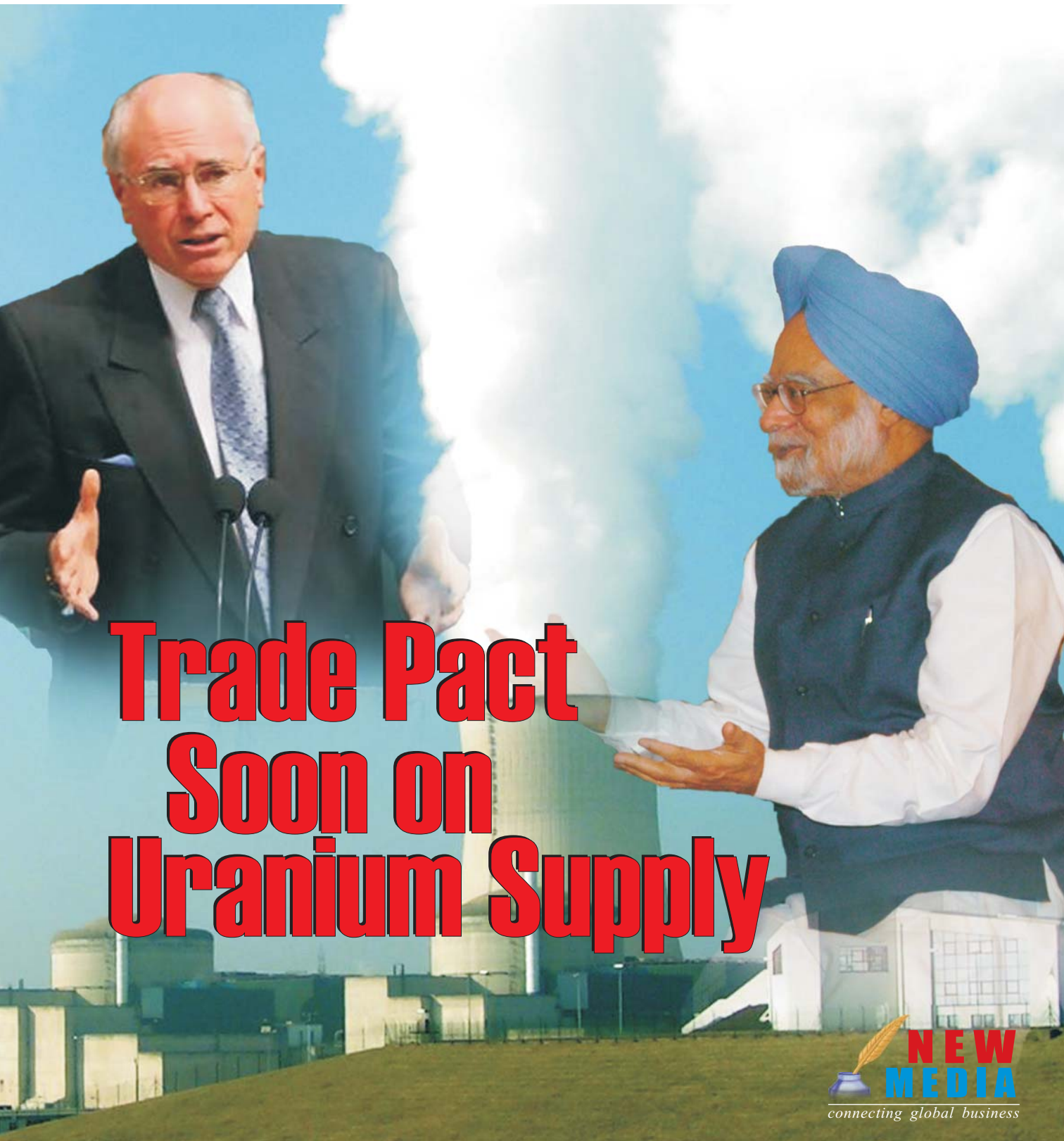
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# B U S I N E S S

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## Trade Pact Soon on Uranium Supply

Founder Chairman  
Late Shri R.K. Prasad

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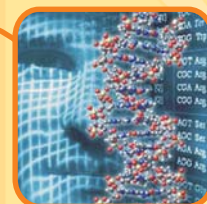


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## Lifestyle

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**Dear Reader,**

Greetings. The power of atom is double-edged. It can be harnessed for producing electricity; it can also be used to make weapons of mass destruction, namely atom bombs. India, which imploded a nuclear device as far back as 1974, subsequently developed the atomic weapons know-how. India has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and kept her right to conduct further nuclear tests. No doubt, India's progress on the weapons' front is phenomenal. However, the country's record in turning nuclear energy into much-needed electricity is very poor and precisely for this reason the recently concluded civilian nuclear energy treaty between India and the United States assumes significance. While the treaty, known as the 123 Agreement ensures transfer of the highly-guarded US technology, India would need the fuel, produced from Uranium. Coming at this juncture, Australia's decision to sell uranium to India has brought great relief to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is strongly defending the 123 Agreement in the face of bitter criticism from opposition political parties. The cover story of the current issue of Indo-Australian Business reports in detail, the significance of the Australian gesture. Australia is a major supplier of uranium to many countries across the globe and the current issue lays its focus on uranium mining in that country. As the Asia and Pacific region emerges as a huge market for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) products and services, Australia stands to gain by virtue of its location as well as the tremendous strides it has made in various segments of the knowledge industry. We carry an in-depth report prepared by Invest Australia on the fast-growing ICT industry of that country. India's leading bio-technology companies recently hosted Bio 2007, a global event, in Bangalore in which Australia participated in a big way. Some important deals were made during the three-day conference where as many as 500 one-to-one business meetings took place. The issue covers the event in detail. Australian biotechnology firms were among the front runners in raising funds from the capital market through IPOs during the first half of 2007, accounting for nearly \$500 million. We carry a report. For eight days, from 13 to 20 October 2007, Adelaide will become a paradise for food-lovers. The Sixth Biennial Tasting Australia festival will offer delicacies from across the globe, including India. We present a curtain raiser for the event, where renowned chefs would be competing fiercely for the honours to the gourmets' delight. As usual, the issue carries all other regular features.

Wish you happy reading,



**Satya Swaroop**

Managing Editor

satya@newmediacomm.biz



# Trade Pact to be Signed Soon Australia to Sell Uranium to India

India is an Influential Regional Power and a Potential Strategic Partner for Australia. - Prime Minister John Howard



**In a major departure from its previous policy, Australia has decided to sell uranium to India, a significant development that could further forge the bilateral relations between the two countries.**

"I wish to announce that the Australian Government has decided to allow the export of uranium to India, subject to strict conditions. I have today informed Prime Minister Singh of this decision, which he welcomed," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard on August 16 one day after India celebrated the 60th anniversary of her Independence.

"Australia has decided in principle to export uranium to India, subject to India agreeing to very stringent safeguards and conditions," Howard said in Canberra

shortly after he had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Singh.

"I spoke to the Indian prime minister. He has welcomed the government's decision," he said, noting that India had "a very good non-proliferation track record".

Australia's decision to sell uranium to India will no doubt act as a shot in the arm for the Indo-US civilian nuclear treaty, called the 123 Agreement.

Prime Minister Howard described India as an influential regional power and a potential strategic partner for Australia and said the two countries would negotiate a uranium trade pact soon.

Prime Minister Howard's announcement came even as Australian government's chief nuclear adviser Ziggy Switkowski said he would expect a ban on nuclear testing by India to be part of any deal.

"Our officials will now enter into negotiations regarding





the conditions. We want to be satisfied that the uranium will only be used for peaceful purposes," he said.

Australia holds 40 percent of the world's reserves of the nuclear fuel. Prime Minister Howard's cabinet recently agreed in principle to sell the nuclear fuel to India despite its refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Earlier, he told Parliament that India would have to agree to international inspections of its nuclear power plants and complete the details of its nuclear partnership pact with the US. He said safeguards to prevent the use of the nuclear fuel in weapons would be put in place.

Prime Minister Howard, a strong supporter of US President George Bush also said the sales to India would depend on the implementation of a landmark civilian nuclear deal between New Delhi and Washington.

"It has indicated that it does not intend to join the nuclear NPT. So we think it's worthwhile finding practical ways to bring it into the non-proliferation mainstream," he said.

**According to Prime Minister Howard, the change in Australia's policy is subject to:**

- conclusion of a suitable safeguards agreement between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) covering all designated civil nuclear facilities;
- conclusion by India of an Additional Protocol on strengthened safeguards;
- a consensus decision by the Nuclear Suppliers Group

to make an exception to its guidelines enabling international civil supply to India;

- conclusion of a bilateral civil nuclear co-operation agreement between India and the United States; and
- satisfactory progress in implementing India's commitment to place designated civil nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards in perpetuity.

Australian uranium supply to India would also be conditional on the conclusion of a bilateral Australia-India safeguards agreement providing assurances that Australian uranium would remain in peaceful uses at all times, supported by satisfactory verification arrangements to ensure that no Australian nuclear materials supplied to India would contribute to any military purpose.

India is the world's largest democracy, an increasingly influential regional power and an important potential strategic partner for Australia. This decision is one key element of a comprehensive package of measures the Government is taking to strengthen this important relationship. Contingent on the conditions above being met, it will be of significant economic and strategic advantage to both countries.

In Australia it will create increased exports and jobs over the longer term. The industry already generates \$658 million annually in exports, and India will be a large and growing market. India's requirement for reliable, clean sources of energy is growing rapidly. India will build 11 new reactors to triple her energy generation from nuclear power and is projected to need up to 12,000 tonnes of uranium per annum to 2032.

Assisting India to meet her rapidly growing energy needs using low emission energy sources such as nuclear power will make a huge contribution to reducing global greenhouse emissions. The use of nuclear power today already reduces global emissions by more than 2 billion tonnes a year.

As well as assisting India to pursue economic development while addressing environmental challenges, the decision recognises India's strong non-proliferation record and will help to bring India more fully into the non-proliferation.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister Singh has had tough time



facing opposition political parties, including the left parties that support the ruling coalition, which say that the Indo-US agreement in its present form is detrimental to India's interests. The nuclear deal has come in for criticism even in the US.

Meanwhile, the Heritage Foundation -- the leading conservative think tank in Washington, DC, with close links to the Republican leadership in Congress -- has warned lawmakers against torpedoing the 123 Agreement.

In a report titled, 'US Nuclear Agreement with India: An Acceptable Deal for Major Strategic Gain,' the think tank noted that "two years in the making, this deal has tested the strength of the bond between India and the United States as well as the institutional flexibility on both sides necessary to usher in a new era of cooperation on nuclear issues."

It predicted that the 123 Agreement would "greatly strengthen the US strategic position in Asia by solidifying a partnership with a one billion-strong, economically booming democracy bordering another - and less predictable -- rising power: China."

The report said that "Congress should support this historic effort," once the administration submits the agreement for approval by the lawmakers after India's safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group comes to a consensus decision that allows civil nuclear transfers to India.

The think tank acknowledged that "members of Congress who were adamant about denying India reprocessing rights may be reluctant to accept the compromise," whereby India committed to stand up a dedicated, safeguarded reprocessing facility to ensure that US-

origin nuclear fuel is not diverted to its weapons programme, but argued that lawmakers "should consider the fact that India's construction of a new reprocessing facility under international safeguards will actually bring India's nuclear program into greater conformity with the international non-proliferation regime."

The report also contended that "Congress should also bear in mind that, after the 123 Agreement is passed, it can guide the subsequent negotiations on the arrangements for reprocessing."

"No doubt US Congressional monitoring of the construction and implementation of the new dedicated reprocessing facility will be necessary to ensure that no corners are cut," it acknowledged, and that "beyond merely ensuring that the fuel is not used for weapons development, Congress will have to take care that less obvious violations of the spirit of the agreement do not occur, including application of US technology to any other facility, whether it is civilian or military."

The report noted that "if India goes against the spirit of the 123 Agreement, Washington will have the right to demand back the plutonium that is stripped out through reprocessing."

This, it said, is a critical element of the agreement to ensure that the US cannot be accused of violating its NPT obligations.;

The report appreciated the Congress' concern, however, about related clauses in the agreement that say the US will help India develop a 'strategic reserve' of nuclear fuel for the entire lifetime of the reactors.

