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DEALS

Tellus, EntX strike hazardous waste deal



By Isabel Vieira
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Low-level radioactive waste stored at Tellus Holding's Sandy Ridge facility in the Goldfields will be processed to develop medical treatments under a new deal.

Technology developer EntX and Sydney-based waste management company Tellus struck the deal to process radioactive waste generated by the resources, energy and industrial sectors.

Under the joint development agreement, radioactive waste stored at Tellus' Sandy Ridge facility- [which was recently approved for operation](#)- to be used in trial-phase medical treatments for diseases such as cancer.

Located 240 kilometres north-west of Kalgoorlie, the facility is a commercial geological repository and licenced disposal facility for low-level radioactive waste.

In March, Tellus received approval from the WA Radiological Council and the [Department of Water and Environmental Regulation](#) to dispose of the waste at the Sandy Ridge facility.

The type of wastes that are able to be disposed include contaminated oil and gas infrastructure, end-of-life mines and medical byproducts.

With the approvals in hand, Sandy Ridge is the first and only operation of its kind in Australia, according to Tellus, and has capacity to accept up to 100,000 tonnes of hazardous waste per annum.

Under the deal, EntX would aim to extract valuable chemical elements from the wastes managed by Tellus' subsidiary Sandy Ridge Labs.

The two companies would use novel technological approaches to reuse and recycle wastes, primarily radioisotope, that feed nuclear medicine applications.

Tellus said that process would initially involve laboratory-scale experiments to extract the radioisotopes.

EntX managing director [Bryn Jones](#) said the company planned to supply the radioisotopes for use in the existing and emerging cancer therapy market.

He said the radioisotopes would replace those currently imported, largely from Russia.

"It would also make radioisotopes available for use in new forms of treatment currently in the trial phase," [Mr Jones](#) said.

"EntX has already identified huge potential to utilise radioisotopes in a range of life-saving medical treatments, particularly those used to treat cancer and neurological conditions.

"Sourcing these radioisotopes from waste material is the ultimate win-win, delivering medical, environmental, and social benefits at the same time."

Tellus managing director Nate Smith said the company's partnership with EntX was an exciting opportunity for Australian critical minerals, oil and gas and mining businesses.

"They can now safely and sustainably process challenging LLW waste streams at Sandy Ridge Labs, Australia's 'safest place', while at the same time give back to our communities by extracting crucial materials to support critical cancer treatments.

"All Australians want to see more waste reused.

"This is the circular economy in action."