New Directions in R&D in order to decrease methane hazard and to increase CMM capture - based on GIG experience

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Typical problems at gassy coal mines

- Ventilation and Gas Emissions Management in Coal Mines
- Development of Improved Methane Drainage Technologies by Stimulating Coal Seams for Major Risk Prevention and Increased Coal Output
- Monitoring, Assessment, Prevention and Mitigation of Rock Burst and Gas Outburst Hazards in Coal Mines
- Prediction and mitigation of methane explosion effects for improved protection of mine infrastructure and critical equipment
CMM related projects

- **AVENTO** (Ventilation and Gas Emissions Management in Coal Mines),
- **MAPROC** (Monitoring, Assessment, Prevention and Mitigation of Rock Burst and Gas Outburst Hazards in Coal Mines),
- **GASDRAIN** (Development of Improved Methane Drainage Technologies by Stimulating Coal Seams for Major Risk Prevention and Increased Coal Output),
- **EXPRO** (Prediction and mitigation of methane explosion effects for improved protection of mine infrastructure and critical equipment),
- **EPA2** (A first feasibility study for cost effective methane degassing and capture ahead of mining operations to reduce methane emissions in Poland during mining (Pawłowice 1 coal field)).
AVENTO

Advanced Tools for Ventilation and Methane Emissions Control
Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)

AVENTO had four basic aims:

1. To develop **new concepts** on environmental (methane and ventilation monitoring systems), taking into account the new risks appearing in the current and future production fields, in order to improve the safety and climatic conditions at the working areas.

2. To use these new concepts for promoting a transition from a **Prescriptive** ventilation implementation / management model (fixed air flows have to be maintained) to a **Performance-based** one (VOD or Ventilation on Demand, supply the air when and in the amount actually needed).

3. To use these new concepts as an important aid to manage emergency / post-emergency situations: fires, fire-fighting, collapses, gas outburst and explosions, etc.

4. To **reduce the costs** involved in ventilation, analysing different aspects such as the dynamic regulation of air flow (the aforesaid "Ventilation on Demand", and new systems of main fans control for better efficiency and reliability.

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Discretization of the Model 3D nr 1 – variant ventilation of the longwall at Y

The assumptions for the geometric model are as follows:

➢ The width of the longwall panel: 200 m
➢ The length of the longwall panel: 1000 m
➢ Longwall height: 2,5 m
➢ Roadway working’s high: 2,5 m,
Velocity distribution simulation results in the environment of the ventilated longwall in „U” type system with the locations of the methanometry sensors
The methane concentration simulation results in the environment of the longwall outlet ventilated in „U” type system with the locations of the methanometry sensors.
The following figures show the proposed location of the methane sensors in the area of intersection of the wall with ventilation gangways with the “U” type ventilation system along the body of coal using geometric models at the assumed conditions of gas ventilation system 3D and 2D graphical diagram of the intersection.

Figure shows the re-formation of the boundary surface of 3% methane concentration in the ventilation roadway (2m) liquidated by insulation dams, the conditions of ventilation and methane $Q = 10 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,

Location of methane sensors at the intersection of longwall ventilated in the “U” type system with the ventilation roadway (imprinted boundary surface of 3% CH$_4$ methane concentration in the ventilation roadway liquidated by dams insulation, the conditions of ventilation and methane $Q = 10\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,
Primary Objective of proposed GASDRAIN project is to:

“investigate and research into borehole stimulation techniques and develop novel and improved methane drainage technologies, which will break the existing technological barriers and help increase safety and productivity in coal mines”
The GasDrain project aims to investigate the potential for the application of four different borehole stimulation techniques, namely:

1. hydraulic fracturing,
2. open or cased hole cavitation,
3. high pressure water jet slotting,
4. and the use of explosives to stimulate coal seams and the surrounding rock strata through laboratory experiments, numerical modelling and extensive field testing of the developed techniques at different mining conditions.
GasDrain - basic facts:

• Realisation time: July 2015 – June 2018 (48 months)
• Budget: 3.8 mln €, including 1.1 mln € GIG
• Partners:
  ➢ GIG (Poland) – project coordinator (prof. Janusz Makówka)
  ➢ JSW (Poland),
  ➢ INIG-PIB (Poland),
  ➢ Imperial College (UK), RWTH (Germany),
  ➢ INERIS (France),
  ➢ HUNOSA (Spain).

