

## Autonomous rig outperforms manual one

A comparison that has been ongoing in Australia has proven that an autonomous Epiroc SmartROC D65 MKII surface drill rig outperforms manual rigs in both productivity and efficiency.

Epiroc partnered with Fortescue in Western Australia to test and evaluate the autonomous SmartROC D65 MKII. The surface drill rig has shown outstanding results during the testing phase, including increased productive utilisation – in autonomous mode, the

drill rig has zero idling time during transitions between tramming, positioning and drilling, which provides consistent efficiency in every hole cycle and reduces the total time spent to complete a drill pattern.

"We are very excited about the progress we have seen over the last year together with our partner Fortescue. The market has been eager to see what benefits this new technology can bring to mining operations, so

this is an important milestone – both for autonomous drilling in general and for Epiroc as a company," Christopher Blignaut, automation manager, Surface division, said.

"Throughout testing, the autonomous SmartROC D65 MKII rig consistently achieved hole accuracy targets set beyond what was achievable with manual operations. The benefits of this can be seen through more efficient drilling and blasting results."

## Aramine opens Polish subsidiary

Aramine, an underground mining industry specialist, has opened a subsidiary in Poland. After Mexico, Niger, Burkina and Armenia, this strategic expansion demonstrates the company's ongoing commitment to meeting the proximity needs of its international customers and to strengthening its presence in the European market. It is an important

step in the French company's expansion strategy, allowing it to establish closer relationships.

The new subsidiary, located in Przemkow, has 200m<sup>2</sup> of offices and nearly 500m<sup>2</sup> of workshop and storage. The company will manage a local stock and a team of technicians who will intervene in the neighbouring mines, remanufacture machines

and components and ultimately assemble Aramine products.

Poland was chosen for its central geographical position in Europe, its active economy and its growing market. With its good transport infrastructure, Poland is a strategic place for export to other countries of the European Union and beyond.

### X-ROC

## Drill faster and deeper with less bit wear

Introducing our new 115-millimeter X-Roc DTH drill bit that allows you to drill faster, deeper and with less wear than conventional DTH drill bits.

Tested on Scandinavian well and geothermal sites, X-Roc increased drilled meterage on each drill bit, saved on diesel and achieved operational time savings on each hole.

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