

NEWS RELEASE

September 2013

SDC sonic drill rig joins Geomechanics' fleet in South Africa

Canada – Geomechanics, part of South Africa-based GeoGroup, recently announced its acquisition of a track-mounted drill rig, manufactured by the Sonic Drill Corporation. Geomechanics' new SDC-450 rig bores up to five times faster than a conventional drill rig and can provide continuous core samples.

“This product can be used for well construction and reduces the risk of project failure in unknown or difficult subsurface conditions where excellent core collection is an essential requirement,” commented GeoGroup CEO David Rossiter. “It also enables more to be done with a single borehole because it can advance a temporary outer casing as the borehole is drilled.”

Sonic drilling technology offers many advantages over conventional rotary-core and percussion drilling techniques, especially in overburden conditions, and promises superior information collection and waste reduction of up to 70 per cent. Sonic drilling is also the best choice when drilling in sand and soft ground conditions, where core samples are difficult, time consuming and expensive to produce using conventional methods.



Geomechanics' new SDC sonic drill rig is shown at its Canadian manufacturing facility shortly before beginning its journey to South Africa.

“The exploration of mineral sands was previously undertaken using reverse-circulation or vacuum drilling. These methods produce dry samples well but do not work well in overly saturated conditions,” Rossiter explained.

Geomechanics currently has more than 60 drill rigs in its fleet at its 4,000m squared in-house engineering workshop.

Award-winning sonic drill rigs, patented and built by the Sonic Drill Corporation, have worked efficiently and profitably on thousands of drilling projects around the world. Today, Sonic Drill Corporation rigs are in use in six continents and in every application imaginable.