

Hebei's stake in uranium

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CHINA'S reach into the resources sector has been extended to include a direct investment in uranium exploration in Western Australia following the lifting of the State Government's ban on uranium mining.

Unlisted uranium explorer **Raisama** has told its seed-capital investors that the state-owned mining company of China's Hebei province, Hebei Mining, has taken a 14.9 per cent stake in the company. Hebei Mining was issued 4.5 million new shares and acquired 2.5 million existing shares, all at 25¢ each.

"The transaction was structured in this way to strike the right balance between the attractiveness of new capital and the need to avoid excessive dilution of existing shareholders prior to an IPO or further major capital raising," **Raisama** said.

"The Hebei provincial Government currently has plans to build at least three nuclear reactors and is selectively securing strategic interests in uranium exploration companies internationally that it believes have the best potential to meet the province's growing need for uranium."

Raisama is working towards an IPO, possibly before the end of the year, and is likely to seek \$20-\$25 million to pick up the pace of exploration on its advanced WA exploration properties.

"We have sufficient funding to pursue all our current exploration objectives and continue to add value to our existing portfolio," the company said. "We recognise that at some point, access to larger amounts of capital and a stock exchange listing will be required and we are currently evaluating all our alternatives in that regard."

Ahead of the planned IPO, the company has appointed David Berrie as managing director. Mr Berrie was most recently managing director of uranium explorer Fusion Energy before its acquisition by Paladin. Before that he was corporate development chief at Summit Resources.

Backed by Sydney-based investment group Emerald Partners and veteran Perth explorer Chris Reindler, **Raisama** was founded in February last year to acquire uranium projects in Western Australia, which has since been declared open to uranium exploration.

The most advanced of **Raisama**'s exploration properties is the Sunday Creek prospect. It is in the same neighborhood as the Kintyre uranium deposit, sold last year by [Rio Tinto](#) to Canada's Cameco and Japan's Mitsubishi for \$US500 million.