

Press Release

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Mining research centres join forces

Official opening with research highlights and a vision for the future

Sudbury, ON –August 22, 2008-- Four mining research centres: CAMIRO, CEMI, MASHA, and MIRARCO—which recently relocated to the 4th floor of the Willet Green Miller Centre—held an open house demonstrating activities of the newly formed mining research cluster.

“Bringing us all together symbolizes an important step in developing ongoing partnerships between these unique companies for the benefit of Northern Ontario and the Canadian mining industry,” said Dr. Peter K. Kaiser, President/CEO of CEMI.

The official opening welcomed the community to explore the facilities, meet each company’s research teams, and learn about current research initiatives and projects. Some highlighted projects included: mineral exploration, deep mining, mine design, mine rehabilitation, seismic hazard assessment, data visualization, mine schedule optimization, and underground mining safety.

“There aren’t many other places in the world where you find so much work being done in the field of mining research and innovation,” said Steve Hall, President of MIRARCO. “This open house is a way for us to show the community how industry’s needs have driven our research and led to some very forward-thinking innovations.”

Representatives from each company spoke to a crowd from the wider Sudbury community, academia, government, and industry on strategic research directions and key research initiatives. Guest speaker Tom Hynes, introduced the Canadian Mining Innovation Council (CMIC)—a recent initiative by NRCan to promote mining research across Canada—and spoke of the growing need for Canadians to meet the mining industry’s demand for new and innovative solutions. CEMI and the other partners in the Sudbury mining research cluster form a critical node of CMIC and an important cornerstone for the development of a competitive research edge for Canada in the global market.

During a networking luncheon, guests had a chance to visit the various centres and conversed one on one with employees, researchers, and students on various industry focused projects and participated in interactive demonstrations.

“It’s important to have the researchers themselves discuss their projects, this way guests can see how a research idea develops into a practical solution or into tools that can benefit the industry and the community,” said Dr. Peter K. Kaiser. “The research being developed on the 4th floor is helping to sustain the mining industry by learning how to mine more safely and more efficiently. This research forms the backbone of a regional and provincial mining innovation strategy developed by the Ontario Mineral Industry Cluster Council (OMIC).”

“Mining innovation, however, also depends on our collective ability to take research results to the user through development and commercialization activities,” said Charlie Graham, Managing Director of CAMIRO. “Bringing us all together will strongly encourage a tighter collaboration between researchers and developers.”

CAMIRO- The Canadian Mining Industry Research Organization, is a not-for-profit organization run by the mining industry to manage collaborative mining research. Former multi-sponsored research efforts, MRD, MIROC, and MITEC, have been amalgamated in CAMIRO to improve service, reduce duplication, and increase the efficiency of administrative expenditures. www.camiro.org

CEMI- The Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation, also a not-for-profit corporation, was founded in 2007 to establish and operate a networked institute for advanced studies, to undertake research for safe, sustainable and economic mining, to commercialize research findings, and to support Laurentian University as a centre for innovative research. CEMI was established by its founding members, the Ontario Government, Vale Inco, Xstrata Nickel, and Laurentian University. With the support of other private sector companies, FNX, Walbridge, Rio Tinto, CEMI will develop excellence in mining innovation in collaboration with regional, national, and international Research & Development partners. www.miningexcellence.ca

MASHA- Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association believes every worker should come home safe and healthy every day. It is convinced the mining and aggregate industry can move progressively toward this state of zero harm. This vision can be realized within an industry culture that embraces a belief in safe productivity, and in which everyone contributes toward making the workplace safer and healthier. MASHA is morally committed to this vision and uniquely positioned to help industry realize and sustain this goal. www.masha.on.ca

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 provides advanced mining research services, promotes mining innovation, trains highly qualified personnel, and provides a bridge between researchers and industry. www.mirarco.org

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