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Mine On-Line Service reduces time to mine

Scanmobile in iron ore drill core analysis

8000 meters of drill cores were analyzed in nineteen days with Mine On-Line Service's (MOLS) Scanmobile mobile geochemical analysis laboratory. The time included the Scanmobile driving more than 1000km from MOLS' home base in Espoo, Finland to the LKAB's mine site located at Svappavaara, Sweden, 200km North of Arctic Circle. At the site the Scanmobile was erected in a core shed, drill cores were analyzed and the analysis results were sent to the customer via MOLS' Remolog™ web browser.

The analysis method used was MOLS' in house developed non destructive, surface scanning XRF-method analyzing drill cores in the box. Elements analyzed were: Iron, Silica, Titanium and Vanadium (Fe, SiO₂, TiO₂ and V₂O₅). In total more than 1000 drill core boxes were photographed and analyzed using four 25 cm long individual analyses per every meter of drill core. The analysis results were summed up to one meter averages. The job was done with a team of four Scanmobile operators. High resolution digital core box photos, with analysis results as function of the hole depth, were displayed in the MOLS' Remolog™ web browser. The Remolog™ report included RQD indexes for rock quality designation. This is a new feature in Scanmobile service.

The LKAB's Mertainen mining engineer, Mr. Matti Sormunen, was very pleased with the speed and accuracy of the MOLS Scanmobile analysis service. He estimated that it would have taken six months longer to get to the results if they had used conventional methods laboratory methods for analysing the cores. "Further logging of the cores will take less time than usual, because the Remolog™ data is available for geologists when logging occurs" added Mr. Sormunen. The Scanmobile service will result in shorter mine development time.



Fig. Scanmobile at Svappavaara core storage

For more information please contact: Ilpo Auranen, CEO, Mine On-Line Service,
telephone: +358407680893, e-mail: ilpo.auranen@mols.fi