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GasDrain **structure of the project** (Work Packages (WP’s))

**WP0**: Project Coordination and Reporting (GIG)

**WP1**: Characterisation of Coal Seams and Surrounding Rocks: Field Site Characterisation (RWTH)

**WP2**: Development of Borehole Stimulation Technologies for Coal and Rock Formations (GIG)

**WP3**: Numerical Modelling and Design of Field Scale Stimulated Methane Drainage Processes (Imperial College, INIG)

**WP4**: Field Scale Implementation of Improved Methane Drainage Systems at Mine Sites (JSW SA)

**WP5**: Long-term Monitoring and Assessment of Improved Methane Drainage Efficiency (AITEMIN)

**WP6**: Conclusions, Recommendations and Dissemination (INERIS)
Impacts and outputs of WPs

WP1: Characterisation of coal seams
cores/samples, geol. info
Lab/field test data

WP3: Numerical Modeling and Design
theoretical drainage range/parameters

WP2: Development of Borehole Stimulation
existing equipment param.
empirical drainage range/parameters
boreholes layout

WP4: Field Scale Implementation

WP5: Long-term monitoring and Assessment
drainage long-term characteristic

WP6: Conclusions, Recommendations and Disseminations
reports, publications, experience

SAFER AND MORE EFFECTIVE MINING
Examples of in situ tests performed in Experimental Mine „Barbara”
EXPRO

Prediction and Mitigation of Methane Explosions Effects for Improved Protection of Mine Infrastructure and Critical Equipment

Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)

EXPRO - basic facts:
• Realisation time: July 2015 – December 2017 (42 months)
• Total Budget: 2,402,465 €uros
• Coordinator: Central Mining Institute, prof. Krzysztof Cybulski
• Consortium:

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EXPRO Project overview

The main aim of the **EXPRO** project is to develop tools and means that can help to adopt measures for mitigating the damages of methane explosions in the mine infrastructure and particularly in critical equipment.

The project includes research work in the following areas:

- Obtaining a better understanding of the mechanical and thermal effects caused by methane explosions, by developing numerical models of explosions in different mine geometries and conditions, which will be validated with real scale explosion tests,

- Developing innovative air pressure monitoring systems specifically designed to record data that could serve for the purposes in the investigation after the occurrence of an explosion, and in particular for the determination of the ignition point.
EXPRO project partners were focused on the realization of WP1, WP2 and WP3 referring to the following activities:

**WP1 - Project coordination:**
- management and coordination activities,
- organization of project meetings.

**WP2 - Development and calibration of explosion numerical models:**
- implementation of laminar burning velocity models,
- series of tests to verify the models,
- simulation of gas distribution in large volume (400 m gallery).

**WP3 - Development of fast air pressure monitoring system:**
- development of a modified sensor with a high response time,
- finalizing the ATEX certification process,
- completion of the software development,
- installation and testing of the system at the “Halemba” mine and during explosion tests at Barbara mine.
WP 2 Development and calibration of explosion numerical models
Task 2.2: Development of numerical models (led by GIG, AITEMIN, INERIS)

- Adjustments in combustion models for the following:
  - 20 dm³ sphere,
  - 5 m³ chamber (comparison Gulder model and SCOPE model)
  - 24 m tube for different diameters (150, 250 mm) and shapes (straight, bends)

- Modeling of gas mixture distribution during real scale tests conditions for:
  - slow methane occurrence in the working,
  - rapid release of a big methane volume.

- Modeling of combustion development in real scale tests conditions for:
  - flame propagation
  - pressure development
  - ignition time
  - temperature
Comparison of pressure in time for tested models (5m³ chamber)

- SCOPE model
- Lab test res - ch2
- Gulder model

5m³ chamber test
EXPRO modeling of methane distribution for real scale tests conditions (400m gallery)
WP 2   Development and calibration of explosion numerical models

Task 2.3: Real scale tests (led by AITEMIN & FSB, INERIS, GIG, EMAG)

- 9 tests in the 400 m gallery at Experimental Mine Barbara with two ways in methane distribution applied:
  - directly from the set of bottles, (slow methane occurrence),
  - using special PCV sleeve (rapid release of a big methane volume).

