



400th Raisebore

ACM adds new prong to mining service offering

Adapting to meet changing demands in the market is something Australian Contract Mining (ACM) has done extremely well in its first seven years of life.



Adding a new string to its bow, in the form of an Atlas Copco raisebore, is the latest example of that.

ACM recently took delivery of an Atlas Copco Robbins 34RH C W machine at a handover ceremony in Perth, Western Australia. The unit is the 400th Atlas Copco Robbins raisebore built since production of the machines started in the US in the 1960s, according to Atlas Copco Construction and Mining Australia product

manager Mike Antoszkwi. He said ACM's machine was the 21st Robbins unit delivered in Australia in that time.

ACM managing director and founder Brian Rodan accepted the 34RH C W from Atlas Copco Australia managing director Sergio Camozzi at the function also attended by Atlas Copco AB senior executive vice president Bjorn Rosengren, and Avoca Resources operations manager Tony James.

Avoca's new 170,000oz per annum Trident underground gold mine at Higginsville in WA's Eastern Goldfields is where the 34RH raise drill has been initially deployed.

One of Australia's top five underground mining contractors, ACM has a five year development and production contract at the site. The company chose the multi-purpose machine because of its versatility and the reputation Robbins raise drills have for reliability and performance, according to Rodan. "It will bore an up-hole and ream a down-hole, so that flexibility will help us to keep the machine working on different projects continuously," he said.



The 400th Robbins raisebore rig.



Brain Rodan ACM's MD and Tony James Operations Manager of Avoca Resources.

"We thought it would help pay the machine off by keeping it working as much as possible every month, so that's one of the key reasons for purchasing this machine.

"We expect it will be out there at Trident for the first 12 months and hopefully after that, or even during that period of time, we'll seek work with it elsewhere and maybe for scheduling purposes we can go to different sites – perhaps 3-4 sites – and rotate regularly each month or every couple of months.

"We're not moving into the raise drilling business as such. What this rig does for us is help us to be independent on the sites at which we work. And it's small diameter raise drilling [we'll be doing] not large diameter raise drilling. Small-diameter raise drilling is less problematic and it's more for production, not for ventilation, so we will be drilling shorter holes [and expect] fewer issues with technical breakdowns or failures due to inexperienced personnel."

A former executive director of internationally recognised mining contractor Eltin Limited, Rodan started ACM seven years ago. The company now has about 350 employees and in addition to its underground development and mining activities runs a surface exploration fleet of 12 diamond and reverse circulation drilling rigs.

"On the underground side we develop about 2000m, or 2km a month, and we're mining about two million tonnes per annum all up," Rodan said.

"We're quite a large Atlas Copco equipment user. We've got five or six LHDs and half a dozen jumbo drills – single boom jumbos and production drills. We've found their equipment capable, and we haven't had any dramas with their equipment otherwise we wouldn't be buying it. I've personally got quite a long-standing relationship with Atlas Copco which goes back to when I was with Eltin. I've known these guys – Alan Halse, Sergio Camozzi and others – for a long time and we [ACM] look forward to maintaining that relationship."

Antoszkiw said the 34RH C W, the smallest Robbins raiseborer available, was capable of both conventional raiseboring up to 1.5m in diameter and box-hole boring up to 1m in diameter.

"It is a flexible machine, with the capacity to not only do raise drilling but also up-holes. And that's the special feature – the reason why ACM has purchased the machine," he said.

Antoszkiw said Australia was an increasingly important market for new machines and he expected its 5% overall share of the international machine fleet to grow in future. "There are a lot of enquiries for this type of machine at the moment ... and we have another one coming in March next year," he said.



Tony James, Brian Rodan, Bjorn Rosengren and Sergio Camozzi at the handover.

Contact: Mike Antoszkiw, mob: 0418 251 652
mike.antoszkiw@au.atlascopco.com