

## Screening specialists team up to drive best practice

Kwatani, previously known as Joest Kwatani, and US-based Derrick Corporation have partnered to drive best screening practice in the African mining sector.

This important development sees Kwatani represent Derrick Corporation's range of engineered fine screening solutions in selected mining regions in Africa. The original equipment manufacturer (OEM) will share this responsibility with Derrick Solutions International (DSI) Africa, which has represented Derrick Equipment Company since 2014.

The collaboration, which was announced at this year's Electra Mining

Africa (EMA), positions Kwatani as a single source for state-of-the-art screening solutions for all commodities.

"Kwatani now has access to machines for coarse and fine screening and for arduous applications through to technologies with patented polyurethane panels for screening at 45 microns and finer particle sizes," says Nic Barkhuysen, Vice President: Africa of DSI.

Barkhuysen says this is a significant competitive edge for Kwatani considering the slump in commodity prices and the need for OEMs to have a wide variety of solutions for all minerals and base metals. He believes there is no other screening company that is capable of such a comprehensive offering for the African mining industry.

Importantly, this collaboration brings together two research and development (R&D) driven OEMs who will be able to share and transfer knowledge and experience to their customers to assist them achieve the lowest total cost per ton.

Kim Schoepflin, MD of Kwatani, says this is one of the many synergies between the two companies that led to the start of informal discussions

between Kwatani, Derrick Corporation and DSI Africa at EMA 2014.

"Kwatani is well known for its high level of ongoing product development that ensures customers access to new generation technology aimed at achieving the lowest cost per ton. Derrick Corporation has a similar R&D philosophy which has seen the introduction of latest technologies to the African mining industry," Schoepflin comments.

Barkhuysen says that DSI Africa has trained Kwatani's process engineering and service maintenance teams in Derrick Corporation's technologies and applications. "The company is ready to market, service and maintain these machines in its territories. On-site support and screen refurbishment services are also available from Kwatani," he says.

Derrick Corporation was founded by H. William Derrick Jr in 1951 to solve some of the most challenging mechanical separation needs of the mining industry. At the heart of the company's current offering is the integrated vibratory motor which was invented by its founder and gave life to an entire line of innovative separation technology.

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## Zambian copper mine renews its blasthole drill fleet

Amidst lacklustre global commodity prices, Zambia's largest copper mine, Kansanshi, has opted to renew its fleet of blasthole drill rigs.

Rob McMaster, Key Account Manager for First Quantum Minerals at Sandvik Zambia, says First Quantum Mining & Operations (FQMO) has taken a progressive step to ensure improved efficiency and reliable production by renewing its DR500 fleet with Sandvik D25KS and DP1500i drills that are easier to maintain and operate on site.

He adds that Sandvik has entered into a buy-back agreement with FQMO to trade in the company's 11 Sandvik DR500 series rigs that are used for blasthole and pre-split drilling and replace them with nine new Sandvik D25KS rigs and four new Sandvik DP1500i rigs. The bundled deal makes the transaction more affordable and is in-line with FQMO's overall objectives.

"We work closely with our customers to ensure operations are run optimally

at all times," he continues. "When circumstances change and a mine's requirements are altered along with them, then we do our utmost to restructure equipment and fleets in such a way that the customer's new needs are met. This is precisely what we have done at Kansanshi where we are proud to deliver a solution that is tailored to Kansanshi's current and changing future requirements. The new Sandvik D25KS and DP1500i drill rigs are machines that will require less maintenance and specialised care than the predecessors.

"They will be joining a number of other Sandvik D25KS drill rigs, as well as the larger Sandvik D45KS and Sandvik DP1500i top hammer drills. The standardisation will in many ways simplify maintenance, stock holdings of spares, rock tools and parts to make the operation easier to manage."

The Sandvik D25KS blasthole drill is a very stable and highly manoeuvrable surface drill for surface mining and large-

scale quarrying. It is a down-the-hole (DTH) hammer drill with a high pressure air compressor, air-line lubricator and fine feed control. It is commonly used in large mining operations globally with a choice of hole sizes from 127 mm to 172 mm.

One of the biggest selling points is its speed and fast set-up with effective pipe handling of 9,14 m length pipes with pipe sizes in diameters ranging from 89 to 140 mm. Pipe loading is controlled from the operator's cab with the effective handling of drill pipe contributing to shorter cycle times and getting more holes drilled.

The Sandvik DP1500i is an intelligent, self-propelled, self-contained, crawler-based surface drilling rig equipped with a cabin, movable boom and a rod changer. It is designed for production drilling in large quarries or open-pit mines and construction work sites but is also well suited to wall control (pre-split drilling) and development works.

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