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MEDIA RELEASE

EUREKA!!! - PERTH MINT COIN WINS 'INNOVATION' AWARD AT INTERNATIONAL MINT DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

Senior mint executives from all over the world have recognised The Perth Mint's Eureka Stockade 150th Anniversary Locket Coin as the 'most innovative' silver release at the XXIV Mint Directors' Conference (MDC), held in Paris between 1 – 3 May 2006.

The Perth Mint's Chief Executive Officer, Edward Harbuz, said he was delighted to receive the honour from fellow senior mint officials. "In a market where innovation is a key driver, it is extremely gratifying to be recognised for the success of this special 'loket' coin. The fact that professional minters from all over the world made this decision means it is doubly significant."

Held every two years, the MDC brings together senior representatives from mints in 43 countries worldwide, together with specially invited guests and observers. Under the rules of this year's MDC Coin Competition, Official Member Mints were entitled to enter either a 2004 or 2005-dated coin in each of the six categories on offer. Winners were selected by secret ballot.

The Perth Mint entry in the Most Innovative Silver Coin category marks the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade - an historic confrontation between officials and gold miners in the colony of Victoria that is often interpreted as the birth of democracy in Australia.

Struck from 0.782oz of 99.9% pure silver in proof quality, the Australian legal tender coin's reverse depicts a scene from the 1854 rebellion, with the miners' famous Eureka flag highlighted in colour. The coin's most notable feature, however, is a transparent centrepiece encapsulating a spectacular selection of free-moving natural gold nuggets.

Last year, the coin's outstanding originality won it second place in Vicenza Numismatica's annual competition to find the 'finest coin in the world'. Italy's most important coin, medal and paper money fair invited more than 100 mints to take part.

A very limited stock of Eureka Stockade anniversary silver 'loket' coins are still available from The Perth Mint Shop, FREECALL on 1800 098 817, leading coin dealers, and via the web at www.perthmint.com.au

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