

## World Alliancing News – Week of June 3rd, 2007

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### Company tests wireless product at ANR mine

Wednesday, 16 May 2007

#### **CANADIAN firm iPackets International said this week it has completed a demonstration of its newest wireless product at a US mine in Appalachia.**

Joining iPackets in the endeavour were AFL Network Services' Enterprise Division and Mainline Communications.

The companies' Mine-1-1 system was in the spotlight at an Alpha Natural Resources Brooks Run operation near Cowen, West Virginia. The system is made up of its iPMine solution as well as AFL's third generation MobileNet unit, remote video surveillance, and Voice over Internet Protocol to interactively send and receive messages for one-to-one communications within a mine.

The company said Tuesday that the feedback received after the demonstration was "extremely positive" and gave those witnessing the event a comprehensive view of the system's integration.

"We are extremely pleased that within a few weeks from announcing the Mine-1-1 offering for the US market, our partner Mainline was able to quickly arrange for a demo of this magnitude at a large coal operator in the US," said iPackets president Naiel Kanno.

"We are equally elated that the Mine-1-1 product demonstration far exceeded the expectation of all participants."

Mainline president Hugh McDavid concurred with the successful result.

"We have known all along that the Mine-1-1 solution is cutting edge technology that will create a safer work environment. The success of the demonstration proved that and has already generated a lot of discussion and excitement in the mining industry," McDavid said.

"Since mine safety is so important, the management at Alpha Resources Inc and Brooks Run should be congratulated for their willingness to give us the opportunity to demonstrate to them just how well the system works."

AFL spokesperson Miner Lawrence called the demonstration "very exciting and productive" for the industry and the trio of companies.



iPackets demonstrating the iPMine-VU tracking and monitoring software.

"The mine workers were enthused about the new system – the way it works and all that could be accomplished with this single solution," Lawrence said.

"It's great to be part of a team that is focused on providing safer working conditions within the mining community. We look forward to our continued **partnership**." <http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=98684&sectionsource=s89&highlight=partnership>

### (AAA News)

## Partnership promises mine scheduling solution

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Friday, 25 May 2007

**MINING software and consulting services company Runge will work with leading software provider SAP and top mining companies to develop a solution enabling an integrated mining scheduling process.**

SAP Industry Value Network (IVN) for mining was started by SAP to address priority mining industry needs and business challenges, and includes leading industry customers such as BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Anglo American, Exxaro and Goldcorp.



By combining the mining engineer and equipment scheduling process of the maintenance manager, mining IVN partners are working on an end-to-end mining scheduling process.

The partners will work on new composite solutions and integration scenarios in the areas of mining operations management (for mine planning and scheduling, metallurgical reconciliation and metal accounting), enterprise asset management (for reliable maintenance optimisation, delay accounting and performance optimisation), as well as operational compliance (for emissions management, and health and safety management).

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99216&sectionsource=s89&highlight=partnership>

## The future of CTL realised

Wednesday, 30 May 2007

### **COAL giant Peabody Energy and alternative fuel technologies firm Rentech have teamed up on the first commercial coal-to-liquids complex in the US.**

The Missouri producer said Tuesday it will provide up to \$US10 million in funding for the engineering and development of the project in Illinois, and will retain a 20% equity interest.

As part of the deal, Peabody will supply approximately 1 million tons of coal each year for the coal conversion facility as part of a long-term agreement.

Rentech is converting an already existing plant for fertiliser production for the project, which will develop "ultra-clean transportation fuels using Rentech's patented processes that are based on widely recognised Fischer-Tropsch technology", the companies said.

"Oil prices have increased more than 70 percent in the past five years, and the United States continues to depend on expensive oil imports from unstable regions to meet our needs," Peabody president Gregory Boyce noted.

"Transforming America's abundant coal reserves into clean transportation fuels is an important step for strengthening US energy security.

"Our Rentech **partnership** demonstrates the synergies we can achieve by fuelling clean energy solutions using our large reserve base."

The complex, in the development phase with an expected completion date of 2010, is anticipated to produce about 400,000 barrels per year.

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99421&sectionsource=s89&highlight=partnership>



US Coal Supply Regions, courtesy Rentech.

## Coal kiosks

Tuesday, 5 June 2007  
Mika Thuijs

**A TRIAL computer system that allows miners uninhibited, 24/7 access to controlled documents, such as emergency procedures, management plans and work instructions is now being used at Illawarra Coal's Dendrobium mine in New South Wales.**

Aiming to keep the workforce safe and informed, the iPICK (Information Point Illawarra Coal Kiosk) computer system is designed to provide information access to all workers and mine visitors, including those not based at office computers, such as underground miners.

Developed by Illawarra Coal in **partnership** with local software company iQmultimedia, the technology gives workers access to the relevant in-house documentation via the company intranet or through specially developed touch-screen kiosks.

Illawarra Coal general manager of sustainable development Wendy Tyrell said the new technology would assist the miner in meeting its obligations to provide reliable access to information for employees at all times.

"It's user friendly and it adheres to the new Australian Standard 4804," she said.

Illawarra Coal is the first in the BHP Billiton operation to develop such an interface into its records management software.

iQmultimedia director Sam Marciano said the software presented information to the miners and their managers where and when they needed it.

"iPICK orders the documents, procedures, forms and diagrams you're looking for in the way you're wanting to find it," he said.

