

The mine safety expert



Thomas, geotechnology engineer at DMT, clears the air in the mine.

1,500 metres below ground it is hot and humid. Geotechnology engineer Thomas is inspecting a section of tunnel where his client, the operator of a mine in the process of closing down, has detected increased presence of mine gas. This explosive mixture of methane and air is diluted by means of mine ventilation equipment. Thomas discusses how the ventilation equipment can be modified with the engineers at his client's company. As a consultant and officially recognised expert working at the engineering and consultancy company DMT in Essen, over the coming months the 37-year-old will support the implementation of the necessary measures and confirm their suitability in a report to be presented to the state supervisory authority.

Thomas came to DMT, a subsidiary of TÜV NORD GROUP, in 2003, and has already advised mining companies in the USA, Mexico, Russia, India, China and Australia. Since 2012, he has been Deputy Manager of the Mine Ventilation Department. In addition to its work for the mining industry, DMT with its 570-strong workforce also offers geoservices for the oil industry and for tunnel construction. "I practically design my work myself, together with the client", says Thomas.

And he continues to develop his know-how beyond coalmining. At DMT, know-how transfer is part of everyday life: the company has been inspecting mine shaft cage cables for 100 years – and now also inspects the cables of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

"For me, DMT is right in all respects: the global nature of the business, the variety of the work and the high level of individual responsibility."