INSTITUTE OF GEONICS OF THE ASCR, v. v. i.

Ústav geoniky AV ČR, v. v. i. (ÚGN)

Section 3

Address: phone: +420 596 979 111

Studentská 1768 *fax:* +420 596 919 452

708 00 Ostrava - Poruba e-mail: geonics@ugn.cas.cz

URL: http://www.ugn.cas.cz

Director: Prof. RNDr. Radim Blaheta, CSc.

phone: +420 596 979 353

+420 596 979 352 secretary

e-mail: blaheta@ugn.cas.cz

Deputy Director: Assoc. Prof. Richard Šňupárek, CSc.

phone: +420 596 979 351 e-mail: snuparek@ugn.cas.cz

Chair of the Board: Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Josef Malík, CSc.

phone: +420 596 979 324 e-mail: malik@ugn.cas.cz

Secretary of the Board: Assoc. Prof. Richard Šňupárek, CSc.

phone: +420 596 979 351 e-mail: snuparek@ugn.cas.cz

Chair of the Supervisory Board: Prof. Ing. Miroslav Tůma, CSc.

phone: +420 221 403 334 e-mail: tuma@kav.cas.cz tuma@cs.cas.cz

Secretary of the Supervisory Board: Ing. Jiří Starý, PhD.

phone: +420 596 979 325 e-mail: stary@ugn.cas.cz

Chief Economic Manager: Ing. Eva Poštová, CSc.

phone: +420 596 979 254 e-mail: postova@ugn.cas.cz

The Institute was created from the Mining Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Ostrava, and established in 1982 from the branch office of the Academy's Institute of Geology and Geotechnics. The current name of the

Institute was adopted in 1993. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute carries out research into processes in the Earth's crust, mainly those induced by anthropogenic activities, including their environmental impact (geonics). The research has a strongly inter-disciplinary character and is focused on geomaterials including their interaction with the environment, on selected human-induced processes in rock massif, mathematical modelling of processes in rock mass, technological processes and their control, environmental geography, and special methods of utilising the Earth's crust (special waste depots, high-tech geotechnologies, etc.) and their environmental consequences.

The Institute publishes the journal *Moravian Geographical Reports*.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL: http://www.ugn.cas.cz

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