Also, that the US has agreed to 'create conditions' for India's 'assured and full access' to the international fuel market.

It conceded that on the surface, "this language may appear at odds with the non-bonding provisions of the Hyde Act that urge Washington to limit India's access to fuel supplies from other countries in the event of a termination of the bilateral agreement."

However, the report argued that the 123 Agreement language does not violate the Hyde Act "since the fuel access provisions are part of the agreement itself and would terminate along with the agreement if, for example, an Indian nuclear detonation triggered Section 106 of the Hyde Act terminating US-India civil nuclear cooperation."



# Australia - A Global Uranium Supplier

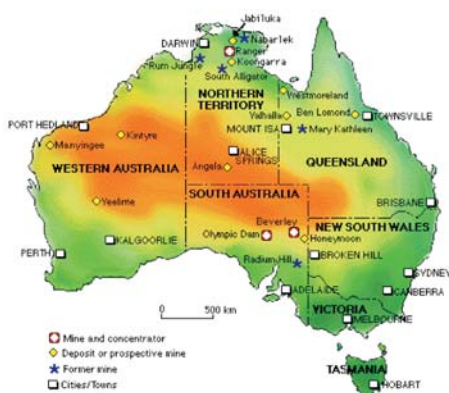
Australia supplies about 12 percent of the world's uranium production. It is a major global exporter of uranium to countries such as Japan, South Korea, UK, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the United States under international and bilateral safeguards regulations. Asia is a particularly important market for Australia.

There are three operating uranium mines in Australia, Ranger in NT, Olympic Dam and Beverley in South Australia. A fourth is cleared to start construction: Honeymoon, in South Australia.

## Recent Production from Australian Uranium Mines (tonnes of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>)

	1995 -6	1997 -8	1998 -9	1999 -00	2000 -01	2001 -02	2002 -03	2003 -04	2004- 05	2005 -06	2006 -07
Ranger	4237	4162	4375	4144	4612	3815	5312	4667	5544	5183	5256
Olympic Dam	1758	1635	2021	4055	4814	3253	3075	3993	4356	3912	3474
Beverley	-	-	-	-	219	649	762	873	1064	854	847
Total	5995	5797	6396	8199	9645	7717	9149	9533	10964	9949	9577

Calendar year 2006 production: 4748 t from Ranger, 3381.5 tonnes from Olympic Dam, 824.6 tonnes from Beverley, total 8954 tonnes.



## Ranger

The Ranger mine is owned by Energy Resources of Australia Ltd. (ERA). The mine and associated town of Jabiru is about 230 kilometres east of Darwin, surrounded by the Kakadu National Park, a major tourist attraction. This is a monsoonal part of Australia, with pronounced wet season from December to April. The first orebody is now mined out and the second one adjacent is now being mined. In the longer term the Jabiluka orebody, 20km away, may be more significant.

The Ranger orebody was discovered In 1969 by a Joint Venture of Peko Wallsend Operations Ltd (Peko) and The Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australia Limited (EZ). In 1974 an agreement set up a joint venture consisting of Peko, EZ and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC).

The mine started operating in 1980. Full production was in October 1981 at a rate of about 3300 tonnes per year of uranium oxide concentrate. A \$53 million program to increase mill capacity to handle almost 2 million tonnes of ore per year, corresponding to output of 5000 tonnes U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> per year from Ranger ore was completed in mid 1997. Since 1996 production has been over 4000 tonnes per year.



Uranium recovery is about 91.5 percent and ranges up to 93 percent.

Until 1990 all ERA sales of uranium concentrate were from Ranger production. Over several years the spot

price of uranium concentrates was below the cost of production at Ranger, which made it advantageous over 1990-97 for ERA to purchase supplies from third parties. Consequently the amount of such material in overall sales rose to the 1994 level of 1510 tonnes, just exceeding that year's mine production. The third party concentrates concerned mostly came from the Republic of Kazakhstan. ERA sales are mostly under contracts with customers who are prepared to pay a price premium for long-term security of supply. In 2006 production at Ranger was 4748 tonnes of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.

In 2006, sales revenue of A\$317 million yielded earnings before interest and tax of \$68.7 million. After tax profit was \$43.6 million.



Ranger treatment plant, with mine pit beyond

## Reserves & Resources

The Ranger 1 orebody, which was mined out in December 1995, started off with 17 million tonnes of ore some of which is still stockpiled. The Ranger 3 nearby is slightly larger, and open pit mining of it commenced in 1997. A feasibility study is under way on expanding the present pit to access 6000 tonnes of uranium oxide.

Beyond this, a further 41.8 million tonnes of low grade material averaging 0.04% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> will remain, and options for processing this material are under consideration. In November 2006 ERA announced that it would build a \$28 million processing plant to treat 1.6 million tonnes of stockpiled lateritic ore over seven years from 2008. Following initial treatment it will be fed into the main plant, contributing 400 t/yr U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> to production.

## Occupational Health & Safety

Radiation doses received by employees are all well below recommended limits. Designated employees (those most exposed to radiation) received an average dose of 1.1 millisieverts per year above natural background in 2006 compared with the recommended average annual limit of 20 mSv averaged over five years.

The National Safety Council has awarded a Five Star safety rating to ERA, although it had two years at the 3 and 4-star levels during its \$50 million plant construction program, which involved many contractors. In 1994 ERA was the first Australian mine to be awarded the 5-star rating, putting it in the top 5.0 percent of all industry occupational health and safety performance.

## Infrastructure

Along with building other infrastructure used by the public, the Company set up the town of Jabiru nearby. While it was initially envisaged that this would be solely a mining town, it has become an important regional centre for tourism and government services, including management of the National Park. Some 200 000 tourists visit the area each year.

## Environmental Management

ERA has been recognised for its world-class environmental management, achieving ISO 14001 certification in 2003. Until 1996 tailings from the treatment plant were emplaced in an engineered dam on the lease, but they are now being deposited into the worked out 1 pit. No process or other contaminated water is released from the site.

The Ranger mine is on a 7860 hectare lease which is surrounded by the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park of 1.98 million hectares. About 500 hectares is actually disturbed by the mining and milling activities (0.025% of the total area). ERA announced in 2005 that it was focusing on plans for closure of the mine in 2008, with processing to finish in 2011.

ERA's success in environmental management has given rise to a consultancy, Earth Water Life Sciences, which is gaining significant business based on Ranger's environmental reputation.

## Olympic Dam

The Olympic Dam copper and uranium mine, with the town of Roxby Downs, is located 560 km north of Adelaide, near the opal mining centre of Andamooka. This is an arid part of Australia, receiving only an average of only 160 mm of rain per year, and that rather unreliably. The massive deposit is underground, some 350 metres below the surface, and is the largest known uranium orebody in the world.

The deposit was discovered in 1975 by Western Mining Corporation Ltd which was looking for copper in buried



sedimentary rocks. After considering geophysical data a drill hole was sunk near a small stock water dam known as Olympic Dam. It struck copper, and later drilling confirmed a resource of more than 2000 million tonnes of ore containing both copper and uranium. From 1979 the deposit was developed as a Joint Venture with British Petroleum Ltd. In 1985 it was decided to proceed with the project, and production commenced in 1988.

WMC (Olympic Dam Corporation) Pty Ltd is the management company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BHP Billiton Limited, which took over WMC Resources in mid 2005. Initially BP Minerals Ltd was a 49 percent partner in the enterprise, but WMC took over BP Minerals' share in 1993 for \$315 million.

In mid 1996 WMC announced a A\$ 1250 million program to more than double annual production by 2001, to 200,000 tonnes copper and 3700 tonnes uranium concentrate. This expansion program was then accelerated, bringing the increased capacity on line in 1999, with the cost eventually rising to A\$ 1.94 billion and the uranium capacity to 4600 tonnes U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> per year.



## Production and Sales

Olympic Dam is an underground mine. Some three million tonnes of ore was mined each year by open stoping, and this increased to 9.2 Mt in 1999. About 20 percent of the mine's revenue is from uranium, 75 percent from copper and 5.0 percent gold and silver.

In 2001 the plant produced 4379 tonnes of uranium oxide concentrate (4355 tonnes of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>), diminished because of a fire in the solvent extraction plant. Production in 2002 and 2003 remained depressed but recovered in 2004 and 2005 (4370 & 4335 t U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> respectively) before dropping to 3381.5 t in 2006. Uranium recovery has been about 71 percent, due to about half of the uranium being in the form of refractory brannerite, but an improved leach process was able to lift

recovery to 82 percent. Sulfur dioxide from the copper minerals is made into acid and used in uranium processing.

Sales figures are understood to be close to the production figures. Sales of uranium concentrate are made under long-term contracts to electric utilities in Canada, USA, Japan, South Korea, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

## Reserves & Resources

Olympic Dam has enormous reserves of ore in a hematite breccia complex, with 374,000 tonnes of contained uranium oxide, so that even with 4500 t/yr rate of production, reserves are sufficient for over 80 years. The overall resource contains some 1.6 million tonnes of uranium oxide. While the grade of the uranium ore is lower than many mines or potential mines which have the benefit of open cut operation, the fact that copper is a co-product with uranium from that same ore (at 2.0% Cu in the proved and 2.1% Cu in the probable reserves) means that such grades are viable.

## Infrastructure

Expansion of the mine will bring major infrastructure challenges. The present 12 GL/yr water consumption (met from the Great Artesian Basin) will grow, possibly to 48 GL/yr, requiring a consideration of other sources including a coastal desalination plant with pipeline to Olympic Dam. The operation now uses 10% of the state's base-load power and the expansion will add demand for another 300 MWe, the source of which needs to be determined. The CO<sub>2</sub> output from power generation attributable to the operation is likely to grow from 1 to some 4 Mt/yr if coal-fired generation continues to be used.

## Beverley

The Beverley uranium deposit is 520 kilometres north of Adelaide, on the plains north-west of Lake Frome and 25 kilometres north east of the Arkaroola Resort in the northern Flinders Ranges. It is a relatively young



sandstone deposit with uranium mineralisation leached from the Mount Painter region, and is the basis of Australia's first commercial in situ leach (ISL) operation.

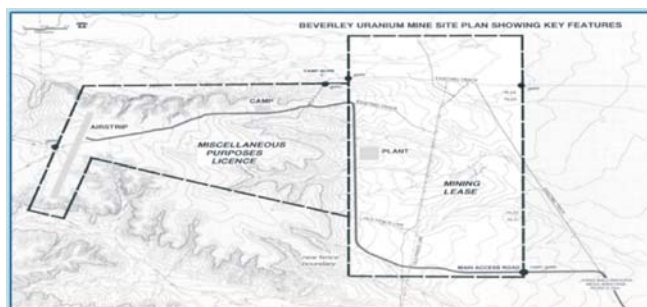
Beverley was discovered in 1969 by the OTP Group (Oilmin NL, Transoil NL, & Petromin NL). A draft EIS was produced in 1982 but plans to mine it by in situ leaching (ISL) were abandoned in 1983 when a newly-elected South Australian Government made it clear that mining leases would not be approved. The deposit was sold to Heathgate Resour Pty Ltd, an affiliate of General Atomics of USA, in 1990.

The deposit consists of three mineralised zones (north, central and south) in a buried palaeochannel (the Beverley aquifer) in tertiary sediments of the Frome basin. Groundwater salinity ranges from 3000 mg/L total dissolved solids in the north to 12,000 mg/L TDS in the south. The aquifer is isolated from other groundwater, notably the Great Artesian Basin about 150 metres below it and small aquifers in the Willawortina Formation above, which are used for stock watering.

A field leach trial in 1998 was outstandingly successful, with performance three times better than similar deposits in USA, and it established the commercial viability of the project.

