

PITRAM installation “exceeds expectations”

Exxaro Resources has reflected upon its 2008 decision to implement Micromine’s mining solution, PITRAM, at its Glen Douglas dolomite mining operation in South Africa.

PITRAM is a real-time mine production control system that records and manages mine site operations.

The Head of Mining at Glen Douglas, Andre Maree, says the package has made a significant impact on mining operations, particularly regarding productivity. “The PITRAM installation has exceeded our expectations and resulted in significant performance improvements across the mine,” he says. “By analysing the reports produced by PITRAM, operational changes were instituted with the workforce, resulting in improved labour controls and less downtime on machines. This can be directly attributed to better control of break periods and staggering them through the fleet.”

Maree adds that PITRAM was able to illustrate in rand terms the resultant cost to the company and the impact of idle machines on the production bonuses of teams. This was in turn communicated to the workforce, resulting in a zero per cent absent-without-leave record among the mining team for 2008.

Glen Douglas makes use of multiple production reports for individual vehicle operator’s time during shifts and breaks, and uses this to create various incentives. “It has proven to be a fruitful exercise, increasing both tons-per-hour for truck operators and drilling-per-metre for rig operators,” says Maree.

The implementation of PITRAM at the mine – which took a month – has given Glen Douglas a range of benefits. These include having a central source of information with secure and historical reporting capabilities.

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