

## **Mining Should adopt Oil and Gas Modelling Methods**

By Deborah Spicer

The mining sector should adopt some of the modelling techniques that are common in the oil and gas sector.

This is the reasoning of Venmyn Deloitte MD Andy Clay, who notes that, while the mining sector is using many of the techniques that it has used for decades, 3D and 4D seismics are not uncommon in the oil and gas sector.

The deepest recorded mining drillhole is 12.262km in depth and is located in Russia. However, this is not typical of mining drillholes which tend to be shallower and more numerous than oil and gas boreholes.

“A typical 10,000m oil and gas drillhole can cost USD100m and is sometimes bored underwater or in other extreme conditions,” notes Clay.

“For this reason, the oil and gas industry cannot afford not to strike oil or gas and has become much more sophisticated in its modelling techniques which model the potential for oil and gas prior to the sinking of a drillhole.”

Clay recommends that the mining industry learn from the oil and gas sector and introduce much more advanced modelling techniques.

He believes that advanced modelling methods will become more important in the mining sector and that new entrants into the sector should be observing the oil and gas sector to determine the possible directions that future mining modelling will go in.

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