



All mining eyes to focus on the centre

MORE THAN 170 mining industry representatives will attend the 9th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES 2008) at the Alice Springs Convention Centre from March 17 to 19.

The seminar is presented by the NT Geological Survey (NTGS) and primarily aimed at the mining and exploration sector.

Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines NTGS acting director Tracey Rogers said the seminar will provide industry representatives with the latest geoscience data, generally prior to its formal publication.

"We have had a 43 per cent increase in participation this year and are expecting some international registrations from China and Japan," Ms Rogers said.

"The significant increase in participation this year is due to the mining boom and interest in the uranium potential in Central Australia."

Information presented will include Central Australia's uranium prospectively and discovery of Archean aged rocks in west Arnhem land.

The seminar will feature a range of industry speakers from Energy Metals, NuPower Resources, Uramet Minerals, Westgold Resources, Toro Energy and Uranium Equities.

The NT Government has committed \$12 million over four years to the Bringing Forward Your Discovery (BFYD) initiative, which started last year and includes a number of regional gravity surveys.

The next ground-based survey, with about 10,000 gravity stations, is scheduled to start in the Arunta region of Central Australia in May.

The BFYD initiative is designed to assist explorers make the next major mineral and petroleum discoveries in the Territory.

Territory mining projects starting in 2008 include GBS Gold's mines at Pine Creek, Olympia Resources' Harts Range garnet sands mine and Peko Railings project at Tennant Creek.

Other projects include the re-opening of the Molyhil mine by Thor Mining, the feed-preparation plant upgrade at Groote Eylandt by Gemco, and the new pit and process plant upgrade at Redbank Mine in the gulf region.