

Attacking The Bowels Of The Earth

The collective of the Kola Expedition for Super Deep Drilling from the USSR Ministry of Geology, has completed preparations for a new phase in the deepest drilling project in the world. Geologists are planning to reach the fourteen-kilometer mark during the current five-year plan.

Everyone is aware that the drillers have broken a passageway down to a depth of 12,066 meters. To do this required a considerable amount of scientific research, a partial upgrading of equipment, and the refinement and specialization of drilling technology to enable it to function at a new level. The borehole itself also required servicing, even though it has been put down in hard crystalline rock.

This is why at a depth of 8,770 meters they lowered steel pipe with a diameter of 245 mm into the shaft. Nowhere else in the world has it been possible, before now, to successfully reinforce a borehole with a well casing of such diameter and length. This operation in itself is already an important achievement on the part of the geologists. But most important of all, the assault on the bowels of the earth can now continue.

"Naturally, it is an extremely complex matter to reach a depth of fourteen kilometers," said D. Guberman, Director of the Kola Expedition, "but the collective is counting on success. We possess