



Mediaportal Report

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▶ **Working flat out on the steppe**
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By: John Beveridge

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JOHN BEVERIDGE

HEARD ANYTHING?
 PHONE: 9292 2756
 FAX: 9292 1834
 EMAIL: beveridge@heraldsun.com.au

Working flat out on the steppe

BY now Jason Stirbinskis has heard all the best Borat jokes.

But as five diamond drills continue to produce impressive intersections in his company's tenements in Kazakhstan, he is confident of having the last laugh.

Lime green mankinis aside, Central Asia Resources is now well on the way to firming up a million ounces of gold from its four Kazakh projects.

The most exciting is Altyntas, which currently has an inferred resource of 287,000 ounces of gold.

That estimate includes only 1000 metres of the 1800 metres of known mineralisation and the deposit is still open along strike and at depth.

With three of the rigs operating there, Jason is confident that inferred resource will only improve.

It is a similar story at the Kepken deposit, which is being drilled to increase the current inferred resource of 294,000 ounces.

After getting some unexpected shallow intersections at the eastern end of the deposit, Jason is hoping more drilling will join the Kepken mineralisation to another prospect another kilometre to the east.

"We are hoping this might be a saddle formation with a long mineralised zone," he said.

First production is expected to come from the smaller but easy to mine Uenke Bulak deposit.

With large silver credits and ore suitable for heap leaching or gravity separation, the company has already signalled its intention to become a producer by taking out a commercial licence.

Similar licences will follow for



Good signs: a Central Asia Resources team at the Kengir prospect

the other deposits once the extent of mineralised zones are defined.

As for working in Kazakhstan, Jason said the country had a good investment rating, experienced and educated mining workers and impressive infrastructure.

While drilling can be interrupted in the depths of winter, the billiard-table terrain lends itself to Australian-style open pit mining.

"Our exploration team is led by Dr Waldemar Mueller who has been working in Kazakhstan for 20 years so we have been very fortunate," Jason said.

The current discovery price of \$5 per ounce of gold is a fraction of the industry average.

Central Asia Resources shares rose 2.6 per cent to 19.5¢ yesterday.