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PURE SPECULATION

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Putting Drake on the map

PUT the word Kalgoorlie or Kimberley into your company name and people get a pretty good idea of where you are doing business. But Drake? By the look of the photograph, Drake is literally a sleepy hollow, a clutch of houses alongside a dip in the road, 44km east of Tenterfield in northern NSW.

But it happened to be the nearest town to the Mt Carrington gold-silver deposit in the northern goldfields of the state upon which **Drake Resources** launched itself on the ASX in 2005. It's still in the portfolio with its 146,000oz of gold and 4.6 million ounces of silver at modest grades but it's well and truly on the backburner.

Like most new juniors who were finding themselves stalling, Drake cast around for something that might spice up its story. And that something was Mexico. The Mexican silver-zinc belt in fact.

That hasn't had a mention for a while,

but Drake struck it lucky in 2006. It became a partner to **Zinifex** to act as its new project scout. Better still, the zinc-lead giant would put up all the money needed for their alliance.

Well, it's paying off. Drake has so far identified 20 potential acquisitions and last week reported an important step forward. The partners have set up an exploration base in Sweden. It is located just outside Falun, where they have one of their exploration licences.

Its Falun 100 property includes the Falun mine where operations are estimated to have begun about 1090 and continued for the next 900 years, closing only in 1992.

When any of the alliance projects gets up, Drake has the option of financing a 10 per cent or 30 per cent interest or just taking a royalty.