- 20 tests in the gallery in different configurations at FSB facility:
  - small scale tests,
  - full gallery tests.

- Series of tests covering a wide range of set-ups by INERIS:
  - tube diameter (150, 250 mm),
  - tube inner roughness (plastic, steel),
  - shape of the pipework,
Real scale tests conditions: 400 m gallery, GIG Experimental Mine Barbara

Methane dispersion in 400 m gallery under different conditions

Measurement system – methane sensor
EXPRO Visual results obtained

Short Video

Equipment before and after experiments

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The main objectives of **MapROC** are to:

- develop and field test rock burst/outburst prevention techniques based on the use of large diameter boreholes with alternative stress and gas pressure relief techniques;
- formulate a methodology to couple the near-real time processing of monitored microseismic data with Artificial Neural Networks and Fractal Dimension analysis to develop a short-term prediction method for rock bursts/outbursts;
- demonstrate the use of this prediction method as a tool for early risk assessment, prevention, and mitigation of these hazards;
- numerically model the application stress relief, stress control and protective mining options;
- develop and validate a generic risk assessment methodology for rock bursts/outbursts.
WP0
Project management

WP1
Laboratory and Field Characterisation of Coal Seams and Surrounding Rocks as Indicators for Rock Burst and Gas Outbursts

WP3
Microseismic Monitoring and Development of Technologies for Short-term Prediction of Rock Bursts and Gas Outbursts

WP5
Development and Validation of a Generic Methodology for the Assessment and Mitigation of Risk from Rock Bursts and Gas Outbursts

WP4
Numerical Modelling of Performance of Rock Burst and Gas Outburst Prevention Methods for Risk Evaluation

WP2
Development and Field Testing of Technologies for the Prevention of Rock Bursts and Gas Outbursts

WP6
Conclusions, Recommendations and Dissemination
A FIRST FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR COST EFFECTIVE METHANE DEGASSING AND CAPTURE AHEAD OF MINING OPERATIONS TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS IN POLAND DURING MINING (PAWLOWICE 1 COAL FIELD, UPPER SILESIA)

Budget: 340,000 USD, funded by US EPA grant. Coordinator: Central Mining Institute of Katowice, Ph.D.Eng Jacek Skiba
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<td>Identification of coal seams to be the target of mining operations</td>
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<td>Methane predictions for the planned mining operations</td>
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<td>Design of CBM production and degassing system using surface-bored wells which include:</td>
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<td>Preparation of CBM drilling, completion and production design;</td>
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EPA2 grant
EPA2 grant
Analysis of methane drainage from directional wells was made based on the results of numerical calculations for the period of 5 years.

Simulations were performed using AnsysCFX software - group CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) software using finite volume method.

For the calculations the isothermal process of drainage was assumed.

The temperature of gas was assumed the same as the rock mass $t=41 \, ^\circ C$ and non-stationary conditions for methane filtration and desorption from the coal beds.

Coal was treated as dry medium (without water) with following parameters:
- Porosity $\gamma = 5\%$,
- Permeability $K = 2 \, \text{mD}$.

Assumed methane content of the coal seam:
- SEAM 9 = 12.75 m$^3$/t$_{\text{daf}}$,
- SEAM 10 = 13.70 m$^3$/t$_{\text{daf}}$.

The sorption kinetics was assumed $k=0.0001$ and bed pressure from Langmuira isotherm, which was determined during borehole tests.
Conclusions

1. All of above mentioned R&D Projects focus on mitigating CMM hazard and its effective utilisation

2. Most of above mentioned R&D Projects were/are cofinanced by Research Fund for Coal and Steel (60%), remaining 40% by individual project partners countries

3. Very high factor of implementation the R&D results in mining sector!

4. RFCS activities are effective European Commission support of not only CMM related R&D projects but also projects focused on „accompanying measures”. 
Thank you for your attention

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