



The Buzz

E-Newsletter

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Geomechanics Adds New Sonic Drill Rig to its Fleet

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Sonicor 50K Drill Head Hits 100 Units

Making Mining Greener

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SDC sonic drill rig joins Geomechanics' fleet in South Africa

[Geomechanics](#), part of South Africa-based GeoGroup, recently announced its acquisition of a track-mounted drill rig, manufactured by the Sonic Drill Corporation. Geomechanics's new SDC-450 rig (shown above) bores up to five times faster than a conventional drill rig and can provide continuous core samples to depths of up to 300 ft. As a result, sonic drilling can be employed in many applications including geotechnical and geothermal projects, environmental investigations and mineral exploration.

Sonic Drill Corporation's patented Sonicor 50K drill head works by sending high-frequency resonant vibrations down the drill string to the drill bit, while the operator controls these frequencies to suit the specific conditions of the soil and rock geology

"This product can be used for well construction and reduces the risk of project failure in unknown or difficult subsurface conditions where excellent core collection is an essential requirement," commented GeoGroup CEO David Rossiter. "It also enables more to be done with a single borehole because it can advance a temporary outer casing as the borehole is drilled."

Sonic drilling technology offers many advantages over conventional rotary-core and percussion drilling techniques especially in overburden conditions and promises superior information collection and waste reduction of up to 70 per cent. Sonic drilling is also the best choice when drilling in sand and soft ground conditions, where core samples are difficult, time consuming and expensive to produce using conventional methods.

"The exploration of mineral sands was previously undertaken using reverse-circulation or vacuum drilling. These methods produce dry samples well but do not work well in overly saturated conditions," Rossiter explained.

Geomechanics currently has more than 60 drill rigs in its fleet at its 4,000m squared in-house engineering workshop.

Sonicor 50K Drill Head Hits 100 Units



SDC celebrates 100th drill head production!

With the production of its 100th original flagship 50K Sonicor sonic drill head, Ray Roussy and the [Sonic Drill Corporation](#) have a lot to celebrate.

"When you start out developing a new technology, you wonder if you will ever get to a milestone like this one," says Roussy from his office in Surrey, BC, Canada. "I'm glad I was able to see this happen during my lifetime because many developers and inventors don't get that opportunity."

Roussy, who is the patent-holder of the original award-winning technology, has made the commercialization of sonic drill rigs his life's work for more than 30 years. During that time, other companies have attempted to imitate the technology but it was Roussy's engineering breakthroughs that created a robust, reliable drilling method that is now used around the world.

So, where is this 100th model headed to?

Roussy says "while it's great to know that the other 99 drill heads are scattered around the world, working on a variety of different projects, the 100th head is going to stay right here in Canada and be used for our contracting division, Sonic Drilling Ltd."

Making Mining Greener



Vancouver Sun article talks about new technologies

New technologies can help make mining greener but building a cleaner mine is no magic bullet for the industry's public perception problems, especially when operating abroad says a Vancouver Sun newspaper article.

Although many mines are working hard at improving their operations, the article mentions sonic drilling technology, developed and patented by Ray Roussy and manufactured by the Sonic Drill Corporation, as a positive step forward for the industry.

MiningWatch Canada's Ramsey Hart can see the benefits of sonic drilling. "They don't need to use drilling muds or fluids, the materials that are put down with the core drill to provide lubrication to get the rock material out of the hole," he said. "Managing those drilling muds is always an environmental challenge, so avoiding the use of them is an improvement over standard practices."

Sonic drilling technology has been used to mine everything from alluvial diamonds to uranium to gold to lithium.

Click here to [read the full article](#).