

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE uMKHOMAZI WATER CONVEYANCE INFRASTRUCTURE (uMWP-1)

uMkhomazi Transfer Tunnel

Background, Geotechnical Conditions and Tunnel Design Considerations

Ryan Freese and Gerhard Keyter, GKP JV

Introduction

My Mom's Aloe Garden



Introduction

My Mom's Aloe Garden

July 2018



May 2016



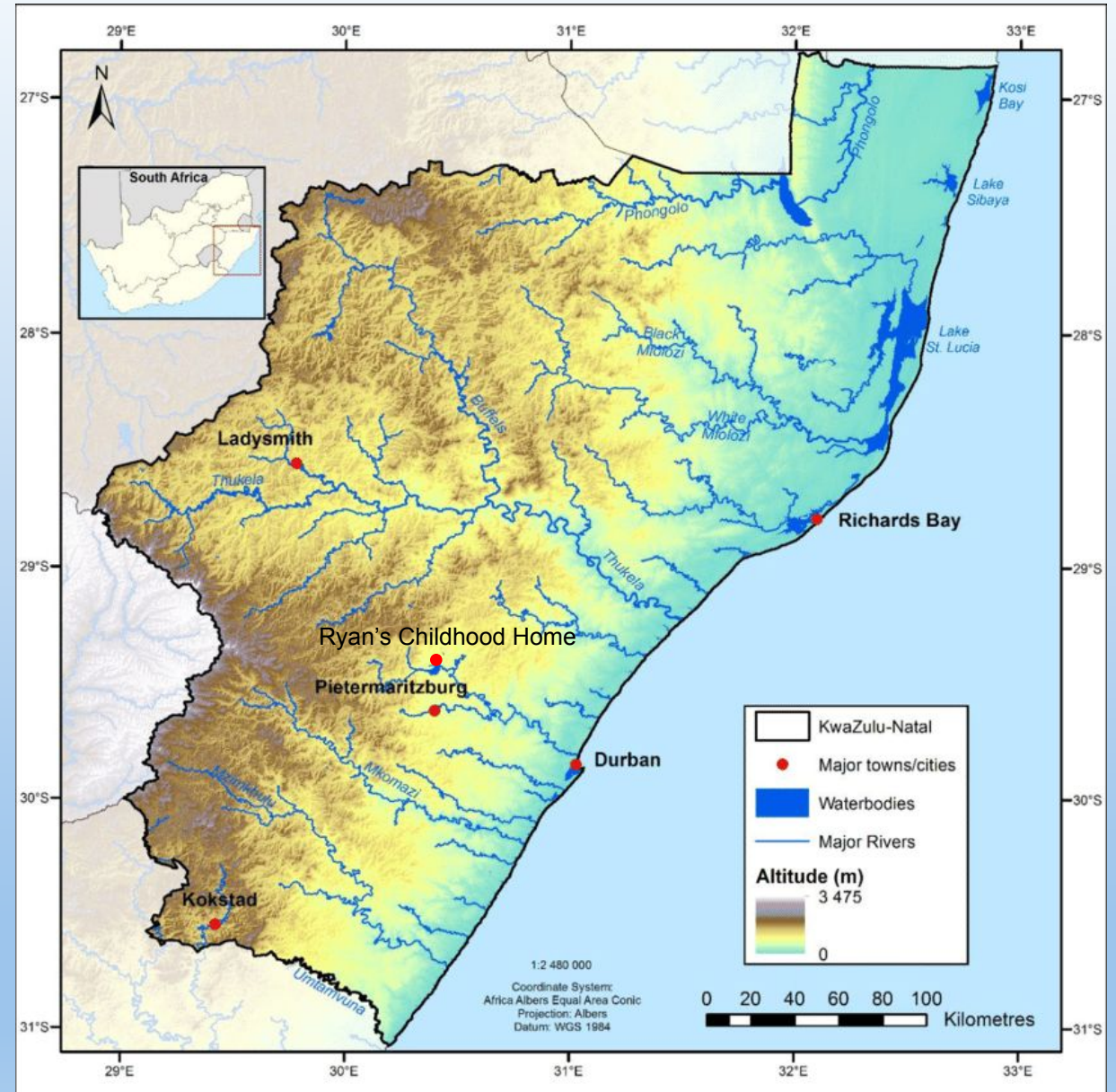
June 2020



Introduction

The Why

- KwaZuluNatal is out of water.
- The Umgeni System supplies PMB, DBN and surrounding settlements. In deficit since 2016.
- Where to next = the uMkhomazi River = place of cow whales (whales breed in estuary)



