geotechnical

CASE STUDY
ST PETERSBURG MINING INSTITUTE

Project Description

The Contract:
Our client, SRK Consulting (UK) Limited, contracted us to provide soil testing training for the St Petersburg Mining Institute (SPMI). Most of the testing concerned a diamond mining project and its infrastructure.

The samples were not able to be exported for testing at our own laboratory in Gloucestershire, so instead we were asked to travel to Russia and carry out the training and testing at SPMI's laboratory in St Petersburg.

We were engaged to train their Russian technicians (all graduate geologists) to ensure they would be able to complete soil testing to BS1377. The Institute was fortunate to have a state of the art laboratory. The technicians had little experience in western testing methods and the use of their equipment.

The Challenge:
The challenges that we had to overcome included the language, the protocols to be adhered to, and the technical expertise required to deal with what were often non-standard samples. Overall, the project involved working in a very different business environment.

The Solution:
Our Laboratory Manager, Adrian Rose, made three separate journeys to St Petersburg. The first (over three weeks) to carry out initial training and the next two to check that the technicians understood what was required to carry out the tests to BS1377.

Adrian built up a good relationship with the technicians, and the client was very pleased with the positive outcome of the training and the final test results.

The Testimonial:
"This was a challenging project. It required SRK to find an expert in effective stress testing who had not only the technical expertise in testing to BS1377 but also had the ability transfer this knowledge to the Russian technicians through the use of an interpreter. Adrian Rose and Geotechnical Engineering performed exceptionally in a difficult environment and the excellent results from the effective stress program gave us confidence when using the data to determine input parameters for open pit slope design."

Project Overview

Project Name:
St Petersburg Mining Institute

Project Type:
Soil Testing Training

Client Name:
SRK Consulting (UK) Limited

Date/Duration:
October 2009-January 2010

The Alexander Column. St Petersburg

SPMI's Laboratory

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