



# **Assay Laboratories New Technologies**

Citi- Mining Exploration Day (27 June 2016) **Brian Williams** Group General Manager - Global Mineral Services

Right Solutions · Right Partner



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#### **ALS Business Streams**



\$2.6bn

Market Capitalisation

11,500

**Employees** 

\$1.4bn

Revenue

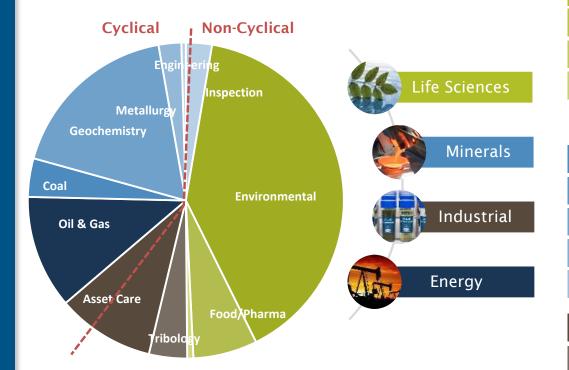
65

Countries

370

**Operating Sites** 

#### FY2016 Revenue



**Environmental** 

Food

**Pharmaceutical** 

**Consumer Products** 

Geochemistry

**Mine Site** 

Metallurgy

**Trade Inspection** 

Coal

**Asset Care** 

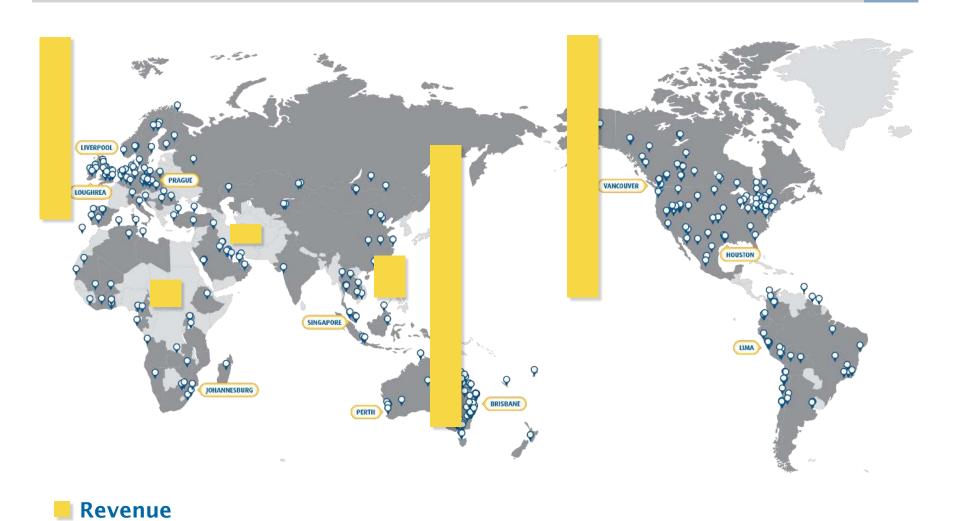
**Tribology** 

Oil & Gas

Note: the majority of Mine Site work is geochemistry

## **ALS Locations - A Strategic Asset**





4

## The Hub and Spoke Model in Action

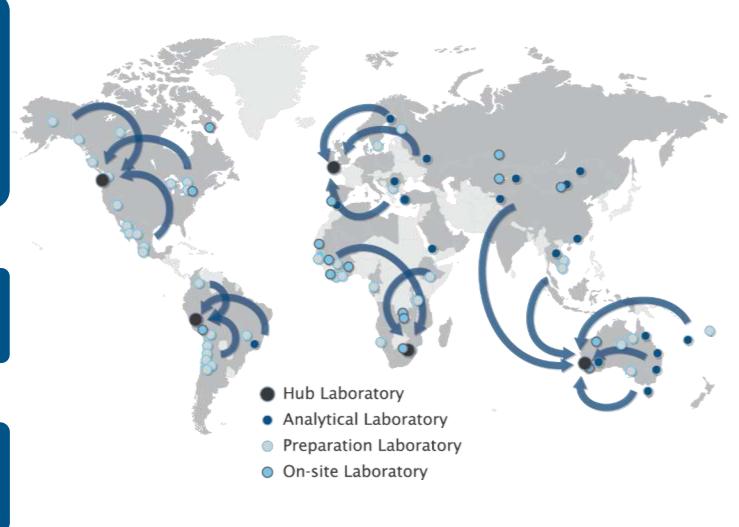


#### **Overview**

- Global LIMS
- Single global database
- Standardized methods, equipment and quality
- Logistics tracking

