

# Big Rigs and Bigger Opportunities

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## ABSTRACT

The Atlas Copco scholarship is offered every year to an Australian student in their third, or penultimate, year of study in a mining engineering degree. The scholarship winner is taken on a trip to Sweden to visit Atlas Copco's head offices and have tours of their various Swedish operations. In 2010, I was fortunate enough to receive this award and chose January of this year to undertake a month of travel throughout Sweden and Western Europe.

Sweden is a very old mining country and their contribution to the mining industry over the years is incomparable with any other mining region. From the invention of Dynamite by Alfred Nobel, through to the revolutionary application of drill rig control systems in mining and construction, Sweden has been at the forefront of mining innovation for some 250 years. During my time with Atlas Copco, I was guided through the production, development and after-market servicing of the majority of their mining and construction equipment. I also had the great opportunity to visit some operating underground mines in one of the oldest mining countries in the world.

The Atlas Copco scholarship offers the recipient international experience in the mining industry, but it is also a terrific networking opportunity and is highly educational. Throughout my time with Atlas Copco I learnt a great deal about the operation of a truly global company which provides mining and construction solutions for over 70 countries, and I was lucky enough to meet some of the people who make it happen on a daily basis. With the support of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (The AusIMM), Atlas Copco has been able to provide the ultimate professional development experience on an international scale.

This presentation provides a background of Atlas Copco and mining in Sweden, as well as an overview of the experience I had in Sweden, whilst focusing on the great opportunities for professional development that the Atlas Copco scholarship provides.

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