

Proceedings
Shotcrete for Underground Support XI

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PREFACE

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Words from the Chairman

The SUS XI Conference 2009 in Davos, Switzerland, is lining up in a long history of such events which goes back now for more than 20 years. This shows on one side that the topic of shotcrete for underground support has found and still finds a large interest – not to the least because it has been a field of permanent progress and development - and that it has been possible to organize conferences of high quality with excellent papers and presenters over all these years.

The SUS XI is not an exception of this long tradition: All papers that are presented are of high quality and address important and interesting topics in research and / or through case studies. What gives this conference a special flavour is the interdisciplinary mix between civil engineers, tunnelers and miners in the auditorium as well the presented topics in the papers. This leads to very lively and fruitful discussions beyond the borders of one faculty which is quite a unique feature among the many conferences organized these days.

It also creates and stimulates an atmosphere of 'being among the family' which allows to address also hot topics in a very positive and open minded way. This special atmosphere always has been taken care of at every conference through some dedicated activities. This year the third day of the conference which was held in the Hagerbach Test Gallery and which was a motivating mixture of technical sessions and hands-on demonstrations certainly has boosted this special feature of the SUS conferences.

I would like to express my many thanks to my co-chair, Knut Garshol of BASF, to ECI represented by Barbara Hickernell and Herbert Klapperich and to all presenters who did an excellent job for this eleventh SUS conference. And last but certainly not least, I also would like to thank the sponsors, Normet Oy, BASF, Amberg Engineering Ltd and Holcim for their strong support which helped us much in living up to the 'SUS conference spirit'. It was my pleasure to have been appointed as chair of this conference and I'm looking forward to the next SUS conference.