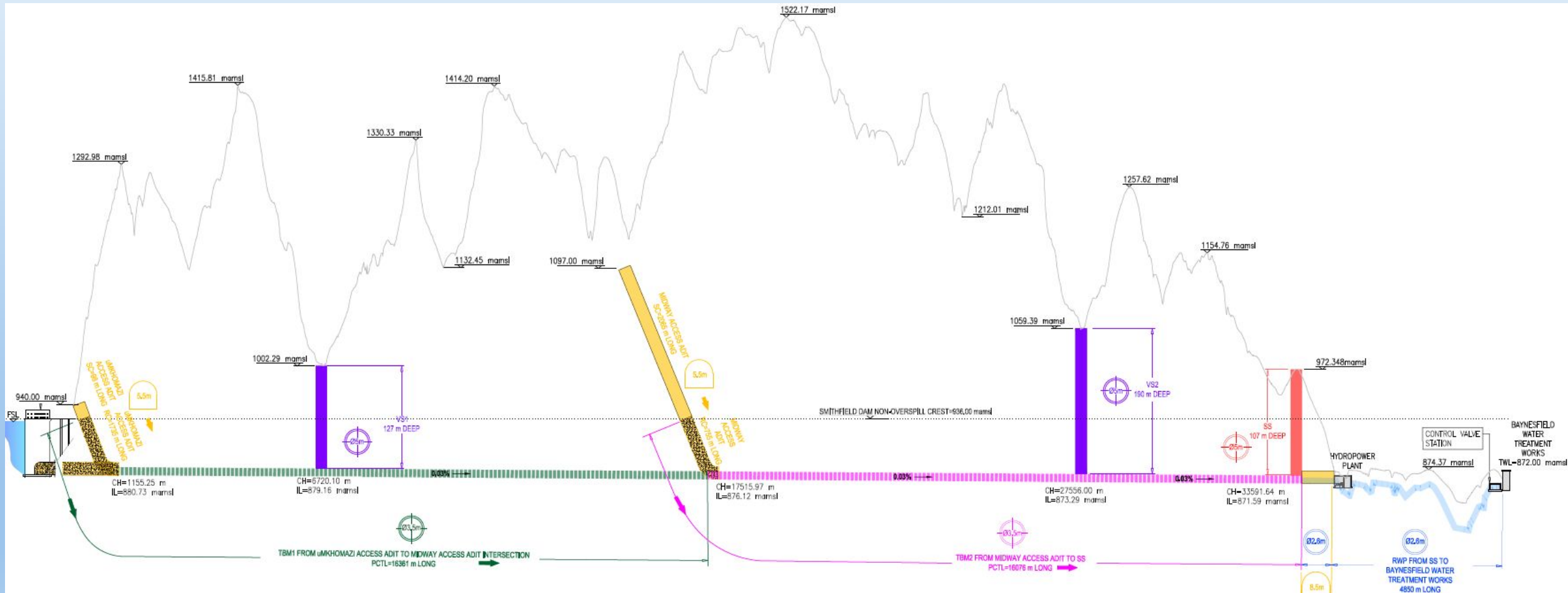
Introduction

uMkhomazi Tunnel Plan Layout



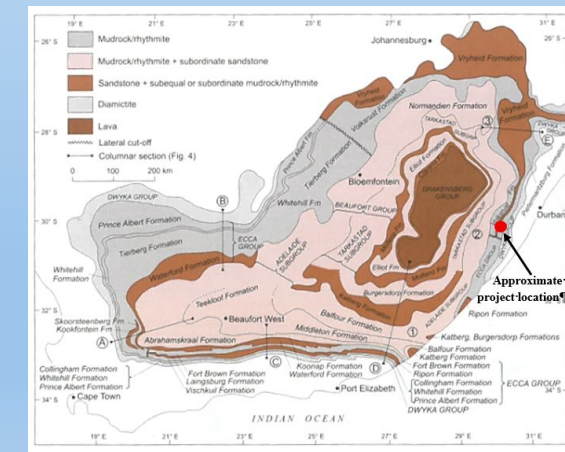
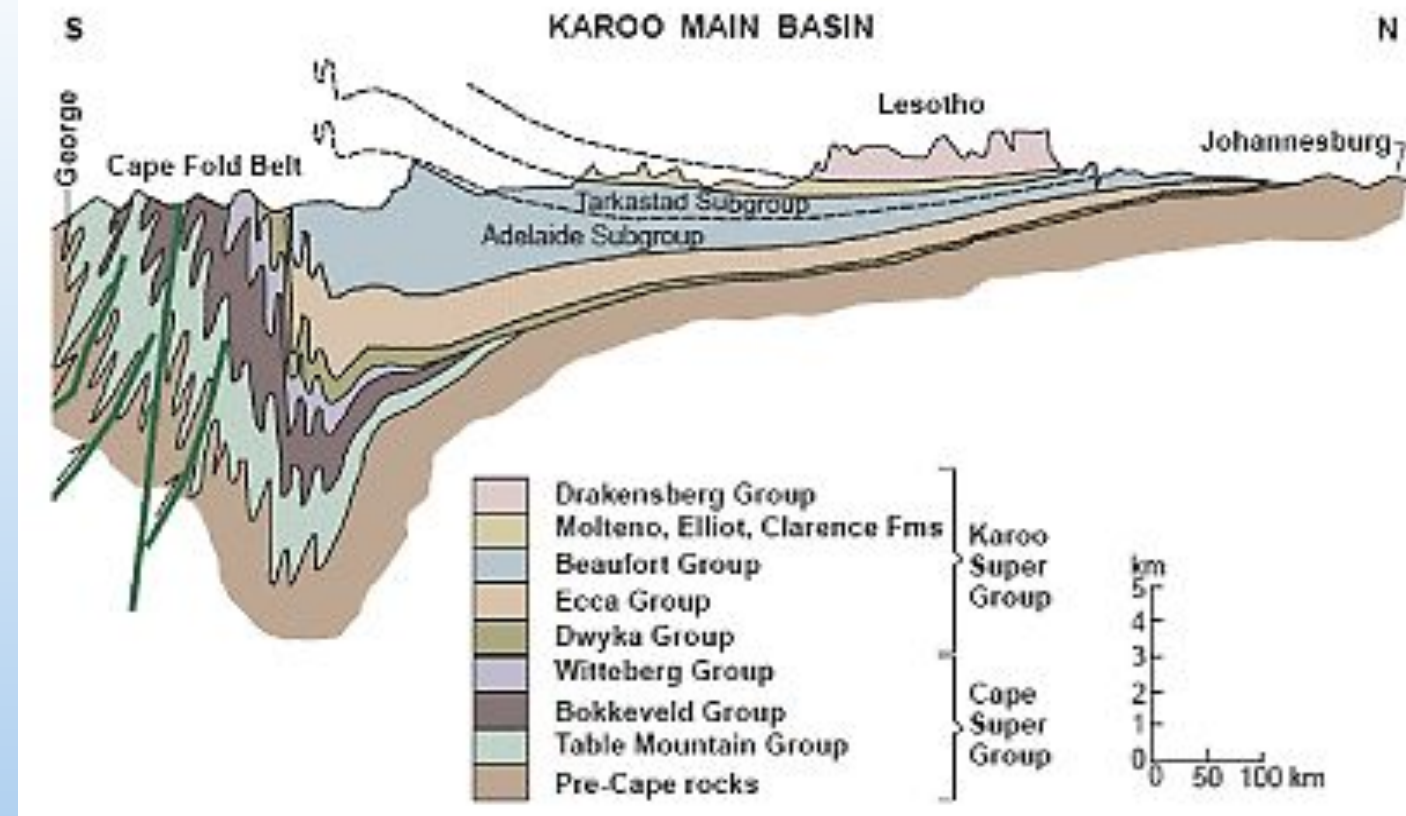
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uMkhomazi Tunnel Section Layout



