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Sonic Drilling Wins Second Prestigious Award

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Photo by: Len Vanderwal

Sonic Drilling Ltd. and the Sonic Drill Corporation have won a 2010 Manning Innovation Award and a \$10,000 prize. The award recognizes Ray Roussy's lifetime achievement in refining his patented sonic drill head and its worldwide acceptance in the commercial market. Roussy will receive his award in Canada's capital city of Ottawa on September 17th, in front of an audience of Canadian innovators, elected officials, educators and business leaders at a gala hosted by Senator Pamela Wallin, OC, Preston Manning, CC, and Bernard Lord.

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation has been recognizing and encouraging innovation in Canada since 1982. By means of nomination, Canadians who have demonstrated recent innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure, may be eligible in one of three award categories.

"Unlike a traditional drill rig, the sonic drill uses high-frequency mechanical vibrations to easily cut through earth formations and bedrock," the Manning Foundation said in a recent Globe and Mail article. "Not only is the sonic drill at least three to five times faster, it can also bore through tough terrain that typically stops other rigs. As a result, it is often used as a 'rescue rig' where traditional rigs have failed."

In 2008, Sonic Drilling Ltd. and the Sonic Drill Corporation also won a \$10,000 award for "Best New Drilling Technology." That award was presented by the Canadian GeoExchange Coalition.

- [Click here for Globe and Mail coverage.](#)
- [Click here for Vancouver Sun coverage.](#)
- [Click here for the Manning Foundation newsletter.](#)

New Sonic Drill Fits Inside a 20' Shipping Container



Sonic Drill Corporation, a leader in sonic drilling technology, recently released a sonic drill rig that is able to fit within a 20' shipping container.

"We constantly heard from clients that they wanted a physically smaller machine with the same horsepower that could be used in small spaces," says Tom Savage, president of Sonic Drill Systems, the company that also manufactures the much-larger elite Sonic Drill Corporation rigs.

With its agile smaller size, lighter footprint and lower price, the launch of the SDC-350 has created a buzz with buyers who previously thought a sonic drill rig was out of reach. "The SDC-350 has the same award-winning technology but applied to a crawler rig on tracks that easily fits within a 20 ft. container which reduces the cost of shipping by two-thirds."

The new model quickly drills through a variety of formations to more than 250 feet, using water for flushing. It can handle drill tooling up to 8" in diameter and tilt up to 60 degrees. Powered by a Perkins 6-cyl. diesel engine, the SDC-350 produces 173 HP [129 KW] @ 2200 RPM.

With its smaller size, the SDC-350 can be towed behind on a variety of platforms, remain street legal and, in most cases, be driven by someone with a lower class driver's licence. One of its many applications is environmental core sampling.

Female Drillers Can Help Ease Staffing Shortages



While some companies might be hesitant to hire female drillers due to the heavy equipment involved, Sonic Drilling Ltd. decided to take that chance.

That chance was well-rewarded with the hiring of a young, single mother who had gone to driller's school specifically to become a driller. She worked with Sonic Drilling Ltd. for about a year before deciding that it was the long hours (not the heavy equipment) that deterred her from continuing.

However, during her time with Sonic Drilling Ltd., she proved herself more than capable of handling the rig. Given the shortage of trained drillers today, male or female, it seems prudent to consider both genders equally as a potential hiring pool. As an industry, companies need to look ahead at future demands and requirements for continued success and incorporating female drillers is a good way to meet these needs.

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