"You can view all the documents by their type, or by the activity they're linked to, or any other method designated by the document controller. You can search for a document, too, even by document number, so if you want a specific document quickly, it's never far away."

Illawarra Coal now plans to extend the technology to its West Cliff, Appin and Appin-Douglas mines, with the possibility of taking the system overseas in the future.

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99622&sectionsource=s89&highlight=partnership>



The iPICK start page.



The iPICK computer system at Dendrobium.

## Salesforce.com and Google Form Global Strategic Alliance: Google AdWords Leverage is First SaaS Offering.

06/05/2007

The newest product resulting from this alliance, Salesforce Group Edition featuring Google AdWords, is a robust offering that combines the power of Salesforce on-demand CRM applications with the Google AdWords™ platform to achieve integrated sales and marketing success. This joint solution provides businesses of all sizes with the same tools used by larger enterprises to successfully attract and retain customers.

"The Web has quickly become the most powerful tool small and medium sized businesses can use to compete and win in today's economy," said Eric Schmidt, chief executive officer at Google. "Combining the power and simplicity of Salesforce with Google AdWords helps businesses find and keep customers to ultimately drive their continued success."

"The alliance of Google and salesforce.com brings together the world's leading platforms to empower small and medium size businesses to accelerate and thrive," said Marc Benioff, chairman and CEO of salesforce.com. "The Internet has completely changed the landscape for small and medium businesses and the alliance between Google and salesforce.com enables companies of all sizes to acquire new customers and streamline their business to experience unfettered success."

"Now there is a single online destination for businesses of all sizes to attract and acquire new customers, while closely tracking the return on their valuable marketing dollars," said Sheryl Sandberg, Vice President, global online sales and operations at Google. "This alliance is about introducing new audiences to the benefits of online advertising, marketing and sales through the integration of two world-class solutions to help small and medium businesses succeed in today's global marketplace."

### Salesforce.com and Google Strategic Alliance

Both salesforce.com and Google have revolutionized how customers and businesses utilize the Internet. Salesforce.com has altered the business software landscape by delivering an award-winning CRM application as a subscription-based service over the Web, completely eliminating the need for software, hardware or IT support. At the same time, Google has transformed the advertising industry with Google AdWords, enabling marketers to spend less money and still reach a larger percentage of their key audience by associating ads with specific keyword searches.

Now, salesforce.com and Google have formed a strategic global alliance to mutually use their product, packaging, and promotional resources to enable companies of all sizes to realize unprecedented levels of success. As part of the alliance, salesforce.com will be the first on-demand company to resell the Google AdWords platform, acting as an official distribution channel for the Google AdWords product. The alliance is across 43 countries and encompasses distribution, technology and co-marketing efforts.

Salesforce Group Edition featuring Google AdWords – The Engine for Business Growth

Salesforce Group Edition featuring Google AdWords provides an integrated and effective

solution that gives companies of all sizes all the tools they need to acquire new customers and grow their business. By encapsulating every element of the customer lifecycle - advertising, creating leads, closing business and retaining customers - in one solution, Salesforce Group Edition featuring Google AdWords enables any company to jump start their business by creating an online marketing and sales presence.

<http://www.ebizq.net/news/8112.html>

### (AAA News)

## Anadis signs development deal with SPC

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

Nick Evans

**BIOPHARMACEUTICAL firm Anadis took a step closer to the big time yesterday, with the announcement that it has signed a development deal with Coca-Cola subsidiary SPC Ardmona. The heads of agreement with SPC Ardmona, a fully owned subsidiary of Coca-Cola Amatil, will see the Melbourne-based company become an "innovation satellite" of the food and drinks giant, for the development of foods in the "healthy food" segment.**

In a sign of increasing interest in biotechnology platforms from outside the medical sphere, the subsidiary of the soft drink giant will work with Anadis on the development of nutraceutical foods and the improvement of the company's existing product line.



The heads of agreement is a research, development and commercialisation **alliance** between the two companies. Anadis and SPC Ardmona will work together to develop nutraceutical products for SPC Ardmona, which is Australia's largest fruit processor and a familiar brand on Australian supermarket shelves.

Anadis head of research and development Dr Grant Rawlin said that his company would be working across a range of areas with SPC Ardmona – from development of new products and improving existing ranges, to looking at the company's communication with consumers about the nutritional value of its products. He said that Anadis had a brief to work with SPC Ardmona on a deep strategic level to help the fruit processor expand its product lines.

"We've been asked to bring an innovation mindset into SPC. We'll be working with SPC to institute some strategic research to improve the product line. SPC already has an in-house product development team, but most of what they do is the tweaks – the 2 percenters, the marketing push. What they're looking for from us is the leaps," he said.

Anadis will bring its expertise in research and development to the partnership, along with the ability to manage and communicate the relevant underlying science,

intellectual property, research management and patented nutraceutical ingredients.

SPC Ardmona managing director Nigel Garrard said his company was always looking for innovative ways to improve its product line.

"For a company of our size and with our commitment to quality, we are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve our supply of foods for the healthy food market. We are confident our **alliance** with Anadis will assist us greatly to do this," he said.

Anadis chief executive Dr Zeil Rosenberg said the agreement was a confidence boost for the company.

"This heads of agreement demonstrates great confidence by SPC Ardmona, and thereby Coca-Cola Amatil, in Anadis' credentials in the growing healthcare food market," Rosenberg said.

