



## NAVNET PROJECT TO ENHANCE MINERAL EXPLORATION BUSINESS IN THE NORTH

Northern Development and Mines Minister, Rick Bartolucci, announced that the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is investing \$1.7 million in MIRARCO's Northern Advanced Visualization Network (**NAVNet**) initiative.



Linking virtual reality facilities for convenient collaboration

MIRARCO will establish a network of virtual reality facilities linking Northern Ontario. A new facility will be built in Timmins, existing technology in the Red Lake and Sudbury locations will be improved, and a mobile facility for other centres and remote mining and mineral exploration sites acquired. NAVNet uses the technology and know-how demonstrated in Laurentian University's Virtual Reality Laboratory to now help stakeholders make critical decisions that depend on complex spatial information via remote collaboration with other experts. This project will also develop and implement tools for mining and exploration companies to better understand, plan, optimize and market their properties.

The project's success requires participation from mining and exploration companies, consultants, researchers and vendors (software/hardware). Please let us know how you would like to take part in this exciting project by contacting Andrew Dasys by phone at (705) 671-6613 or by email at [adasys@mirarco.org](mailto:adasys@mirarco.org). For more information on NAVNet, please visit [www.mirarco.org/navnet.php](http://www.mirarco.org/navnet.php)

## GRC WELCOMES NEW STAFF FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

MIRARCO and the Geomechanics Research Centre (GRC) is pleased to welcome two new staff members to the team, **Dr. Giovanni Grasselli** and **Dr. Bo-Hyun Kim**.

**Dr. Grasselli** joins the GRC team from Italy, bringing with him a broad knowledge of geomechanics and ground support. As the Associate Director, he will be leading GRC's research initiatives.



Giovanni earned his Ph.D. in rock mechanics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. He then worked at Imperial College London (UK) and at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico (USA) where he investigated how discontinuities influence the hydro-mechanical behavior of rock mass. For his doctoral thesis, Giovanni was the 2004 recipient of the ISRM Rocha Medal, the most prestigious of its kind in the field of rock mechanics. Giovanni can be contacted at [ggrasselli@mirarco.org](mailto:ggrasselli@mirarco.org).

**Dr. Kim** joins GRC for his post-doctoral research on *Estimation of rock mass deformation modulus using the stochastic and quantitative approach for the empirical support system by the robust design*. Dr. Kim obtained his Bachelors and Masters degrees, and a Ph.D. in Geosystem Engineering, from Chonnam National University in Gwangju, South Korea. Since then he has gained experience in numerical modelling, site investigation for underground excavations, and probabilistic and statistical approaches in rock engineering. Bo-Hyun can be contacted at [bkim@mirarco.org](mailto:bkim@mirarco.org).



## MIRARCO SHOWCASED AT INNOVATIONCANADA.CA

MIRARCO is highlighted in Issue Number 14 of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) e-magazine that aims to provide information regarding world-class, leading-edge research to Canadians. The article, entitled *These Eyes of Mine*, showcases MIRARCO's Virtual Reality research capabilities, and is available at [www.InnovationCanada.ca](http://www.InnovationCanada.ca). For more information on virtual reality, please contact Andrew Dasys, Start-up Director, by phone at (705) 671-6613 or by email at [adasys@mirarco.org](mailto:adasys@mirarco.org), or visit [www.mirarco.org/aboutvr.php](http://www.mirarco.org/aboutvr.php).

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