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Diamonds and Gems

Botswana Diamonds, Alrosa to start exploration programme this month

Aim-listed Botswana Diamonds and its joint venture partner Russian diamonds producer, Alrosa, will begin a \$700 000 exploration programme in Botswana this month.

Managed by Alrosa, the exploration programme will entail the drilling of one core hole to a 300 m depth and one or two large diameter holes, each 300 m deep on the AK21 kimberlite pipe on its PL 260 in the Orapa area.

This will be followed by the drilling of two or three follow-up holes of 80 m each on PL 210, also in the Orapa area.

Hard rock and heavy concentrate sampling on PL's 260 and 210 in Orapa and on the company's four licences in the Gope area, will also be undertaken, while ground magnetic surveys and electromagnetic (TEM) surveys will be performed on PL's 260 and 085 in Orapa, and PL's 135, 136 and 137 in Gope.

The \$700 000 exploration programme by Botswana Diamonds and Alrosa will begin this month



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"This is a very focused programme. The wide diameter holes to be drilled on a known kimberlite on our new licence in Orapa, PL 260, are to test whether diamond grades improve at depth. The follow up holes on PL 210 are to

investigate local geophysical anomalies (magnetic and electromagnetic) which can be connected with kimberlites,” says Botswana Diamonds chairman John Teeling, chairman.

He adds that The Gope area is emerging as an attractive diamond province, which is already host to Gem Diamonds’ Ghagoo mine and Petra Diamonds’ KX36 discovery.

“We have already explored three small licences in the area and found anomalies. The proposed work will identify drill targets.”

Joint venture background

The 50/50 joint venture between Botswana Diamonds and Altrosa, established in 2013, aims to combine Alrosa’s technological expertise in order identify high potential targets with Botswana Diamonds’ extensive database.

The partnership has increased the amount of early-stage exploration work that Botswana Diamonds is able to undertake and has resulted in further targets being generated and applications submitted.

Several new licence areas have been awarded and the current focus is now on PL206, PL207 and PL210 where a number of high priority targets are being explored.

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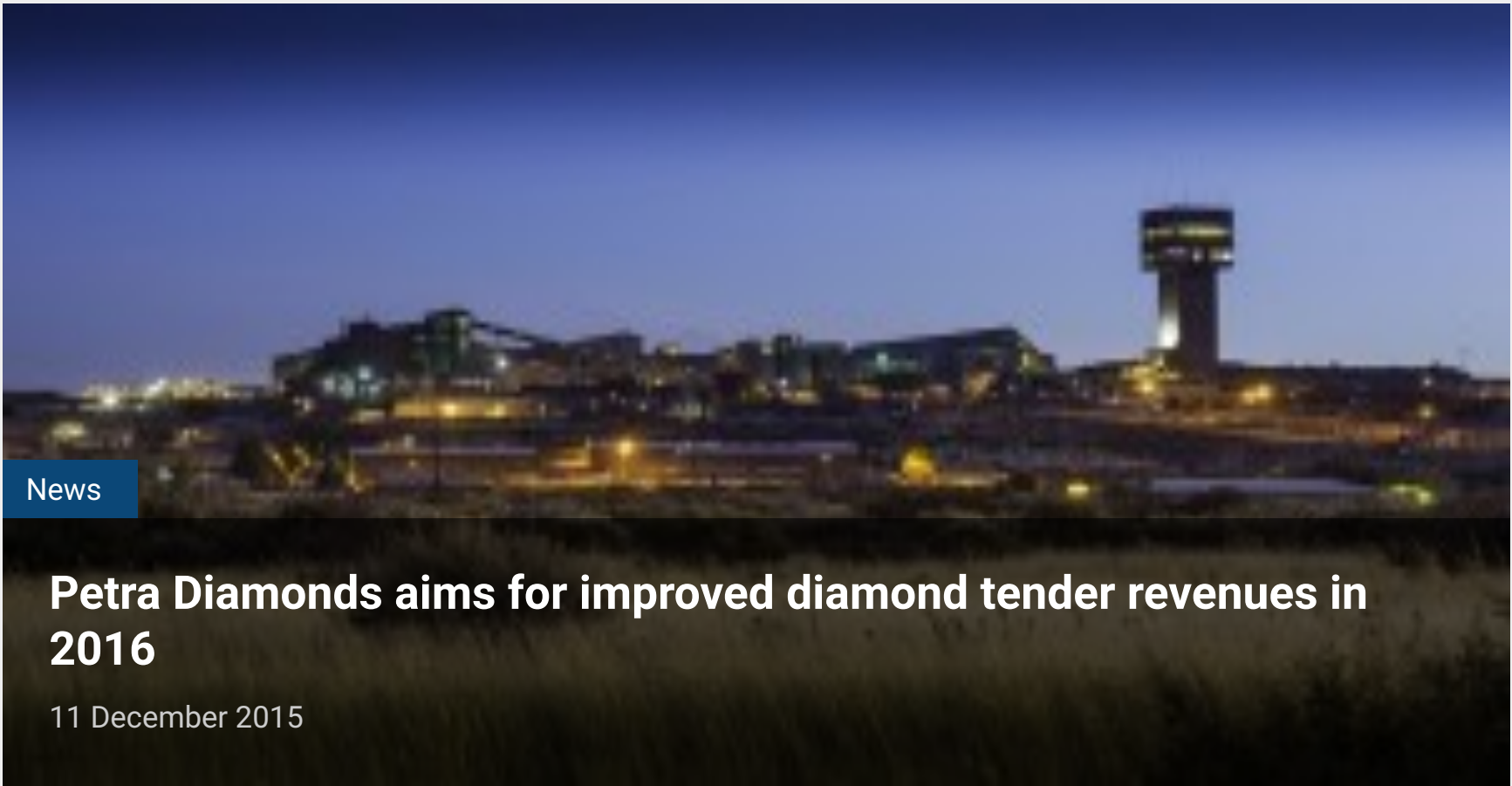
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