"It reflects well on our scientific team to be given the opportunity to create natural health-focused foods for large consumer markets, a product of the 'wellness' revolution, focused on preventative health through, amongst others avenues, high quality nutritional foods."

The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

<http://www.biotechnologynews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99719&sectionsource=s0&highlight=alliance>

## **PricewaterhouseCoopers and Vontu Announce Strategic Alliance to Provide Data Loss Prevention Solutions**

### **Industry Alliance to Combine Advisory Services and Automated Data Loss Prevention**

NEW YORK, NY and SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- (MARKET WIRE) -- 06/05/07 -- PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), and Vontu, Inc., the leader in Data Loss Prevention solutions, today announced a strategic alliance to help enterprise clients detect and prevent the loss of confidential information. This alliance, between a global leader in advisory services and an industry leader in data loss prevention, signals the growth and maturity of the data loss prevention marketplace.

Through the alliance relationship, PwC will provide professional services to help clients assess and minimize their risk of data loss as well as help assess and maintain compliance with data security and privacy regulations. When PwC performs risk and assessment services, its clients will now have the option of performing an automated data loss risk assessment using Vontu's data loss prevention platform, Vontu 7.

Vontu 7 enables organizations to protect confidential data anywhere -- at rest, in motion or at the endpoint. New features in Vontu 7 include content-aware monitoring of USB drives and other removable storage devices, new capabilities to support the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), Asian language detection, and discovery of confidential data at rest in Lotus Notes and SQL databases.

"With ever-increasing concerns regarding customer data exposures, compliance violations and intellectual property loss in digital environments, organizations are now, more than ever, looking to data loss prevention technologies to reduce risk. By working closely with Vontu, we now have the technology platform to create efficient rules and policies to address data loss risk holistically," said Gerard Verweij, principal, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

PwC will deliver business advisory services to provide data protection, privacy and security solutions including:

- Risk Assessment Services
- Data Mapping and Classification
- Remediation Process Definition
- Privacy Analysis
- Vontu User Interface Configuration
- Vontu Policy Development
- Technical Advisory Integration Services
- Technical & Business Process Testing

In addition to providing global, enterprise-scale solutions to protect confidential data from wrongful disclosure, and automatically enforce data loss prevention policies, PwC and Vontu will provide critical PCI compliance capabilities for any organization that handles Primary Account Number (PAN) and cardholder data. In several successful joint risk assessments, Vontu has provided comprehensive PCI compliance reporting and audit support.

PwC and Vontu will launch the alliance relationship with a series of web seminars and speaking engagements at industry conferences to educate the market on the critical business issues of data loss prevention and risk management.

"By adding significant integration and advisory expertise, as well as global reach, our strategic alliance with PwC will extend our ability to deliver high-quality services to meet future demand," said Ken Kim, vice president of professional services at Vontu. "We look forward to working with PwC to build long-term customer relationships that will help establish leading practices for data loss prevention on a global basis."

<http://www.sys-con.com/read/384637.htm>

**(AAA News)**  
**Qld narrows the field on major transport projects**

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

**THE search for a private sector partner on the proposed Airport Link underground toll road and the Windsor to Kedron section of the proposed Northern Busway in Queensland has been narrowed to three companies today by the State Government.**

The contenders include BrisConnections, NorthConnect Motorway and Northern Motorway – three consortiums made up of some of the biggest names in construction.

The Queensland Government selected the companies based on technical capability, financial capacity and experience.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure Anna Bligh said while it was very pleasing to have such red-hot competition, unfortunately the Government had to narrow the field.

Private sector companies were invited to submit expressions of interest for the projects in late February 2007.

Companies were asked to outline their technical capability and financial capacity to deliver the projects.

The projects can now move into the bidding phase, subject to the outcome of the evaluation of the Airport Link environmental impact statement and the Northern Busway concept design and impact management plan.

During the bidding phase, the short-listed groups will be asked to outline how they plan to finance, design, construct, commission, operate and maintain the Airport Link.

They will also be asked to include in their proposals how they will design, construct and commission the Windsor to Kedron section of the Northern Busway, which will be financed, operated and maintained by the State Government.

Bligh said she was looking forward to some very competitive bids.

"These groups are comprised of some of the world's most experienced construction companies and financiers and they know they will have to submit competitive and innovative proposals to win the job," she said.

BrisConnections comprises the Macquarie Bank, Thiess and John Holland.

Members of the consortium have been involved in Sydney's Lane Cove Tunnel and Melbourne's EastLink motorway as well as the Boggo Road Busway, Eleanor Schonell Bridge and Trackstar rail projects in Queensland.

The NorthConnect Motorway consortium comprises Baulderstone Hornibrook, Abigroup, Bilfinger Berger Civil, Babcock & Brown, Bilfinger Berger Services



The proposed  
Airport Link in  
QLD

Australia, Hyder-SMEC JV, Coffey Geotechnics and Hassell.

NorthConnect members have been or are currently involved in the procurement, delivery and operation of major Queensland transport projects such as the North-South Bypass Tunnel, Gateway Upgrade Project and Tugun Bypass.

The Northern Motorway consortium is jointly owned by Leighton Contractors and ABN AMRO Australia.

