

# New mine: Where did Aftenbladet get the figure of 300 billion kroner from?

Deep down in the mountains on Helleland are the answers. Now it turns out that the estimate in Aftenbladet of 300 billion can quickly be wrong, according to Norge Mining.

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30 such holes have been drilled near Helleland. Photo: Arnt Olav Klippenberg

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There are easily large numbers when the enormous occurrence on Helleland is mentioned in the media. For many years it has been a known fact that a belt of minerals stretches from Bjerkreim via Egersund to Sokndal.

According to NGU (Norwegian Geological Survey), this is "one of the largest mineral deposits of this type in the whole world". The very special thing about the deposit is that it contains four different minerals, but the most important are apatite, ilmenite and magnetite. Norway's deepest hole of 2.2 kilometers is now being drilled to check whether nickel has also been deposited down there in Mother Earth.

Then it was the sum of 300 billion. Where does it come from?

Øyvind Standeren Pedersen in Norge Mining explains it this way.

- 300 billion is the estimated value to a depth of 100 meters. These figures can be found in NGU's report made in 2012, in connection with the government's mineral strategy.

He says that Norge Mining has so far drilled around 30 holes down to around 500 - 600 meters. The positive thing is that they have found valuable minerals, as they call it, right down to the bottom of all boreholes. They have also found several zones with minerals on the surface

- The drilling program is currently financed for the next three years, by which time the figure of 300 billion in the ground will probably be multiplied many, many times, he says.

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