

TECHNOLOGIES IS ON TRACK FOR ORE-SOME START

Wellard Technologies is confident its first product will be officially handed over to one of the company's foundation clients this month, less than one year after the company was formed.

Wellard Technologies' Ore Tracker is a simple yet innovative approach to tracking the grade of ore from the mine pit to the processing plant. The system minimises "mis-dumps", which are times when the truck operator offloads the ore payload onto a wrong stockpile, in the mining industry.

Where the ounces per tonne can make a significant difference to the profitability of the mine, particularly in gold mines, it is absolutely important that high grade ore is not "mis-dumped" onto a waste stockpile, as it then becomes unrecoverable. Mis-dumps don't just lead to lost revenue, they can cause expensive equipment failures.

The Ore-tracker system replaces existing manual tracking systems such as plod sheets (or daily activity sheets), which are cumbersome and often subject to entry errors, ultimately leading to lost ore production. The OreTracker system components are located in plant equipment such as, haul-trucks, excavators, shovels, inter-pit haul trucks, dozers and light vehicles.

As each load is allocated by the excavator operator to the haul truck, this production information is then transmitted in real time back to the main database in the base station server, via both the wireless mesh and UHF networks. The data can then be accessed anywhere via the internet.

Over the past couple of months the Technologies team have been working hard to get the OreTracker product installed and commissioned at St Ives Gold Mine in Kambalda. There have been a number of obstacles that they have faced and with a dedicated and focussed effort the team is working through them to ensure that the product is handed over to the customer in November.

This technology initially focuses on the mining & resources sectors, but with some further engineering would see variations of the technology used in the agricultural sector for the tracking and reconciliation of grain from the paddock to the port.



ABOVE: INSTALLING THE ORE TRACKER IS A BIG TASK

MIDDLE: CHRIS BOLSTAD AND JAMES HANNAH GOING THROUGH SYSTEM CHECKS ON A HAUL TRUCK

BELOW: FRONT-ON EXCAVATOR LOADING A HAUL TRUCK WITH GOLD ORE

RIGHT:
ORE -TRACKER
SYSTEM
OVERVIEW
DIAGRAM

