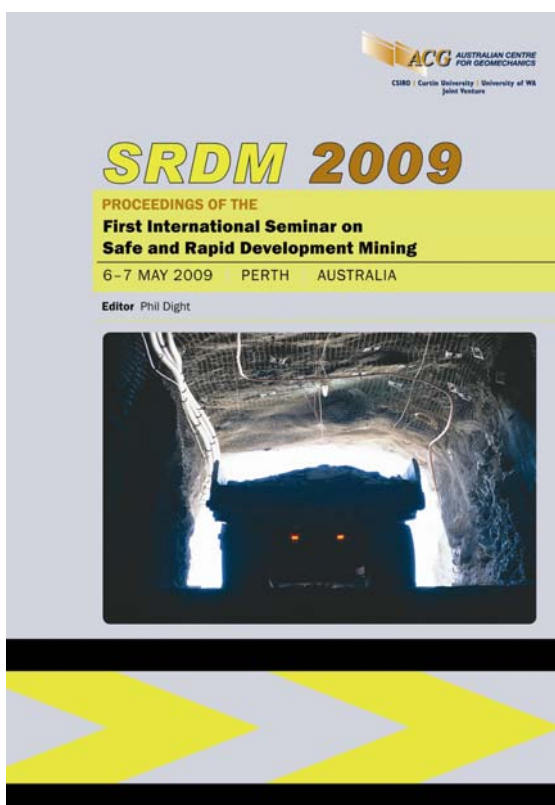


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Proceedings of the First International Seminar on Safe and Rapid Development Mining, 6–7 May 2009, Perth, Australia



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A curious aspect of the current state of mining is that while we can drill and blast more rock in a given shift than ever before, the rate of development has not significantly increased in the last 30 years of mining in Australia. This is a reflection on the size of equipment being used to create the development. Australia was in the vanguard of safe and rapid development mining using trackless equipment. More recently, advances in equipment manufacturing and utilisation in northern Europe (specifically Norway and Sweden) suggests that with the use of more targeted equipment, development rates can be significantly increased. The overwhelming economic argument is that the faster that development can proceed to access orebodies, the better the net present value. This would be even more important in today's mining environment where commodity prices fluctuate regularly. To be competitive today, operators need to be efficient and low-cost, without compromising safety.

The First International Seminar on Safe and Rapid Development Mining provided a timely opportunity to address many of the pressing issues associated with the design and implementation of safe and rapid development. Topics addressed included: equipment utilisation, numerical modelling, scheduling, innovative ground support, early age shotcrete, the influence of

hydrogeology on rapid development, and drill and blast issues. Operator training was also addressed with particular reference to the use and placement of shotcrete.

Being specifically focused on safe and rapid development, these proceedings will provide a valuable reference to anyone who has responsibilities relating to the operation, management and implementation of safe and rapid development in mining.

Themes

- Risk and safety.
- Ground support.
- Development cycle.
- Development blasting.

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(ISBN 978-0-9804185-7-6) [SRDM09]

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