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Iconic Argyle Pink Diamond Tender is showcased for the first time in India

Rio Tinto's 2009 Argyle Pink Diamond Tender is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its iconic offering of rare pink diamonds with its first ever viewing in India.

This exceptional collection comprises 43 of the rarest diamonds in the world and has been showcased in Mumbai to a select group of Indian diamantaires, collectors and high net worth individuals.

Commenting on the inaugural Mumbai viewings, Jean-Marc Lieberherr, General Manager for the sales and marketing for all diamonds from Rio Tinto's mines says,

"Presenting the Argyle Pink Diamond Tender in Mumbai is a reflection of the emerging importance of India as a source of demand for coloured diamonds. Whilst India has traditionally been a manufacturing centre for the champagne diamonds from the Argyle mine, we are now seeing signs of latent domestic demand for coloured diamonds in India. Earlier this year we had a great response from Indian diamantaires to our tender of rare blue diamonds from the Argyle mine and this encouraged us to look to Mumbai as a 2009 Pink Diamond Tender viewing location."

Titled *Grand Passions*, this year's tender collection comprises 43 stones, including a magnificent 2.61carat intense pink heart shaped diamond named *Argyle Amour*TM. One of four hearts in this year's collection, the *Argyle Amour*TM is the most valuable heart shaped pink diamond ever produced from the Argyle mine

Exuding passion, romance and warmth, this extraordinary diamond captures all that is *Amour*. The two other "hero" stones set to captivate bidders are *Shalimar*TM, a 1.25 carat purplish pink round diamond named after the exotic garden sanctuary built by Indian emperor Jahangir for his beloved wife, and in the theme of legendary passions, *Scarlett*TM, a 1.10 carat red oval diamond.

Josephine Archer, Business Manager for Argyle Pink Diamonds, comments on the 2009 collection, "These diamonds are for appreciators of the truly exceptional and with around 10 years remaining of the Argyle Diamond Mine, these rare pink diamonds will be keenly contested by investors, collectors and diamond experts from around the world."

The Argyle Pink Diamond Tender will travel to a number of locations before concluding in Perth in late September.