



## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **2008 Australian Geothermal Energy Conference**

**18 August 2008**

The 2008 Australian Geothermal Energy Conference will be held in Melbourne this week from Wednesday August 20 to Friday August 22 at the Rydges Hotel, 186 Exhibition Street.

The Conference is the first industry organised national geothermal energy conference and is being jointly hosted by the Australian Geothermal Energy Association (AGEA), the national industry body and the Australian Geothermal Energy Group (AGEG) the national technical and research body. The Conference has been awarded the prestigious Sir Mark Oliphant Award for excellence in scientific conferences by the Australian Academy of Science.

As global interest in the potential of geothermal energy rises, over 250 Conference participants from across Australia and around the world will hear from The Victorian Minister for Energy Hon Peter Batchelor and the Federal Minister for Resources Energy and Tourism, Hon Martin Ferguson AM. Both governments have demonstrated confidence in geothermal energy and have made substantial commitments to its ongoing development through various policy programs and incentives.

The Conference will be addressed by a number of leading international experts on geothermal energy including:

- **Dr Jefferson W. Tester** - Meissner Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has worked for three decades on research relating to renewable and conventional energy extraction and conversion and environmental control technologies. He has published extensively in the energy area with over 190 papers and 7 co-authored books.
- **Roy Baria** - has over 30 years experience in the development and management of Hot Dry Rock (HDR) projects managing the world's most successful HDR reservoir which circulated for five years at a depth of 2500m in Cornwall. He later joined the European HDR geothermal program at Soultz, France as Chief Scientist. Roy is currently the Leader for the Enhanced Geothermal Systems Annex of the International Energy Agency.

AGEA will be releasing a report it has commissioned from economic modeling firm McLennan Magasanik and Associates on the potential generating capacity and cost of geothermal energy by 2020 in Australia.

AGEA and AGEG will also be releasing the Australian Geothermal Energy Reporting Code to ensure that the Industry's resource and reserve estimates are transparently reported in order to foster confidence in the Industry as it rapidly develops. This will be the first such code in the world.

**For further information and to arrange interviews with Conference presenters please contact Susan Jeanes on 0419833556.**