Efficiency & optimal performance (scalability - up & down)

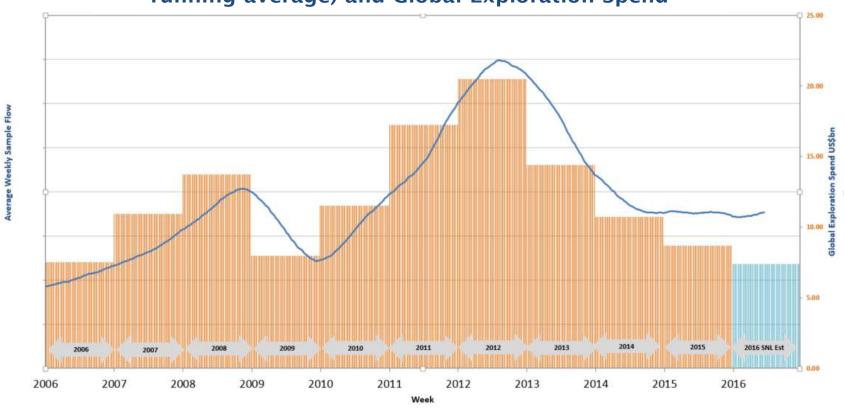
Lower cost base & globally consistent service



## **Weathering the Storm**



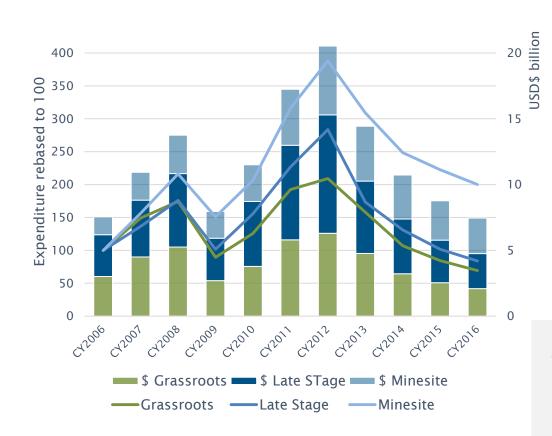
## Global Geochemistry Sample Flow (trailing 52 week running average) and Global Exploration Spend

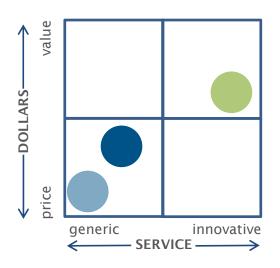


## **Global Mineral Exploration Market**



#### **Market Trends**





ALS continued investment to maintain technical capabilities and feed innovation to high end value added services

ALS focus on systems, productivity and cost base to maintain volume in generic services market sector

# Extracting greater value from Analysis Dollars - Easier to find the Haystack than the Needle!



#### **Super Ultra Trace Analysis for Soils and Sediments**

#### **Selective Extractions**

- Ionic Leach<sup>TM</sup>
- Clay Fractionation
- Vegetation Analysis/BioGeochemistry
- HydroGeochemistry

#### **Isotopic Analysis**

- Pb Isotopes
- Carbon and Oxygen Isotopes

#### Mineralogy

- Hyperspectral
- Traditional

#### **Rapid Portable XRF Analysis**

**Instrumentation and Equipment** 

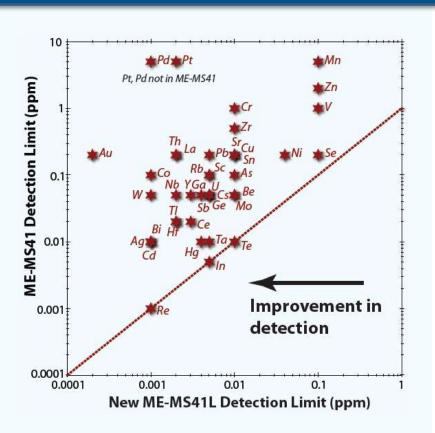


## **Super Trace Analysis for Soils and Sediments**



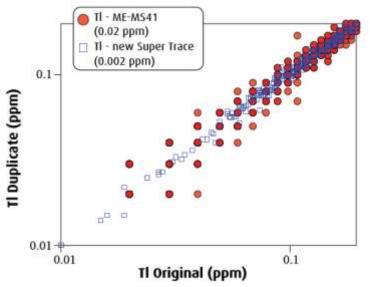
#### Advancements in ICP/MS Technology - Partnering with Instrument Manufacturers:

