
MEDIA RELEASE

MST to emphasise mine safety at QME

Mine Site Technologies (MST) will shine the spotlight on communication technologies for productivity & safety on **Stand 7010** during the 2008 Queensland Mining and Engineering (QME) exhibition at the Mackay Showground from July 22-24.

The company specialises in underground communications, remote blasting systems, RFID tracking systems and cap lamps; as well as high data wireless mesh networks for surface mining communications.

Featured at QME will be MST's Integrated Communication Cap Lamps (ICCL) and digital RFID tracking system, along with the latest enhancements into **Proximity Detection**..

The new generation lightweight cap lamps were recently installed by one of Australia's most productive longwall operations, Xstrata Coal's Beltana Coal Mine in the Hunter Valley coalfields, NSW, in support of Xstrata's on-going safety initiatives.

Important attributes include the integration of RFID tags inside the ICCL battery pack for long term reliability and to ensure they are always with a person who is underground. The ICCL's are about one third of the weight of lead-acid batteries previously used at the mine and are approved for use with Airstream helmets.

The Beltana installation also included self-contained tags for underground diesel vehicles to assist with fleet management and dual wireless cards to allow the direction of travel to be determined.

The tracking network will also be used in future applications such as VoIP telephones for mobile two-way communication.

Of interest to the open pit miners will be the Rajant Wireless Mesh system based on 802.11 Breadcrumbs. This mesh system provides a highly mobile, high bandwidth communication network in open pit mines, as well as a easily installed extension to fixed digital networks underground. A recent example of its use as a remote area communication system has been at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine, Tasmania, to provide a wireless communication link in unsupported areas of the mine.

It is being assessed as an emergency communication system for coal mines, with approvals pending.

Meanwhile, the installation of the technology at Beaconsfield has given MST the opportunity to apply the wireless mesh technology in a harsh, hard rock mining environment. The advanced mesh technology provides both high quality throughput and fairly simple installation.

The Beaconsfield installation has a laser scanner and Rajant SE Breadcrumb mounted on a remotely operated bogger (scoop) bucket. The scanner makes a high resolution scan of a stope and the data is downloaded in real-time to the breadcrumb via a simple CAT5 cable connection.

This breadcrumb then continuously transmits the data to a second breadcrumb at the entrance to the stope area. That breadcrumb then transmits the data to a third breadcrumb which transmits it for wireless upload to a laptop in a safe area.

Further information:

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