Geological Background

- Karoo Supergroup (300-183Ma).
- Subduction = Cape Fold Belt
- Retroarc foreland system = basin
- Basin filled:
 - Glacial-greenhouse-arid
 - Marine-lacustrine-fluvial-aeolian-igneous
- Breakup of Gondwana led to basalt cap and extensive sills/ dykes
- Shales, siltstones, sandstones, dolerite.



Geotechnical Investigations

Tunnel Design Considerations

- Mixed Face Conditions
- Shale Durability/ Swelling
- Low TBM Advance Rates
- Water Inflows
- Abrasive Rock
- Squeezing Conditions
- Aggressive Groundwater
- Hazardous Gas
- Segment integrity
- Tunnel logistics



Geotechnical Investigations

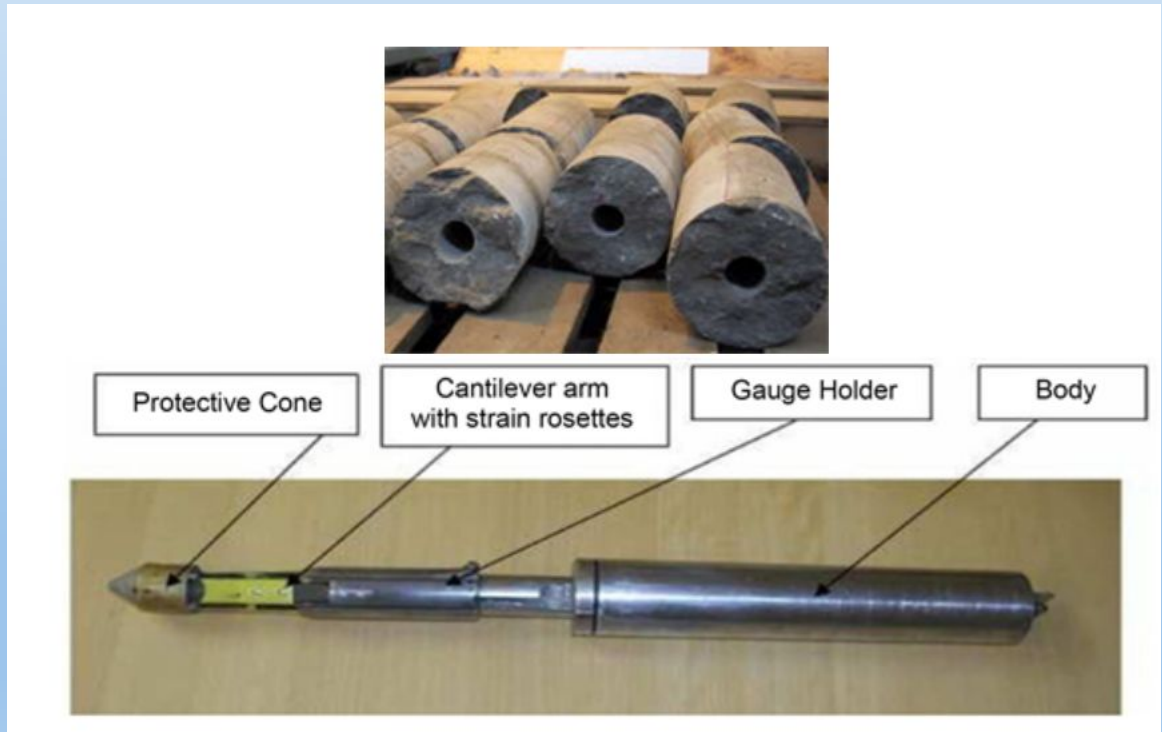
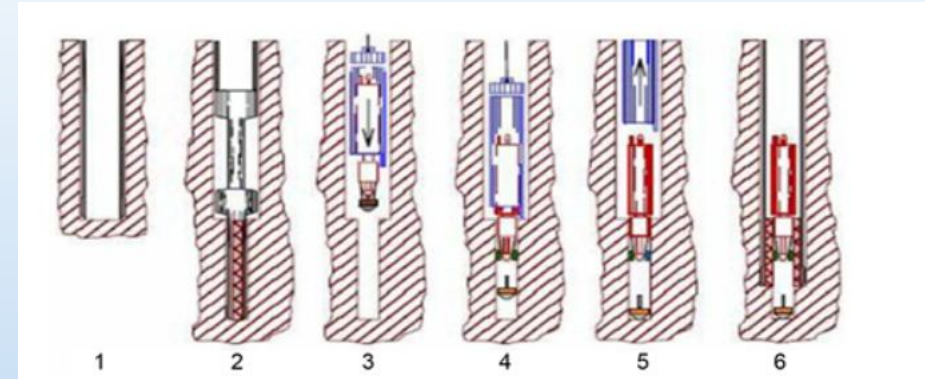
Investigations

