

ACQUISITION

New EPCM entity formed

Following international engineering and project management company AMEC's AUD\$106-million acquisition of Australian engineering services provider Minproc, a new entity has been formed, namely AMEC Minproc, which will serve to expand AMEC's mining influence in the African and South East Asian markets.

AMEC Minproc's Africa operations MD Colin Kubank says, "The combined strength of people, capability and geographical coverage was the main driving force behind the acquisition. It will create synergy by having global operations, complementary sets of expertise and a strong safety and risk management culture. We also have a significant base of major mining clients that include the likes of BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Anglo American and Vale." Minproc has completed more than 400 feasibility studies and over 240 major design and construction-related mineral resource development projects in more than 37 countries across the globe in its time.

AMEC Australia and South East Asia regional director Steve Ciccone believes that Minproc previously had a fairly narrow offering, focusing mainly on the design of mineral processing plants. "With AMEC and Minproc joining forces, all aspects of delivering a project can be covered from permitting and environmental services, to resource evaluation, studies, process and infrastructure design and construction, operator training, and asset support services. This makes us a 'one-stop-shop' ranging from mineral resource discovery right through to operation and decommissioning," Ciccone says.

"Before the acquisition, Minproc was limited in the size of the project it could undertake," says Kubank. "However, under the AMEC umbrella, AMEC Minproc will be able to take on larger projects, but will continue to provide engineering and project delivery services to small and medium sized projects". The acquisition sees the addition of 500 people to AMEC's Mining and Metals business, which has developed some challenging projects around the world. With the addition of Minproc, AMEC will have approximately 6 000 people engaged in mining and oil sands projects around the globe.

Through the acquisition, AMEC Minproc is now able to serve the company's Canadian mining clients operating in Africa. Furthermore, on previous projects Minproc could only work inside the "process-plant fence", but now has access to all the broader mining skills, including the entire length of the mining development value chain, decommissioning, closure and even training. To date, AMEC Minproc has collectively worked in Namibia, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burkina Faso, Mali, South Africa and even Liberia. Its commodity focus has included gold, copper, cobalt, nickel, platinum and uranium. "A strong growth pipeline with regards to gold and copper is expected to be realised in Africa over the next few years, and AMEC Minproc is aiming to pick up a lot," concludes Ciccone. ●