



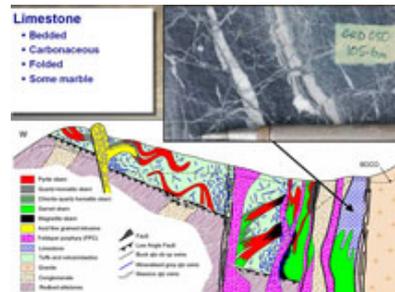
Over the past 6 years, AMIRA International with the help of over 100 sponsors (mining companies, government organisations and professional societies) from around the globe has been building the foundations of a community world encyclopaedia of ore deposits through its project *Data Metallogenica* ([www.datametallogenica.com](http://www.datametallogenica.com)). There is already an impressive amount of material available on the website (over 6 gigabytes), much of it unique, which is being continuously augmented with new material.

Recent news in the life of DM includes:

## Metals In The Deserts And Jungles of Asia

With the generous assistance of Rio Tinto, a comprehensive suite of representative samples and supporting data from the Sar Cheshmeh porphyry copper deposit in Iran are now on display in DM. In addition, a substantial data gallery on the giant new Mehdiabad zinc deposit in Iran has been provided by Union Resources, together with field & core photographs and maps provided by Tethyan Copper on the important new Reko Diq porphyry copper deposit in Pakistan (samples are also on the way). A data gallery on the nearby Saindak porphyry copper is also available. These are supported by an excellent regional metallogenic review of the Tethyan Belt in Turkey and Iran.

In Laos, major new data galleries on the developing Phu Kham porphyry copper deposit have been provided by Pan Australian Resources, and join the existing large information database on Sepon, Oxiana's major new Cu-Au operation.



## New Thesis Database

Increasing numbers of university theses are being offered to Data Metallogenica, and we are currently assessing the best means of display on-line. In the meantime, a separate AMIRA project (P874) by Professor Allan White and Dr Amarendra Changkakoti from the University of Melbourne is about to commence with the support of 14 sponsors – the aim is to develop an Australian thesis database, including short summaries of each thesis related to mineralisation. This neglected data resource will become easily accessed via the Internet, providing a valuable information resource for all exploration and mining companies in Australia, as well as researchers around the world. Access will initially be confined to sponsors only so consider joining up.

[Click here for further information](#)

## DM at Roundup 2006

Recently, the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines has generously agreed to sponsor DM at its major Mineral Exploration Roundup Conference in Vancouver in January 2006. DM will be operating a trade show booth with full web access – if you are attending please come and see us and try out the database for yourselves. We will be in the Mezzanine on Monday 23 January and in the Mackenzie Room on Wednesday 25 January.

## New Sponsors

Other new sponsors still continue to join DM, providing further “seed capital” for its early growth. CVRD and Phelps Dodge have joined as Gold Sponsors during 2005, together with the Victorian and Alberta Geological Surveys as Silver Sponsors. We welcome their support.

## New Sample Photographs

The full DM Lithothèque sample collection of over 60,000 samples has previously been photographed as plates containing multiple samples and is available on the website. A follow-up campaign of high resolution photography of individual representative samples from major deposits around the world has continued during 2005, bringing the current total to over 6000 (10% of the total collection). Hundreds of new images have been recently loaded on the website, particularly from South American deposits – the highest resolution photos, specially compressed for fast web transmission from 20 Mb master files, are significantly better resolution than hand lens magnification. This work will continue until the entire collection is covered in this detail.



### Temporary Closure of the Data Metallogenica Centre

As some will be aware, the Australian Mineral Foundation (AMF), AMIRA's original joint venture partner in Data Metallogenica, was placed into liquidation in 2002. At that stage, after a prolonged and costly dispute with the liquidators, full ownership of Data Metallogenica was transferred to AMIRA International.