- Desk study
- Aerial Photographic Interpretation – Identify Lineaments
- Empirical experience in the area (e.g. Ingula PS Midmar Tunnel)



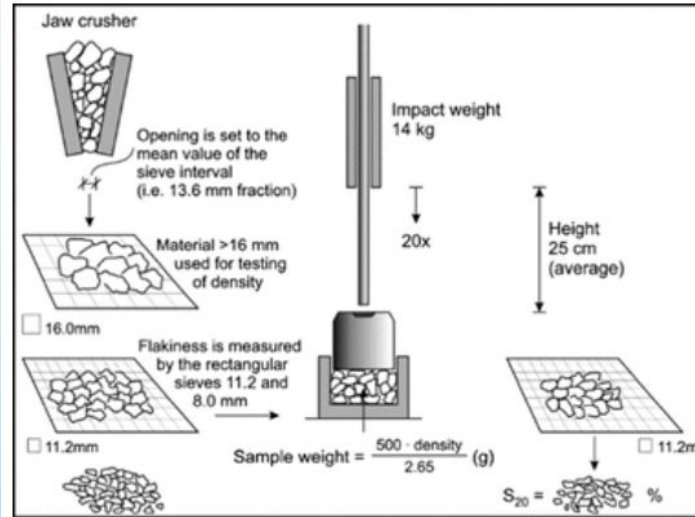
Geotechnical Investigations

- Geophysics – ERT and Seismics (Airbourne)
- Borehole drilling: : 77 boreholes (7,940 m)
- Downhole geophysics: 47 surveys
- Packer testing: 470 Lugeon tests
- Stress testing: 5 Siga overcoring
 - 7 Hydrofracture tests
- Test pits/trenches: 99 pits
- Sufficient Data in all:
 - Lithologies
 - Stratigraphies
 - Stress Conditions
 - Infrastructure Positions

