

# Mining Innovation News



Dr. Peter Kaiser represents MIRARCO on NARMS-TAC 2002 panel.



Post-conference tour group takes a close look at the impacts of the meteorite crash 1.85 billion years ago.

## MIRARCO at NARMS-TAC

From July 7 to 10, 2002, the 5<sup>th</sup> North American Rock Mechanics Symposium ([NARMS-TAC 2002](#)) was held in Toronto. The conference on "Mining and Tunnelling Innovation and Opportunity Toronto 2002" was organized by the [Lassonde Mining Institute](#) (University of Toronto) and the [Tunnelling Association of Canada](#) (TAC). Over 450 people from the local, national and international mining community attended the symposium in Toronto.

MIRARCO was a key contributor, providing leadership and expertise, through representation on the Discussion Panel, numerous session chairs, paper presentations, and the hosting of a post-conference tour to Sudbury, Ontario.

The Panel Discussion entitled "Inputs for Practical Constitutive Modelling for Rock Masses" focused on innovative ways to collect, evaluate and model rock mass data. The panel was moderated by Professor Ted Brown (consulting and research engineer of Brisbane, Australia, and former President of the International Society for Rock Mechanics).

The Panel also included international rock mechanics experts Dr. Evert Hoek; Professor R. Paul Young (Director, Lassonde Mining Institute); Dr. Peter Cundall (Itasca Consulting Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA); and Dr. Peter Kaiser (MIRARCO President, Laurentian University).

MIRARCO staff presented several [papers](#) on issues ranging from modelling and 3D visualization to safety and training in mining.

This event allowed MIRARCO to share its rock mechanics and virtual reality expertise with the international geotechnical community.

## Post-Conference Tour Gives Glimpse of Scientific and Mining Attractions

Following the NARMS-TAC conference in Toronto, MIRARCO hosted a post-conference tour to Sudbury. This tour allowed international delegates to access Laurentian University's Virtual Reality Laboratory (VRL), and get a hands-on view of MIRARCO's Mining Exploratorium program. To add to the experience, participants were hosted by INCO for a field trip to its Creighton Mine, home of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO). Here the delegates were able to go underground at Sudbury's deepest mine to observe a world leading physics experiment. They were also exposed to Sudbury's unique geological history, through a tour lead by Dr. Don Rousell of Laurentian University. Looking at the different rock structures, Dr. Rousell was able to explain why it is believed that Sudbury was struck by a meteorite.

## Dr. Terry Wiles and MIRARCO host Map3D Workshop

Dr. Terry Wiles, developer of Map3D software, hosted a three-day workshop on Map3D at MIRARCO. For those who attended, this course was more than just a refresher; it covered all uses of Map3D, and gave the opportunity to work hands on with the software. For future courses and info about [Map3D](#) please visit their website.

## Mark your calendar and register: MIRARCO Professional Development Courses

In the coming months, MIRARCO will be hosting two advanced geomechanics courses. Erik Eberhardt (Switzerland), and John Krahn (Alberta) will present a short course on [Slope Stability in Rock and Soil](#), September 4-6. Through a series of lectures, tutorials, and case studies, attendees will be able to extend their knowledge of, and learn new slope assessment software. Dr. Kaiser will be leading a second course on [Brittle Failure of Excavations in Highly Stressed, Rockbursting Ground](#), November 13-15.

The focus of these courses will be on the growing importance of characterizing rock and soil stability at greater depths, as well as assessing brittle failure of excavation characteristics. These topics are a growing concern as mining continues to reach much greater depths, and hence more instability. The courses will be offered at MIRARCO in Sudbury, Ontario. The courses are tailored to practicing engineers in geotechnical consulting, or in mining companies. Please register early, as seating is limited. For more information please visit the MIRARCO website.

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