

Australia Mine Improves Operator Efficiency and Process Performance with Experion PKS



“MMG partnered with Honeywell to migrate its control technology and adopted the next-generation Experion system to help improve efficiency, reliability, safety and process performance. Honeywell had the knowledge, experience and right team to enable our operators to capture data and turn it into usable information to improve performance.”

Dan Courtney, Project Manager, Minerals and Metals Group

Benefits

Minerals and Metals Group (MMG) was looking for a way to improve operator efficiency and process performance at its mine in Tasmania, Australia.

By migrating to Honeywell's Experion® Process Knowledge System (PKS) operators were armed with the right data that could be turned into valuable information to make better, faster decisions while also improving performance.

Other benefits made possible by Honeywell's Experion technology included the following:

- Improved decision making via centralized control room
- Increased production and efficiency due to improved understanding of data and ability to turn that into actionable information
- Improved safety and overall performance driven by new user interface for faster operator detection and quick resolution of any issues that may arise
- Improved understanding of traditional work processes and increase in both productivity and efficiency



Honeywell's Experion PKS helps increase productivity and improve safety, reliability and efficiency at MMG's zinc mine in Tasmania.

Background

MMG owns and operates a portfolio of world-class base metal mining operations, development projects and exploration fields. The group is one of the world's largest producers of zinc as well as a substantial producer of copper, lead, gold and silver.

The group currently has mining operations in Australia and Asia and a large portfolio of advanced and early stage exploration projects through Australia, Asia and North America.

Challenges

In order to maintain its leadership in the zinc and lead industries, MMG knew it had to stay ahead of its competition from a technology standpoint, leveraging the valuable benefits that could be exploited with next-generation systems. After years with a decentralized system, MMG's Tasmania mine looked to update its antiquated control technology and centralize its command center while improving operator efficiency and process performance.

"We knew it was time to replace and improve our aging Yokogawa system and investigated several vendors that could provide seamless integration to our device controllers and more importantly get the information we needed to optimize our mine," said Dan Courtney, Project Manager, MMG.

Solution

After a review of the competition, MMG selected Honeywell's Experion system to help improve operator efficiency and process performance.

In addition to Experion, MMG complemented the control system with other Honeywell products designed for a seamless integrated solution including eServer for web-based access and DeviceNet for interfacing to the drives.

"We used Experion to integrate the control of the flotation process with the control of more than 140 electric drives done via DeviceNet – something I consider a Honeywell specific expertise," said Courtney.

By improving the operator's awareness of conditions and current processes, the mine was able to centralize its command center with the ability to share critical information. "The Honeywell project team was terrific and worked very well with the MMG project team. We now get great service and support via a support services contract so we don't have to worry about maintenance and day-to-day support," continued Courtney.

Experion's extensive custom graphics set using Abnormal Situation Management Consortium guidelines is used by the operators to control the mine. Honeywell's eServer provides the unique capability of enabling and securely managing web-based, casual access to Experion and delivers these benefits in a single, scalable package offering access for many casual users. eServer ensures high performance and real-time access to operational information.

"Honeywell's commitment to our safety extended beyond the products we implemented. This enabled comprehensive field device diagnostics to be combined with the overall control and safety solution to improve field asset management and elevate both our maintenance and operations," said Courtney.

"Honeywell came to us with the entire package that included an extensive set of software applications that captured and shared deep process knowledge for better decision-making and improved business performance, a seamless platform that provided the foundation for integrating all process control and safety systems—including non-Honeywell systems—and automation software under a single, unified architecture with centralized control which became a true competitive differentiator for us."

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More Information

For more information on Experion, visit www.honeywell.com/ps or contact your Honeywell account manager.

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