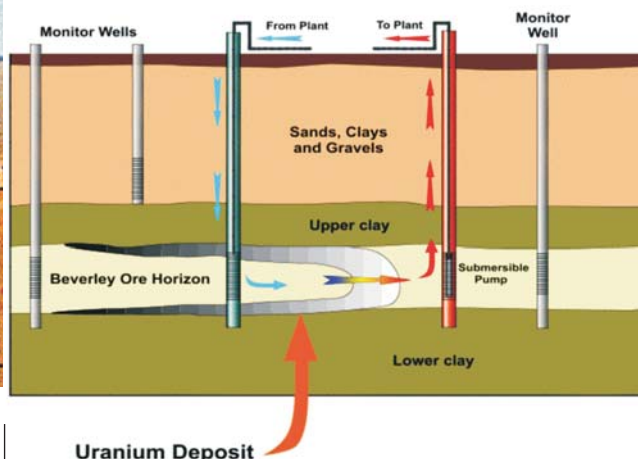


Mine construction started in 1999, including processing plant, camp, airstrip, 4.0 MWe gas-fired power station and two wellfields.



A royalty equivalent to 2% of gross sales has been negotiated with four Aboriginal Native Title Claimant groups, and the first payments totalling more than \$100,000 were made to trust accounts in mid 2000. The agreements also provide for training, employment, community payments and administration payments.

Production, licensed to reach 1180 t/yr U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> equivalent, commenced from the north mineralised zone in November 2000 though no product was drummed until 2001, when production totalled 546 tonnes U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. Exports commenced in 2001. Production for 2004 reached 1084 tonnes U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> but dropped to 977 tonnes in 2005 and 824.6 t in 2006. In first six months of 2006 it was 362.5 t. Sales contracts are with power utilities in USA. From 2009 production is projected to increase to 1500 t/yr.



## Reserves

Three ore lenses in unconsolidated sands lie at a depth of 100-130 metres, over some 4 km of palaeochannel. They contain at least 21 000 tonnes of uranium oxide at 0.18% grade, much of which is recoverable by in situ leaching, making it the largest Australian ISL deposit. In November 2006 the company applied to extend the mine lease to take in contiguous ground with further ore. ■





# Australia: A Strategic Global ICT Destination

The Asia Pacific economy is forecast to be bigger than North America and Europe combined. As the biggest Western country in Asia, with strong historical, trade and community ties to many countries, Australia is an ideal location for a regional base.

An in-depth study made by Invest Australia, the state-owned agency which promotes global investment in Australia, reveals that the country has in 2007 entered its 16th year of sustained economic growth averaging 3.0 percent.

Business investment is flourishing across the board, as strong corporate profits and a share market that is at record levels encourages business to grow. Australian businesses are heavy users of technology to increase efficiency and develop new markets, and companies use Australia as a global base for third generation of off-shoring, complementary to the low cost alternatives available in the region.

## Testing Ground for Technologies

Australia is a natural location for R&D in the Asia Pacific and is a substantial market in its own right. International companies use Australia as a test and development market and trial location because Australia is a known nation of early adopters. As a western nation within the Asian time zone, Australia is well positioned to implement

new technologies prior to release in major markets.

As early adopters, Australia is one of the first places to feel the influences in changed work practices and lifestyle changes, which makes Australia the logical choice for research and development in information and communication technologies. The Asia-Pacific region is the engine room of world economic growth. Over the next decade it is forecast that Asia's economies will account for 45 percent of world GDP (PPP\*), significantly more than the United States and Europe combined. Australia, with its strong business and cultural links with Asia, offers multinational companies an excellent location to base key regional and global functions.

## Resilient economy

In 2006, the Australian economy was ranked the most resilient in the world for the fifth consecutive year, providing a very compelling case for business investment. Indeed, with 16 years of uninterrupted economic growth, Australia's reputation as a highly competitive economy continues to strengthen.

The Australian economy has been ranked 6th globally in overall competitiveness in 2006 and third in the Asia Pacific region. Among the countries with a population of 20 million or more, Australia ranks second in terms of overall competitiveness, behind only the US. With



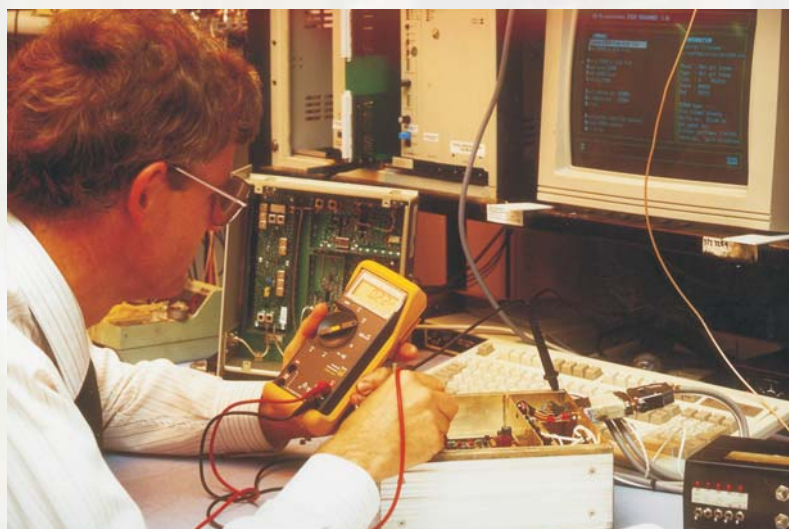
forecast economic growth of 3.7 per cent in 2007 (real gross domestic product), Australia will continue to expand more rapidly than many other OECD economies.

While the resource sector is booming, Australia is now predominantly a services-based economy, with services accounting for almost 80 per cent of economic activity. The country has strong trade and investment links across the Asian region, with Japan, China, Korea and Singapore in our top five export destinations. Similarly, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore are important sources of inward investment to Australia.

The Chinese and Indian economies strongly complement Australia's. Both have huge needs for resources and for services - technical industries in which we have strong capabilities and opportunities. The opportunities extend far beyond energy and resources, encompassing food, industrial raw materials and intellectual property. Opportunities for partnership in the higher value added areas of manufacturing are increasing as Australia participates in international manufacturing value chains. The rise of the IT services industry in India has opened up new opportunities in the Australian market, which has evolved to specialised areas of analytic off-shoring drawing on its internal expertise post deregulation of the banking and telecommunications industries.

As an advanced, modern, western country, Australia can be taken at face value as a place where employees are skilled and reliable, the costs are predictable and competitive, the regulations work and the infrastructure is of a high quality.

## Skills



- Australia is internationally recognised for producing highly skilled people with exceptional productivity, innovative flair and accountability;
- Australia has a culture of lifelong learning, with its people constantly updating their skills;
- The Australian labour force is very stable, with low churn rates offering business certainty.

## Multicultural Population

- The diversity of Australia's population offers companies a competitive edge people from over 200 different countries are represented in the Australian population;
- It is a destination of choice for skilled immigration - enhancing the existing base of fluent foreign language speakers;
- Cultural ties bind Australia to the rest of the world. It has a long history of immigration and educates many of students from Asia from school age;

• Students in Australia grow up surrounded by many different cultures which enhances the performance of international companies with Australian staff.

## Quality

- Rest easy in the knowledge that Australian infrastructure is reliable and enables global business to operate at peak efficiency. Australia has world class telecommunications, road, rail, air and sea infrastructure and moves are underway to further improve these based on the latest technologies;
- Its research institutions and scientists have excellent international reputations and

international companies operating R&D labs in Australia maintain core responsibilities and leadership roles;

- Australia's businesses are sophisticated early adopters of new technology and new processes. Their reputation as demanding customers influences international product and service development;
- Nearly 60 per cent of the country's merchandise exports go to Asia and services exports to the region are increasing dramatically based on established regional trade networks.

## Location

- Companies can be secure in the knowledge that Australia is a model western democracy, offering sound institutions, a robust economy, freedom of the media, impartial courts, honest police and a business friendly government;
- Australia is in the Asian Time Zone and bridges the closing of the US and the opening of the European business days;
- A culture of early adoption of technology, location in the southern hemisphere and cultural diversity make Australia a suitable location for technology and clinical trials. Establishing operations in Australia makes economic sense as it increases time to market and decreases cost;
- Australia is a wealthy country with a high standard of living. The combination of modern services, healthy environment and recreational options makes Australia a highly desirable location for skilled executives.

## Regulatory Environment

- Australia's regulations are designed to be low cost to business and reduce operational risk for companies;



- Transparency enables companies to take all costs at face value there will be no surprises.
- A modern Industrial Relations regime is in place across Australia;
- Intellectual Property Protection regime is among the best in the world and provides security for companies undertaking R&D.

## Cost Competitive

- Office costs are competitively priced and infrastructure is reliable and inexpensive;
- The country's corporate tax rate of 30 per cent is equivalent to the UK, and compares favourably with China and India;
- Comparative salaries for executives in different locations demonstrate that Australian wages are competitively priced;
- Companies based in Australia have an added benefit of a long-term trend of rising productivity with falling labour costs.

## Putting ICT to effective use

Widespread use of ICT, a multicultural and socio-economically diverse population and first-rate infrastructure make Australia an ideal location to test new technologies. International companies have chosen Australia for the first live trials of a wide variety of ICT applications. As well as providing test markets and test-infrastructure, Australia offers the capacity to take this knowledge and amend the prototype technology, product or service for delivery to market.

Australia has the most multilingual and culturally diverse workforce in the region, with citizens from over 200 countries.

Of Australia's population of 20 million, over 99 percent speak English, more than 2.6 million are fluent in another language, and a high proportion of these are tertiary-educated Asian and European language speakers offering an unrivalled source of educated staff with multiple language skills.

Australia's linguistic diversity is nationwide, ensuring a ready supply of personnel with foreign language skills in all major centres. Linguistically, Australia provides a gateway into Asia and a strong cultural link to Europe an ideal mix for multinational organisations.

With a particularly wide range of Asian languages on offer, Australia also has a high-number of Australian-educated native speakers from some of the major ICT markets in the region.

The high standards and reputation of the



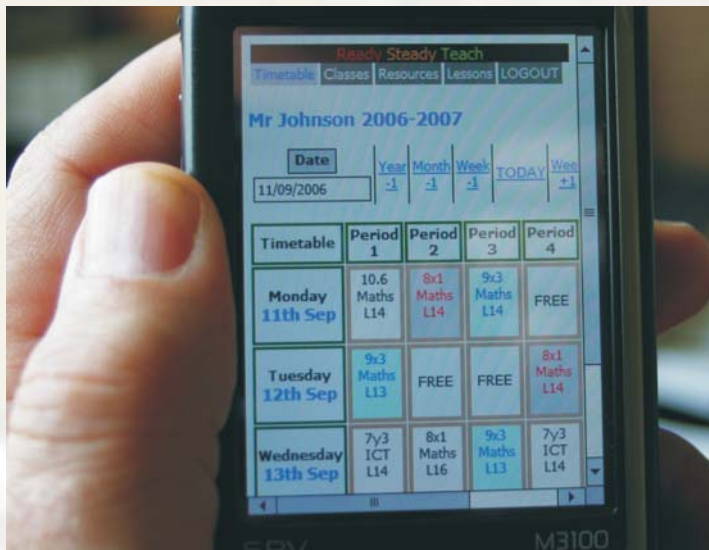
Australian education system have lifted annual enrolment of overseas students to 18 per cent of all students studying in Australian universities.

A large ICT market in its own right, international companies include Australia in their global business strategies as both an excellent opportunity for new sales and to site regional headquarters serving Asia Pacific markets.

Operating within a western-style legal and business framework, Australia's multilingual and highly skilled labour pool has a cultural affinity that enables easy communication with colleagues and clients around the world. This means inherent time saving in transactions between Australian operations and European, American and Asian based headquarters and satellite operations.

This skills base, the sophistication and maturity of the Australian ICT market, a supportive business environment and ease of doing business has attracted a significant number of ICT companies to establish regional and/or global customer interaction centres and technical support operations in Australia.

Australia has established itself as a leading centre for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in



the Asia Pacific, offering:

- a sophisticated and attractive market
- a dynamic low risk business environment in a strong, competitive economy
- a proven, innovative, multilingual and cost-effective workforce
- exceptional technological infrastructure
- world class research and development facilities

## Invest Australia as a Catalyst & Facilitator Forging India's Investment Links

India's emergence as a major economic player in the Asian region with an astonishing growth rate of more than 8.0 percent has flowed onto the bilateral trade and investment relationship with Australia. Invest Australia has a vision to deepen the already strong Indian investment links with Australia's complementary market, and is well placed to assist Indian companies in realizing their move into one of the Asia-Pacific's premier investment destinations.

