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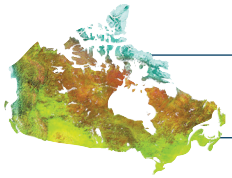

Minerals and Metals Sector update

Industry Association Requests CANMET-MMSL to Perform Study on Alloys

The Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association (NiPERA) has requested the CANMET Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories (CANMET-MMSL) to examine the transformation/dissolution (T/D) characteristics of ferro-nickel alloys in an environmental aqueous medium. The data from the study may be used in the future to propose levels of ferro-nickel classification in an alloys-specific classification scheme that is currently being developed and promoted by the metals and alloys industries. Hopefully this classification scheme would be incorporated for use in the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), a system with significant implications for environmental protection, transport, insurance and market access for all chemical substances in commerce. Environmental classification of the alloys may be based on the T/D behaviour of the alloy components. Consequently, acquiring T/D data on alloys is desirable. The contract is valued at about $60 000.

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MMS Addresses Important Environmental Issues Through Technology Transfer

Metal leaching and acid rock drainage (ML/ARD) are the most costly and potentially environmentally damaging issues facing the mining industry. Despite the long history of mining, there is very limited operating experience with ML/ARD prediction and mitigation measures. One way the Minerals and Metals Sector (MMS) is working to address the demand for additional information is the annual British Columbia (B.C.) ML/ARD Workshop, organized with the assistance of the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) Program and the International Network for Acid Prevention (INAP). The focus of the workshop is field-scale research and operational experience. Each year, the workshop brings together leading researchers and practitioners from around the world to discuss, address and identify data gaps on a full spectrum of issues that include prediction, risk assessment and management, water covers, dry covers, and biological treatment methods. Strengths of the workshop include the case studies and the cooperative dialogue. Attendees from abroad have expressed amazement at the wide range of participants, the degree to which information is shared, and the constructive, technical dialogue between people from differing communities of interest. To include their perspectives, members of environmental non-governmental organizations and local communities engaged in mine review are invited to make presentations and are given financial support to attend the workshop. The next B.C. ML/ARD Workshop is scheduled for November 30 to December 1, 2005, in Vancouver.

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Ottawa Wins Bid to Host the 12th International Conference on Fracture in 2009

Canada has successfully bid to host the 12th International Conference on Fracture (ICF12) in Ottawa in July 2009. Following an intense competition to host the quadrennial conference, the announcement was made after a vote of 27 nations at ICF11 in Turin, Italy, in March 2005. The CANMET Materials Technology Laboratory (CANMET-MTL) and the National Research Council Canada will jointly champion the conference, which is expected to attract some 1200 delegates. An executive committee, formed of representatives from the local universities, research institutes and industry, and chaired by Natural Resources Canada, has begun work to organize the technical program, local events, and publicity.

The ICF is the premier international conference on the integrity, mechanics and mechanisms of fracture, fatigue and strength of solids and structures, topics that are central to CANMET-MTL's mandate to develop value-added materials derived from minerals and metals. Hosting the conference in Ottawa will provide an excellent opportunity to display Canadian science and technology and to highlight cutting-edge developments worldwide in this field.

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