Both are currently involved in the delivery of several public-private **partnership** infrastructure projects in South East Queensland, including Brisbane's North-South Bypass Tunnel, Gateway Upgrade Project and Southbank TAFE redevelopment.

Other members of the consortium include Kumagai Gumi, Maunsell, GHD, EDAW, Woods Bagot and Golder Associates.

If the two projects receive approval, construction is expected to begin in late 2008 with completion anticipated for 2012.

<http://www.constructionindustrynews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99800&sectionsour ce=s0&highlight=partnership>

### (AAA News)

## Italy player goes underground with Perth based Star Energy

Thursday, 7 June 2007

**PO VALLEY has teamed with a UK-headquartered company to bid for underground gas storage licenses in Italy – a sector it says is one of Europe's fastest growing energy-related businesses.**

In a statement yesterday, the Perth-based junior said its new partner, Star Energy, was the UK's second largest onshore oil producer and a major operator and developer of underground gas storage facilities.

Po Valley chief executive Michael Masterman said the storage of gas in underground depleted reservoirs was a rapidly expanding business in Italy and Europe, reflecting increasing dependence on imported gas which is usually delivered on a 'flat volume' basis.

"Large storage capacity is required to meet Italy's seasonal swings in gas consumption and spikes in usages," Masterman said.

"Po Valley's potential development of storage as a new cornerstone business is a natural complement to our emerging gas production capacity from early 2008."

Masterman said the JV would combine Po Valley's experience in gas field development in northern Italy with Star Energy's specialist skills and operations in storing gas in the UK at Humbley



Po Valley's CEO  
Michael  
Masterman

Grove and 4 6 other projects in the UK using depleted oil and gas reservoirs.

"The **partnership** is highly strategic as Star Energy is the largest independent storage operator and developer in the United Kingdom and has recently expanded into the Netherlands," Mr Masterman said.

Under the joint venture, Po Valley and Star will bid for up to five gas storage licences recently put out to tender by the Italian Ministry.

Bids close in September 2007, with results expected by the first quarter 2008.

<http://www.petroleumnews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99883&sectionsource=s90&highlight=partnership>

## New biotechnology strategy for Tasmania

Nick Evans

Thursday, 7 June 2007

**THE Tasmanian biotech industry will get a new "Tasmanian Biotechnology Network", as part of the state's new biotechnology strategy, launched earlier this week. State Premier Paul Lennon launched the strategy on Tuesday, targeting a tripling of the revenue of the state's sector over the next eight years as the strategy's major goal. Lennon also announced that today's State Budget would contain \$300,000 to begin implementing the strategy.**

"The Biotechnology Strategy is another important component of the State Government's plan to make Tasmania the 'Innovative Island'. We are determined to work in **partnership** with a range of industry sectors to continue developing our innovative companies," Lennon said.

"Biotechnology is part of this future and is worth – exclusive of the poppy industry component – around \$45 million annually to the state. The strategy aims to treble this figure by 2015."

While the strategy falls short of pledging direct funding for Tasmanian companies, the Government is promising to tip in indirect support for the industry, with the appointment of a state biotechnology program manager to oversee the strategy's implementation; and trade mission funding so Tasmanian biotechnology companies can promote and sell their products internationally.

In an innovative move, the Government is also promising to send marketing graduates from the University of Tasmania into local biotechnology companies to help improve the companies' marketing skills.

The premier said that the Biotechnology Strategy was another key plank in making Tasmania the Innovative Island and came in addition to the State Government's \$1.5 million commitment to the Australian Innovation Research Centre in Hobart, which



Premier Paul Lennon and Managing Director of Marinova Paul Garrott inspect Marinova's equipment at the launch of the State Biotechnology Strategy.

opened in September last year; \$2.4 million for Springboard, the Government's new business development facility for innovative companies at the Technopark, which opened in May; and providing more than \$600,000 each year in innovation grants to help Tasmanian companies commercialise their ideas and products.

### **GMO legislation**

The state has also moved to clarify its position on genetically modified crops, with the establishment of a Joint Select Parliamentary Committee to review the state's legislation on the matter.

Lennon said the new biotechnology strategy pointed to the need to provide certainty regarding Tasmania's GM status. The State Government has put in place a moratorium on genetically modified crops that will expire in late 2009.

"The State Government will address this issue in the lead-up to the end of the 2009 moratorium by reviewing the moratorium through a Joint Select Parliamentary Committee," he said.

"The committee will call for public submissions on these matters and take those comments into consideration when making its recommendations.

"We have to determine how the advantage of being GM crop-free and the boost that provides to our clean, green image sits with opportunities that exist in the non-food sector such as the poppy industry."

In addition, legislation to clarify controls supporting Tasmania's current GMO-free status was introduced to State Parliament yesterday.

The Genetically Modified Organisms Control Amendment Bill and a separate statutory review of the Gene Technology Act currently underway are required to ensure that the legal framework supporting Tasmania's GMO status remains robust.

Primary Industries and Water Minister David Llewellyn stressed that both of these actions are unrelated to the review of Tasmania's GMO moratorium policy.

Llewellyn said that the Genetically Modified Organisms Control Amendment Bill introduced to Parliament clarifies existing provisions of Tasmania's legislative framework, including:

- Making it clear that someone who deals with a GMO that is subject to a permit issued to another party must also comply with that permit;

- Making the obligations clear if people are affected by unintended GM presence (eg GM-contaminated seeds); and

- Transferring the relevant important control provisions from plant quarantine legislation into the GMO Act where they more properly belong.