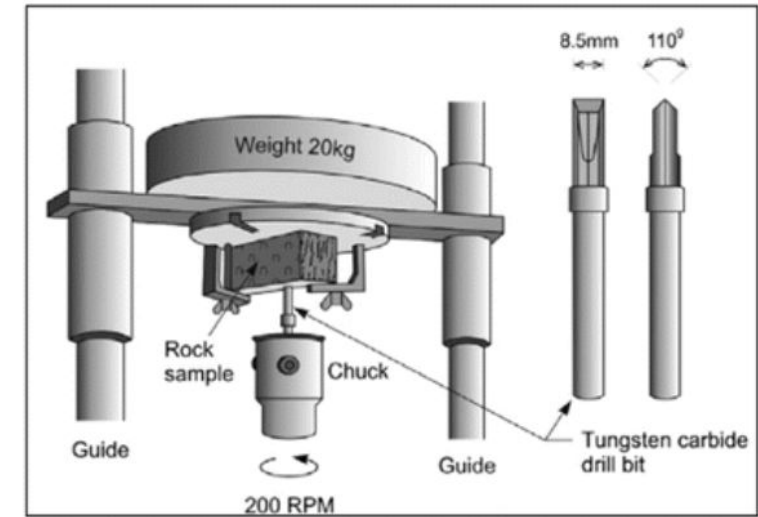


Geotechnical Investigations

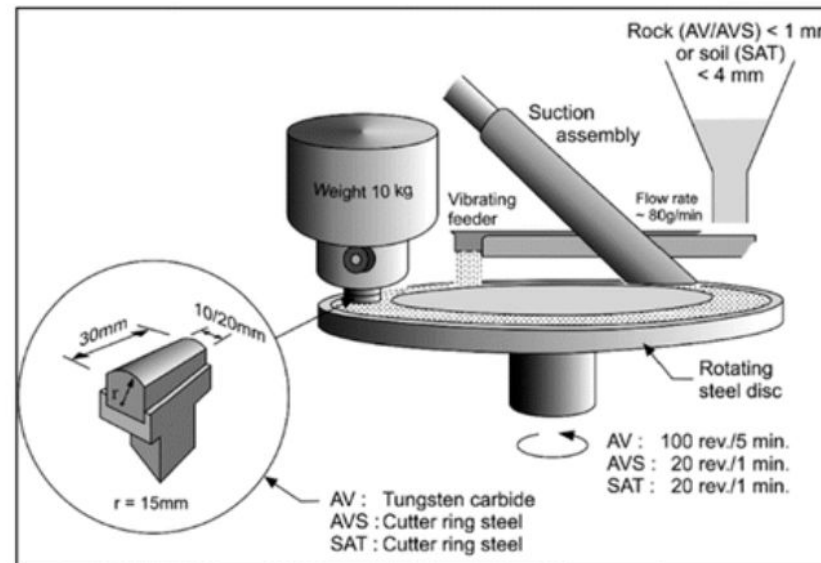
- Laboratory Testing:
 - Strength/ Stiffness
 - Joint shear strength
 - Swelling
 - Durability
 - Mineralogy
 - TBM



(a)



(b)



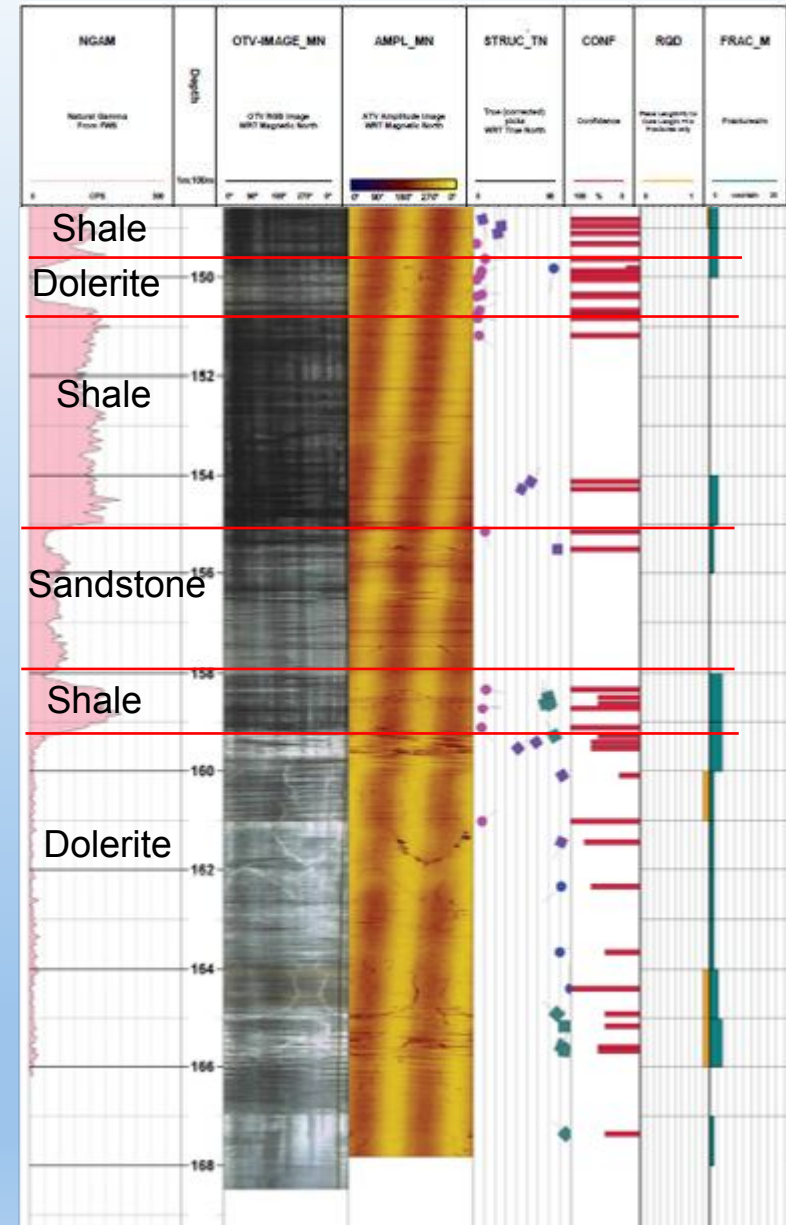
(c)



(d)

