

Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP Minister for Energy and Mining

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SA to host world first crowd sourced mineral exploration

The Marshall Liberal Government will be the first government globally to host a \$250,000 crowdsourced open data competition to fast-track the discovery of mineral deposits in South Australia.

ExploreSA: The Gawler Challenge partners with open innovation platform, Uearthed, in a world-wide call for geologists and data scientists to uncover new exploration targets in the state's Gawler Craton region.

Using the Geological Survey of South Australia's historical records, primary data and research, the competition combines geological expertise with new mathematical, machine learning and artificial intelligence to increase the number of potential drill targets across central South Australia.

"This state-of-the-art competition has the potential to unearth the next Olympic Dam or Carrapateena by encouraging global thinkers and innovators to interrogate our open-file data and generate new exploration models and ideas for targeting," said Minister van Holst Pellekaan.

"The Marshall Liberal Government is thinking outside the square to drive investment and jobs in South Australia's vital resources sector.

Mining is one of the pillars of the South Australian economy and this competition should add to the pipeline of projects in the resources and minerals processing sector.

"Our existing inventory of discoveries suggest there are major prospects and many other deposit styles and commodities to be identified and this will only serve to bring those internationally significant discoveries forward.

"ExploreSA is an example of the bold and progressive thinking required to assist industry in accelerating the state's annual economic growth rate to three per cent."

All targets generated, including those from the winners of the \$250,000 prize pool, will be publicly shared to increase innovation and understanding in the resources sector by enabling access to data science approaches and modern geoscience thinking.

Uearthed Industry Lead – Crowdsourcing, Holly Bridgwater said the competition served to leverage data science to its full potential at a time when significant new discoveries are becoming rarer.

"This exciting crowdsourcing competition and world-class open dataset will attract a global community of innovators, some whom won't have worked in the mining industry before," Bridgwater said.

"We can't wait to see how they will apply their diverse skills, fresh ideas and novel approaches to mineral exploration to accelerate discovery in South Australia."

Crowdsourced competitions are a fresh, leading method to test new ideas and find solutions, which can also result in start-up companies, new jobs and opportunities.

ExploreSA: The Gawler Challenge will open early next year.