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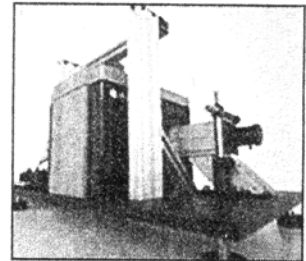
Technology improves analysis of what's really down there

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Prospectors and mining companies now have access to a new technology that permits them to quickly determine the true potential of their properties.

After five years of research and development, Photonic Knowledge has launched its new hyperspectral imaging equipment that can test the quality, quantity, and composition of the mineral resources in diamond drill cores.

"Basically, we invented a system that can read all kind of mineralization on a drill core at a speed and accuracy which (is redefining) the standard in this booming industry," Photonic Knowledge sales and marketing manager Yves Jodoin said Thursday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Photonic Knowledge's new Core Mapper uses hyperspectral imaging to ascertain minerals in drill core samples, helping miners determine quickly the potential of their discoveries.

"Our technology is based on hyperspectral which we've spent roughly five years in research and development," he said.

The company's Core Mapper, which was on display at the Northwestern Ontario Mines and Mineral Symposium this week in Thunder Bay, allows for a more precise and rapid analysis of the minerals in the drill core. It not only identifies the mineralized areas present and estimates their quantity but, Jodoin said, it also allows the user to visualize their distribution on the drill core.

Until recently, methods to locate and define the metals hiding underground were largely subjective and occasionally even misleading, the company says, on its website: www.photonicknowledge.com.

Furthermore, obtaining precise results could take weeks, even months to come in from laboratories. A breakthrough in hyperspectral imaging has made finding gold and other mineral resources easier and faster.

The website explains that hyperspectral imaging collects and processes visible and infrared light in numerous narrow bands from the electromagnetic spectrum. Because minerals contain unique transition metal content, they make distinctive prints across the electromagnetic spectrum. These electronic prints allow prospectors to rapidly evaluate deposits by obtaining extremely detailed maps of the minerals and their alloys, the company says.

While hyperspectral imaging has existed for some years, specifically in the biomedical sector, it has only recently been available for mining exploration, thanks to the research and expertise of a team of geologists and engineers working at Photonic Knowledge.

The company has perfected a tool the size of a large camera that can be used in mobile laboratory situations for immediate results. They also built the software to compile and analyze the data.



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