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ASX RELEASE

Mine Workers Training Academy MOU Signed with WA Government

Ausdrill CEO Mr Ron Sayers and Site Group International CEO and Managing Director Mr Vernon Wills signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Honourable Murray Cowper the Minister for Training and Workplace Development to establish a Mine Workers' Training Academy at Muresk Institute.

The Academy, which is to be located on land to be acquired from the Curtin University adjoining the Curtin University's Muresk campus near the town of Northam, 90 kilometres east of Perth, will deliver specific training in the operation of all heavy earthmoving equipment, blast hole drilling, exploration drilling and shot firing.

The Academy will run as a campus-style facility incorporating a working hard rock mine and provide hands-on training in a controlled environment. Its primary aims are to bring people into the industry, produce site-ready workers and high quality, safety conscious workers.

The Academy will be targeting young people, Indigenous Australians and experienced workers seeking to add to their skills. In addition, the Academy will examine the feasibility of providing prisoners from nearby Wooroloo Prison Farm with resources industry training as part of their pre-release program.

Site and Ausdrill have been working together for the past twelve months to move the Academy from concept to reality. The training mine site will be established on Ausdrill owned land adjacent to the Muresk Institute and will access classroom and accommodation facilities at the Muresk Institute.

Mr Sayers, welcomed the signing, highlighting the significant benefits the Academy will provide to the resources sector which currently requires more than 1,000 extra people each week.

"The Academy will address the skills shortage that is currently plaguing the resources sector by combining employment offices as well as training facilities to deliver a 'one-stop-shop' bringing people into our industry," he said.

"As someone who has worked in this industry all my life, I only wish that something like this had existed when I was younger. My sincere hope is that it will provide young people with the best possible training as they embark on their careers in the mining industry."

Mr Wills endorsed Mr Sayers' comments:

"Ron and I share the belief that there is not a people shortage in Australia but a **skilled** people shortage. Providing people with an accredited pathway into the mining and resources sector that delivers practical training aligned to industry requirements is a major step forward. Site Group is excited to be working with Ausdrill by delivering training and assessment services to this important initiative."

Ausdrill and Site have received a high level of support for the Academy from numerous organisations within the mining industry who have previously made pledges.

Training and Workforce Development Minister Murray Cowper said the State Government had developed a plan to embrace the Institute's history as an agricultural college and revitalise training, higher education and research opportunities in the region by offering a range of range of vocational and higher education courses to the community.

As a first step, the State Government, Ausdrill Limited and SiteGroup International Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a training mine site for students on a non-arable parcel of land, adjacent to Muresk.

"This training mine will provide students with a safe environment to learn hard rock drilling, blasting and general mine operations." Mr Cowper said.

Site, as a registered training organisation, will provide the training management and assessment requirements of the Academy. Site will be working closely with Ausdrill and industry participants to develop industry focused practical training and assessment.

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For further information contact

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