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# Kalgoorlie showcases P9 Technology



**Sponsors visited KCGM's "Super Pit" during the recent P9 Project Review at Kalgoorlie in Western Australia**

Representatives from some of the world's largest mining companies visited Kalgoorlie from 15 to 19 June, 1998 to look at recent

achievements made by the world's longest running minerals processing research project.

The JKMRC/AMIRA P9 project, based in Brisbane, has run since 1962, spreading its sponsorship base from a handful of Australian mining companies to 35 organisations—around Australia and the world—including giants such as Rio Tinto, De Beers, WMC, MIM, and BHP.

JKMRC project leader Dr J-P Franzidis said that inviting mining and metallurgy specialists from South Africa, Canada, Indonesia, and the USA to Kalgoorlie meant they were able to see the best P9 had to offer in mineral processing in Australia's own back yard.

Dr Franzidis said P9 technology was widespread throughout some of the world's largest mining operations, mainly in grinding, flotation, and computer modelling.

“Since 1962 when P9 began, the project has delivered a range of products which have become industry standards.”

About 60 people attended the review meeting which included site visits to KCGM and Kanowna Belle gold operations, and WMC's Kambalda nickel operation.

“It seems more people are wanting to get a piece of P9,” Dr Franzidis said.

He said the fact that P9 is a collaborative project and had been running for so long had led to a culture of P9 being more of a ‘club’ than a research project.

“There's a great deal of camaraderie between P9's researchers and sponsors, which is one of the main reasons why the project has been so successful.”

The Kalgoorlie meeting took a close look at new directions in fine particle separation and steel consumption in grinding, and featured a presentation of a multi-media style computer work book for metallurgists.

“As much as 50 per cent of a mill's operating costs can be taken up by steel ball consumption used to grind the ore,” Dr Franzidis said.

“The P9 project aims to reduce the costs by mathematically predicting the wear rate of steel balls, and come up with a method for more effective use of the grinding media.”

He said sponsors were given a ‘taste’ for an enhanced approach to the prediction of mineral liberation, tipped to revolutionise the optimisation and control of milling, regrinding, and flotation circuits.

(Ends)

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