

3 Minute interview with Dan Ungureanu – Principal Risk Engineer

Q. What attracted you to work for IMIU?

During my time at Kalgoorlie and at Lihir Gold, I saw IMIU in action from the other side of the fence! I was always interested in the work that the risk engineers did. It was fascinating to see how this process is done – both from the underwriter and insurer point of view. I am very much looking forward to seeing other mining sites around the work and learning about the different sites, operation complexity and environments. I had also met Brenton Smith, your Director of Risk Engineering, during risk surveys. He is a very good representative of the company. The company also has a very good image and so far I am not disappointed.

Q. Working as an engineer can be dangerous, have you personally had any close shaves?

I have, luckily, not come across too many mishaps. However, not too long ago, some maintenance work was carried out around a stacker conveyor and it was part of my role to inspect some project works done in the vicinity. The maintenance work was not actually completed, the conveyor drive was being tested and hence the conveyor was being run only briefly. Unfortunately, the guard on the belt had not been put back in place securely and as a result, when the conveyor was started up, two very large rocks slid down and bounced up, off the belt and narrowly missed my head and also the group of people around me - by centimetres.

Q. Your background has involved dealing with special materials issues. Can you give us an example of a recent case?

I have worked in some very aggressive process environments. Acidic slurry for instance, at high temperatures, can severely corrode steel in a short period of time. It is so important to select the right materials for the job and also the local environment conditions. I remember an instance when we were installing draining pipes in a heat recovery system. The fluid in this system was very hot in temperature (near boiling), very low pH (40% sulphuric acid) and

possibly chlorides. Usually in this situation you would use a material such as a duplex alloy, e.g. Saf 2507 for the pipes. However, after doing a risk analysis and taking into account the low working pressure, we decided this was an expensive option (as well as very long deliver time for the piping materials), and that we could use special plastic piping (PVDF and PP-H) that would work well for these conditions at a significantly lower cost.

Q. Do you have a main hobby?

I find a lot of enjoyment working with computers, music, electronic data, multimedia and video. I really enjoy investigating new technology products. I also love cars, especially the mechanics, and understanding technology used in the design and manufacture. However, although I used to be able to do all sorts of car maintenance in years gone by, I wouldn't even touch my current car, a Ford G6E Turbo - 4 litres 6 cylinders in line engine, 270 kW (362 hp) power and maximum torque of 533 N·m (393 lb·ft). 0–100 km/h (0–62 mph) sprint time of 5.1 seconds – great fun overtaking on the highway!

Q. You have travelled a lot, is there anywhere that was memorable?

Stonehenge. I had read a great deal about it and I was so excited to visit the site finally. When I saw the circle of stones, I was really struck by it all. It is so old. How did they put the rocks in place, what were they thinking about and how did they feel when building it.

Q. Did you have a favourite toy or game when you were a small?

I was so curious about my toys that I would dismantle them to find out how they were made and what the components were (to the desperation of my parents!). If I visited my grandmother in a nearby village and it was raining, I would build earth dams in the ditch that ran alongside the village road. This was great fun, as eventually the dams would overflow and completely flood the road!