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# Copper mine starts drilling operations

Xstrata's Mount Isa Mines commenced drilling at Altona Mining's Roseby project, near Mount Isa in Queensland, in early September.

Roseby, wholly owned by the emerging copper producer Altona Mining, is one of Australia's largest undeveloped copper resources, with 132 million tonnes at 0.7 per cent copper and 0.1 grams per tonne of gold. These resources were subject to a definitive feasibility study which was published early this year.

The Xstrata option entails that it may earn 51 per cent of an area beneath and around the large copper resources at Roseby by expending \$15 million or completing a detailed feasibility study by June 30, 2012.

Xstrata's drilling operations will consist of about 3500m of

reverse circulation and diamond drilling, in up to seven drill holes.

The target is sulphide mineralisation at a depth of 200m to 400m beneath the Blackard deposit and a combined geophysical and geochemical anomaly some 1.5km south-east of the Scanlan resource.

Prior drilling at Blackard highlights the potential for significant sulphide mineralisation

Results from the drilling program are expected in November 2010 while plans for further resource definition and extension drilling of its Roseby resources by Altona Mining are also expected to be announced.

Altona's immediate priority remains pushing its Outkumpu project in Finland into production.