Australia offers a wealth of opportunity for Indian businesses to prosper. Its unparalleled economic record, world class industry capabilities and unique cultural and geographic advantages in the world's fastest growing region, all form part of Australia's impressive reputation as a place to do business. With an ever increasing number of Indian companies now calling Australia home, it's not surprising that the future for investment and business success is in Australia.

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- a 24-hour seamless service to global markets with Australia's time zone overlapping North America, Asia and Europe.

The capacity to innovate and adapt is one of Australia's strongest qualities and has made the Australian market for information and communication technologies (ICT) a sophisticated, internationally recognised place to invest.

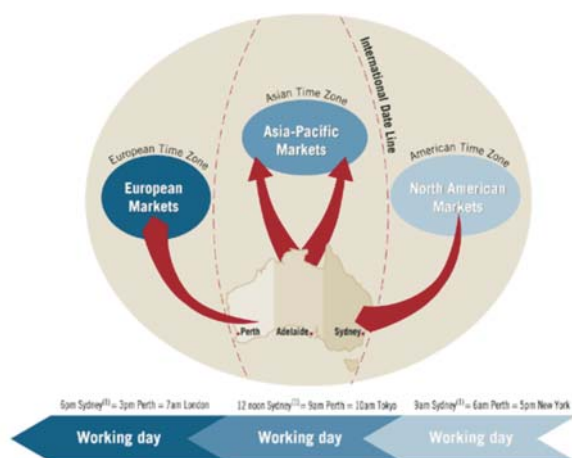
As well as contributing to a strong test environment and driving productivity growth across vertical segments quick to look for relevant ICT applications, high levels of ICT penetration have ensured Australia has a technologically savvy population. The resulting pool of ICT specialist

labour is known for its ability to develop efficient products and solutions that meet and anticipate immediate and future business needs.

Australia has made considerable investment in communications infrastructure, research and development (R&D) facilities, and advanced skills and training. This is reflected in the ICT market's strong growth in recent years.

A number of programs are offered by governments in Australia to encourage companies to contribute to the economy by investing in R&D and manufacturing operations. State governments also offer a range of initiatives that support R&D activities. ■

#### Australia's Time Zone Advantage in a 24-Hour Global Market



(1) Australian Eastern Standard Time

Source: Axis Australia

Australia's industry capabilities and strengths

- Assist you to identify potential investment opportunities in Australia
- Provide information on business costs, skills availability, taxation and research and development opportunities
- Streamline project approvals processes
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Invest Australia has been active in the Indian market over the last couple of years and has now strengthened its presence by opening up office in Mumbai and Delhi last year. These offices, staffed by experienced Indian nationals and working in close cooperation with Austrade and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has enabled Invest Australia to increase the range and scope of its operations in India.



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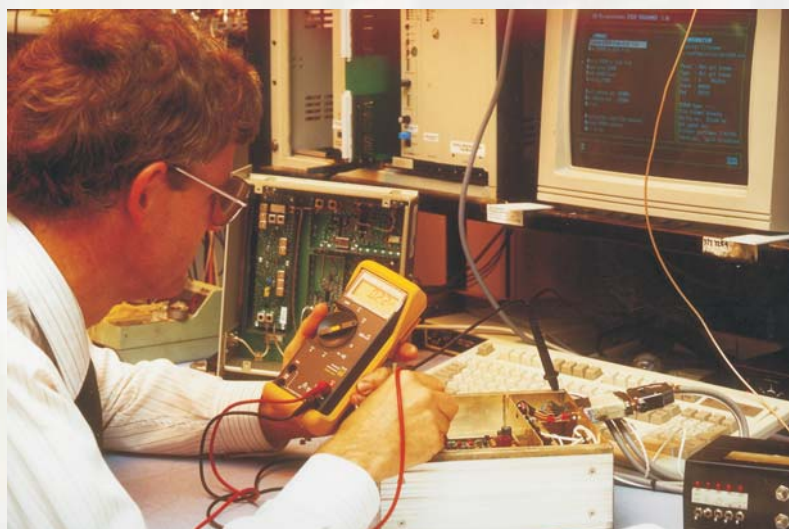
forecast economic growth of 3.7 per cent in 2007 (real gross domestic product), Australia will continue to expand more rapidly than many other OECD economies.

While the resource sector is booming, Australia is now predominantly a services-based economy, with services accounting for almost 80 per cent of economic activity. The country has strong trade and investment links across the Asian region, with Japan, China, Korea and Singapore in our top five export destinations. Similarly, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore are important sources of inward investment to Australia.

The Chinese and Indian economies strongly complement Australia's. Both have huge needs for resources and for services - technical industries in which we have strong capabilities and opportunities. The opportunities extend far beyond energy and resources, encompassing food, industrial raw materials and intellectual property. Opportunities for partnership in the higher value added areas of manufacturing are increasing as Australia participates in international manufacturing value chains. The rise of the IT services industry in India has opened up new opportunities in the Australian market, which has evolved to specialised areas of analytic off-shoring drawing on its internal expertise post deregulation of the banking and telecommunications industries.

As an advanced, modern, western country, Australia can be taken at face value as a place where employees are skilled and reliable, the costs are predictable and competitive, the regulations work and the infrastructure is of a high quality.

## Skills



- Australia is internationally recognised for producing highly skilled people with exceptional productivity, innovative flair and accountability;
- Australia has a culture of lifelong learning, with its people constantly updating their skills;
- The Australian labour force is very stable, with low churn rates offering business certainty.

## Multicultural Population

- The diversity of Australia's population offers companies a competitive edge people from over 200 different countries are represented in the Australian population;
- It is a destination of choice for skilled immigration - enhancing the existing base of fluent foreign language speakers;
- Cultural ties bind Australia to the rest of the world. It has a long history of immigration and educates many of students from Asia from school age;

• Students in Australia grow up surrounded by many different cultures which enhances the performance of international companies with Australian staff.

## Quality

- Rest easy in the knowledge that Australian infrastructure is reliable and enables global business to operate at peak efficiency. Australia has world class telecommunications, road, rail, air and sea infrastructure and moves are underway to further improve these based on the latest technologies;
- Its research institutions and scientists have excellent international reputations and



international companies operating R&D labs in Australia maintain core responsibilities and leadership roles;

- Australia's businesses are sophisticated early adopters of new technology and new processes. Their reputation as demanding customers influences international product and service development;
- Nearly 60 per cent of the country's merchandise exports go to Asia and services exports to the region are increasing dramatically based on established regional trade networks.

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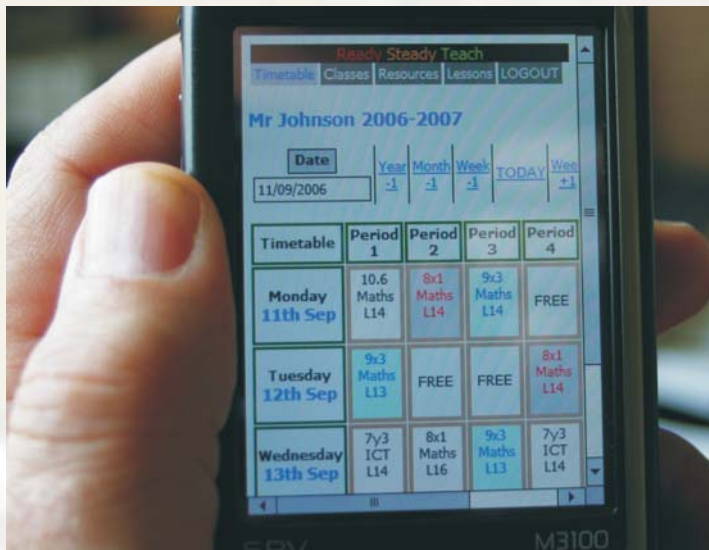
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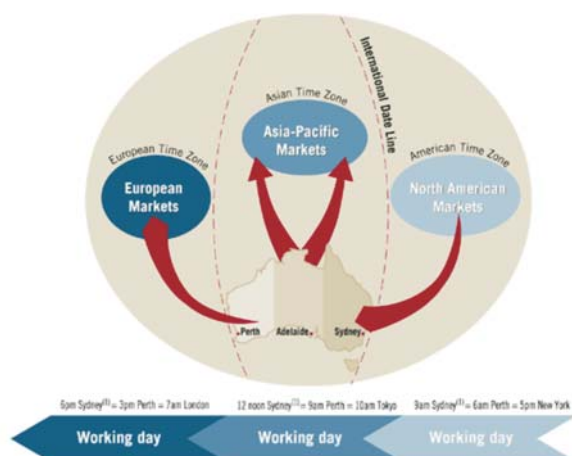
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# Thinking of ICT? Just ACT!

If you are looking to boost your business in Australia, one of the largest ICT markets in the Pacific Basin, the best place to invest is Canberra, Australia's capital city.

Canberra is home to the Australian Government, the largest user of ICT services in Australia. It also has a strong and vibrant economy, the most highly educated and innovative workforce in Australia and provides a convenient base from which to network and reach other major Australian cities such as Melbourne and Sydney.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in which Canberra is located also has its own Territorial government which is focussed on providing the economic environment in which business can grow.

"The Australian Government spends around \$3.5 billion each year on ICT hardware and services, and is the largest single purchaser of these services in Australia," ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said. "This means if you want a share of the largest ICT market in Australia, you need to have your headquarters in Canberra, the home of the Australian Government and the place where the decisions are made."

Canberra's highly skilled workforce also makes Canberra the perfect place to establish your Australian headquarters.

In recent years Canberra has experienced the fastest ICT employment growth in Australia at around 8.2 per cent per year, which equals around 25 ICT employees per 1,000 head of population.

Many firms have already decided to take advantage of the

competitive edge Canberra offers.

Indian ICT giant HCL Technologies recently established an office in Canberra, and joins others such as Sun Micro Systems, Raytheon and ActivIdentity among the more than 1,000 ICT firms now operating in Canberra.

But don't be put off. There's room for plenty more ICT firms in Canberra! The size and growth of the Government ICT market, the tendency of Australian governments to outsource, and the need to understand the market intimately make Canberra the most attractive city for ICT suppliers to set up operations.

Canberra also offers opportunities to collaborate and network with the many ICT organisations already here and to locate your office near Australia's top research facilities.

For example, NICTA, the National ICT Centre of Excellence is a A\$400-million national research organisation with its largest laboratory and research program based in Canberra.

Canberra is also home to world-class educational and research facilities including the Australian National University and the CSIRO.

Finally, the ACT Government is determined to strengthen links between Canberra and growing world economies.

In February this year Chief Minister Jon Stanhope led a successful trade mission to India and in October this year will host India in Focus, a special two-day event aimed at maximising business opportunities between Canberra and India.

"We are also developing and strengthening our ties with other strong and emerging markets such as China and the United States, to create more opportunities for businesses with a presence in the ACT," Mr Stanhope said.

"Canberra is the place to be for ICT businesses looking to get their share of the massive Australian market. I urge any company, large or small which is interested in establishing an office in Canberra to contact the ACT Government on +612 6207 2569 for more information," the Chief Minister said. ■





## Akruti's Innovative e-mailing Solutions in Major Indian Languages

M. S. Sreedhar, Vice President (Business Operations), Cyberscape Multimedia Ltd, In an interview to Indo-Australian Business, talks about his company's products which have been developed to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of customers, ranging from individuals to corporates to governments. He particularly highlights the software facilitating the language e-mail.



M. S. Sreedhar

### What is your product profile and in what areas are your products applied?

Akruti has been our flagship product for years now. Under Akruti, we have sub-products meeting the customer requirement right from a home user to the big corporate. Apart from this we have other products which are being addressed from our corporate office at Bangalore. These products are targeted towards the Government and corporate. A list of these products are as follows:

- Document management software called Cydoc
- Knowledge management software called CyKnit
- Software for State Governments to handle the general administration called e-Karyalaya
- Software for small cooperative banks Cybank

The USP of all the above mentioned software is that it is capable of handling bilingual documents except for Cyknit.

### What is the latest cutting-edge software to come out of your development center?

The latest that has been released is the emailing solution in Indian languages using the Unicode technology which allow the user to use the Indian language of his choice on any of the mail applications. To make this more user-friendly, each of these languages is provided with a phonetic keyboard layout making Indian language typing as easy as English. This software is compatible to the major mail service providers like the Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail, Zapakmail, Rediffmail, Outlook and many more. The additional advantage is that the user at the receiving end need not get into the hassles of downloading any font. The display is clear and comes in as a text itself.

