

Brisbane based GroundProbe win 3 prestigious Australian International Design Awards

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GroundProbe, the innovative mining technology firm based in South Brisbane, have won three awards at this year's Australian International Design Awards with their new product – the Work Area Monitor (WAM[™]). The awards are the highest accolades in product design in Australia. The WAM is a unique new solution that improves mine safety through the use of radar technology which alerts mining work crews to impending rock falls.

The awards ceremony for 2011 was held this weekend at the Peninsula, Melbourne's most glamorous and avant-garde waterfront event space.

Vying for awards this year were 232 products, from household names such as Dyson, Audi, Peugeot, Phillips, Qantas and Samsung. Australian and internationally designed products were physically assessed by a panel of international design experts, with 8 award winners chosen as 'Best in Category'. The 2011 Australian International Design Awards program attracted a record number of entries across the eight categories.

The new WAM from GroundProbe won the 'Best in Category' award for heavy machinery. GroundProbe also won a 2011 Good Design Award and an Australian International Design Award.

The Good Design[™] and Design Award[™] trademarks are highly respected symbols that provide businesses with a strong point of differentiation from their competitors. These internationally recognised symbols represent excellence in form, function, quality, safety, sustainability, and innovation – the cornerstones of good design.

The awards were received in conjunction with Brisbane-based product and design consultancy - CMD Product Design and Innovation - who designed and engineered the WAM bodywork in a fresh "ground-up" construction.

The design awards are recognised by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) as Australia's peak design endorsement scheme. With its origins dating back to 1958, the Australian International Design Awards has a proud 50-year legacy of promoting new, innovative, and well-designed products in Australia and throughout the world.

The Work Area Monitor - WAM™

The issue of safety is always at the back of any miner's thoughts, particularly when working in open cut pits with steep walls. Walls can suddenly move and bring down huge amounts of rock, often there is little, or no warning and the consequences can be extremely costly, or worse still, fatal. With this in mind GroundProbe developed the WAM, an easy-to-use, short-range, fast-scanning tool that can measure movement in walls, be operated directly by a work crew, and can provide local alarms with sufficient warning when wall movement occurs within the work area.

The WAM system comprises sensitive, fast-scanning radar coupled with a high-resolution camera, all built into a mine-standard light vehicle. The WAM incorporates an integrated computer that will show a photo of the work area on a touch screen. The work crew operating the system simply need to draw a shape around the area they wish to monitor on the touch screen and the WAM will start looking for any movement. So long as the green lights are flashing, work crews have peace of mind that the WAM has not detected rock movement. The WAM provides confidence, helps eliminate uncertainty, and is a major step forward in protecting mine crews from rock falls.

The WAM is now operating at a number of Australian mine sites and is being launched across a number of continents. It has been extremely well received by mining communities.

About GroundProbe

GroundProbe Pty Ltd provides high value information to a global network of customers in the mining industry to improve the management of risk. GroundProbe's core competency is in the provision of slope stability information that makes mining safer and more profitable. GroundProbe was founded on and retains ownership of the world leading Slope Stability Radar (SSR™) technology.

GroundProbe continues to shape safety innovation in the mining industry by pioneering groundbreaking product development. GroundProbe remains committed to meeting today's complex challenges in the mining industry by providing systems and services that address the need for safer working environments and maximized productivity.

For more information on GroundProbe, the SSR or the WAM please visit the websites below or contact:-

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