On a separate matter, Llewellyn said that notices had already been placed in the Tasmanian media advising of a statutory review of Tasmania's Gene Technology Act 2001 to ensure it remains consistent with the federal legislation.

"The statutory review is required because the Commonwealth Act – on which the Tasmanian legislation is modelled – was recently reviewed and amendments to it will commence in mid-2007," Llewellyn said.

"As a result, the Tasmanian legislation must also be reviewed and amended so that national uniformity in laws for use of gene technology is maintained."  
<http://www.biotechnologynews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99916&sectionsourc=s0&highlight=partnership>

**(AAA News)**

## **Green Arrow an environmental superhero**

Thursday, 7 June 2007

**ARROW Energy is in the running to win three categories of the Banksia Environmental Awards, thanks to its efforts to recycle water at the Tipton West coal seam methane project and capture emissions at the Moranbah North coal mine.**

The company's environmental manager Ralph Guinness has been nominated for the Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award for his work in harnessing water generated as a byproduct of the company's CSM production near Dalby, Queensland.



The drought-hit agricultural community is set to benefit from the recycling of the equivalent of up to 1387 Olympic swimming pools of water each year by a planned reverse osmosis plant for potable water supply.

Current users include local cattle feedlots and Peabody's Wilkie Creek Mine, while a trial scheme with Queensland's Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to grow saltwater fish in CSM water could yet spawn a new industry west of the Great Divide.

Chief executive Nick Davies said similar projects were being discussed at Moranbah and Gladstone, in addition to other mining projects both in Australia and overseas.

The Dalby project also led to Arrow's nomination in the Water Award category for outstanding achievement in protecting, conserving or enhancing Australia's water resources.

In addition, Arrow's **partnership** with Anglo Coal Australia at Moranbah North Coal Mine to extract coal seam methane prior to underground mining has led to its nomination for the Eco Innovation Award for significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Methane extracted from the Anglo-operated mine is currently producing 4 terajoules a day for Arrow's Moranbah Gas Project, the only supplier of natural gas to the Townsville market.

"This **partnership** has delivered a win, win, win for the environment, saving the equivalent of 120,000 cars' worth of greenhouse gas emissions through degassing the mine and another 40,000 through substitution of methane gas for coal-fired power, on top of improved production and safety," Davies said.

The project has produced new technological innovations and safety standards, and Arrow is considering similar agreements with mine operators in the Bowen Basin and overseas.

"Arrow has signed deals in China, Indonesia and India for the exploration of CSG and all three countries could benefit from the improved safety conditions and emissions reductions provided by degassing of coal mines," he said.

<http://www.petroleumnews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99836&sectionsource=s90&highlight=partnership>

### (AAA News)

## **Chevron aims to inspire tomorrow's science and technology stars**

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

**CHEVRON Australia has committed to a further three years in its **partnership** with Scitech on the successful *Beyond the Beaker* – discovering careers in science outreach program.**

*Beyond the Beaker* was launched in August 2006 as a travelling science careers program to inspire secondary school students in years 8 to 10 to pursue career opportunities in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.



Since its launch more than 8500 students have participated in the program.

Chevron Australia's **partnership** with Scitech is \$420,000 over three years.

Scitech's *Beyond the Beaker* science education program in action

Managing director Jay Johnson said the **partnership** with Scitech helped to address concerns that there might not be enough people with science, technology, mathematics and engineering skills to meet future needs.

"Over the past 20 years, there has been a steady decline in students choosing to study science in upper-secondary school and university, directly contributing to a lack of science, technology and related industry graduates," Johnson said.

"*Beyond the Beaker* effectively engages students at that critical time when they are making subject choices for their later high school years, which can ultimately affect their career opportunities.

"By showcasing a wide range of exciting career choices in the areas of science, engineering and technology we hope to encourage more students to develop skills in these areas."

Last year, a Federal Government audit of science, engineering and technology skills found that the number of students considering studying careers in this area was relatively low compared to other high profile areas such as law and medicine.

"Many students still do not realise there is such a broad range of science careers to suit every interest," says Scitech science careers coordinator Skye Kelliher.

Their outlook changes radically after the guided audiovisual presentation by the program's young, enthusiastic science presenters.

Seated in an audience and using audience response systems that look like TV remote controls, students are asked to vote for the career areas they would like to learn more about, including working outdoors, with animals or in sport.

The video clips that are shown feature Chevron Australia employees, including graduate petroleum engineer Nina Rudduck and geologists Bree Goff and Luke Johnson, as well as people working in other career such as forensic entomology, agricultural science, zoology and food technology.

The "*Beyond the Beaker* presenters also engage the students in interactive experiments seeking to answer their questions on everyday scientific phenomena.

Teachers nominate high-potential students to participate in a special hands-on-workshop using a hypothetical forensics scenario. Entitled 'A Wedding and Two Funerals' the scenario revolves around a food poisoning case that resulted in the deaths of two guests at a wedding reception.

Students work as microbiologists to identify the bacteria found in the victims' blood, as immunologists to analyse and identify blood serum samples to determine what antibodies are present and food technologists to analyse food and drink samples confiscated from the wedding banquet. The workshops are designed to encourage scientific thinking and critical analysis of real science scenarios.

