



A message from the President

'Innovate or Perish'

Participating in two of the working groups of the new Canadian Mining Innovation Council (CMIC) has given me an important insight into the status of, and need for, quality research in support of Canada's (and the world's) mining industry. It has also underscored the importance of communication, as someone once said, "research is not research unless it is published." One key outcome of the CMIC activities will be a coordinated appeal to mining ministers for broad support for innovation through quality R&D, development of new researchers and commercialization of their output. This is obviously the focus of MIRARCO, celebrating 10 years of contributing to mining innovation in 2008. Looking forward, our mission is "to develop the **people** and **innovative tools** needed to **plan and design** the **underground mines** and **related facilities** of the future." As the corporation continues to grow into one of the world's largest mining focused research groups servicing millions of dollars worth of multi-partner contracts, we must continue to capture, nurture and communicate innovation as we plan for our second decade.

The next step for the Schedule Optimization Tool

This summer saw the release of the Schedule Optimization Tool (SOT), a unique underground mine planning software program. SOT has been chosen for early adoption by mining operations in Sudbury, Ireland, Africa and Australia. GijimaAst is pairing with MIRARCO and will commercialize SOT in the next quarter. For more info, contact project leaders Lorrie Fava and Bryan Maybee (lfava@mirarco.org & bmaybee@mirarco.org).



VR system sold to major Chinese mining group

The Xuzhou Coal Mining Group—one of the top 500 companies in China—has agreed to purchase a MIRARCO Virtual Reality system. Vice-President Andrew Dasys recently returned from a trip to China where an initial data audit of the mine was conducted. The system will be used to manage daily mining operations and for safety and training purposes. MIRARCO will install the system in October and also create a 3D model of the mine.



Rehabilitating mines in a novel way

MIRARCO, in partnership with industry and NRCAN is conducting a study to determine if tailings can be made into biofuel cropland. Teams of students are working on test sites in Timmins and Sudbury (each several hectares); despite the lack of sunny weather, the tailings are showing signs of life with young corn and canola plants growing from the biosolids. Contact Graeme Spiers for more info (gspiers@mirarco.org).

Work done on Seymour-Capilano water tunnel project, British Columbia

Metro Vancouver recently drew upon MIRARCO's expertise to help define the in situ stress state at the twin tunnels that will be used in a major water filtration project. Work on the multi-million dollar tunnel boring project was stopped due to concerns about weak and overstressed rock. Employing an overcoring stress measurement technique, the team of Benoît Valley and Sean Maloney were able to successfully determine stress levels throughout the tunnels.

Announcements