

## **MEDIA RELEASE**    *STRICTLY EMBARGOED 2:00PM AEST DECEMBER 7 2018*

### **A\$1 MILLION MINING EXPLORATION CROWDSOURCING COMPETITION**

Modern mining company, [OZ Minerals](#), and energy and resources open innovation platform, [Uearthed](#), have partnered to launch the Explorer Challenge. This unique, online crowdsourcing competition calls for geologists and data scientists from across the globe to develop ground-breaking approaches to discover new exploration targets at a site near OZ Minerals' Prominent Hill copper-gold mine in South Australia, with a A\$1 million prize pool to be awarded to winning ideas.

The Prominent Hill mine sits within the Mount Woods exploration tenements in northern South Australia and the mine has been in operation since 2009. The site for this competition is the remaining land of the Mount Woods exploration tenements surrounding Prominent Hill.

OZ Minerals' Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Cole, said the company is proud to partner with Uearthed on this innovative competition to crowdsource solutions from the world's leading data scientists and geologists.

"We've taken an approach from outside our industry and applied it to the Challenge. This gives us potential access to thousands of scientists' ideas and data, compared to our relatively small team of in-house geologists – a different and diverse perspective to interpret our exploration data.

"The Challenge presents a number of benefits, and importantly, helps us gain new insights and find new approaches to push the boundaries of our geological understanding of the area.

"The Challenge is a continuation of our digital transformation journey, which we started two years ago when we migrated all our exploration data to the Amazon Web Service (AWS) cloud. We want to find ways to work smarter with all the data we've got, not just geological data, and challenge existing concepts of how we are harnessing it," Mr Cole said.

The Explorer Challenge seeks to test how the global mining and resources industry may leverage data science to its full potential in the future.

Uearthed Founding Director Justin Strharsky said mineral exploration is difficult and economic mineral deposits are rare.

"During the exploration process, the iterative process of collecting different datasets, followed by geological interpretation, can take a very long time. Vast amounts of data are collected and processed, and very often this does not result in a discovery.

"The Explorer Challenge will speed up the exploration lifecycle and allow us to analyse information at a much faster rate than before. This competition represents a fundamental change in approach to problem-solving. Data science techniques can be used for exploration and many other challenges faced by the industry.

"This is a very real example of the future of work within the industry in general, and exploration in particular. Organisations must understand the business-as-usual approach in this industry will no longer suffice. The traditional borders of our companies must be expanded virtually to include people with different skills and perspectives from around the world. If your approach to digital skills is to hire people who happen to live near your HQ on the basis of a CV or a degree from a school you recognise, you're doing it wrong," Mr Strharsky said.

Participating innovators will put their skills to the test and develop solutions for the duration of the 10 week online competition and compete for not only a A\$1 million prize pool, but also the chance to have their winning model tested in real life. If the winning model is feasible, OZ Minerals will look to test it, with the top targets scheduled to be drilled next year.

OZ Minerals will announce the Explorer Challenge at the South Australian Exploration and Mining Conference held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 7 December 2018. Interested participants can register their interest at the [Explorer Challenge site](https://unearthed.solutions/u/explorer-challenge) (<https://unearthed.solutions/u/explorer-challenge>), and they will be notified when the competition opens in February 2019. Entries close May 2019, and winners will be announced in June 2019.

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### **About Unearthed**

Unearthed is an organisation that generates opportunities for entrepreneurs and helps improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the global resources sector through hackathons, online competitions, and a technology accelerator. Since 2014, Unearthed has connected over 5000 innovators to over 100 industry challenges, producing over 400 technology solutions.

### **About OZ Minerals**

OZ Minerals is a copper-focused, global, modern mining company based in South Australia. Listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX100), OZ Minerals has a growth strategy focused on creating value for all stakeholders. OZ Minerals owns and operates the copper-gold mine at Prominent Hill, is developing one of Australia's largest copper-gold resources at Carrapateena and has assets in Brazil. They also have a pipeline of earn-in agreements with experienced exploration companies in Australia and internationally. As a modern mining company that adapts to the ever-changing environment, OZ Minerals is committed to harnessing the innovative ideas of their people and collaborating to leverage the experience of others.

**Media Contact:** Amber Sheldon M: 0419 921 003 E:[amber@pretzelcommunications.com](mailto:amber@pretzelcommunications.com)