

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sudbury research and development firms launch new mine optimization tool

MIRARCO and GijimaAst release 'Schedule Optimization Tool' to international audience

Sudbury, ON, June 2, 2008— Sudbury researchers celebrated the release of their Schedule Optimization Tool (SOT) with an international audience this week on the Cortina Cruise Boat. The new tool, developed by MIRARCO and commercialized by GijimaAst, will help mining companies plan their mines more efficiently and improve their bottom line.

"This is an automated system that generates mine schedules," said MIRARCO Research Associate, Bryan Maybee. "With the use of automation, what once took weeks or months to prepare manually can now be done in hours or days."

"SOT complements the Enhanced Production Scheduler [EPS], a tool that is widely used in the mining industry. It will add a new optimization dimension to mine scheduling with a seamless transition between EPS and SOT," said Andrew Vehkala, Managing Director of GijimaAst Americas.

The official software launch saw the Cortina filled with researchers and mining industry representatives from the University of Melbourne, Laurentian University, AMC Consultants and Alford Mining Systems. The researchers are in Sudbury to attend an international consortium meeting being held at Laurentian University.

"This new software is the first of its kind in underground mining. It uses artificial intelligence to generate improved schedules that adhere to operational constraints and detailed financial targets," said Lorrie Fava, senior research scientist at MIRARCO.

MIRARCO- Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation, founded in 1998, is a not-for-profit applied research and technical service company formed through collaboration between Laurentian University and the private and public sectors. MIRARCO is located in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, and serves as an innovation bridge between researchers and industry. Visit www.mirarco.org for more information.

GijimaAst— Employing more than 3200 professionals, GijimaAst's specialized business knowledge in the financial services and retail, mining, manufacturing and the telecommunications industries as well as Government enable it to provide comprehensive, integrated solutions to clients in those markets. The Group's proven strategy incorporates client care and the plan-build-run-leverage cycle of technology solutions.

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