

# AHTNA ENTERS INTO JOINT VENTURE

Belden Corp. has entered the Ahtna Joint Venture, a mineral exploration and development group operating on more than two million acres in South Central Alaska.

Participating with Belden are Conoco Inc., Denver, Colo., GCO Minerals Company of Houston, Tex., and Ahtna Minerals Company, Inc. of Alaska. Ahtna Minerals is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ahtna, Inc., a Native regional corporation formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The mineral venture was organized in 1977 to assist the Ahtna Indian group in evaluating lands for selection under the Settlement Act. This Act entitles Native corporations to select lands for their exclusive use.

The joint venture group will select target areas for

potential mineral development. Belden, Conoco, and GCO Minerals are entitled to participate with Ahtna Minerals in subsequent mine development in the selected areas.

The joint venture exploration program, entering its fourth year, includes geographical surveying, assays, geochemical analysis, airborne and ground geophysics, and detailed structural mapping.

Geneva Pacific Corp., Glenview, Ill., a Belden subsidiary, has been working mineral claims in South Central Alaska since 1969, and will represent Belden in the Ahtna Joint Venture.

Belden, a major wire and cable, also recently reached an agreement to purchase Exploration Data Consultants, Inc. (EDCON), a Denver-based firm specializing in geological and geophysical exploration for oil, gas and minerals.