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**Australian Stock Exchange Limited  
Company Announcements  
Level 10, 20 Bond Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000**

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## **LONG NICKEL MINE – RESERVE DEFINITION DRILLING PROGRAM**

Independence is pleased to announce the commencement of a large geophysical and drilling program which aims to increase the company's Long Nickel Mine nickel reserves to 50,000t of contained nickel metal. The program comprises:

- a systematic geophysical survey testing the Long, Gibb South and Victor South ore positions using the company's proprietary electromagnetic (EM) Torch (analogous to a powerful metal detector) to locate and define new massive and matrix nickel sulphides up to 100m from existing mine workings
- a +10,000 metre diamond drilling program using up to 5 underground drill rigs on 2 shifts converting existing resources to reserves and testing new targets defined by the EM Torch and geological studies
- down-hole transient EM surveys

It is anticipated that approximately 22,000 nickel tonnes as defined in the June 2003 reserves will remain unmined by the end of the current financial year. The additional 28,000 tonnes will be targeted from:

- existing mine resources outside reserves (60,000 Ni t as at 30 June 2003).
- mine pillars outside reserves and resources (27,200 Ni t as at 30 June 2003).
- new near-mine discoveries which can be cheaply mined from existing underground infrastructure.

Significant results from this program will be reported on an on-going basis.

### **Victor South**

A drill drive has been completed over the Victor South ore body which has previously been reported to contain 20,800t Ni in resources of which 5,900t Ni has been converted to reserves at a grade of 5.7% Ni. Reserve definition drilling will commence shortly on 20m sections which aims to significantly increase the reserve nickel tonnage. Holes will also be drilled to test for extensions to the north and south, as all three shoots comprising the Victor South ore body remain open.

## **INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL**

**CHRISTOPHER BONWICK**  
Managing Director