ARAMINE builds on narrow vein demand

Aware of the need to bring down gallery sizes in narrow vein mines and reduce dilution, **ARAMINE** has developed a complete range of narrow vein machines to increase productivity and security. In recent years, customers working in narrow veins were using traditional methods or were oversizing the size of galleries to match the offer of the market at the time. The ARAMINE range now includes loaders, trucks and a drill rig capable of operating gallery sections of 4 m2 to 9 m2.

"The narrow vein mines are developing fast, gaining in productivity and using the latest technology. Our production is increasing every year, and the support of our partner Epiroc is also a major contributor to our growth," explained Marc Melkonian, ARAMINE President.

The range includes the latest innovations, including battery power, radio remote control and compliance with the current regulations in security and ergonomics.

A few years ago, ARAMINE created the first diesel fuel miniLoader® with an exhaust purifier, then an electrical version with a cable reel and over two years ago, it designed the first clean battery machine, the L140B, which includes a logic controller to collect all data on the machines and their productivity. The smallest ARAMINE mine truck is the

and powertrain of the L150D, it offers easy maintenance and high reliability with very short turning radius, plus there are two 15 t mine truck models, the T160tM and T160tC. Xavier Domenach, Equipment Sales Director, comments: "The challenge for the user is to change their habits...the reliability and ease-of-use of our narrow vein range has immediately attracted our clients, some of whom have modified their mining methods to take advantage of the potential. Our machines are currently working in many mines all over the world." ARAMINE benefits from a lot of R&D expertise and more new projects are currently being developed for narrow vein and small size section underground mines.

Paus power and performance

With power and performance **Paus** vehicles support the narrow vein mining market.

"In the last 20 years this kind of mining has evolved. Once conventionally known as small scale narrow vein mining it is now a form of mechanised mining with longhole stoping. This popular mining method guarantees higher production rates and cost savings. The narrow width and length of these shafts which are based on the characteristics of the ore offer challenges in using the right machines for effective mining." Paus recognised these needs and completed a new LHD family, adding the LHD 10 to its line-up. Now the offering includes the LHD 8 with a bucket capacity of 0.8 m^3; LHD 10 with bucket capacity of 1.0 m^3; LHD 20 with 2.0 m^3 and the bigger LHD 30 with a bucket capacity of 3.0 m^3. These LHDs have several safety and ergonomic improvements. For instance the drivers have more stability and comfort with more space. To enter, the miners use a direct side entrance instead of having the confrontation with the articulated joint behind the kinematic. The kinematic itself also changed from the former parallel linkage to the new z-kinematic to give more power and to increase speed of dumping. LED lighting and a better designed display system are standard. Paus uses Deutz engines both unregulated and Tier 4 Final options. All LHDs are available with remote control for more convenience and safety.

In the rest of the Paus range, the MinCa 5.1 as a utility vehicle or simple passenger transporter is well suited to narrow vein mining as is the grader or the Universa 40 line. With only a 4 m length the MinCa 5.1 has a small turning radius.

All-wheel-drive, extremly stable axles and the self-supporting chassis are only a few of the other features of this transporter which has space enough for five miners and additional equipment. The MinCa 5.1 and the Universa 40 line have low heights and the machines come with the a choice of diesel, hybrid or battery powered engines to help reduce ventilation costs. *IM*