

Launch of the PACIFIC Research Project

Paris, July 2018

June 2018 marked the successful launch of PACIFIC - *Passive seismic techniques for environmentally friendly and cost efficient mineral exploration*, a 36-month-long project funded under H2020, the European Commission research and innovation programme.

The PACIFIC consortium, comprising eight partners from five countries, including a major university, a research institute as well as mining, exploration and service companies, met at the PACIFIC kick-off meeting held on 6-7 June in Grenoble, France. Under the coordination of the University Grenoble Alpes, the consortium will now join forces to realise the main PACIFIC objective, which is to develop a new, low-cost and environmentally friendly tool for exploring for buried mineral deposits.

The PACIFIC approach will build on the "traditional" passive seismic method, which is capable of providing useful broad-brush background information about the geological and structural setting of mineralised regions, but lacks the resolution needed for reliable identification of ore bodies. Two radically new developments are planned; reflection passive seismics, which is appropriate for greenfield exploration, and the multi-array method, which will typically be deployed during drilling or in brownfield exploration. Both techniques have major advantages over current techniques, namely relatively low cost and minor impact on the environment. Through the participation in the project of two mineral exploration companies, the two techniques will be validated on test sites in Canada and Sweden and brought from TRL2 to TRL5. Research on social acceptance and public perception of risk for mining activities will accompany the deployment and testing of the techniques.

The PACIFIC project will transfer the fruits of cutting-edge scientific research to industry and launch the development and deployment of new mineral exploration methods. This will enhance the competitiveness of the European mineral exploration industry, contribute to the discovery of new European ore deposits and decrease the dependence of European industry on imported mineral products.



The PACIFIC consortium at the kick-off meeting in Grenoble

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