

## DISCOVER ABITIBI INITIATIVE CALL FOR PROPOSALS - Phase IV

In preparation for and to facilitate the development of a new business plan, the Discover Abitibi Initiative is now seeking project proposals. The proposals will form the basis of the business, which will be used to secure funding for the completion of the projects in Phase V of the initiative.

The present "Call for Proposals" will again focus on the Abitibi Greenstone Belt but it is planned to expand the area of interest to include areas outside the belt. The new area of interest could include projects in the Swayze belt west of Timmins, the area of Shining Tree-Matachewan, and areas to the north of the belt including Detour-Burntbush, Kesagami Lake and Partridge River. Proponents with an interest in the Highway 11 corridor through Cochrane-Hearst should also consider project submissions. Additionally the initiative is investigating the possibilities of partnering on interesting projects, which could extend into Northwest Quebec that would be mutually beneficial to Ontario and Quebec. Other project areas would be considered and proponents are encouraged to submit their ideas for technical evaluation.

Added to this press release is a backgrounder document, which will give additional information on the project proposals. The project submission form is available on the Discover Abitibi website at [www.discoverabitibi.com](http://www.discoverabitibi.com) and is available by contacting the project manager, Robert Calhoun at 705-360-8485 or by fax at 705-360-1394. The completed project submission form should be sent in hardcopy to Robert Calhoun, 54 Spruce Street South, Timmins, Ontario P4N 2M5 accompanied by a cd containing the project proposal and any additional information. The contents of the package should be clearly identified on the outside. Once received the proposals will be identified by a submission number for future reference. All questions regarding the submission form or any other information should be directed to Robert Calhoun by email preferably so that a record can be kept, although questions receive by phone or fax will be answered.

Project Submissions should be returned as soon as possible and the final date for submissions will be August 31, 2006. The proponents are encouraged to send an email declaring their intent to file a project proposal to the project manager in advance of their submission.

## **DISCOVER ABITIBI PROPOSALS 2006**

The following will provide background information to project proponents. In Phase II of Discover Abitibi a call for proposals was distributed to the exploration community including exploration companies, mining companies, prospectors, prospectors associations, government geological surveys and academia<sup>[o1]</sup>. In response to that “Call for Proposals” a total of 42 project proposals were submitted for work in the Abitibi Greenstone Belt. The technical committee of the initiative then evaluated the proposals, ranked them in order and recommended 19 of the projects for completion. The business plan based on the 19 projects was submitted to the funding agencies of FedNor and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for approval. As a component of the funding formula in the business plan the private sector was required to provide a portion of the funding. The initiative was approved and the 19 projects were completed.

Proponents should use their best judgment in completing the various parts of the proposal template and keep in mind the size and complexity of the project. Reviewers will be asked to take the size and complexity of the project into account in assessing proposals and in commenting on the management structure and the plans for provision of operation and maintenance costs. Projects may build on the surveys completed in Phase III or may be represented as a completely independent proposal.

Each proposal should address the themes related to:

- identifying and reducing knowledge gaps;
- the use of innovative and improved technologies or improved methods and;
- how the proposal, and related proposals, might have a positive socio-economic impact in the short and long term.

A description of costs, possible industry partners and the development and transfer of skills and technology are some of the benefits and outcomes that should be included.

A review panel(s) that may include external reviewers, the Discover Abitibi Technical Committee and the Discover Abitibi Management Committee, will make an assessment and recommendations. These recommendations will be discussed with the proponent and their partners. The DA Management Committee will make final program decisions.

Once submitted to the Discover Abitibi Project Manager, the completed Submission for a Project will be treated as public documents and may be shared with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) or the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). The DAI reserves the right to change, modify or amend a project proposal to allow for a seamless coordination of recommended projects and authorship shall rest with the Timmins Economic Development Corporation and/or the funding government agencies. Any new intellectual property developed from this project shall become the property of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation. Existing intellectual property shall remain with the proponent.