<http://www.petroleumnews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99777&sectionsource=s90&highlight=partnership>

### (AAA News) Automated answer

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Thursday, 7 June 2007

#### **SOFTWARE management was becoming an issue at BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance's Saraji opencut coking coal mine in Queensland.**

Traditionally the mine had carried out all programmable logic controller and supervisory control and data acquisition project maintenance manually.

This meant that after a new change had been made and downloaded to the equipment somebody, hopefully, would also save the new copy in the right place.

Alas, this did not always happen making it difficult to track changes and to keep correct copies of these projects.



BMA's Saraji open cut mine.

The challenge was to give Saraji an automated system that:

- Increased plant uptime;
- Improved engineering processes;
- Reduced engineering and maintenance costs;
- Improved safety, security and regulatory compliance;
- Protected key information assets;
- Increased flexibility;
- Centralised storage of PLC and SCADA projects; and
- Provided PLC and SCADA project version control.

Enter Automation IT, which worked alongside Saraji site engineers to design, install and commission GE Fanuc Proficy Change Management software – along with an AIT custom front end – at the mine.

AIT, based in Springwood about 12km south of Brisbane, designed a system to solve Saraji's maintenance and engineering software management issue, including the integration of several custom additions to the mine's change management system, such as a custom report tool and specific site navigation between PLC and SCADA projects.

Saraji has put its CM server in a central office to give users the ability to work on projects on the server directly or from the draglines. This layout also gives users the ability to diagnose problems from the server without having to take long drives out to the draglines.

Version control ensures that only one person at a time can make changes to the system. It also archives the versions when changes are made. It is possible to revert to previous versions or set an earlier version as the "master". If unauthorised changes are made directly to a PLC it is easy to restore a previous version.

Access control is used to set privilege levels applicable to users for all server settings, PLC and SCADA projects and files.

At Saraji users were separated into groups to define which runtime operations can be performed on each type of PLC and problems such as downloading an incorrect program to the PLC were eliminated.

Repetitive tasks associated with maintaining industrial projects were automated with a tool called the scheduler. At Saraji scheduled tasks included monthly backups of all PLC and SCADA projects and PLC compares, where a comparison report between the latest version of a dragline project and the logic actually in the dragline PLC is compiled in a graphical format. Differences are automatically emailed to the system administrator as well as a log file describing any problems with scheduled tasks.

The system also boasts an audit trail tool that helps track actions performed within the automation and control system. Reports used at Saraji are: CM server log in/log out; projects managed by Proficy Change Management; and server status and scheduler additions.

AIT's custom report tool provides access to records stored in the database. Other features include past search results, obtain copies of backed up projects, clear/backup audit trail databases and access to scheduled compare results. The AIT

report tool is available inside the CM environment but can also be run independently of it.

AIT also made the CM system easy to use for site electricians working on PLC and SCADA systems. Essentially, anyone who can surf the web has the skills to use the system.

Besides its work with BMA, AIT performs all facets of control system design and engineering for the mining industry and several others. It has a proven track record with PLC and SCADA projects and is currently focused on the implementation of MES systems to improve plant efficiencies.

AIT holds current system integration agreements with Allen Bradley (Rockwell), Citect (Gold CIP), GE Fanuc and Schneider Electric (Modicon). The company also employs Hirschmann certified engineers.

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99880&sectionsource=s89&highlight=alliance>

### (AAA News)

#### Producer hires help to tout coal's benefits

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

**MARYLAND operator Foundation Coal wants to push the positives of coal as the continued future of energy generation – and has hired a lobbyist to tell the US Government so.**

Company spokesman Peter Vietti confirmed to *International Longwall News* Monday that Foundation had secured Platinum Advisors to lobby federal legislators. Under its agreement, according to an *Associated Press* report Friday, the firm will petition for issues relating to energy policy.

"This relationship is within the normal scope of Foundation's business initiatives to seek professional advice on various matters relating to government affairs," Vietti told *ILN*, adding that the company does not have knowledge of any other producer making a similar move.

He did not elaborate on any other details of the **alliance**.

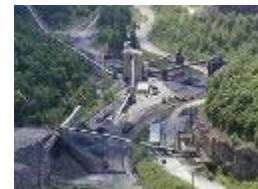
Under a 1995 US law, lobbyists must disclose any activities that could influence the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government, and must register with Congress within 45 days, the news service said.

While no other industry clients were listed on Platinum's website, other major US companies under the firm include Big Four accountant KPMG, shipping giant UPS, and healthcare conglomerate Johnson & Johnson.

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99714&sectionsource=s89&highlight=alliance>



Courtesy  
Foundation Coal  
Holdings



Foundation Coal's  
Laurel Creek  
Mining complex in  
West Virginia.

## (AAA News)

### Methane to Markets seeking paper ideas

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Monday, 4 June 2007

**THE Environmental Protection Agency's Methane to Markets Partnership is requesting submissions for projects to highlight at its Partnership Expo in Beijing, China later this year.**

The call for projects, released by the Methane to Markets Partnership Administrative Support Group (ASG), is for methane recovery and use project opportunities in four sectors: coal mining as well as landfills, oil and gas systems.

Those selected will be showcased at the Expo October 30 to November 1.

