



“The Minex CRC and National Drilling Initiative”

Professor David Giles, University of South Australia,

Chief Scientific Officer MinEx CRC

SMEDG TALK - 6.00PM, THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2022 – YORK CLUB, 99 YORK

STREET, SYDNEY - This will be a face-to-face presentation but there will be provision for Zoom attendance.

MinEx CRC is arguably the world’s largest exploration-related research organisation and is jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government and industry participants. Now in its fourth year of research, MinEx CRC is focused on a new set of exploration tools and new ways to deploy those tools that recognise the fundamental importance of collecting quantity and quality data from the subsurface.

This new set of exploration tools recognise the fundamental importance of collecting quality data from the subsurface.

MinEx CRC is focused on developing more productive, safer and environmentally-friendly drilling methods to discover and drill-out deposits. This includes pioneering work on coiled tubing (CT) drilling technology and innovations in diamond and RC drilling techniques aimed at improved drilling optimisation and automation.

In parallel, MinEx is developing new technologies for collecting data while drilling. This is being undertaken in four separate industry-led projects utilising geophysical, seismic, downhole analytical and 3-d modelling improvements.

A National Drilling Initiative (NDI) is also underway, with drilling programs completed in 2020 and 2021. The NDI is a world-first collaboration of Geological Surveys, researchers and industry, to undertake drilling in under-explored areas of potential mineral wealth and provide a test-bed for new mineral exploration technologies.

Prof David Giles is John Ralston Chair of Minerals and Resources Engineering at the Future Industries Institute, University of South Australia and Chief Scientific Officer of [MinEx CRC](#).

He has worked at the interface between academia and the minerals industry for his entire career; as an exploration and project geologist (1993-1996); as a PhD candidate and industry-linked post-doctoral researcher (1996-2005) and as the inaugural State of South Australia Chair of Mineral Exploration (2006-2016). Between 2010 and 2018 Prof. Giles was Program 3 (Targeting) Leader in the Deep Exploration Technologies CRC.

As Chief Scientific Officer of MinEx CRC (2019-2028) Prof Giles’ role is to manage, support and champion the research efforts of a multidisciplinary team, distributed across industry, government and academia. The National Drilling Initiative is a key research program within MinEx CRC, designed to i)

collect samples from the vast volumes of unexplored (potentially) prospective rocks buried beneath Australia's extensive areas of shallow cover and ii) test, improve and validate novel exploration technologies, focused on and around the drilling platform and optimized for efficient exploration under cover.

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