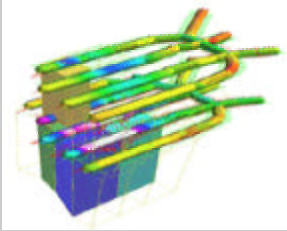


Mining Innovation News



3D model produced by
Drifts@Risk software

Minimizing Risk Made Easy with Drifts@Risk

Over the past several years, the need to construct openings at great depths has become a necessity in both civil and mining engineering fields. Excavating in highly-stressed ground requires careful engineering to lower the risk to acceptable levels, both in terms of safety and economics. To overcome these challenges and to assess risk in a rational manner, today's engineer needs to integrate geology, stress, seismicity, and construction factors. This integration is best achieved in a 3D stereo visualization environment - with MIRARCO's Mining Exploratorium Program, using Laurentian University's Virtual Reality Laboratory (VRL)- where the impact on production and costs can be assessed.

MIRARCO recently completed the first stage of a Drifts@Risk suite of software tools for use in the Laurentian University's state-of-the-art VRL. These tools encapsulate some of the research that has been conducted at the Geomechanics Research Centre during the last decade. The human resources necessary to properly apply these types of analyses are not typically available in a production setting. The Drifts@Risk modules, used in conjunction with the VRL, enable engineering, geology and production teams to apply these techniques in a matter of minutes in a collaborative immersive atmosphere.

To find out if MIRARCO's Drifts@Risk Suite could benefit your company, contact Luigi Cotesta, Research Engineer lcotesta@mirarco.org



Dr. Panet (President, ISRM)
presenting Rocha Medal to
Dr. Mark Diederichs

2002 Rocha Medal Awarded to Dr. Mark Diederichs

MIRARCO congratulates Dr. Diederichs for the Rocha Medal, awarded by the International Society of Rock Mechanics. The Rocha Medal is the most prestigious of its kind in the field of rock mechanics and was awarded for his Ph.D. thesis entitled 'Instability of hard rock masses: the role of tensile damage and relaxation' as the most innovative and valuable contribution to rock mechanics in 2002. Dr. Diederichs' thesis was co-supervised by Dr. Peter Kaiser of the Geomechanics Research Centre at Laurentian University and Dr. Maurice Dusseault at the University of Waterloo.

Visit MIRARCO's Booth at PDAC - March 9-12, 2003:

MIRARCO will be attending the 2003 PDAC Convention at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on March 9th-12th. Please visit us at Booth #1105. If you are interested in Virtual Reality applications in mineral exploration, please plan to attend one of our VR demonstrations by industrial partners in DXNet's Advanced Visualization Centre. These sessions are hosted by Goldcorp Inc., FNX Mining Company Inc. and MIRARCO.

For more details on the the 2003 PDAC Convention and its exhibitors please visit www.pdac.ca.

Sudbury 2003 - Mining and the Environment III conference:

MIRARCO's Centre for Environmental Monitoring will be co-hosting the 3rd annual Mining and the Environment conference to be held at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada from May 25-28, 2003. The conference aims to bring together leading scientists and technical experts from around the world to address mine site rehabilitation issues and associated environmental protection methods, suited to the mineral resource development needs of the 21st century.

For conference or trade show booth registration please visit: www.sudbury2003.ca.

MIRARCO - Mining Innovation
Laurentian University
Willet Green Miller Centre
933 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3E 6B5
Ph: (705) 675-1151 x 5075

For more information about MIRARCO and its research
centres please visit

www.mirarco.org