

Media Release

## 13 November 2009

## **ERA** named "Explorer of the Year"

The Northern Territory's Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) was named Explorer of the Year at the sixth annual Australian Mining Prospect Awards held in Sydney Wednesday (11 November) night.

The Australian Mining Prospect Awards recognise and reward excellence and innovation in the Australian mining industry.

ERA operates the Ranger uranium mine near Jabiru, 260 kilometres east of Darwin, and is one of the world's largest uranium producers, delivering around 10 per cent of global uranium oxide supplies in 2008. Rio Tinto, a diversified resources group, owns 68.4 per cent of ERA.

During 2008, ERA's exploration programme identified a very significant mineral resource adjacent to the existing Ranger 3 operating pit. The area, known as Ranger 3 Deeps, is estimated to contain 34 thousand tonnes of contained uranium oxide, and ranks among the world's most significant uranium discoveries in recent years.

ERA is now conducting feasibility studies into an exploration decline to enable underground exploration drilling at Ranger 3 Deeps to further delineate the resource.

In addition to the exciting Ranger 3 Deeps discovery, ERA has worked on the development of new hard rock seismic survey techniques. These were trialled for the first time in Australia for uranium at ERA's Ranger mine during 2008, and represent a considerable development in remote sensing exploration.

Chief Executive Rob Atkinson said that ERA went back to "first principles" in 2006 in a focussed effort to find out more about Ranger's world-class mineral resources, and that the award acknowledged the hard work and dedication of ERA's exploration team.

The exploration award follows ERA's success at last month's Northern Territory Chief Minister's Export Awards, where ERA won Exporter of the Year Award for the second year running.

**ENDS** 

**Contacts:** 

Media enquiries: Jane Hart 0419 972 784