### Since you have mentioned that the public undertakings are your major clients, what do they specially look for and how demanding are they in terms of quality?

Quality has been a major issue that is constantly demanded in Public sector undertakings along with the thirst for new technology. In today's scenario, according to a Government notification, all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) need to have their computers in working in bilingual. Because of this, there were too many vendors with too many software and fonts. So, all these PSU's started looking for stability in a product and here Akruti was able to stand-out and give the required quality that was demanded. Almost all the PSU's look for the compatibility with the other products and fonts.

### Kindly brief us on the overall state of Indian language computing and application. You support nine Indian scripts covering 13 languages. How widely are these scripts used?

Indian language computing is at a very infant stage. Not many people know that Indian languages could be used on computers. It is mostly taken for granted that Indian languages are used on computers only for printing and publishing but it is very unfortunate that even the so called computer literate persons do not understand that these languages could be used to even develop programs and also for any of the Web applications. Today, the penetration of computers have started happening in the semi-urban and also rural parts of our country and this is the place where the local language usage is more. Web-site development in local language is a very big business in itself and this market is expected to grow exponentially. Earlier there was a problem with the font being displayed on all the computers but with today's Unicode technology

this problem would never exist and hence the demand would improve.

Of the 13 languages, the devanagiri script works for Hindi, Marathi and Sanskrit. This is the most widely used script. The other languages are restricted to their own state and some technologically savvy bureaucrats have started using this. For example, Kannada in Karnataka, Bengali in West Bengal and Telugu in Andhra Pradesh has found some usage.

### **What is the feedback that you get from corporates and government undertakings?**

Since all the Central Government undertakings have a Hindi cell to ensure the usage of Hindi in the general working of the organization, the feedback has been very positive and this has also worked in favor of the products improvement

### **Is your solution/product targeted to any specific, vertical sector or is it across the domain?**

Product is targeted across the domain Please brief us on the 'Unicode' technology, its uniqueness and applications.

#### **In a very brief note :**

Unicode offers some significant advantages that make a lot of business sense.

- Single versions of software instead of language-specific versions that increase complexity and development costs
- Standard supported by most OS and application vendors. This ensures platform, vendor and application independence
- Incorporating Unicode into applications and websites offers significant cost savings than proprietary solutions
- It allows data to be transported through several different systems without corruption
- Since there is a uniqueness built for every number,



character combination the representation results in a true standard

#### **Application :**

- Conversion of legacy content to Unicode
- API layer for creating application software in Indian languages
- Creation of web-based applications and Web pages in Indian languages (using the IE companion bar).
- Support for Chat and Email that enable interaction in Indian languages.
- Creation of content in Indian languages using familiar tools such as FrontPage, Microsoft Office product suite etc.,
- Easy Extensibility for enhanced keyboard support, languages, fonts and transliteration schemes.

### **Are your solutions limited to Windows or do they support open source (OS) operating systems as well (Linux)?**

One of the major advantages of using Unicode is that it supports almost all the OS that is today available. For ex. Windows, Macintosh OS, Linux etc.,

### **What are your current and future growth and expansion plans, in terms of investment, workforce, etc.?**

As of now, we have a marketing office at Delhi and for the current financial year plan is on to have a full fledged development center with a man-power of 20 to start with. We are also working on adding some more verticals to the existing products and since these are in their early stage not much information could be given as of now.

### **Could you also briefly tell us about your global operations?**

The global operations are still at their infant stage with some tie-ups happening in the US for marketing the products. We have specially developed a product called Cykey with the support of international languages like Spanish, Arabic, German, Japanese, French and Russian. This product gives a translated text of English to any of these languages. This is a dictionary-based program which can also be customizable. Our product was exhibited during the recently held World Hindi conference at New York.

A few projects are at a final negotiation stage with a Korean company for inclusion of Indian languages into the set-top boxes. This is our first year into the global operations and a tremendous response has boosted our morale. ■

# BIG Deals Make Bangalore BIO 2007 A Grand Success

The Bangalore Bio 2007's theme - "Think BIG Biotechnology Innovation Growth" successfully concluded recently. Held in the southern Indian cyber city of Bangalore, Bio 2007 was attended by around 625 delegates who had the opportunity to listen and interact with 81 national and 33 international speakers of eminence. As many as 30,000 visitors (12000 business and 15000 student & general interest) left their footprints at the sprawling exhibition hall where 152 exhibitors from across 12 countries put up their stalls. Eleven Indian states too participated in the country's premier annual event of the biotechnology industry.

Bio 2007 was the 7th edition of the Bangalore-Bio and attracted large delegations from leading biotech countries, including the UK, France, Germany, Holland, UK, the US, South Korea, Singapore, Spain, Bavaria and the State of Victoria, Australia.

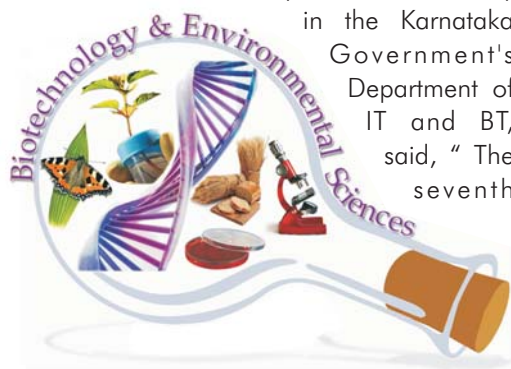
Indian companies, including Avesthagen, Biocon, Histogenetics, Biozeen, GE Healthcare, and states such as Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh to name a few, participated in the conference, represented by a large number of delegates.

Vidyashankar, Secretary in the Karnataka Government's Department of IT and BT, said, "The seventh

edition of Bangalore Bio has indeed had a successful run. True to the theme of innovation and growth, the event created a platform to forge ahead on various issues of R&D, Life Sciences Informatics, ethics in Clinical Trials to name a few and build partnerships. The venue of BIEC provided the ideal environment for B2B interaction, and the exhibition and conference being held at the same venue allowed the participants to be present at the both locations in a seamless manner. Bangalore Bio has been the first to initiate a focus on Agri-biotech day in 2006. This year brought to the forefront critical agri-biotech issues such as food productivity for India, which was addressed for the next 10 years. "

## Highlights of the event:

- Several country partnership initiatives took place between Indian companies and research institutes through a series of meetings with delegations from the UK, France, Holland, Germany, US and Australia
- Avesthagen has signed a pact with Government of Andhra Pradesh: Avestha Gengraine Technologies has signed a MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Government for an additional 50 acres of land in the state's Biotech park. The company is planning two manufacturing units in Hyderabad. One is Avestha Biotherapeutics & Research which will manufacture bio similar products. The other is Avestha Good Earth which will manufacture bio-nutricials.
- Biocon and Deakin University MoU: Biocon signed a memorandum of understanding with Deakin University, Victoria, Australia, for joint multi-disciplinary research focused on biotechnology and biosciences. The MoU will also lead to establishment of Deakin Resort Institute in Bangalore, joint development of a mammalian cell bio-processing facility in Australia and result in Deakin undertaking research in metabolic diseases for Biocon.
- One of the highlights of this year's event was the Poster Session; where in over 35 papers were presented by young scientists and innovators. Overall, the Bangalore Bio 2007 facilitated over 500 one-to-one business meetings for potential collaborations, partnerships & alliances.
- Biotalent zone hosted career interactive session. Career interactive session is being held for the third consecutive year. It is





platform that addresses and allows potential employers to meet and recruit candidates.

- Many young researchers and scientists from leading Indian and International research laboratories like, CSIR, ICAR, DAE, DBT, DST participated in Bangalore Bio 2007.

One of the exhibitors, CSIR-IGIB- Jalaja Stall stated, "We attracted a lot of Business interest, and responses for all CSIR original research products. There was a lot of interest from a host of international companies, research institutes, corporate, pharmaceutical companies who were interested in the GENO-CLUSTER bioinformatics products in their research work and have come forward to work in joint development, collaborative work, customization of the GENOCLUSTER to their needs. Everybody and their companies appreciated the efforts of CSIR-IGIB-Jalaja in developing these cutting edge Bioinformatics Bio R&D tools. Some of these companies were to name a few MERCK USA, Victoria University, Synertec Australia, E2Bioxcel, Harward University, USA, Johnson & Johnson Australia, Aurigene", etc.

"Victoria University has shown interest In having a collaborative development and training program with the CSIR-IGIB-Jalaja for their Ph.d program which is under consideration," he said.

Marketing official of Kewaunee Labway, whose company participated in the event to display end-to-end capabilities for world class scientific laboratories, said , "As one of the leading players in this space, we always are keen to participate in Bangalore Bio events. We have a

good response and it has been an excellent exercise in brand building."

Canara Bank official stated, "Bangalore Bio is an excellent platform for exhibition. There have been over 20 companies that we have received as leads for our SME sector and agriculture finance schemes. We will certainly support this event in the coming years".

The main event sponsor was Avesthagen and Biocon was the platinum sponsor. The CEO Conclave was sponsored by Histogenetics while Canara Bank sponsored the Awards Nite. The State of Victoria, Australia, was the country partner and Chhattisgarh was the partner state. UK Trade and Investment was the co-host for the conference and Metahelix hosted the AgriBiotech Day. The Diamond sponsors were Alexandria and Biozeen, the gold sponsors were Sartorius and GE Healthcare and the silver sponsor was Peninsula. TCG Real Estate and Kinfra were the CEO Conclave so-sponsors. Yes Bank was the knowledge partner and Leader Prospects was the bio talent partner. Lab India came in as the conference session sponsor.

Media support was provided by BioSpectrum, ExpressPharma, Chronicle Pharmabiz, Radio City 91.1 FM, Businesswire India and Advanced Biotech. The programme document was brought out by the Australian Government and the event was supported by KBITS and ABLE.

- Bangalore Bio 2008 will be held on 24 -26, April 2008
- Bangalore Bio 2009 will be held on 15 -17, April 2009
- Bangalore Bio 2010 will be held on 02 -04, June 2010



# New Technology for DNA Typing

As the demands of scientists are increasing day by day for dependable Sequencing instruments, many new DNA sequencing instruments were discussed in one of the conference sessions of Bangalore Bio 2007 which will be cost effective and accurate in research, emphasizing the rapid ongoing progress in the field of R&D in India and the world over.

HistoGenetics has come up with Sequence Based Typing which has many advantages such as identifying many rare and new alleles. "Nearly 2000 alleles have been identified so far and it has been launched in the US and UK as of now" said Dr. Cereb Nezih, M.D., President and co-founder, HistoGenetics, Inc.

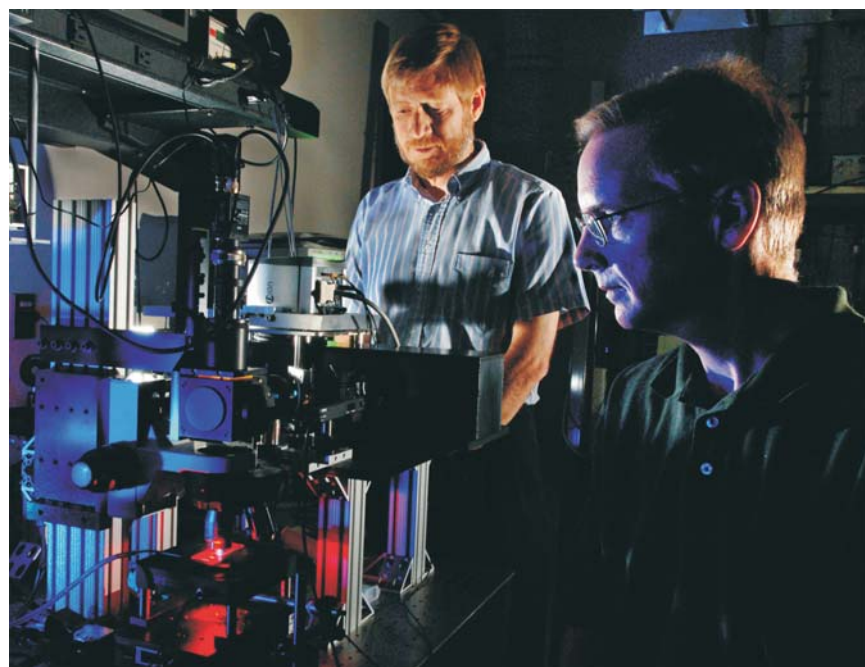
Many developing technologies with potential health benefits are becoming available to India. Sequencing data, essential for many of the medical breakthroughs of today and tomorrow, is currently accumulating at an exponential rate, largely because of advances in sequencing methods and laboratory

automation. Instruments are available that can automate nearly every step in the large-scale sequencing process."