While the display of the selected submissions to potential investors will be a large part of the event, the Partnership Expo will also allow attendees to meet and gather with possible project partners and financiers, provide education about cutting-edge technologies and services and will allow guests to examine technical, policy and financial issues in the sector.

The deadline for project submission to Methane to Markets is July 2. For full details on entry requirements, visit [www.methanetomarkets.org/expo/](http://www.methanetomarkets.org/expo/) under "Submit a Project".

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99655&sectionsource=s89&highlight=partnership>

## (AAA News)

### Partners in recruitment

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Monday, 4 June 2007

**WITH the national skills shortage an ongoing hot topic and industry sticking point, software player Mincom has joined forces with a web-based recruitment company to assist businesses in the hiring process.**

Mincom will enter a partnership with Melbourne-based NGA.NET, providers of e-recruitment software solutions, and will offer the NGA.NET-hosted solution to customers as Mincom e-Recruitment.

Integrating NGA.NET's e-Recruitment ASP based software and Mincom's Ellipse enterprise asset management solution, the new system will provide solutions for online recruitment and employee management, including tools for applicant tracking, candidate care, talent management, advanced reporting and recruitment analysis.



As most mines would rather be focusing their energy on matters other than labour management, the NGA.NET–Mincom partnership is designed to help streamline the recruitment process and provide Mincom customers with a one-stop shop for the

recruitment management process.

NGA.NET, whose client list includes Rio Tinto, Newmont Mining and Xstrata, said the partnership would help customers achieve a better return on investment from their recruitment initiatives.

Other aims of the e-Recruitment solution include increasing the effectiveness of recruitment stakeholder communications, providing a higher level of applicant care and communication, and significantly reducing external advertising and recruitment costs via a secure web-based solution.

<http://www.longwalls.com/StoryView.asp?StoryID=99565>

### (AAA News)

## Bowen stalks Queensland coal assets

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

**USUALLY juniors are the hunted, but today junior explorer Bowen Energy became the hunter with an off-market takeover offer for coal exploration company Rocklands Richfield.**

If successful, Bowen Energy will add to its growing portfolio assets the EPC 890 Rocklands project, MDL 324 Hillalong Project and 60% of EPC 930 Richfield Project, all located in Queensland's Bowen Basin.

Bowen is offering Rocklands' shareholders one Bowen share and 10c for every two Rocklands shares held.

Bowen said the deal would enable it to utilise its memorandum of understanding strategic partnership agreement with Bhusham Steel and would fast-track the development of MDL 324 and EPC 890.

Bowen said the bidder's statement would be lodged within one month and an announcement sent to shareholders 14 days after lodgement.

Bowen was trading at \$A29.5 cents today.

<http://www.longwalls.com/storyview.asp?storyid=99774&sectionsource=s89&highlight=partnership>



Bowen Energy  
coal tenements.  
Courtesy Bowen  
Energy  
prospectus.

## Google and Apple rumoured in Strategic Alliance deal.

Between the lines,  
June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Fred Vogelstein of Wired [speculates](#) on a possible announcement at Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference next week of a strategic alliance between Apple and Google. It's not unlikely. Google CEO Eric Schmidt is on Apple's board for a reason, and I don't think that he got the seat because he and Steve Jobs share their iTunes playlists.

Google likes to makes strategic alliances, but not of great significance so far. The company has collaboration with Sun, without much to show, and this week announced a relationship with [salesforce.com that leverages AdWords](#).

What could Google do with Apple, or more correctly, what does Steve want from Google?

Fred quotes Schmidt talking about what Google and Apple respectively bring to the party:

"We're a perfect back end to the problems that they're trying to solve," Schmidt told me. "They have very good judgment on user interface and people. But they don't have this supercomputer (that Google has), which is the data centers. What they have is a manufacturing business that's doing quite well."

[Apple's .Mac effort](#) to create an online portal has been greatly overshadowed by Google, Yahoo, MSN and others. New Mac buyers could find Google's search bar and an offer for Google's set of applications. Or, how about a upload button to YouTube for iMovies or and upload button to Google for iPhotos, tighter integration with the Mac's native iLife set of applications, given the Mac is the multimedia machine of choice.

Or perhaps, Google and Apple will carve out a Mac/iPod/iPhone-centric Google Apps for Your Domain, with some special touches added by the master of product design.

Another possibility: iTunes in the cloud. Wouldn't it make sense to put playlists in a cloud so they could be accessed from the [iPhone](#), your various iPods and anything else with connectivity? What's your guess?

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/BTL/?p=5326>

## LNG juniors follow the big boys

Tuesday, 12 June 2007  
Sonya Neufeld, Steve Rotherham

**LIQUEFIED natural gas is a boom commodity. Woodside Petroleum recently said it expected global LNG trade to grow from about 145 million tonnes per annum in 2005 to 370MMtpa in 2015 – nearly trebling in 10 years – and many observers believe global demand could outstrip supply by up to 20MMtpa between 2008 and 2015.**

Several smaller Australian companies, including MEO Australia, Karoon Gas and Nexus Energy, are now positioning themselves for LNG production.



### **Little fish Browse LNG options**

Sometimes small is good, says Karoon exploration manager Mark Smith, who tells how his company grabbed two Browse Basin permits, WA-314-P and WA-315-P, immediately on trend with the giant Scott Reef/Brecknock gas fields.