- Increased Sensitivity
- Improved Sample Introduction Techniques
- Engagement of Collision/Reaction Cell Technology



- Higher signal-to-noise ratios
- Lower carryover effects
- Reduced mass interferences
- Detection limits 10-100 times lower than standard ICP-MS packages
- Increased precision

#### **Increased Confidence in Data**

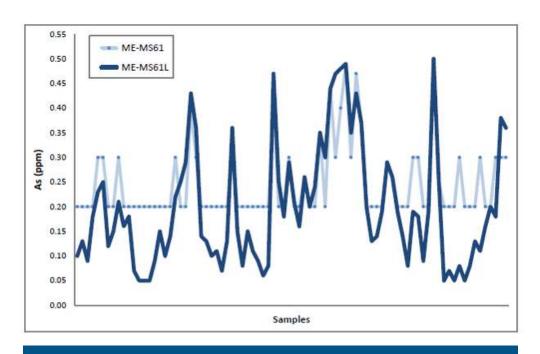


### **Super Trace Analysis by ICP-MS**



The precision of a measurement depends on detection limit, method tolerance, and concentration.

Lowering detection limits removes analytical noise and may reveal anomalous patterns at levels previously unattainable, as with the example of arsenic.



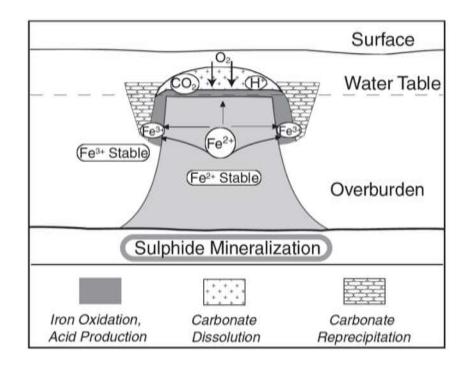
Detection limits below regional background for key pathfinders like Tl, Sb, Te, Cd, Se and As facilitate clear definition of anomalous patterns in unmineralised core.

#### Ionic Leach<sup>TM</sup> - A 'Selective' Concentration



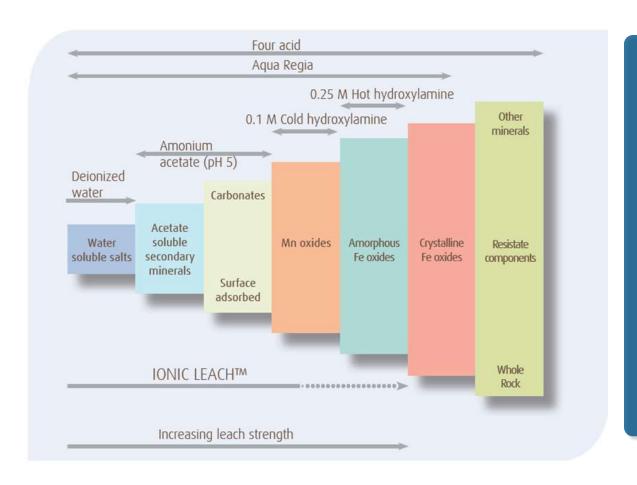
## Differentiating Metal Transport Mechanisms:

- Mechanical Means
  - · Chemical/Ionic Transportation
- Weakly bound metals can be characteristic of underlying mineralization



