



Fast track to rich gig

Chinese eyes for explorer

By RACHEL TOUNE

A JUNIOR Brisbane-based exploration company is making high-profile ties, and North Queensland is sure to reap the benefits.

China Yunnan Copper Australia Limited (CYCAL) is hoping to list on the stock exchange at the end of this month, raising \$4 million to start exploration and drilling on two of their key projects at Cloncurry and Pentland.

The company has been taken

under the wing of Yunnan Copper Industry (YCI), China's third-largest copper producer.

What's remarkable about YCI's \$2.3 million investment in CYCAL is that it was made in less than 10 days, which CYCAL managing director Dr Mark Elliott says is incredibly fast for a deal with a foreign mining company.

"We had some colleagues in Sydney who know the Chinese company very well, and thought it would be a great opportunity for both companies to join forces," Dr Elliott said.

"(YCI) are a very substantial mining house, and this will give us the opportunity to use their expertise . . . this will enable us to aggressively grow our company."

Although the company applied for permits in 2000, native title

issues meant exploration rights were not granted until 2004, when the current mining boom was well under way.

"There has been a lot of exploration carried out in Queensland over the past 40 years or so but not a lot of drilling, and that's the real determiner in finding ore deposits," Dr Elliott said.

"At the moment we're planning drilling programs to evaluate exciting prospects that have been highlighted.

"CYCAL's tenements contain known copper, gold and uranium mineralisation which has not been fully tested."

Exploration will continue for uranium even though Queensland laws will not allow it to be mined. The company believes the State Government

view will change to allow uranium mining in the future.

All that there is left to do is to source a drill rig and get a team together to start work, which is well on track.

"Evaluation of the previous work has taken more than two years, as we had a lot of previous geological, geochemical and geophysical data to go through," Dr Elliott said.

CYCAL has closed its initial public offering of shares, heavily oversubscribed and three weeks ahead of the scheduled closing date.

"Subscriptions were well in excess of the \$4 million we sought and cheques will be returned to those who were unfortunately unsuccessful," Dr Elliott said.



Two key projects in North Queensland



Dr Mark Elliott

Yunnan Copper Industry signs with CYCAL