Event Report on FRAGBLAST 9
An International Symposium on Blasting

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FRAGBLAST is the short name for International Symposium on Rock Fragmentation by Blasting. The FRAGBLAST International Committee was affiliated to the International Society for Rock Mechanics as its Commission on Fragmentation by Blasting from 1991 to 2003. In 2003, the affiliation changed to the International Society of Explosives Engineers, in which it presently forms the Committee of Fragmentation by Blasting, or FRAGBLAST Section.

FRAGBLAST’s aim is to bring together researchers and practitioners for the exchange, assessment, discussion and dissemination of theory and practice in the field of explosives and blasting. The approximate three-year time frame in which the FRAGBLAST Symposia are celebrated has proved through time to be a convenient periodicity for new developments, advances and practical applications to be cast into sound and well-thought papers. This, together with a firm worldwide vocation, has made FRAGBLAST a reputed international forum of experience exchange, technical discussion and scientific advance that has shaped a broad body of knowledge in explosives and blasting.

The 9th edition of FRAGBLAST took place in Granada, Spain, 13-17 September 2009. The long-time capital of the last Moorish kingdom in Europe, Granada offered its reminders of that epoch of Spanish history, with the world-famous Alhambra at the top of the list - Spain’s most visited monument, which was – of course – visited by the delegates to FRAGBLAST 9 in an unforgettable evening visit and dinner.

Papers were organized in two keynote addresses, by Profs. Finn Ouchterlony and Bibhu Mohanty, and ten thematic groups:

- Rock characterization.
- Explosives and initiation systems.
- Blast design.
- Modeling.
- Rock damage and controlled blasting.
- Vibrations. This topic was split up into two parts: a dedicated Workshop, held on the weekend prior to the Symposium and with its own proceedings book, and a section in the Symposium itself.
- Environmental.
- Economics.
Case studies.

Special blasting applications.

198 abstracts were received initially, coming from 34 different countries. In the end, 112 full papers were accepted, 98 published in the Symposium volume and 14 in the Workshop on vibrations one. The proceedings books were published by a first-order international technical and scientific publisher – CRC Press (Taylor and Francis Group).

FRAGBLAST 9 was attended by 300 delegates from 41 countries in the five continents. These figures are, so far, an all time high for the FRAGBLAST conferences, despite the worldwide crisis. A commercial exhibition was held during the Symposium.

The FRAGBLAST International Committee met in Granada to discuss on organizational matters, among which the most relevant one was the venue of the next symposium. Three candidate countries: India, Australia and Brazil, contended for hosting the next edition with excellent applications. Vote took place and the winner was India by a large majority. FRAGBLAST 10 will take place in India (New Delhi) and is scheduled for November 2012.

We look forward to a continuing success of the FRAGBLAST conferences, a unique event in the blasting and rock mechanics field, and feel that the movement is now in good hands with the Indian organization, led by the Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research in Dhanbad and Nagpur. Our best wishes to our Indian friends, to which the FRAGBLAST International Committee is committed to give all its support to ensure that the next FRAGBLAST call is heard in every corner of the world.

Figure 1. Participants of the Fragblast conference