#### **Leach Method and Target Mineralogy**



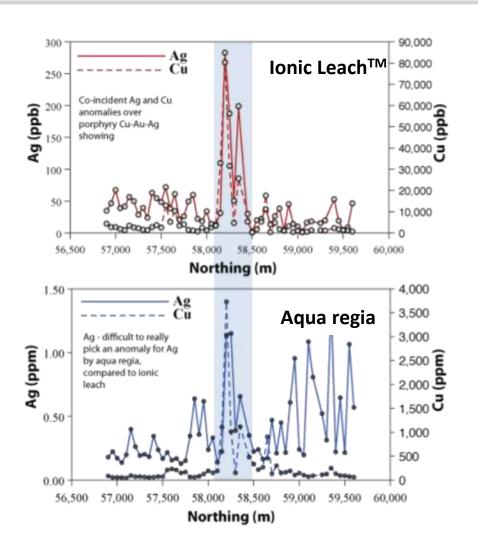


Digestion methods target different components of a soil or sediment pending strength of the leaching media.

lonic Leach™ is designed to extract commodity and pathfinder species that are weakly bound to oxide surfaces or within carbonate minerals in a soil

### Case study: Ionic Leach™ and Aqua Regia





Results of orientation survey comparing Ionic Leach™ with aqua regia digest

Blue band = known Cu-Ag (Au) mineralization.

Both Ionic Leach<sup>™</sup> and aqua regia show excellent anomaly/background contrast.

Co-incident Ag anomaly with Cu and high anomaly/background contrast for Ag by Ionic Leach $^{TM}$ .

Ionic Leach™ was the better choice for this deposit type.

## Clay Fraction Separation - A 'Physical' Concentration



Standard Soil Prep 80 mesh screen Bulk fraction for analysis



Sonicate with water & dispersant



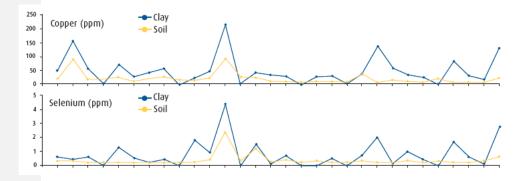
Centrifuge to remove silt & sand



Clay-sized fraction for analysis

Sonicating disaggregates and suspends clay size particles

Faster than wet screening, this procedure has been in use for decades in research

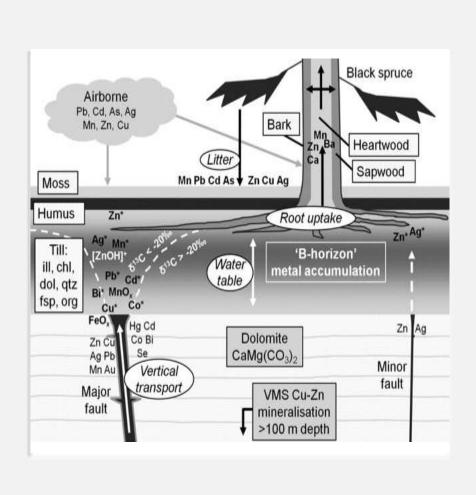


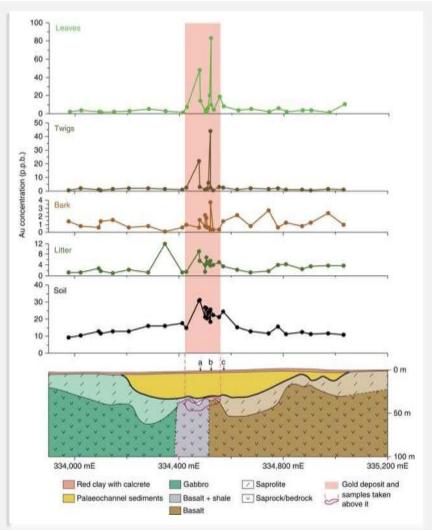
These results are from a B-horizon soil survey line over a copper porphyry with super ultra trace ICPMS detection.

Results from the bulk soil (standard option for soil analysis) and results from the clay fractionation are overlayed.

## **Vegetation Analysis - A 'Natural' Concentration**



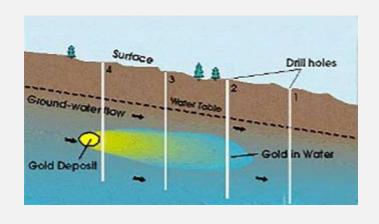




### HydroGeochemistry - Water as an Exploration Medium



#### Drill-Hole Hydrogeochemical Anomalies



## Much like vegetation, water as a sampling media has some unique advantages:

- Sample is influenced by a large volume of subsurface material
- · Samples deeper horizons than soils
- Subsurface flow is easily modelled thereby providing a Vector towards the ore zone

