

Media Release (20 March 2014)

11th International Symposium on Mining with Backfill

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics host the 11th International Symposium on Mining, 20–22 May 2014 in Perth, Western Australia. Mine Fill 2014 will be of interest to mining practitioners, engineering students, operating and regulatory professionals, consultants, researchers and interested individuals and groups from within the wider community.

Mine fill 2014 will focus on the theoretical and practical aspects of the application of mine fill, with the three day programme consisting of sessions on new technology, geomechanics of mine fill –numerical modelling and field measurements, barricades, lab testing, fill system design, binder admixture, legal/environmental/safety/risk, case studies and a poster session.

The Mine Fill 2014 programme for the event is available and there has had a significant industry response leading up to the event. The programme will comprise of 41 paper presentations, including three keynote presentations and a poster session. The technical programme includes widespread and relevant technical papers with which accentuates innovation and application of current mine fill technologies employed by mine operators with the aim to improve mine safety and productivity.

The ACG is appreciative of the support from the Mine Fill 2014 sponsors, namely the principal sponsor MRC Global, major sponsors Beasley's Hydraulic Services, Imatech (ArmorPIPE) and Outotec, and industry sponsor Paterson & Cooke. Delegates will have opportunities throughout the symposium to visit the trade exhibition area.

The Mine Fill 2014 symposium chair is Tony Grice, Global Leader Backfill, AMC Mining Consultants (Canada) Ltd. The symposium will be opened by Dr Ed Thomas, Mine Fill Specialist Consultant reviewing, 'The Mine Fill Symposium series – conception through to middle age', followed by the opening keynote address 'Innovation and beyond' presented by Jacques Nantel, President, Nantar Engineering Ltd., Canada.

Keynote speakers on days two and three of the symposium are Dr Martyn Bloss, Director Mining Studies and Technology, Olympic Dam, BHP Billiton with keynote address, 'An operational perspective of mine backfill'; and Dr David Stone, President, Minefill Services, Inc., USA, presenting on, 'The evolution of paste for backfill'.

Prior to the symposium, the Best Practices in Mine Backfill Technologies Workshop will take place on Monday 19 May 2014. The workshop facilitator is Dr Robert Cooke, Principal, Paterson & Cooke USA Ltd, USA and the event will be presented by leading backfill industry experts and focussed on best practices on mine design, plant design and operation, distribution systems, geomechanics, geochemical stability, instrumentation and safety.

A field trip to Frog's Leg Gold Mine, Kalgoorlie will be held alongside the symposium, on Friday 23 May. The Frog's Leg Gold mine is located 20 km west of the city of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and wholly owned and operated by La Mancha Resources Australia Pty Ltd.

Mine Fill 2014 is expected to be a highly successful event and with more than 70 registrations so far. Earlybird registration ends 7 April 2014. The ACG awaits the opportunity to welcome delegates to Perth in May this year for the 11th International Symposium on Mining with Backfill. For further details and event registration, please visit www.minefill2014.com.

About the ACG

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics is a not-for-profit mining research centre based at The University of Western Australia, Perth. The ACG undertakes research, education and training activities in the geomechanics disciplines to provide industry with the necessary tools and knowledge to ensure that safety is not simply a top priority on par with productivity, but rather an ethic that guides everything. More information on the ACG and its services can be found at www.acg.uwa.edu.au.