

HORIZON 2020 SMART EXPLORATION AND MERC METAL EARTH SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) TO COLLABORATE IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The Executive Management of the Horizon 2020 Smart Exploration Project and the Metal Earth Project led by the Mineral Exploration Research Center, are pleased to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. This will enable collaboration between the two projects both of which are utilizing an integrated approach to resolving the Earth's subsurface at full-range crustal scale, with direct implications to mineral exploration.

The EU-funded Smart Exploration is a three-year €5.2M project primarily focused on developing new, innovative methods and technologies for deep (+500 m) exploration targets. The Smart Exploration consortium consists of 27 partners from nine different European countries with six exploration sites within the EU. Most of the work is considered near-mine or brownfields exploration, which has provided extensive legacy datasets to test new geophysical algorithms and integrating the various data into new interpretations. A number of geophysical prototypes have also been intended in the project. New data acquired through cost-effective approaches and using the planned prototypes will be acquired to validate new interpretations, generate new targets and showcase innovative tools for greater resolution and deep-targeting mineral deposits at depth.

MERC is a global leader in mineral exploration research and is the lead organization for Laurentian University's Metal Earth, a \$104M project that seeks to identify and understand the processes responsible for Earth's differential metal endowment. Metal Earth aims to transform our understanding of Earth's early evolution and how we explore for metals.

With both research-oriented projects focused on resolving the crustal architecture and mineral deposit systems, there are many natural synergies and complementary approaches to building our knowledge.

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