

Venture runs after Olympic Dam analogy

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SHARES in junior explorer Venture Minerals have soared after the company reported a broad intercept typical of iron oxide-copper-gold-uranium (IOCGU) style mineralisation from the maiden drill hole at its Churchill Dam project, near the Olympic Dam mine and Carrapateena and Punt Hill discoveries in South Australia.

Having emerged from a trading halt at 33c this morning, Venture shares jumped 17c to 50c apiece after the company revealed it had intercepted 130m of brecciated and hematite-altered Gawler Range Volcanics.

"Venture considers the brecciation and alteration style intersected to be typical of a mineralised IOCGU system within the Olympic Dam IOCGU province of South Australia," Venture managing director Andrew Radonjic said.

The intercept started from 803.5m deep.

The hole was drilled to test a gravity anomaly up to 4km wide over a strike of 12km. Venture said it would begin a second hole into the anomaly as soon as the current hole was completed. Radonjic told *MiningNews.net* the company was targeting a depth of 1100m for the current hole, which sits on the edge of the anomaly

"The initial indications are very encouraging, as it suggests that the gravity high could represent a large mineralised IOCGU system that is similar in style to the Olympic Dam project," Radonjic said.

Churchill Dam sits 90km southwest of BHP Billiton's massive Olympic Dam mine, and 95km west of the Carrapateena discovery made by private explorer Rudy Gomez and since joint ventured into by Canadian mining major Teck Cominco.

"We've not found sulphides, but at this stage it's telling us there could be some mineralisation nearby," Radonjic said.

"Because it's just one hole in a 12km by 4km anomaly, it's a very good start."

Venture's announcement is reminiscent to that of Monax Mining late last year, when Monax's drilling at the Punt Hill prospect – 100km southeast of Churchill Dam – returned broad zones of visible copper mineralisation.

Monax shares ran from 27c in September to \$1.81 in late November as excitement about the drill holes grew, but assays to date have been relatively low grade. Shares in Monax had drifted back to 60c earlier this month, but have ticked upwards recently after Monax announced it would restart drilling at the project.

