

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadians and Chinese work together to improve mining practices

Beijing Titan Instruments visits Sudbury to help setup their new atomic fluorescence spectrometer (AFS)

Sudbury, ON, May 27, 2008 – Representatives from Beijing Titan Instruments, one of China's largest analytical instruments producers, visited Sudbury recently as a part of their Canadian tour. They helped set up one of their new AFS units for their hosts, MIRARCO—Mining Innovation.

This new tool will be used to detect levels of the toxic chromium VI, as well as arsenic, selenium, lead, cadmium and mercury, all naturally-occurring elements and byproducts of mining operations, in geological and environmental media.

"Chromium VI is a toxic element recognized as a human carcinogen. Various analytical tools are able to measure total chromium, but new legislation is specific to the chromium VI oxidation state and Titan's progressive approach has developed an analytical system capable of measuring the concentration of this specific particle," says Graeme Spiers, Director of the Centre for Environmental Monitoring (CEM) at MIRARCO.

This tool will be essential for mining companies in the near future because of proposed legislation that will require release tests (stack test) on point sources conducted to be sure minimum total chromium concentration guidelines are being achieved. Both the European Union and China have included chromium VI on the list for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in electronic components.

"With the international regulatory interest in both total chromium and chromium VI, mining companies are interested in new, efficient methods to test for chromium VI," said Spiers.

The guests were taken on a tour of Sudbury, visiting the Ontario Geoscience Laboratories, the analytical facilities at Laurentian University, Vale Inco and Testmark Laboratories. During their visit they gave a presentation highlighting the capabilities and potential advantages of their new generation AFS systems to Laurentian University researchers and members of Xstrata Nickel.

This is not the first time MIRARCO and Titan have collaborated. Several years ago, Titan gave MIRARCO an earlier generation AFS unit to test; the results were positive and published in peer-reviewed journals. Scientists are now eager to begin tests on the next generation of atomic fluorescent spectrometers.

"We're confident the new AFS system will be able to detect chromium VI to very low concentrations in a variety of geological and environmental matrices," says Al Lock, Senior Research Scientist at MIRARCO's CEM. "This is good news for environmentalists, we now have a tool that can detect a very toxic element before it ends up in the water supply."

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.

Beijing Titan Instruments was founded in the late nineties by a group of financiers, engineers, chemists and specialists. They create innovative scientific instruments and have won several awards for their atomic fluorescent spectrometers. Progress, discovery and invention are some of Titan's guiding principles. Titan is one of China's largest producers of analytical equipment and is beginning to expand to the global marketplace.

-- 30 --

Reference:

Contact: Graeme Spiers

Director, Centre for Environmental Monitoring

MIRARCO

gspiers@mirarco.org

705.675.1151 x.5087