
NEWS

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HELICOPTER SURVEY HERALDS NEW HIGH TECH

SEARCH FOR DIAMONDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

One of the most advanced high-tech searches for potential diamond deposits in South Australia has commenced in the State's far north.

The "helimag survey", which commenced today, will traverse the Peterborough area for the next two weeks, on behalf of Flinders Diamonds Limited (ASX code "FDL").

It will generate information about ground conditions at just one metre width intervals – a data density 30 times more intense than conventional surveys.

"This technology is one of the most powerful survey tools to be yet applied to diamond exploration in South Australia," Flinders Diamonds' Managing Director, Dr Kevin Wills, said today.

"Flinders Diamonds has had tremendous success so far in 2005 in identifying an increasing number of new kimberlites in a corridor stretching northwestwards from Peterborough to Port Augusta.

"However, having magnetic data based on only one metre width intervals compared to average survey widths of seven metres, will not only crystallise a quantum leap in our number of potential targets, but identify their precise location.

"This will enhance exploration outcomes by reducing field costs, provide a larger pool of targets from which to take samples by trenching or drilling, and enable Flinders Diamonds to prioritise in the short-term, the best targets potentially able to deliver commercial success."

The state-of-the-art magnetometer and laser altimeter equipment will be towed behind a Robinson R22 helicopter at a height of 30 metres above the ground. More than 5,000 line kilometres of aeromagnetic data will be acquired over the next few weeks.

Dr Wills said the enhanced survey system could also produce information within 24 hours of actual flying, meaning field follow-up could commence while the survey was still in progress.

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