

MEDIA RELEASE

MST to emphasise the latest in digital communications & tracking at GME

Mine Site Technologies (MST) will shine the spotlight on digital communication technologies for both surface & underground mines on **Stand 1108** during the 2008 Goldfields Mining and Engineering (GME) exhibition in Kalgoorlie from October 28-30.

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 GME 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 have been installed at a number of mines throughout the WA goldfields and beyond. These mines include Jundee, Leinster and Radio Hill in WA, as well as mines in North America like Barrick's Meikle and Rodeo Mines in Nevada, and BHPB's Ekati Diamond mine.

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 tracking network set up for personnel can also be used for tracking equipment throughout the mine, automating the upload of position, as well as payload data, into dispatch systems like MineSuite.

Of interest to the surface 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 an 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.

The Beaconsfield installation has a Faro laser scanner and Rajant SE Breadcrumb mounted on a remotely operated bogger (scoop) bucket.

In surface applications, one of the largest installations of this wireless mesh system in the world is at Kennecott's large Bingham Canyon Copper Mine in Utah, where it provides a mobile mesh for over 140 vehicles in the open pit. The mesh communication system is used to provide reliable data upload from vehicles into the Modular Mining dispatch system, something the mine has had difficulty achieving in the past with other forms of communication and networks having many communication dead spots in such a large pit.

Further information:

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