INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Research, innovation and advanced technology ensure that Manitoba's exploration and mining industry remains competitive.

High-tech development projects like

- Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting's mining and metallurgical complex in Flin Flon,
- Inco's recent modernization and upgrading of their smelting and refining facilities in Thompson,
- Tanco's cesium formate plant at Bernic Lake as well as new and innovative processes for more efficient recovery of tantalum, and
- ERCO Worldwide's state-of-the-art sodium chlorate manufacturing facility near Virden

make Manitoba a world contender in mineral production.

Innovative applications of geoscience information—like the province's 3-D geological mapping and integration of diverse data sets in GIS—are essential to the discovery of new deposits and the future of mining in the province.
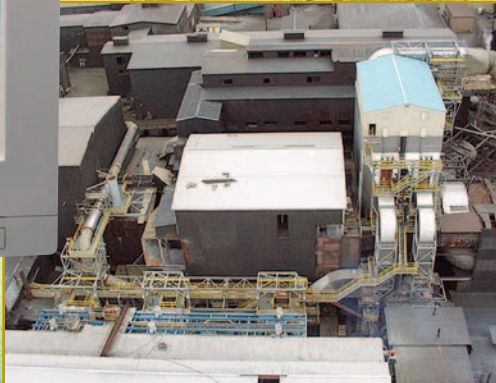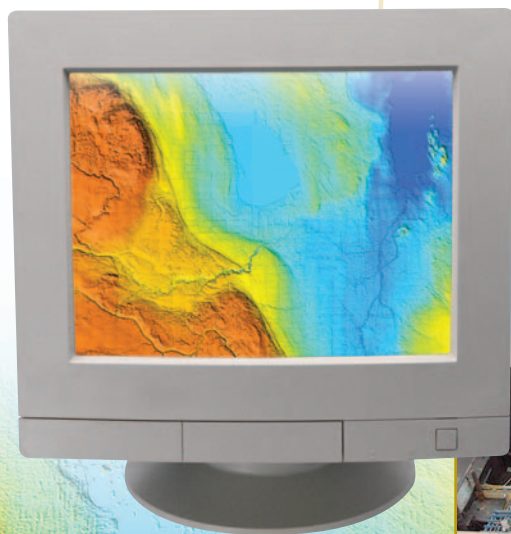
TANTALUM MINING CORPORATION OF CANADA LTD. (TANCO)

Company profile:
Tanco was formed in 1967 and produced the company's first tantalum concentrates in 1969. Tanco mines some of the world's rarest minerals from the Bernic Lake pegmatite. The company is the sole producer of tantalum in North America and has approximately 75% of the world's known reserves of the cesium-bearing mineral pollucite. In 1997, Tanco commissioned a US $50 million processing plant at their Bernic Lake operation to produce cesium formate, a biodegradable drilling fluid that is used for deep offshore drilling and is recyclable, non-abrasive and non-corrosive. In 2001, the plant was expanded to produce conventional cesium products.

Major shareholder:
a wholly owned subsidiary of Cabot Corporation

Stock exchange listings:
Cabot Corporation listed on the New York, Boston and Pacific stock exchanges and the Chicago Board Options Exchange; symbol: CBT

Manitoba operations:
Mines: Tanco Mine at Bernic Lake, 175 km northeast of Winnipeg

Employees: 140

Description: underground mine with milling facility and cesium products processing plant

Products/Minerals: tantalum, cesium products and spodumene