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Cameco wins individual awards at international mine competition

By Murray Lyons
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Two miners from Cameco's McArthur River uranium mine helped Team Canada to win two individual contest awards last week at an annual international mine rescue contest in Reno, Nevada.

The 2002 Metal and Non-metal National-International Mine Rescue contest saw Cameco team members compete as Team Canada.

Team member Terry Davis won the bench and gas contest while Jeff Giroux was the winner of the bench and gas multi-gas instrument event.

Overall, Cameco-Team Canada was not among the top three teams in overall standings in the international part of the event. The contest also

serves as the U.S. national contest.

However, the Cameco McArthur River team has done extremely well in the past two years at provincial and Canadian National western regional mine rescue competitions.

Last fall, McArthur River's team placed second overall in their first-ever venture into national mine rescue contests at Fernie, B.C.

The team that won the contest was unable to attend Reno and the Cameco team was asked to represent Canada in its place.

At the competitions, mine rescue teams write safety exams and participate in mock mine disasters where they react to simulated conditions such as fires or gas threats.

Team members do not know what simulated problems they will face

before the contest. The judging takes into account how quickly a team plans and activates a solution to the problem.

The McArthur River team had to make themselves familiar with American mine rescue protocols this summer in order to get ready for the contest.

The team is coached by Bruce Coley, Beth Elliot and Tom Bayer and is captained by Jean Alonso. Other members of the team are Travis Harbicht, Grayton Taylor, and co-ordinator Paul Fox.

While getting ready for Reno, the team won its third consecutive Saskatchewan provincial title.

At Reno, the Americans unseated the reigning champion Poles for overall title.

2002 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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