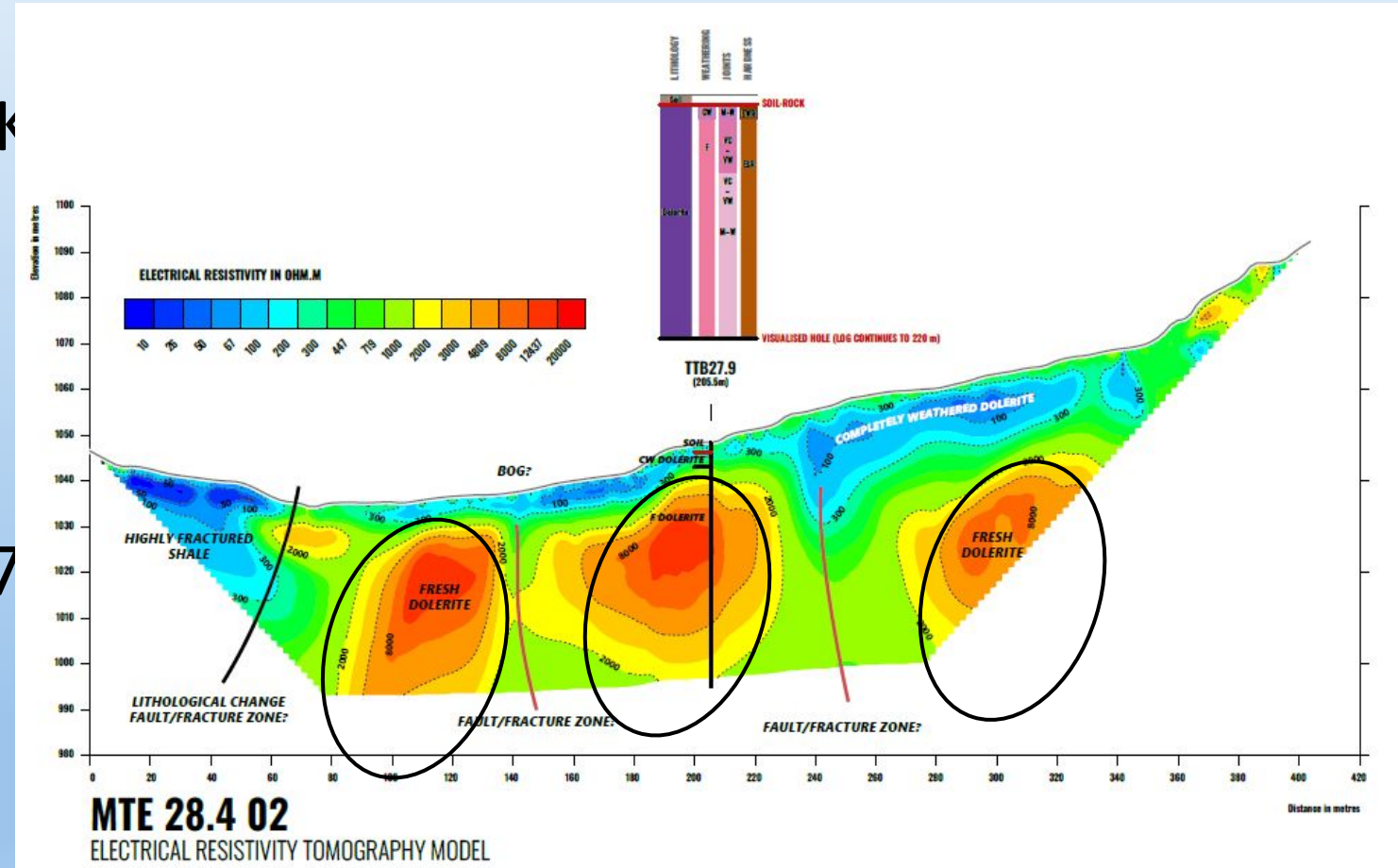
Geotechnical Investigations

- Downhole Geophysics
- Good correlation between sedimentary rocks, dolerite and Natural Gamma.
- Good check on logging.



Geotechnical Investigations

- ERT Geophysics
- Significant Lineament at k
- Dyke, multiple 'Fingers'
- With multiple faults, weathered dolerite and sedimentary rock.
- Appears to be a approx. 7 dip to the West, normal fault???

