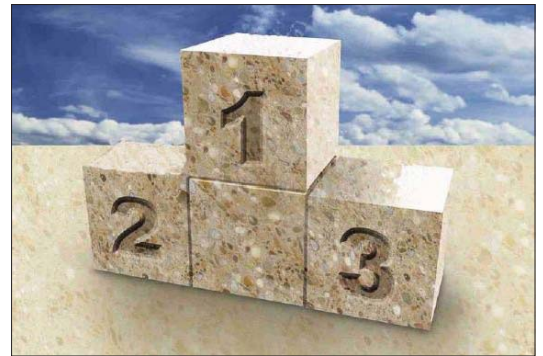


# 2009 Diamond Award winners announced



The International Association of Concrete Drillers and Sawers (IACDS) announced the winners of the 2009 Diamond Award competition at a press conference in February during the World of Concrete exhibition in Las Vegas, USA. **Patrick O'Brien**, President of IACDS, presented the gold, silver and bronze awards to the winners from Germany, Italy and Mexico.

The gold award in this competition was awarded to Norbert Braun GmbH of Germany for the company's outstanding work dismantling a highly-contaminated steam dryer at a nuclear power plant. The project involved putting the 5.25 m diameter steam dryer in a steel formwork for radiation shielding, encasing it with concrete, and cutting it into pieces via remote control using diamond wire sawing techniques. The cut parts were dismantled using the wire saw and packed in Type IV Konrad containers suitable for final disposal.

Taking the silver award was Italian company Tondin srl, for its work on the project to consolidate the wooden-piled foundations of the Loggia Palace in Brescia, Italy. Tondin was able to devise a high speed drilling system with micro bits to fit into confined spaces to restore the foundation.

The bronze award was won jointly by ADRA Tecnologia en Servicio of Mexico and Germany's Bohrtechnik Westerwald GmbH (BWW). ADRA's job was on a crucible Mittal Steel repair project where diamond tools were required to cut graphite without the use of water. BWW's job involved a large roll mill replacement project with severe time constraints to finish the job in only 120 hours.

The Diamond Award competition allows concrete sawing and drilling industry professionals to present their most complex and innovative projects. Entries were judged on the degree of difficulty, planning, complexity, innovation and the quality of the work produced to ensure project success. Following a detailed review of each entry, the judging panel representing members of various country-wide sawing and drilling association, chose the winning projects.

Entries for the award came from all over the globe, including sawing and drilling projects from Japan, Egypt, Russia, Canada, the UK and the US among others. A record number of 19 entries were received this year, the fifth time that the competition has been run since its inception in 2000.



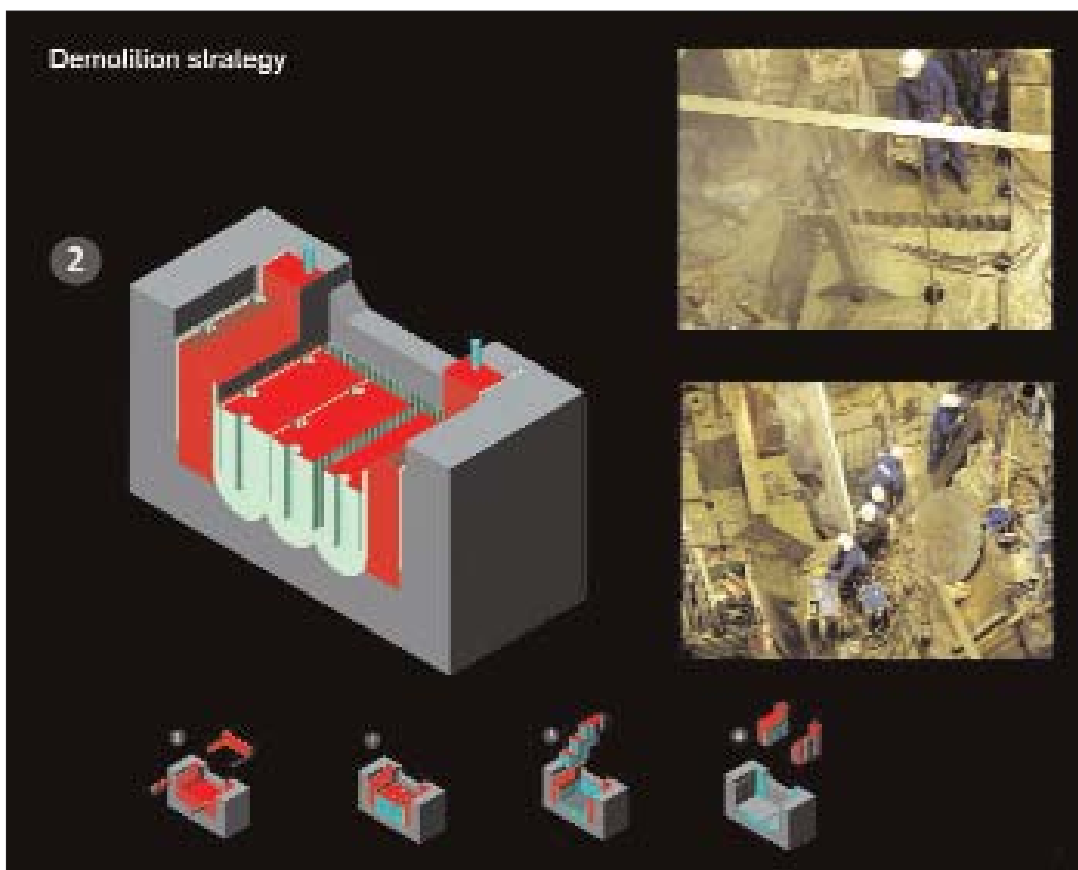
*(from left to right)*  
**Rupert Marko,**  
 Bohrtechnik Westerwald GmbH, Germany  
 (Third prize tie)  
**Raul Bracamontes,**  
 ADRA Tecnologia en Servicios SA, Mexico  
 (Third prize tie)  
**Georg Rachor,**  
 representative of Norbert Braun GmbH, Germany  
 (First Prize)  
**Patrick O'Brien,**  
 President IACDS; **Tiziano Tondin,** Tondin Srl, Italy  
 (Second Prize)



Brescia - Italy 10-10-2008 - Piazza della Loggia

**Tondin strengthened the foundations at Brescia's Loggia Palace**

**Braun safely removed this 5.25 mm diameter Inconel steel steam dryer from a nuclear reactor**



**A large roll mill was replaced by MWW in only 120 hours**



**ADRA's dry cutting of graphite blocks at a Mittal steel mill**

Full details of all the 2009 entries can be found on the IACDS website, together with photos of the presentation ceremony.

This year's award was made possible thanks to the contributions of its main sponsors: Cedima, Germany, Diamond Products, USA, Hilti, Liechtenstein, Husqvarna Construction Products, Belgium, Hydro-Tec, Germany, Nestag, Switzerland, Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Luxemburg, Tyrolit, Austria and World of Concrete, USA.

This is the first time the awards have been presented outside Germany and the IACDS has stated that future award competitions will be rotated around the globe in conjunction with major exhibitions. ♦

[www.iacds.org](http://www.iacds.org)