LABINDIA has come up with SOLiD: Sequencing by Oligonucleotide Ligation and Detection which is the Future of High Throughput Sequencing.

"This is useful for those who want to do full genome sequencing. Whole genome projects will be more cost effective with this new instrument than they are today," said Dr. Anupama Gaur, Team Leader Application Support, Labindia Instruments, Pvt. Ltd.

There have been tremendous



advancements in genomic technologies. The technologies that are existent today have been there for many decades. The ImageStream multispectral imaging flow cytometry system can produce over 100,000 cell images per minute. This system allows you to have high resolution cell imaging and the advantage to do very advanced cell analysis. It will enable development of cost effective drugs.

"We can treat diseases by making drug discovery more efficient. This technology can be actively used in pharmaceuticals and it will have a big impact in research and clinical diagnostics", David Basiji. CEO, Amnis Corporation.

# Stem Cells Application - The New Age Cure

Regenerative Medicine with its principle tool "Stem Cells" now shows the potential to address several incurable diseases like Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's disease and other diseases caused by cell death and thereby improve the quality of life of patients suffering from such diseases. The cell as a drug entity is a new concept and requires close interactions between cell biologists and clinicians.

Cell Based Therapy involves the use of cells as therapeutic agent to replace diseased or damaged cells in the patient, i.e., "Transplantation".

Recent research has shown that the adult stem cells have a high degree of plasticity and they differentiate into several differentiated cell types on being transplanted. Until recently, it was thought that once a cell had acquired a stable differentiated state it could not change its phenotype.

The use of human hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) for repopulation of the hematopoietic system following ablative, high dose chemotherapy is becoming a more popular option for the treatment of some cancers in the clinical setting.

"Several Diseases have been found treatable by HSC such as Leukemia (Blood Cancer)

Sickle Cell Anemia, Parkinson's disease, Spinal Cord Injuries, Stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, and many others



including a cure for baldness.

Regenerative medicine using stem cells will fundamentally change the way medicine is practiced," said Dr. S. G. A. Rao, Chairman & Managing Director, Cryo Stemcell (Kar) Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore. "The discovery of Stem Cells and their regenerative potential is a major scientific achievement, which will lead to victory over degenerative diseases and may bestow everlasting youth to human kind."

## India holds 4th Biggest Potential for Cellulosic Ethanol

India's potential at producing ethanol from Biomass was presented in one of the conference sessions at the Bangalore Bio 2007. An enzymatic solution for economic growth using natural resources was the focus of the session.

"Produce more with less" and contribute to the decoupling of economic growth and use of natural resources with enzymes", said Emmanuel Petiot, Global Business Development Manager, Novozymes. Abundant availability of rice straw, wheat straw and bagasse makes India the 4th biggest potential in the world for ethanol proceeded by the US, Europe and China.

The drivers of ethanol potentiel in India have the ability to provide environmentally friendly alternative fuels, to support Indian farmers

(with a higher production of sugarcane) and to lower India's dependence on imports of crude oil (70 percent of India's fuel is imported). The Government's drive (in particular towards assisting consumption) was stressed to further developments of ethanol in India.





The capabilities to produce ethanol from sugarcane juices and bagasse would therefore support the capital investment and may also attract foreign investment.

"Novozymes is actively participating in the commercial development of a viable biomass-to-ethanol process. Enzyme cost has been viewed as the major barrier for biomass conversion, this is no longer the case even though improvements still need to be achieved to make it an economically viable process," said Petiot. "Continued enzyme research has delivered improved performance which translates into lower costs. Cellulosic ethanol represents a real opportunity for India", he concluded.

### **Companies that build's and own IP are sure to succeed in Bio Informatics.**

On the second day of the conference at Bangalore Bio 2007, experts from Bio Informatics field said that IP is going be a key factor for companies to succeed. There are many companies today providing services in the area of clinical informatics, corporate IT, clinical development IT and scale IT. Large pharma companies are committed to invest in Informatics. The current market is estimated to be \$ 60 billion.

TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant and HCL are some of the large Indian player scaling up to get a share of this huge market.

Speaking at the conference on Scaleable models in life

science informatics, Sandeep Raju, Head of delivery operations, Life sciences, Infosys said. "The tremendous growth is reflected in package implementing, supporting and financing. Opportunities are enormous for S/W (scale IT, Corporate IT and Clinical development IT). From supply perspective scalability, industries should be equipped with relevant skills, provide opportunities using corporate training infrastructure similar to the IT. One would see in near future companies will invest in building, and owning IP in Bio Informatics space to fuel growth and revenues."

"Pharma companies are today gearing to improve quality in drug making and overcoming the challenges of market to scale the revenue. The support and maintenance of systems is valued at premium. Building up on size and solution framework toolkit with higher productivity to engage every customer with S/W opens opportunities for Informatics service providers." Said Krishnamoorthy, Head Life sciences and consulting solutions, Cognizant.

He said, "The value chain services like development, manufacturing, marketing and sales is accessing vast heterogeneous data, collaborating and managing the data storage that will exponentially increase. He anticipates an outstanding growth opportunity in this field from \$500 million - \$5 billion."

Raju concluded saying that successful innovation, solid IT, targeted delivery and the right kind of ecosystem is key to ladder of success. ■



The Australian biotech industry continues to rapidly mature and grow. Australian biotechs have been performing solidly on the capital raising front over the 2006-7 financial year, helped by the transitioning pipeline of a number of companies in anticipation of positive outcomes.

## Australian Biotech Firms Raise \$500 mln

The half-year ending 30 June saw a record \$500 million raised from rights issues, private placements and IPOs by listed drug development and device companies. Companies such as Avexa, Acrux and Progen raised more than \$160 million in aggregate to support Phase III clinical trials, and devices companies Ventracor and Heartware raised an aggregate of \$60 million signalling the transitioning pipeline of a fast maturing industry.

In May, Inflow reported on Melbourne biotech Avexa's success in raising \$76 million to fund Phase III trials for its antiviral HIV drug.

Earlier in the year, Inflow also reported on Brisbane's Progen Pharmaceuticals' positive Phase II results for PI-88 in liver cancer. The company was successful in raising \$34.1 million in June to fund trials in Phase III for the development of this drug and the development of other product candidates.

Progen CEO Justus Homburg commented, "The capital raising was a critical piece in the planning, execution and timely launch of the Phase III trial in primary liver cancer, which is on track to begin later this year. Key milestones in the process will be the appointment of a CRO, appointment of a clinical advisory board, protocol finalisation as part of the SPA process and the first patient being recruited."

More recently, Melbourne's Acrux received commitments for \$22.5 million from institutional and sophisticated investors in Australia and Europe, for the purpose of undertaking a Phase III clinical trial as well as the late-stage development activities for Acrux's unique Testosterone MD-Lotion product®. Acrux plans to initiate the Phase III clinical trial in 2008 and, subject to successful completion of the trial, will submit new drug applications in the USA and Europe in 2009, with marketing approval anticipated in 2010. The placement was concluded in two business days and closed over-subscribed.

"We have a unique opportunity to develop an innovative pharmaceutical product and in the process capture more of the product's value for our shareholders. We have deliberately deferred any licensing arrangements at this time, however we will

once again be seeking expressions of interest from partners when we complete the Phase III trial." commented Dr Richard Treagus, Acrux CEO.

In the medical devices arena, Sydney-based Ventracor raised \$28.4 million from two rounds of capital raising ventures. "Our immediate priority is to increase the number of active clinical trial sites in the US for both the Bridge to Transplant (BTT) and Destination Therapy (DT) trials, and ramp up recruitment



in both trials towards the target of FDA approval as soon as possible." Said Ventracor CEO Peter Crosby.

Also out of Sydney, devices company HeartWare raised more than \$30 million for the commercialization and further development of the Company's HVAD technology, including completion of the EU and Australian clinical trials and commencement of the US trials.

"HeartWare is very pleased with the strong support of institutional and sophisticated investors both domestically and overseas. This funding is an important step for HeartWare as it progresses through clinical trials with the world's smallest third generation heart pump." Remarked HeartWare CEO Stuart McConchie.

These companies, and more, demonstrate the ability to easily access funding both domestically and internationally for late stage clinical trials, highlighting the growing value attached to Australian biotechs and their recognition on the world stage. ■

**C**ommunicAsia is one of the Asia Pacific region's leading ICT trade shows, held annually in Singapore. CommunicAsia 2007, held from June 19 to 22 covered nine exhibition halls, with 2413 companies exhibiting from 65 countries, 68,000 industry professionals attending and an estimated \$4.4 billion visitor spend!

## Australian ICT Pavilion Star of Singapore's CommunicAsia 2007

The event covered the entire spectrum of communication technologies, focusing on: Broadband Wireless, Embedded Technology/RFID, Enterprise Networks and Technologies, Infrastructure solutions, IP Technology, Fixed-Mobile-Convergence (FMC), Mobile and Fixed Wireless Technologies, Next Generation Networks, Network Equipment, Satellite Communications & Technologies, Smart Cards, VoIP, Wi-Fi/WiMAX and wireless devices.

Invest Australia exhibited under the Australian National Pavilion with Austrade, three State Governments (NSW, VIC, SA) and 34 Australian companies. A further 26 Australian companies exhibited throughout the show and the adjoining Broadcast Asia exhibition, and the event received strong support from the Committee for Marketing ICT for Australia (CoMICTA) and the Australian Electrical

& Electronic Manufacturers' Association (AEEMA).

The Australian pavilion attracted companies keen to discover Australia's innovative skills and high end capabilities in digital content, mobile communications, software, security, systems integration, fibre optic network and wireless applications. Promotional materials and information was in high demand (especially in digital content) and the stand was highlighted in the event



publication on the second day.

As a result, Invest Australia met with more than 80 companies and is actively pursuing a number of investment leads. ■

**I**nvest Australia has succeeded in attracting more than A\$14 billion in Investment In 2006-07 Against the backdrop of a target of A\$5 billion in investment attraction, Invest Australia succeeded in attracting investment valued at more than A\$14 billion in the year ending June 2007. The total number of project successes rose from 94 in 2005-06 to 98 in 2006-07. These 98

In the year to June 2007, the industry sector with the largest number of project successes was manufacturing with 19, followed by biotechnology and health (15) and mining (15). By value, the 15 mining successes accounted for 82 per cent (\$11.6 billion) of the total proposed investment, followed by the 19 manufacturing projects (\$2.1 billion).

## Invest Australia far Exceeds '06-07 Target in Attracting Investment

projects have the potential to create 6,500 jobs and generate exports valued at \$4.5 billion.

Over the five years to the end of June 2007, Invest Australia played a verified role in attracting or facilitating 387 projects valued at \$55.8 billion, with the potential to create or safeguard 28,000 jobs and generate \$12.6 billion in export earnings.

The manufacturing successes had the greatest employment share, with 41 per cent (2685) of the total jobs expected to be generated.

By country of origin of the parent investor, the US was the most prominent source of investment with 22 projects. However by value, the UK was the largest source of foreign investment (\$665 million). China was the second largest foreign source of projects (12), as well as the second by value of investment (\$638 million). ■



**P**ublic support for genetically modified food crops rose dramatically to 73 per cent in 2007, up from 46 per cent in 2005, due to perceptions about the role they can play in countering drought and pollution.

Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane said a Biotechnology Australia report, released on 20 July 2007 found a major change in public attitudes towards biotechnology in all areas.

## Environmental Concerns Boost Support for GM Food Crops

"When asked if GM crops should be grown in their state, 50 per cent of respondents from all states said 'Yes', with a further 30 per cent approving as long as they were strongly regulated," Macfarlane said.

