

## SURVEYING



*Digiseis Exploration Pty. Ltd's recording truck near Walkaway in Western Australia.*

A Canadian company providing a consultancy service to the Australian mining industry is Scintrex Pty. Ltd., which commenced operations in Australia in 1968. Scintrex provides airborne and ground exploration contract services and sells and leases Scintrex instrumentation. As relatively little of Australia has been explored intensively, the company sees Australia as a prime area for potential mineral growth. Although conditions of conventional survey techniques are difficult in this deeply and intensely weathered continent, Scintrex has played a leading role in developing techniques capable of obtaining meaningful survey data from the potential ore bearing rocks below the weathered zone. The company introduced the time-domain induced polarization method to Australia in 1968, and the proprietary magnetic induced polarization (M.I.P.) method in 1973. In 1978, a more rapid frequency M.I.P. method was introduced and was used to survey over 2500 line kilometres in 1980 alone. Scintrex is associated with the discovery of Mount Windarra, Western Australia (nickel) in 1969, Elura, N.S.W. (lead & zinc) in 1973. South Mount Keith, Western Australia (nickel) 1977.

It is anticipated that future discoveries will result from the now widely used applications of these methods.

A fairly new arrival on the Western Australian exploration scene is Digiseis Exploration Pty. Ltd. wholly owned by Digitech Ltd. of Calgary, a Canadian corporate entity.

Digiseis was incorporated January 8, 1981 in Western Australia and during September was commissioned in Queensland. The company has a multi-

million dollar capital investment in Australia, 40% of which, along with the head office is located in Western Australia. Digiseis employs thirty-six Canadians, one American and one hundred and ten Australians. Sixty-eight of these are employed in Western Australia, with a payroll of \$A90,000 gross per month. Auxiliary and peripheral (support) services required by the Western Australia operations employ an additional fifteen to twenty people and generate at least \$100,000 cash flow per month.

The business of Digiseis is solely land seismic data acquisition. In Western Australia the energy source utilized is a surface mechanism called "Vibroseis";\* in Queensland, dynamite.

The "Vibroseis" crew commenced work April 21, 1981 in the Canning Basin and worked continuously through to December 5, 1981 between Blina, Liverenga, GoGo and Bohemia Downs Stations. December was utilized for overhaul and preventative maintenance. The crew resumed work in the Perth Basin January 5, 1982 and will remain in the Badgingarra to Geraldton area until their return to the Kimberleys to work through the forthcoming dry season.

Digiseis anticipates a bright and successful future. The corporate interest is for a long term investment with moderate and reasonable expansion. The company hopes to be able to train sufficient Australian personnel to eventually become a total Australian company, right through to top management if possible.

\* "Vibroseis" — a trade mark of Continental Oil Co., U.S.A.