

MEDIA RELEASE

May 6, 2003

Exploring the Earth's Secrets

A new break will come for Broken Hill in July this year, when new images from the first major airborne gravity gradiometry survey will be publicly released by the **CRC for Predictive Mineral Discovery (pmd*CRC)** in conjunction with project sponsor Department of Mineral Resources NSW.

The data represent the best hope in years for discovering major satellite orebodies to revive the fortunes of what has been one of Australia's most productive mining towns since 1883.

The high resolution gravity data penetrate the earth to a depth of some 300-500 metres. Coupled with 3-dimensional visualization, other prospecting technologies and a geological modeling system developed by the CRC it offers a powerful new way to identify otherwise hidden orebodies.

These may form part of the same vast silver/lead/zinc complex that formed the Broken Hill orebody more than a billion years ago.

"We've aquired some wonderful data which we're processing into visual images right now, in the first survey of its kind every to be publicly released in Australia," says **pmd*CRC** chief executive Dr Bob Haydon.

"Airborne gravity is so detailed - it gives us a completely new way to visualize what is beneath the earth's surface,

especially in areas like Broken Hill where much of the surrounding terrain is covered by soil and sandy sediments."

The project focuses on an area of 1000 square kilometers - far too great to prospect easily in such detail by ground based methods - along the main Broken Hill line of lode.

The survey was carried out with the unique Falcon™ gravity gradiometer developed in Australia by BHP Billiton for detection of ore deposits and mapping structures covered by surface rubble and sediments up to 500m deep.

The images of the data will be released publicly for the first time at the Broken Hill Exploration Initiative conference, July 7-9, in Broken Hill. and are available for use by anyone wishing to explore for minerals in the area.

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