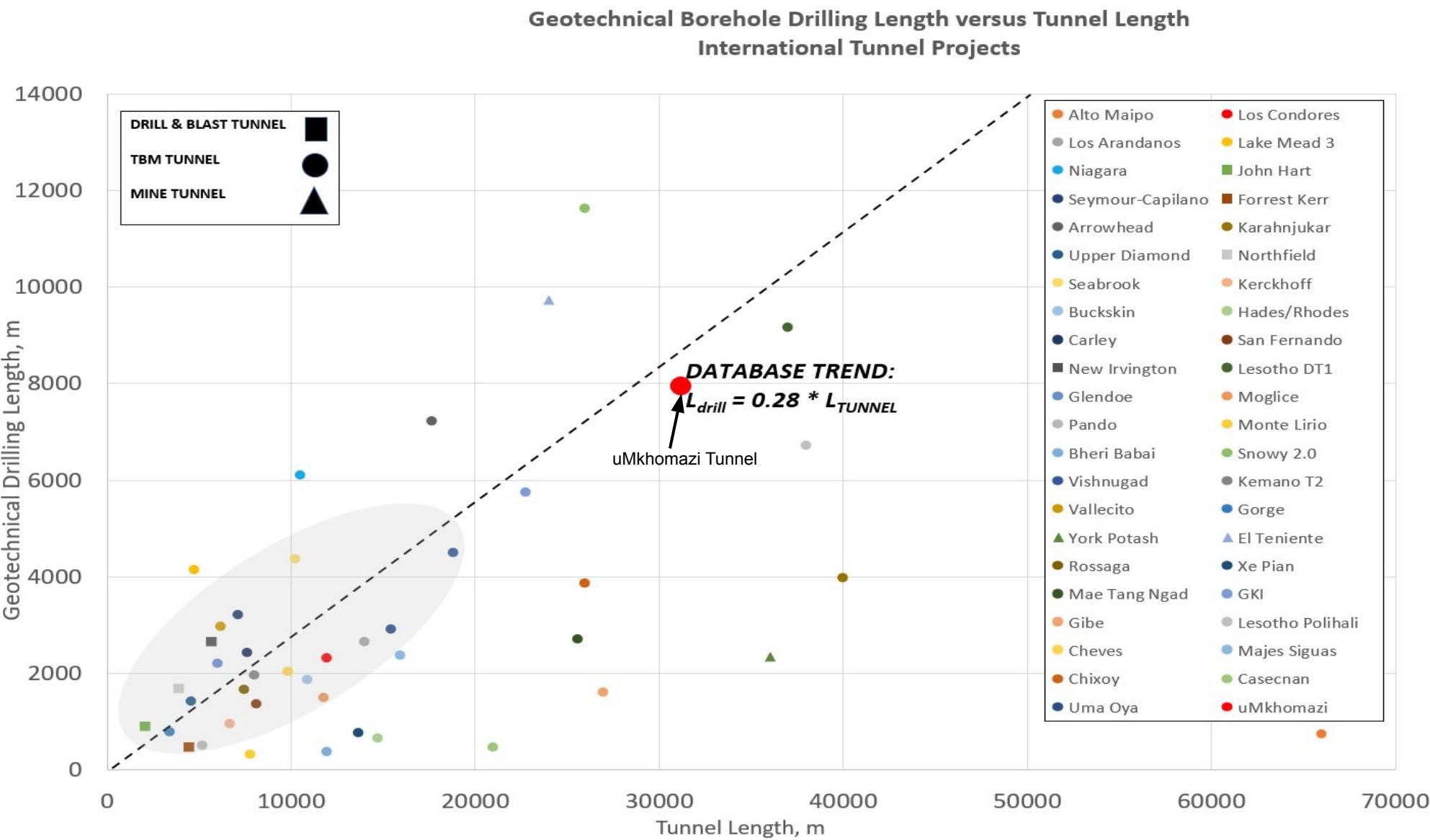


Geotechnical Investigations

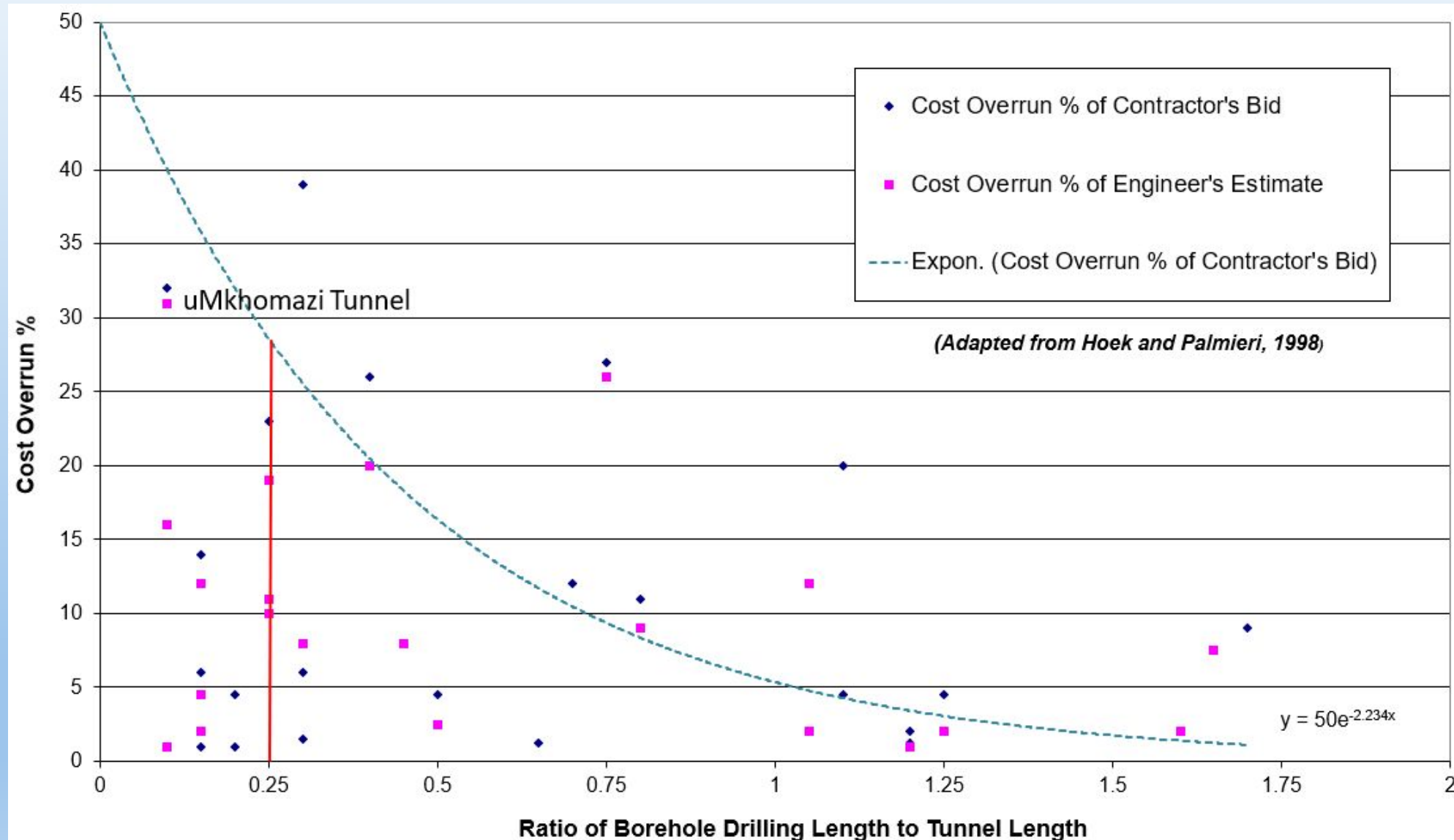
- Openground Software used.
- All logging on tablets.
- Data management efficiencies.
- Direct import to modelling software.
- Reduce double handling.
- BUT teething issues.



