



Innovative Technologies and  
Concepts for the Intelligent  
Deep Mine of the Future

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**9<sup>th</sup> November 2012**



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### PRESS RELEASE

The I<sup>2</sup>Mine project has now been up and running for a year and the annual meetings of the Management Committee, Advisory Board and the General Assembly were held at the end of October in Kiruna, Sweden, courtesy of LKAB. The project is an initiative focused on the technological challenges the mining industry is currently facing including the exploitation of ever deeper deposits and the aspiration for an invisible, safe, zero impact mine. The project involves a consortium of 27 companies and academic institutions from 10 European countries led by LKAB over a period of 4 years.

The General Assembly provided the partners with the opportunity to present the progress that had been achieved over the last year and to catch up with colleagues and exchange thoughts and ideas. In the main, the time had been used to establish logistics, carry out background research and start developing the concepts that will underpin the design of the new techniques and technology for deep mining activities. The meeting was held in the LKAB visitor centre located 540 meters underground in the Kiruna iron ore mine. The delegates were later given the opportunity of visiting the mine.

The Management Committee, which is made up of the Work Package leaders, the Co-ordinator and the Project Manager, met to discuss management issues and the overall status of the project programme. The outcome of this dialogue was that all work is on track and no significant difficulties are foreseen.

This was the first meeting of the Advisory Board which is currently made up of 10 external experts with the remit of linking the project with the outside world, assessing the project progress and advising on corrections or modifications in the project work. (A full list of the members of the Advisory Board is provided below) The Chair of the Advisory Board then presented the General Assembly with a number of preliminary recommendations mainly dedicated to particular technical items of the work packages. However, the Advisory Board considered the work and objectives of I<sup>2</sup>Mine as being so important that they recommended that every effort is made to ensure international information exchange. The project is well timed to meet global needs although deep mines in Europe are not as 'deep' as those in some other parts of the world.

For additional information about the I<sup>2</sup>Mine project

Web site: [www.i2mine.eu](http://www.i2mine.eu)

Email: [pm@i2mine.eu](mailto:pm@i2mine.eu)



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## Photos



General Assembly, LKAB Visitor Centre (Photo courtesy of EGS)



Prof Gideon Chitombo from the Advisory Board addressing the General Assembly  
(Photo courtesy of EGS)



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Mine visit by the General Assembly (Photo courtesy of EGS)

**i2mine Advisory Board**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Area of Expertise</b>	<b>Region/Country</b>
Dr Corina Hebestreit	Euromines	European Technology Platform Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP SMR)	Europe
Dr Christoph Müller	DM Technologies GmbH & Co	Mining equipment manufacturer	Europe
Christer Ramebäck	Prevas	Process IT Europe	Europe
Prof Gabor Gaal	Geological Survey of Finland	ProMine Project	Europe
Olivier Vidal	Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)	ERA-MIN	Europe
Prof Jan Palarski	Silesian University of Technology	Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) Technical Group Coal no 1(TGC1) Chairman	Europe
Prof Gideon Chitombo	University of Queensland	Deep mining research initiatives	Australia
Robert Assabgui	Vale (Companhia Vale do Rio Doce)	International deep mining expert	Canada
Prof Nielen van der Merwe	University of Witwatersrand	International deep mining expert	South Africa
Prof Russell Lansbury	University of Sydney	Mine safety expert	Australia