The Data Metallogenica Centre (DMC), the home of the physical sample collection, library and other information assets (except web site and servers) remained located in a separate Annex Building behind the former AMF headquarters at 63 Conyngham Street, Glenside in Adelaide, South Australia. The Annex is owned by the state government of South Australia, who formerly granted rent-free use of it to the AMF in perpetuity. This rent-free benefit was also enjoyed by the DMC.

Following the liquidation of the AMF, the lease of the Annex was transferred by the government to Maptek Ltd, who sub-leased the DMC section to AMIRA at commercial rates from February 2003.

Recently AMIRA International was advised by Maptek that the premises would have to be vacated by the end of 2005. This is most unfortunate given that the DMC was custom renovated and refurbished by a major \$150,000 grant from the South Australian Government as a permanent home for the DM physical collection in 1999. The value of this grant will now be lost to the project.

The SA Government through PIRSA has shown extensive support for DM during its time in Australia, and is keen to retain the physical collection in South Australia. Extensive negotiations are still underway regarding a future home for the collection, but a firm proposal has not yet been received from PIRSA. As a result there was no immediate alternative other than to pack and store the collection on a "temporary" basis until a satisfactory longer term solution can be found.

Sponsor access therefore ceased from November 14, 2005, as the packing task is a large and logistically challenging one. AMIRA is very mindful of its overall obligations to permanently preserve access for the sponsors, and will arrange a new display location as soon as practicable. Sponsors and supporters will be advised when this is achieved.

Please note that the continued development of DM is not seriously affected, with significant new information being regularly added to the DM website ([www.datametallogenica.com](http://www.datametallogenica.com)) which is managed and operated by AMIRA in Melbourne. Over the last few months, an extensive campaign of single sample photography has been mounted while the collection was still accessible. This has provided a large reserve of new material that will be added to the website progressively into next year as data processing progresses. New rock samples continue to arrive from sponsors and other organisations, and will be photographed then added to the physical collection as soon as practicable.

We apologise for this disruption in access to the physical collection which is unavoidable. Please contact Alan Goode for any further information.

### The Latrobe University Sample Collection

Following the closure of the Geology Department at Latrobe University in Melbourne, AMIRA arranged to preserve the full departmental sample collection of over 14,000 samples, including reference material from theses. Material from the former Pasmenco base metal collection and from individual theses on mineral deposits will be added to DM, and the remainder stored permanently by PIRSA in their Core Library in Adelaide.

### Coming Soon

Excellent new material continues to be offered by sponsors and individuals to DM for loading on the website. In the next part of the program, new data galleries will be constructed for major deposits such as Muruntau in Uzbekistan, Sukhoi Log and Noril'sk in Russia, Frieda River, Ramu and Kainantu in PNG, Donlin Creek in Alaska, Chatree in Thailand and many others.

For further information on other recent additions please visit:

[News Page](#) or [New Data Galleries](#)

This is a great start but there is a huge amount still to do.

**DM is not-for-profit but must be self-funding. Your support is essential for the continued growth of DM.**

Please consider:

- [Becoming a web subscriber](#) or [Becoming a sponsor](#)

Apart from providing the necessary financial support for continued growth, your involvement will give you and your colleagues unlimited access from virtually anywhere in the world to a great and growing unique database of continuous value.

The primary objectives of *Data Metallogenica* are to be:

- A primary web portal for "high-level" information on global ore deposits.
- An information source and rock reference base for experienced geologists, analysts and regulators.
- A training resource for younger geologists in companies.
- An education and research resource for students and teachers at universities.
- A permanent and easily accessible repository of much "fragile" and transient data held by individuals and companies – an ultimate world encyclopaedia of mineral deposits.
- A fast integrated link to detailed and supporting quality data sets elsewhere, including commercial providers, government surveys and university research groups.

**We would welcome your support in becoming part of this great enterprise. The cost is surprisingly low at about \$1 – 2 per week per geoscientist.**

**Please circulate this email to your colleagues and friends.**

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An archive of past data releases is available on the DM website.

***Data Metallogenica – building the global encyclopaedia of ore deposits***

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