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## Sterling price for North Australian gem

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**NORTH Australian Diamonds has sold its "highest value diamond", a 10.6 carat white octahedral diamond, from its Merlin operations in the Northern Territory, for \$US153,170 (\$A198,000).**

The diamond, recovered from trial mining at the Ywain and Gawain kimberlite pipes, had a price of \$14,450 per carat.

Additionally, North Australian has sold a selection of stones weighing 15.27ct for \$40,598, equating to a price of \$2658/ct.

The company said revenue from the recent sale of stones, plus a parcel of 5116ct, was around \$A934,000.

An even bigger diamond, a 14.58ct white octahedral diamond recently recovered from Merlin, is currently being prepared for sale along with a further parcel of diamonds.

"This will help establish 'run of mine' values for use in cash flow models and the current pre-feasibility study being undertaken on the potential Gawain and Ywain underground development," the company said.

In addition, North Australian's September quarterly report shows a marked improvement in both diamond recovery and processed tonnes compared to the previous quarter, with both increasing 105% and 78%, respectively.

Most of the total of diamond recoveries for the year was acquired in the September quarter with a total of 4175ct. Total diamond recoveries for the year have exceeded 7000ct.

North Australia's combined indicated and inferred resources remain unchanged from the previous quarter, and stands at 19.45 million tonnes for a grade of 18ct per hundred tonnes representing a total of 3.5 million carats.

The figure is slightly up from last year's corresponding quarter which stood at 19.1Mt at 17.3cpt containing 3.3 million carats.

A 12.62ct selection of four "high quality diamonds" were sold for a total of \$US29,899, representing an average carat value of \$2369. Additionally, a 10,068ct parcel of lower quality diamonds were sold for a total value of \$51,045.

In the company's boardroom, chairman Ewen Tyler intends to step down from his position at the annual general meeting later this month, while John Hopkins and Ian Tregoning have joined as non-executive directors, and Noel McAuliffe was appointed company secretary.

Cash stocks at the end of the September quarter were just below \$A900,000.

Shares in North Australian climbed 0.3c to a high of 5c, and closed at 4.8c on Friday.



North Australian's 10.6 ct Merlin diamond

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