### **Isotopic Analysis - Exploration Applications**



#### Stable isotopes are useful for:

- Understanding sources of fluids
- Understanding water-rock reactions
- Determining sources of metals
- Determining temperature of alteration

## Radioactive and radiogenic isotopes are useful for:

- Fingerprinting metal sources
- Age dating of geological materials the main control is time, which depends on the half-life of decay
- Vectoring to mineralization

### **Pb Isotope Analysis**

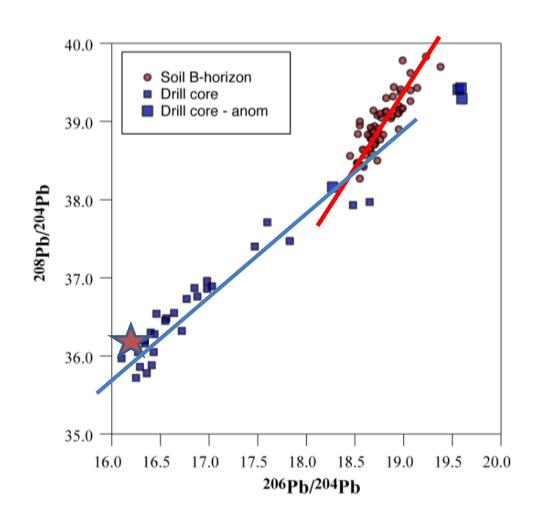


Real samples from massive sulfide mineralization.

Drill core data shows mixing trend between low Pb ratios (nonradiogenic) from the ore to higher Pb ratios (more radiogenic) in the country rocks.

Soils data show a tighter cluster with a different slope.

Either the soils are far from mineralization, or they have a different source of Pb compared to the drill core samples close to ore.



## **Carbon and Oxygen Isotopes in Carbonates**

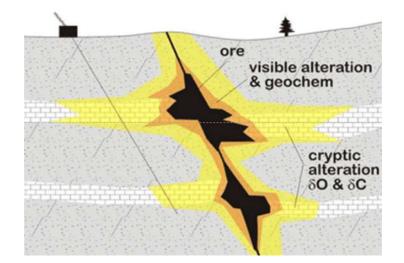








 Visually unaltered



- Isotopically unaltered
- Visually unaltered



## **Hyperspectral Mineralogy**



The value of Spectral Mineralogy is widely understood and adds valuable information to all phases of mineral exploration and development projects.

To Date uptake has been hindered by:

Skills required for data acquisition

Complexity in interpretation of spectra

**Quantification of spectral** results for input into databases

**Data integration** with other project data

## **Family of Hyperspectral services**









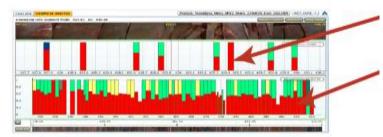
#### **Applications:**

- Exploration Pathfinder
- Extractive Metallurgy
- Blend Characterization
- Plant Performance Optimization

## Family of Hyperspectral services



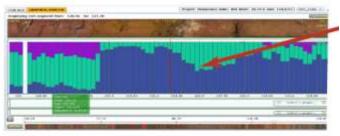
TerraSpec 1-1.5 meters



Example of data output using TerraSpec® point testing in combination with core images Spectral mineralogy collected on Results binned for entire hole



HyLogger 10-25 mm

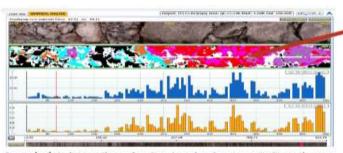


Example data integration using HyLogger™ continuous scanning in combination with core images. Mineralogy at the centimeter scale



