

## CEMI and MIRARCO Launch New Research Program in Mine Optimization

SUDBURY - The Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation (CEMI) and MIRARCO are moving ahead with a new research initiative designed to improve efficiency and add value to underground mining operations. The initiative is called “Planning and Rapid Integrated Mine Optimization” or “PRIMO”.

The program is a joint venture with AMIRA International who has a long history of managing large multi-sponsor research projects, and is managing this new initiative ([P884](#)). CEMI will be capitalizing on AMIRA International’s tremendous experience and knowledge in this major initiative.

“PRIMO will create improved software tools to support the planning, design and operation of underground mining operations, said Dr. Paul Dunn, Director of the Centre for Mine Technology who is heading up the project for CEMI.

Currently these software tools are commercially available for open pit mining, but do not exist at present for underground mining, placing Northern Ontario’s underground mining operations at a competitive disadvantage. PRIMO aims at filling this shortage in optimized methodologies and software tools. “There is a recognized need for improved software tools to support the planning, design and operation of underground mines, said Dr. Peter Kaiser, Founding Executive Director of CEMI. “PRIMO will greatly enhance the process and efficiency of operations in relation to long term planning and design”.

While addressing technical issues facing the Northern Ontario mining industry, PRIMO has a truly international scope. “PRIMO is a global consortium research program lead by Sudbury researchers, and will really help make CEMI a international research institution”, added Dr. Dunn. This research is supported by industry partners such as CVRD Inco, Xstrata, Rio Tinto, Barrick Gold Corporation and Oxiana Ltd”.

PRIMO aims at improving conventional mine design and planning processes. It also seeks to create new business

productivity models that will feed into other research programs within CEMI and internationally. “Mining processes need to be optimized not only to minimize

overall production cost but to “create value”, noted CVRD Inco Chief Operating Officer Mark Cutifani. “We are

realizing how closely productivity links to increasing overall value. This doesn’t mean just doing things more efficiently, but doing the right things more efficiently.”

Research results will include software modules, skills training, and university-based education (through the School of Engineering, Laurentian University as well as other institutes) for graduate and undergraduate students, and professional short courses.

CEMI is a new mineral sector research corporation in Northern Ontario, led jointly by industry and Laurentian University in collaboration with regional, national and international R&D partners.

MIRARCO currently has research opportunities available. For further information contact:

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