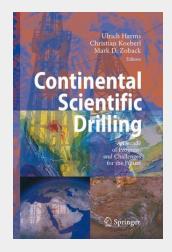
Continental Scientific Drilling

A Decade of Progress, and Challenges for the Future

Scientific drilling is an indispensable tool of modern Earth science - search, as it provides the only means of obtaining direct information on processes operating at depth. Drilling allows for the determination of - situ properties of solid materials and fluids and permits testing of hypot- ses and models derived from surface observations. In addition, drill holes may be used as a natural laboratory for experiments and as observatories for longterm monitoring of on-going active processes. Earth drilling, therefore, plays a critical role in scientific research directed towards - proved understanding of the workings of our planet and has a key role in solving urgent socio-economic problems. As a rule, drilling projects are an integral component of major geosci-tific research programs, comprising comprehensive pre-site investigations, accompanying laboratory studies, the drilling phase itself, and consecutive measurements and tests in the drill hole. Such drilling programs are costly and thus only realizable to a limited extent. International cost sharing, the optimal utilization of all available resources, the incorporation of inter-tional leading experts, and the application of the existing know-how, as well as the selection of an optimal drilling location ("World Geological Site"), are thus essential elements of an international scientific drilling p- gram.

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160,49 € 149,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

ArtikeInummer: 9783642088308

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-3-642-08830-8

Verlag: Springer

Erscheinungstermin: 14.10.2010

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage. Softcover version of original hardcover Auflage 2007

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 569 g **Seiten:** 366

Format (B x H): 155 x 235 mm