Geotechnical Investigations

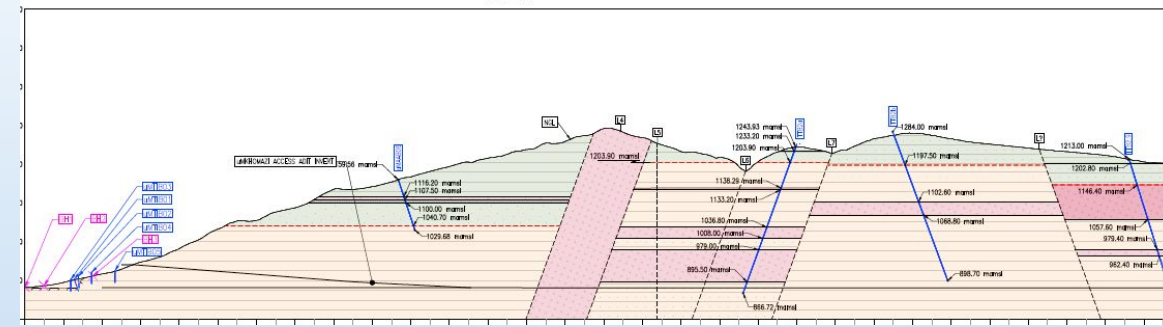


Geotechnical Investigations



Geotechnical Investigations

- No minimum investigation specifications.
- Existing Benchmarks typically drill m vs tunnel m or % cost of project.
- Factors affecting extent of investigation:
 - Tunnel cover depth/ variability.
 - Tunnel length.
 - Tunnel type.
 - Critical associated infrastructure (i.e., large galleries, underground caverns, shafts, etc.)
 - Tunnelling method.
 - Geological, structural geological and hydrogeological complexity.
 - The occurrence of (i.e., density) of major geological structures and lineaments intersected by the proposed tunnelling route.
 - Proximity of the proposed underground works to existing tunnels, and the quality/transferability of legacy data.
 - Consequence class (design life, service criticality) and risk appetite.
 - Seismicity and in situ stress relevance.



Recommendations

- **Risk-index based approach:**

Index Level	Project Characteristics	Borehole:Tunnel Length Ratio	Budget (%)	Investigation Requirements
Low	• Simple geology • Shallow cover depth • Existing tunnels & quality data • Low consequence • Drill & blast	0.1–0.3	0.3–0.7%	• Basic geophysics • Limited in-situ testing
Moderate	• Typical geology • Moderate cover depth • Nearby tunnels (poor/limited data) • Low-moderate consequence • Drill & blast	0.3–0.5	0.7–1.0%	• Moderate geophysics • Laboratory testing • In-situ testing
High	• Complex geology • High cover depth • Few regional tunnels • High consequence • TBM	0.5–0.8	1.0–1.5%	• Extensive geophysical, lab & in-situ testing • Stress measurements • TBM drillability suite (UCS, CERCHAR, DRI/BWI/CLI) • Systematic packer/pumping tests • Long-term groundwater monitoring
Very High	• Extreme/complex geology • High cover depth • No previous data • High consequence • TBM	≥0.8	≥1.5%	• Extensive geophysical, lab & in-situ testing • 2D/3D resistivity/tomography • Pilot adits/shafts (consider) • Contingency for additional investigations

Acknowledgements

- Gerhard Keyter, Co-Author
- TCTA and Mr. James Nyakale for reviewing and approving the presentation of this work.
- The collaborative efforts of the GKP JV team and all project stakeholders.
- KP and my bosses, for letting me come.





Q&A

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A construction worker in a yellow shirt and white hard hat is smiling at the camera. He is in a tunnel, and another worker in a high-visibility vest is visible in the background. The scene is dimly lit with some overhead lights.

THANK YOU

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