High resolution GeoSpectral Image<sup>TM</sup> - each pixel = 1 mm

TCI - TerraCore core scanning 1 mm

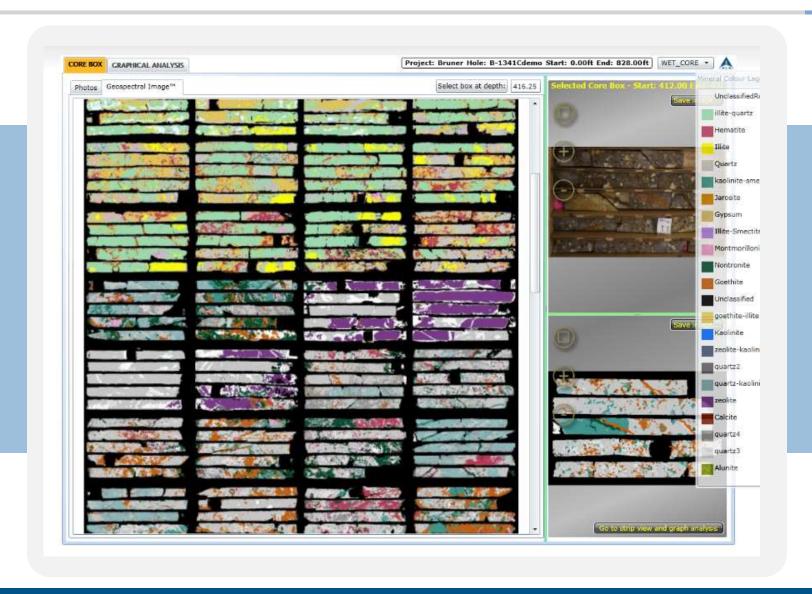


Example data integration using Core Imaging Spectrometer™ continuous scanning in combination with core images.



#### Visualization with ALS CoreViewer™





#### Visualization with ALS CoreViewer™



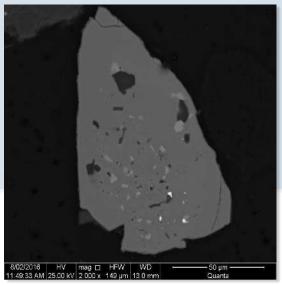


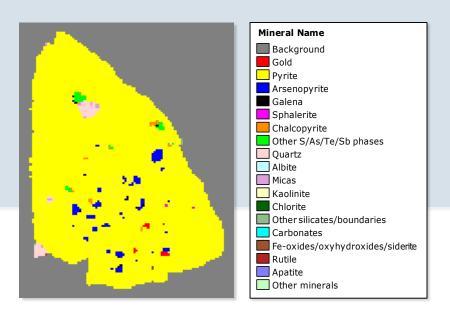
## **Traditional Mineralogy Services**



#### Mineralogical examination services

- XRD, QEMScan, MLA & Microscopic examinations.
- Mineralogical examination services provide information towards:
  - 1. Process plant trouble shooting
  - 2. Future ore body characterisation
  - 3. Process flowsheet development





Min2416B1A-02

#### **Portable XRF Analysis**



A semi-quantitative scan aimed at quickly identifying anomalies.
Key exploration elements are reported at detection limits relevant to aiding in drilling decisions.

#### Why offer portable XRF in labs?

- Sample homogeneity by running the analysis immediately after pulverisation
- Quality control using internal standards, regular calibration checks, etc.
- 3. <u>Very fast turnaround time</u> through efficient staffing and prep lab management



## **Instrumentation & Equipment**



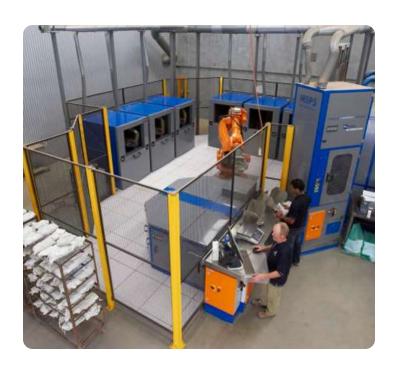












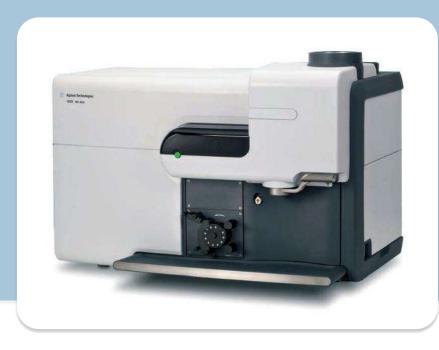
Robotic Sample Preparation

#### **Advances in Instrumentation**



#### Microwave Plasma ICP/MS

- No compressed gas



# Synchronous Dual View Torch Technology Reduced run time (Radial + Axial View) Environmental & Geochemistry applications





# **Thankyou**

More details on all services available in Technical Notes at <a href="https://www.alsglobal.com">www.alsglobal.com</a>