

Striking Gold with Virtual Reality¹

Goldcorp Inc., TSX:G

Goldcorp's decision to invest in MIRARCO's state of the art virtual reality (VR) technology to visualize and interpret drill core and excavation data is paying off in exploring and finding more gold at its Red Lake, Ontario underground mining operations.

Goldcorp had lots of drill data from decades of underground and surface exploration at the Red Lake gold camp. In 2003, Mine Manager Claude Lemasson approached The Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation (MIRARCO) at Laurentian University in Sudbury to learn how integrating and visualizing its extensive drill data could help the company find and recover more ore.

First, MIRARCO had to convert and input the Goldcorp data into a standard format for modeling and interpretation.

The resulting large screen 3D presentation dramatically illustrated the existing surface and underground drill holes, active and mined out stopes and known and potential ore zones at Goldcorp's Red Lake Mine. It was a real eye-opener for Lemasson and his geological, mine engineering and planning team.

Viewing the same information, at the same time and from different perspectives, promoted discussion, collaboration and consensus amongst the Goldcorp team. They immediately saw the benefits of integrating data to improve the accuracy and success of their exploration programs, mine planning and production scenarios.

That day in the virtual reality lab convinced Goldcorp geologists, mine engineers and senior management to adopt MIRARCO's technology... so much so ... that Goldcorp invested \$400,000 in its own 3D Virtual Reality lab at Red Lake in the spring of 2004.

"You can optimize exploration with VR - by viewing the drill holes in 3D throughout the mine, you can see which areas of potential mineralization have been missed and where we should be targeting exploration," said Claude Lemasson. " Ultimately, the real benefit of the technology is improved mine design and layout. "

Lemasson estimates the company has achieved a five fold return from its investment in MIRARCO's data integration and virtual reality technology in less than two years.

"VR definitely results in better exploration, planning and development for Goldcorp," said Claude, referring to VR as a profit centre for the mine and a resource for all employees. The lab is utilized regularly by mine personnel for modeling, what-if discussions and ongoing training and applications with the powerful VR software.

The VR lab also contributes to improved mine safety by modeling different mining techniques to reduce the risk of rock bursts in areas of known seismic activity. Future applications of MIRARCO's data integration and VR technology include assessing other mine properties and joint venture exploration initiatives and in the environmental monitoring and management of its tailings.

FAST FACTS:

- North America's third largest gold producer
- Projects in Ontario, Quebec, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Australia
- The world's lowest cost multi-million ounce gold producer

¹ Text and quotes by company representatives approved for use and public release by MIRARCO by Claude Lemasson on behalf of Goldcorp Inc. March 26, 2006 (www.goldcorp.com). Written by Morry Brown, MORCOM (www.morcominc.com).