At that time – just three years ago – there wasn't the widespread understanding of the emerging massive global LNG market that there is now. Woodside wasn't active in the Browse; it was concentrating on Sunrise and the North West Shelf. But Karoon saw an opportunity.

"I know about the acreage from when I worked with BHP," Smith said.

"I knew [US junior] Liberty had the blocks and had been trying to farm them out for a few years. We had an inkling that the market was changing and we were small enough to move quickly."

Nexus also moved quickly on an underrated opportunity, Echuca Shoals. But Ernst & Young partner Russell Curtin says agility isn't enough – junior LNG hopefuls also need big partners.

"They've been nimble in getting access to ground but LNG projects are very expensive to get off the ground," Curtin said.

"Now they have the opportunity to sell down interest in these assets and retain an ownership interest and by various farm-in mechanisms, be carried in these projects."

Karoon has linked up with Darwin LNG operator ConocoPhillips, which has approval to expand Darwin LNG threefold. Presumably, it could pipe the gas to Darwin, or sell into another Browse-based project, or it could develop another facility in the Browse either on its own or in **partnership** with a company such as Shell.

Meanwhile, Nexus has teamed up with Shell, which like ConocoPhillips has serious upstream and downstream operational and technological capabilities.

When Shell Development Australia farmed-in to the Echuca Shoals prospect, it already held a neighbouring block sandwiched between the Nexus lease and the giant Ichthys gas discovery held by Japanese major Inpex.

Then in March, Nexus and Shell won permit AC/P41 in the northern Browse, a 1900sq.km permit adjacent to Nexus' Crux gas-condensate field. They hold 50% each and have a big work program that includes at least three wells and 3D seismic surveys over the next three years.

Tchacos says farm-outs of this block and of the Echuca Shoals block, which Nexus holds 66% to Shell's 34%, are likely.

"There is no way Nexus is going to fund 50-60% of an LNG project," he said. "If drilling proves successful, we can farm down to 20-30%."

But Ernst & Young's Curtin warns that small players must be cautious in handling farm-outs.

"The real challenge for these smaller players is to not sell down so much that they wind up with nothing left," he said.

"They have to look to ways to finance their interests in those projects and to make sure that they have enough ownership interest in the projects not to be irrelevant."

MEO Australia managing director Chris Hart says the problem can be even worse. Like Nexus and Karoon, MEO is a small Australian LNG hopeful with a big company as a partner, but Hart says MEO has been very careful in ensuring it, not its partner, retained control of the project.

"Major companies have a global agenda and any small Australian project which includes a smaller, weak partner will be well down the 'merit order' list," he said.

"The majors are happy to book equity gas and wait for the inevitable death of the weaker JV participant. Any partner should be on the buying side to accelerate rather than retard the timing."

But Tchacos is confident that Nexus' Browse blocks fit in with Shell's very aggressive exploration plans for the Browse.

"Shell is committed to drilling 12 wells in WA-371-P [adjacent to Echuca Shoals]," he said. "That's going to give us a lot of information and it's likely to accelerate exploration and development in the area as a whole."

### **Upstream, downstream**

MEO Australia is taking a different approach. Unlike Nexus and Karoon, MEO is based in the Timor Sea and has always had a hands-on attitude towards its Tassie Shoal project's downstream component.

The original plan was for a methanol operation to be co-developed by MEO and 50:50 joint venture partner Air Products and Chemicals, a US multinational, with the plant to be fed by CO<sub>2</sub>-rich gas from the Santos-operated Evans Shoal gas field.

But MEO later moved into the adjacent exploration permit, NT/P68, which has the potential for low-CO<sub>2</sub> gas suitable for an LNG project.

The company aims to set an LNG plant and a methanol plant, along with storage tanks and berthing facilities, on and around gravity-base concrete islands in about 14m of water on Tassie Shoal, about 275km north of Darwin.

Hart says MEO's plan involves an innovative but cautious approach to producing LNG offshore.

"Everybody's talking about floating LNG, but floating LNG production is basically non-bankable," he said.

"There are a large number of technical risks that will only be resolved when a major

bites the bullet and commits to building a floating LNG production facility."

MEO's intermediate step of placing a concrete gravity structure on Tassie Shoal is like an artificial island, according to Hart.

MEO has already received full environmental approval, valid for 50 years, for constructing and operating both plants.

The gap in its plans is the lack of a proven gas resource, but the company's 100%-held NT/P68 contains the 1972 Heron gas discovery.

MEO has reworked old data and run new 2D and 3D seismic surveys. It plans to soon begin a three-well exploration/appraisal program that will focus on the Epenarra anticline that encompasses the original Heron discovery as well as the underlying Heron North Plover structure.

Hart says these structures could hold 11Tcf of gas in-place.

The company has also run a 600km 2D seismic survey, firming up a drilling location at the nearby Blackwood prospect.

Last week it announced a 10% farmout to Petrofac, a \$US3 billion London-listed oil engineering and services group. MEO is also planning to farm-out more equity.

The company hopes to begin FEED at the beginning of 2008 and first production by 2011-12.

### **Big opportunities for small players**

Tchacos recognises that while small companies are nimble, they have fewer development options than big players, but this doesn't faze him.

"With a small company you have to look at the next three years, not the next 15," he said. "But if you position yourself early, you can also benefit in the longer term."  
<http://www.petroleumnews.net/storyview.asp?storyid=99847&sectionsource=s90&highlight=partnership>