"This marks a significant change in public attitudes and coincides with an increased confidence in science across society. The perceived benefits from biotechnology are increasing while the perceived risks are declining.

"Changes in attitudes have been influenced by the public's increased familiarity with gene technology and a perception that GM crops could be used to counter major environmental concerns."

The study looked at public concerns about biotechnology

applications and sought to understand what benefits people wanted from the technology.

The highest values placed on biotechnology applications were:

- cleaning up pollution (97 per cent support);
- developing environmentally-friendly vehicle fuels (97 per cent);
- recycling water more effectively (96 per cent);



- helping address climate change (91 per cent); and
- combating salinity (90 per cent).

The survey was developed with input from industry, research organisations and non-government organizations. ■

## Australia to Join European Molecular Biology Laboratory

**A**ustralia is to become the first associate member of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).

"Australia is a highly valuable addition to EMBL and we are very pleased to welcome it as our first associate member," said Iain Mattaj, EMBL's Director General. "In recent years Australia has become a central player in the landscape of molecular biology. With its special expertise, for example in the fields of medical epidemiology and stem cell research, it will be an excellent complement to EMBL's focus on basic research in molecular biology."

The membership will see Australia sending early-career scientists to join EMBL as faculty and both predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows, while EMBL will share its expertise in the areas of research infrastructure development and training researchers with Australian institutions.

Reflecting on the international recognition of Australian science, Australia's Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, noted, "The EMBL is a central hub for molecular biology in Europe. Australia is the first country to be granted associate membership, which demonstrates the high regard that the international research community holds for Australian life scientists."

The membership means that Australian research institutions can become EMBL Partner Laboratories and will also foster collaborations between EMBL's world leading scientists and these laboratories, something that Monash University, the University of Western Australia, the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney and the CSIRO have indicated an interest in.

The EMBL associate membership will officially start in January 2008 and initially will last for seven years. ■



COUNTDOWN BEGINS

## for Tasting Australia

The countdown has begun to the sixth biennial Tasting Australia festival of food, wine and beer to be held in Adelaide in October 2007, with a great line-up of international and Australian culinary professionals ready to take to the stage and the stoves.



Celebrated Indian-born screen actor and food author, Madhur Jaffrey will be making a welcome return visit to Adelaide to celebrate the event's tenth anniversary. The US and UK-based star

of television food shows and familiar face on a variety of Merchant Ivory movies was Tasting Australia's first Patron in 1997 and as the acknowledged Queen of the Curry, brings her wealth of experience and love of Indian food to the festival.

From Ireland, TV chef Rachel Allen will be making her inaugural appearance at the Festival. Ms Allen is a professional cook whose popular cookery series on BBCTV have made her a household name among food lovers throughout the UK and Ireland. She also teaches at the famed Ballymaloe Cookery School.



A favourite at Tasting Australia is highly respected food authority Dun Gifford, founding director of the Boston-based food think tank, Oldways Preservation and Exchange Trust, an organisation devoted to promoting healthy eating and to encourage sustainable food choices. Mr Gifford will be making a significant contribution to the festival's major conference event, The Adelaide Food Summit.



International celebrities and Tasting Australia favourites including Rick Stein, Antonio Carluccio and Nick Nairn are among those hoping to confirm attendance in the New Year.

Many of Australia's top chefs and TV presenters will be taking part in more than fifty events for

the media, food and drink professionals and food-loving public, among them Gabriel Gate, Alla Wolf-Tasker, Will Studd and Serge Dansereau.

To be held from October 13 to 20, 2007, the next Tasting Australia will be our sixth event and promises to be our most comprehensive. It began in 1997 so it seemed appropriate that the theme for 2007 is Ten Years... and Growing. There will be a strong focus on youth and the future, with aspects of the event looking at growing our young people and of course there will be an amazing array of truly Australian gastronomic experiences for the food lover at large.

As a departure from previous festivals, Tasting Australia 2007 will begin with a major public celebration, the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Feast for the Senses on Saturday October 13 through to Sunday October 14 along the Adelaide Riverbank precinct beside the River Torrens. This will be a curtain raiser for the festival and a chance for visitors to meet some of our top producers.

During the week to follow, there will be a wide variety of mouth-watering opportunities at more than 40 major events.

The South Australian Museum will be the venue for a Tasting Australia Festival Village, where such events as The James Squire Food, Beer and Wine Writers' Festival and the Adelaide Food Summit will be held. This major forum will cover such food-related issues such as nutrition, food and exercise, the effects of food additives, fast and slow food, cookery education, marketing to children and the role of the media in consumer food choices

The Miele Rich Traditions cooking



cla

sses, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Adelaide, will be a new feature of Tasting Australia, allowing the public to have hands-on experiences of preparing and enjoying foods and cuisines from around the world with respected professionals.

For the professionals, the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition will be held at the tafeSA Regency Campus, giving the nation's regional chefs and apprentices an opportunity to compete in this unique national contest. And Le Cordon Bleu World Food Media Awards, the equivalent of the foodie 'Oscars', will recognise the cream of the world's food and drink publishing at its Awards presentation night on Saturday October 20 at the Hyatt Regency Adelaide.

Tasting Australia is a festival celebrating the very best Australia has to offer in food, wine and beer. It's one of the most significant events of its kind in the world.

The sixth Tasting Australia event will celebrate the theme of 10 years and growing with eight days of culinary splendour from 13 - 20 October 2007.

Held once every two years in Adelaide, Tasting Australia offers a number of events designed for the nation's food and hospitality industry, local and international media and the public. Tasting Australia promises eight days of the best in eating and drinking, blended with spicy discussion and cooking classes with many of the world's leading culinary masters.

As a tourist, whether you like to get in on the cooking action, meet your favourite chef or dine in some of the city's leading venues, Adelaide really comes alive during Tasting Australia.

Chill out with friends on the banks of the River Torrens or venture to regional South Australia to experience





some gourmet treasures ... the choice is yours.

Adelaide is the nation's capital of fine food, wine, beverages and the arts with an outstanding record for hosting major international events. South Australia is the country's foremost wine producing state and home to many of its major producers, with our diverse food and wine regions all within an easy day's drive of Adelaide.

Tasting Australia begins on 13 October 2007 with the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Feast for the Senses, a major public celebration along the Adelaide Riverbank Precinct, Elder Park.

Explore the brilliant blend of South Australia at its culinary best during Tasting Australia, which is owned and managed by Events South Australia, the major events division of the South Australian Tourism Commission.

## Adelaide Food Summit



The Adelaide Food Summit is a two-day forum showcasing workable solutions to improve childhood nutrition and physical activity behaviours based on successful programs already in place in South Australia.

Youth, Health and Nutrition: What's Working? A focus on solutions. Where do children really get their calories? How are eating behaviours formed? How are eating behaviours changed? What is the role of physical activity? What is the role of the food and drink industry? And most importantly, what is currently working?

The Adelaide Food Summit is focused on current programs that are showing measurable success in reversing the stubborn upward trends of overweight and obese young people. The Summit will bring together some of the world's foremost authorities including Adelaide Food Summit Chairman, Dun Gifford (USA), founder and CEO of Oldways Preservation and Exchange Trust, the Boston-based food and nutrition think-tank.

Also providing insight into these key issues are celebrated food authorities Professor Tim Olds, University of South Australia, Stephanie Alexander and Dr Rosemary

Stanton.

## Miele Rich Traditions: Cooking With the World's Best

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cook with the world's best chefs... to share the kitchen with Italian Antonio Carluccio from England, Indian-born Madhur Jaffrey from the US, Ireland's Rachel Allen, or Australia's very own Gabriel Gaté and Darren Simpson?

There's an opportunity to do just that at Tasting Australia in Adelaide this October when 19 of the world's top chefs, food producers and educators share a Miele kitchen with food lovers at Miele Rich Traditions in association with Australian Gourmet Traveller.

These special cooking sessions present the public with hands-on experiences in preparing and enjoying dishes created with respected professionals and explore a variety of international culinary styles.

Tastes of India, the Italian Job, Meet in the Sandwich and Celtic Connection are among the gastronomic experiences on offer at the classes which will be hosted by popular ABC personality, Simon Marnie. As numbers are limited, passionate foodies are urged to secure their spots early.

"This is a once in a lifetime chance for budding professional chefs or keen amateur cooks to prepare food - then enjoy the results - with some of the world's top food producers, chefs, TV presenters and writers," said Tasting Australia Festival Director, Ian Parmenter.

In response, National Marketing Manager for Miele Australia, Cliff Thompson, expressed his enthusiasm at Miele's association with this Tasting Australia highlight.

"I am confident that the event's highly-regarded guest chefs, from around the world and Australia, are most familiar with the quality and innovation for which Miele is renowned globally. In fact, many of the world's best chefs use Miele appliances in their homes and demand for Miele in Australia continues to grow," he said.

## Riverina's demo of local talent

During the Tasting Australia festival, the nation's best regional chefs will compete to win one of Australia's top culinary honours along with an international food trip.

Founded in 1997, the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition is part of Tasting Australia, and is the only competition of its kind, aiming to recognise, develop and promote professional

cooking by attracting teams from Australia's regional areas.

A team from the TAFE NSW Riverina Institute hopes to demonstrate to industry the talents of their staff and students, as well as the superior produce that they have access to in their region, through entry in to the event.

The Riverina Institute has a National Environment Centre, with organic lamb, grown by the staff and students at the Thurgoona Campus, and this lamb will be a feature of their LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition campaign.

"We couldn't pass up the opportunity to showcase what we have here in the Riverina, in terms of both the produce and the local chefs," said David McCourt, Team Captain, Riverina.

"We will be serving lamb that is not only prepared by the team, but grown right here on one of our campuses."

Teams of trained chefs and apprentices from across Australia are invited to do battle for the region's top culinary honour: the Gold Award for Best Region. As well as gold, silver and bronze awards for Best Region, there are a number of individual awards including Best Apprentice, Best Food and Wine Matching, Best Entree, Best Main Course, and Best Dessert.

Taking place in Adelaide, teams will have a three-hour time limit to create a three-course menu for four people, with an emphasis on the use of regional produce, under

**LIFESTYLE  
FOOD  
channel**

the watchful eye of a team of judges consisting of some of Australia's most respected food and drink professionals.

The LifeStyle FOOD Channel, Australia's only television channel totally dedicated to food, is the major sponsor of the Competition. "There is no other culinary competition in Australia which so perfectly reflects our regional differences," said Ric Burns, General Manager.

"The Competition is a terrific opportunity to showcase the best Australia has to offer in food, wine and culinary skill. We are delighted to again be part of this prestigious event and look forward to celebrating the exciting new talent of the 2007 teams."

The high-profile competition will take place at Adelaide TAFE SA's Regency Campus from Monday to Thursday, October 15 to 18, 2007 with awards presented on the

final night of competition at a gala event at the Hyatt Regency Adelaide.

## Ramleigh Park to promote regional foods

Team Ramleigh Park Central Victoria, from Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, hopes to raise awareness of their area,



and promote its regional food and the many ways their products can be used, through entry in to the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition.

"By participating in the event, we hope to achieve greater exposure of the Central Victoria region, through broader awareness and greater acknowledgment of the region's produce by industry," said Kate O'Beirne, Team Manager, Ramleigh Park Central Victoria.

"We also look forward to the competition to gain knowledge and experience through networking with other industry professionals who share our interest in regional food."

## Team Pee-Sea Show - Oceans to Mountains

Team Peel- Sea to Scarp represent the large vast Peel region in Western Australia. The team's name, Sea to Scarp, comes from a local catch phrase, meaning oceans to mountains, which Team Captain Gregg Burdon says sums up the range of produce available in their region.

"People are more familiar with the blue swimmer crab found in our estuaries, however the range of lamb, beef, dairy, olive oils, orchard and vineyard products are equally as impressive," said Gregg Burdon, Team Captain, Team Peel- Sea to Scarp.

"By entering the Peel region in the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition, we hope to demonstrate that we are becoming a driving force in the culinary field, both in produce and in cuisine."

The sixth Tasting Australia event will celebrate the theme of 10 years and growing with eight days of culinary splendour from 13 - 20 October 2007.

## Wanted: The Nation's Top Cooks

The quest has begun to find Australia's top regional culinary talent, with entries now open for the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition 2007.



