

# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT 8 July 2005

## **INDIA**

#### RECENT ASX ANNOUNCEMENTS

23 June 2005 Mineralisation Intersected

17 June 2005
Results of Oropa General Meeting

24 May 2005 More Encouragement at Sihayo

29 April 2005 March Quarterly Report

1 November 2004 2004 Annual Report

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Chairman Director Non-Executive Director Non-Executive Director

ASX Code: ORP



The Company's directors wish to announce the current status of Oropa Limited's ("Oropa's") diamond exploration projects in India.

#### **BLOCK D-7 - CHHATTISGARH**

The reinstatement process of this project is awaiting a decision by the Chhattisgarh high court to dismiss the case, permitting the Chhattisgarh state government to accept the original assignment of the Prospecting License ("P/L") from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. In compliance with the court's recent initiatives to systematically reduce the back log of cases, Oropa's joint venture company holding the Block D-7 P/L (B.Vijaykumar Chhattisgarh Exploration Pvt Ltd) lodged a written application to the court to have the case expedited. This application is now being processed by the Registrar.

Once the case is discharged from the court, the Chhattisgarh state government has agreed to process all relevant documentation to facilitate the resumption of field work at the commencement of the new field season in October this year.

### **RAIPUR WEST - CHHATTISGARH**

This 2,600km² block which is located immediately to the west of Block D-7 was applied for to cover the north-west trending structures that host the Raipur Kimberlite Field in the southern portion of Block D-7. The Reconnaissance Permit ("RP") application was approved by the Central government in Delhi in mid-2002, but the Chhattisgarh state government has refused to issue the RP until the Block D-7 matter is resolved by the court. Once approved, Oropa will initiate systematic field exploration of Raipur West concurrently with ongoing field work on Block D-7.

1 www.oropa.com.au

#### KRISHNA RIVER VALLEY- ANDHRA PRADESH

After conducting a detailed evaluation of the lower reaches of the Krishna River in August 2000, Oropa via its Indian joint venture company, B.Vijaykumar Technical Services Pvt Ltd ("BVTS") applied for an area covering 4,522km<sup>2</sup> in October that year, a first-in-time application under the amended Mining Act of January 2000. These meandering lower reaches of the river yielded some of the world's largest and most famous diamonds in the 15th and 16th centuries and in excess of 60,000 workers were engaged in pitting and trenching of these alluvial gravels and river terraces in the middle ages. Unfortunately, owing to the impasse in Chhattisgarh, little or no action has been taken by the Andhra Pradesh ("AP") state government to process the RP application, despite a number of meetings between BVTS personnel and AP government officials during the interim period. Oropa's directors met with the AP Minister for Mines and Principal Secretary for Mines in early June this year to review the BVTS application and to persuade the AP state government to give favourable consideration to the application without any further delay. The government responded positively to this request and we were advised to also take the matter up with the Mines Department in Delhi to co-ordinate the application jointly with the Central government.

#### KRISHNA RIVER DELTA – ANDHRA PRADESH

The Krishna River delta was also visited by Oropa's technical team in mid 2000 and a RP application covering an area of 4,500km² was subsequently lodged in June 2001. This RP application is contiguous with the Krishna River valley application and upon approval BVTS will hold in excess of 9,000km² of highly prospective alluvial gravels in the lower reaches and delta of this famous river. No systematic diamond exploration utilizing modern techniques has ever been conducted over these areas and the hard rock sources for the diamonds recovered in the middle ages have never been identified.

Oropa is confident that once the Block D-7 matter is resolved in Chhattisgarh the pending RP applications will be approved shortly thereafter. This will position Oropa with an equity interest and management control of a portfolio of exciting Indian diamond prospects with enormous potential.

Yours faithfully, OROPA LIMITED

PHILIP C CHRISTIE

Director

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