

## Mining fund to set the PACE

MINING companies worldwide are being encouraged to apply for funding under the State Government's Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE) initiative.

With a deadline of January 28, Primary Industries and Resources SA is seeking proposals from industry to undertake co-operative exploration drilling projects in the sixth round of PACE.

The program was launched in 2004 to attract increased investment in mineral and petroleum exploration.

Among the recent projects that had benefited from PACE was Iron-Clad Mining's magnetite iron ore project and Iluka Resources' heavy mineral sands project, northwest of Ceduna.

Mineral Resources Development Minister Paul Holloway said PACE had led to an "unprecedented boost" in mineral exploration activity in SA.

## \$10.8m buyout to boost revenue

LISTED engineering firm LogiCamms expects to boost its revenues by 25 per cent through its \$10.8 million purchase of Queensland-based company MPA Consulting Engineers.

It will be funded by the issue of 6.8 million shares to MPA owners and a \$5 million cash payment, and will add another \$60 million of projects to LogiCamms' pipeline if the deal passes due diligence.

"We are confident that this acquisition will drive considerable national and international growth opportunities for LogiCamms and allow the company to further consolidate its position in the Australian market," managing director Adam Keats said in a statement yesterday.

Shareholders must still approve the share deal, which will leave MPA owners with just under 15 per cent of the issued share capital of a combined LogiCamms.

# Smart device cuts energy and costs

## Award for best green tech



**POWERFUL IDEA:** Embertec's Domenico Gelonese shows off the energy-saving Embertceptor.

Picture: JO-ANNA ROBINSON

INTUITIVE power boards that cut energy use by switching off audio-visual appliances and computers in stand-by mode will be available to carbon-conscious consumers early next year.

Embertec - a finalist in the inaugural CleverGreen Innovators to Watch Product Awards - says its invention takes a "common sense" approach to managing energy needs in today's appliance-heavy households.

The power boards use Embertec's patented technology to determine when a device or series of devices is in use or on stand-by and intuitively controls power supply to the appliance.

In Australia, consumers spend nearly \$2 billion a year on wasteful power consumption related to audio-visual and PC equipment, Embertec chief executive Domenico Gelonese says.

"Our product makes every device plugged into it intelligent. It's stopping appliances from being a drain on our environment without any human intervention," he said.

Mr Gelonese's father and Embertec's inventor has been using first iterations of

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the technology at his home since 1996.

Carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by using less power, and households can save about \$140 a year for an average audio-visual environment and about \$85 a year for an average computer environment, Mr Gelonese says.

"These savings levels have been proven in extensive independent Australian residential trials. When taking into account future electricity price increases, the savings will be even bigger for households and businesses in years to come," he said.

Embertec - which is backed by leading venture capitalists, such as Playford Capital, Cleantech Ventures and Terra Rossa Capital, and other private investors - says its fully developed prototypes are ready for manufacturing. They are aimed at the local and export markets.

## THE FINALISTS

**Product Category:**  
Embertec, Berryessa, Papyrus Australia, AquaSpy Group

**Service Category:**  
Cyclopic Energy, Intelligent Software Development, Azzo Automation, Hames Sharley

Entry-level Embertec products are likely to be priced around \$80 and promise quick payback, with a life-span of 15 years.

While other energy-saving devices and technologies exist, most involve changing consumer habits.

"With our products, it's about plugging it in once and forgetting about it," Mr Gelonese says.

A marketing campaign is being finalised to target the three core markets for the product - existing residential and commercial properties, retrofits and new constructions.

AS Copenhagen takes centre stage in the climate-change debate this week, the State Government is gearing up to reward action already under way, announcing the finalists for its inaugural CleverGreen Innovators to Watch Awards.

Eight finalists from the construction, agriculture, energy and information technology sectors have been chosen for the awards, which acknowledge environmentally sustainable products and services.

The calibre of the finalists demonstrates the breadth and expertise of the industry, Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill said.

"Driven by the need to create a sustainable community, cleantech is going from strength to strength in this state," he said.

"We applaud the hundreds of cleantech companies that are out there doing great things - reducing emissions, saving water, creating jobs, attracting investment and, just as importantly, encouraging behaviour change in people."

The two winners - one each in the services and products category - will be announced at the CleverGreen Conference and Showcase in Adelaide in February next year.

The Advertiser, a supporter of the CleverGreen Innovators to Watch Awards, will profile the finalists in the weeks to come, starting with today's spotlight on Embertec and Cyclopic Energy.

## Energy answers are blowin' in the wind

FOR South Australian engineering consultancy company Cyclopic Energy, the answers are blowin' in the wind.

A finalist in the inaugural CleverGreen Innovators to Watch service awards, Cyclopic Energy helps developers, architects, consultants and governments make informed investments in small-scale (less than 100 kW) wind energy installations.

Cyclopic's "micrositing" service uses computer-based, advanced flow simulation software, to monitor and measure wind flows, identify optimum-use turbines and then help integrate the installations within the environment.

Because of their small size, the wind turbines are extremely sensitive to their environment, with trees and buildings dramatically reducing the

available wind resource. Turbine placement is critical in such installations, which are found in large numbers in the US, Cyclopic Energy managing director Dr Damien Ledercq said.

"Our service is unique in our ability to deliver it at a price that fits in with the cost of the project.

"In the US, you can find such installations in car parks, hospitals

and even schools. In Australia, it's still a new concept," he said.

While initial terrain data helps assess the potential of a site, it takes three to six months to obtain reliable wind measurements, technical director Dr Rick Morgans said.

"We are already commercialising our services through jobs in the US," Dr Morgans said.

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