Teams of trained chefs and apprentices from across Australia are invited to battle for the region's top culinary honour: the Gold Award for Best Region, won last year by ACT Northern Districts.

LifeStyle FOOD is the new major sponsor of this prestigious competition, taking over from sister channel, The LifeStyle Channel, whose support of the event since 1999 has contributed to its continuing success.

The competition will take place at Adelaide's prestigious tafeSA Regency Campus from Monday 15 October to Thursday 18 October 2007 with awards being presented at a Gala Dinner on the final night of competition.

The LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition was initiated to nurture and promote professional cookery in Australia with the emphasis on the use of locally grown and produced foods and Australian wines, with teams creating a three-course menu for four in just three hours.

This is the only competition of its kind in the world, according to Tasting Australia Festival Director Ian Parmenter. "Not only does the LifeStyle FOOD Competition highlight the great food, wine and culinary skills coming out of regional Australia, it also allows access for competitors, including many newcomers to the professional kitchens, to some of the nation's most respected cookery professionals," he said. "With the

involvement of the LifeStyle Food Channel, the event also gives media exposure to the finest of our up-and-coming young apprentices and trainees."

Ms Nicole Hartcher, Marketing Director, "LifeStyle FOOD is delighted to be associated with this prestigious event. Being the naming rights sponsor of the Australian Regional Culinary Competition is a natural and significant alliance given that LifeStyle FOOD is Australia's only television channel totally dedicated to food. I'm also pleased to announce that AUSTAR, the regional broadcaster of LifeStyle FOOD, has committed to sponsoring one of the 2007 teams."

The LifeStyle FOOD Channel presents the hottest food programs from here and around the world, all in one place, 24-hours a day, everyday of the week. LifeStyle FOOD Channel is available on FOXTEL Digital and AUSTAR Digital.

In the ten years since its conception, Tasting Australia has become one of the nation's most significant food and drink festivals. The biennial event has hosted thousands of Australia's and the world's top chefs, sommeliers, restaurateurs, and food, wine, beer and travel media and has attracted a wide cross-section of the food-loving public to Adelaide and South Australia.

## Feasting on the Spoken word

'Dinosaurs in the Dining Room', 'Join the Terroir-torials', 'Wine Culture' and 'Is Dining Dead?.. Long Live Dining'





are some of the topics which will be debated by some of the world's top food and drink communicators at the James Squire Food, Beer & Wine Writers' Festival as part of Tasting Australia 2007.

"The James Squire Food, Beer & Wine Writers' Festival is a key event in the Tasting Australia calendar, and audiences will be entertained by stimulating debate by international and national personalities who are experts in their craft," said Ian Parmenter, Festival Director - Tasting Australia.

Antonio Carluccio, Rick Stein, Dun Gifford, Rachel Allen, Madhur Jaffrey, Lyndey Milan, Simon Marnie, Alan Saunders, Matt Preston, Alla Wolf-Tasker and Maggie Beer will speak at this three-day FREE event, which will see more than 50 national and international food, drink and travel authors, TV presenters, chefs, cookery teachers and writers engaging audiences with a variety of gastronomic topics.

"This year, the James Squire Food Beer & Wine Writers' Festival will be held in a NEW location, at the South Australian Museum, which will also be home to the Tasting Australia Festival Village," Parmenter added.

The Tasting Australia Festival Village will give visitors the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere, participate in the James Squire Beer Experience, enjoy the culinary delights of the James Squire Café, have a book signed by their favourite culinary author at the Mary Martin Bookshop, and relax with an illy coffee.

The Writers' Festival will be hosted by respected food journalist and broadcaster Joanna Savill, and wine journalist Peter Forrestal.

The James Squire Food, Beer & Wine Writers' Festival has become a regular feature of Tasting Australia, highlighting James Squire's ongoing support for the various industries involved.

"This is our fourth year of involvement with this dynamic food, beer and wine forum at Tasting Australia. We are proud to see the ongoing support of so many passionate and acknowledged experts in their field exchanging opinions and sharing their knowledge. This year we are delighted that we have been able to bring Richard Fox, author, radio personality, TV presenter and England's renowned Beer Chef to the Festival." said Bill Taylor, Chief Brewer.

## The GUnyah Kitchen Posse Keen to steal show

The GUnyah Kitchen Posse is a group of chefs from the

GUnyah Restaurant, at Paperbark Camp, a unique accommodation experience in Jervis Bay, in the South Coast of New South Wales. The GUnyah Kitchen Posse is excited about the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition seeing it as an opportunity to raise awareness about their group.

"We are looking forward to bringing our usually hidden kitchen life out of curiosity and wonder, and into the spotlight, so people can enrich their appreciation for the food they love to eat," said Gary Fishwick, Team Captain, The GUnyah Kitchen Posse.

"We at the GUnyah incorporate local produce and native indigenous ingredients in a tranquil treetop setting. We work in the ideal environment surrounded by paperbark trees, and our team is happy and have fun, which shows in the love we put in to our food."

## Team Hunter Valley Wine Country Returns

Team Hunter Valley Wine Country will return to the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition in 2007 for their sixth appearance in the event. Two of the team's members, including Team Captain Darren Ho, were a part of the 2001 group that won the Gold Award for Best Region.

"This team of chefs sees regionalism as the communion of the community and as gourmands it is our job to uphold



this tradition," said Darren Ho, Team Captain, Hunter Valley Wine Country.

"We hope to showcase the Hunter region, not only to Australia, but to the world."

### Talented chefs to showcase Tasmania

Team Southern Tasmania have entered the LifeStyle FOOD Channel Australian Regional Culinary Competition, born out of an idea by Team Captain and Team Manager Justin and Natasha Harris to bring together talented chefs in Tasmania's southern regions, with the aim of identifying the area as a region in its own right, and showcasing its bountiful produce.

"Our dishes represent the varied produce available to us and capture the essence of the boutique producers and suppliers who supply us," said Team Captain Justin Harris.

"We hope to be able to represent our region with pride

and show Australia the beauty, diversity and exceptional produce of Southern Tasmania."

### Mount Lofty House to display culinary skills

Justin Markos, Executive Chef, and Team Captain of Mount Lofty House Adelaide Hills, says his team are looking forward to the opportunity to showcase the Adelaide Hills region.

"We are so lucky to work in a region which is full of world class food and wine producers: The support we have had is just overwhelming, as the competition gives us a chance to compare our skills against the best in the industry from across Australia."

Mount Lofty House Adelaide Hills Apprentice Chef, Jared Stringer, is excited about the challenge ahead: "As an apprentice, this competition is a great opportunity to learn from and compete with some of the great chefs of our industry. I'll enjoy the challenge," said Jared. ■

## Sharp Rise in Uranium Prices Boost Spending on Exploration

Sharp rises in the spot price for uranium have triggered an exploration boom for the mineral, Australian Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane has recently said.

The latest figures on exploration expenditure by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show a record investment in mineral exploration, driven by record prices for many mineral commodities and strong demand from China and India. "Exploration for uranium is the standout in these figures," Macfarlane said.

"In the 12 months to March 2007, uranium exploration expenditure rose more than 70 per cent to \$77 million. Uranium exploration expenditure is at a 25 year high with more than 200 companies looking for uranium in 2006, compared with 34 companies in 2005," he said.

"Since July 2006, the spot price for uranium has tripled to US\$135 a pound. Most expenditure is in South Australia and the Northern Territory, the only



jurisdictions that allow uranium mining," he added.

Significant discoveries in 2005 and 2006 included a new uranium deposit northwest of the Beverley mine, major extensions of the Olympic Dam deposit, and extensions to several known deposits in Queensland's Mt Isa region.

"Although the record level of mineral exploration is broadly encouraging, almost two thirds was in brown fields. Exploration expenditure must be maintained at high levels if Australia's resource base and mineral production capacity is to be increased," Macfarlane said. ■

# TERI's Herbal Products for Perfect Health

## SEASONINGS

- Oregano • Rosemary • Peppermint
- Parsley • Thyme • Garlic Chives

## COMPOSITE MIX

- Herbal Tea

## HEALTH INGREDIENTS

- Tulsi • Lemon Grass
- Artemisia • Stevia • Isabgol

## OILS

- Geranium Oil • Lemon Grass Oil
- Peppermint Oil • Lavender Oil



- Chives have a mild onion flavor, used in herbal vinegars, butters, and cheeses
- Add to dips, cream sauces, gravies, stews, salads and vegetables • They can also be used to flavor soups, sandwich spreads and meats.

### Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

- Thyme is a highly fragrant and flavorful herb rich in essential oil • It is used to season various meat, game, poultry and fish dishes, savory pies, stews, salads and dressings and vegetable dishes containing tomatoes, onions, potatoes, peas, pulses, mushrooms, etc.

### Oil and Health Ingredients...

- Isabgol • Isabgol (also Sat-Isabgol or Isapgol), is the Indian term for psyllium seed husks • Isabgol is a natural vegetable product in highly purified form of nature's highest soluble fibre obtained from *Plantago ovata* seeds • Isabgol is used for constipation and irritable bowel syndrome.

### Lavender sp.

- The buds contain the essential oil of lavender, which is where both the scent and flavor of lavender are best derived. Lavender oil is used as a first aid and to treat a variety of common ailments such as an antiseptic, to relieve pain of joints and muscles, asthmatic spasms etc

### Packaging...

- The naturally grown herbs are available in convenient 10gm bottles at leading stores of Akbarallys at Mumbai
- The packets of 500gm, 1 kg and 5 kg are available for bulk purchase at TERI office.

TERI (New Delhi)

Tel: 011- 2468 2100 / 211

E mail: mailbox@teri.res.in

TERI (Mumbai)

Tel: 022- 2758 0021 / 0022

E mail: kedarg@teri.res.in

Website: www.teri.in.org

### About TERI

- TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) is an independent not-for-profit research institute focused on energy, environment and sustainable development, and devoted to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

### An Introduction to "TRISHA"

- As an initiative towards sustainable development, TERI has established TRISHA (TERI's Research Initiative at Supi for Himalayan Advancement) at Supi in Nainital district, Uttaranchal.

By introducing the exotic herbs at Supi, TERI has helped the farmers get higher profit margins contributing to Uttarakhand's overall progress.

The local farmers get training for the cultivation practices of the herbs and further guidance from the experts of TERI.

### Provision for authentic saplings of herbs

At TRISHA, the standard and the quality of the products is maintained by, systematically raising saplings of exotic herbs and medicinal plants in seedbeds and controlled glasshouse conditions.

### The Herbs...

#### Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)

Oregano, also known as wild marjoram, is native to northern Europe .

- The flavor of oregano is similar to that of its relative, sweet marjoram, only slightly stronger and bitterer • Oregano is used to flavor many Mediterranean dishes, particularly tomato dishes and sauces, pizza and pasta dishes, as well as meat and fish dishes. Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) • The narrow leaves of rosemary resemble spruce or pine needles. • Rosemary has a pungent, slightly camphorated flavor, which goes well with lamb, game, poultry and other meat dishes, pastas, cheese dishes, stews, onion and potato dishes and other vegetable dishes, like root vegetable gratins • Flavor of oil is obtained by steeping a twig of rosemary in olive oil.

#### Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)

- It has the quality of enhancing most flavors and has an affinity with garlic • Adds flavor and aroma to a myriad of foods. Blends well in cheese spreads, herb butter and salad dressings • Used to season soups, vegetables and sauces • Peppermint (*Mentha piperita*)
- Soothing, aromatic for healthy digestion.

#### Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)





# india infocus

22-23 oct 2007

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

facilitating partnerships and  
encouraging trade between  
India and the ACT

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

10am	Official welcome morning tea
9-4.30pm	Business-to-Business meetings
10.30-12.00noon	Selling to the Australian Government Seminar
12.00-1.00pm	Canberra Services and Technology Showcase
2-4pm	Lessons in ICT and Education Seminar
6-8pm	Cocktail Party, to be hosted by Australian media commentator, Indira Naidoo

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

9-4.30pm	Business-to-Business meetings
9-4.30pm	Major Projects Symposium
7-late	Gala Dinner to celebrate <i>Diwali</i> , with special guest of honour, Michael Bevan

For more information contact:  
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Or visit:  
<http://www.business.act.gov.au/>

