FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLURRYBLASTER HYDRO MINING SOLUTION APPLIED IN DRC

Rapid sediment build-up in acid ponds can have dire results for mines as the reservoirs gradually lose their ability to store solution, impacting on both upstream and downstream processes.

This is exactly what happened at a copper mine in the DRC when two of its acid ponds silted up completely resulting in no solution capacity whatsoever. Previous attempts at solving the issue were not successful due to the abrasive nature of the silt and solution that needed to be removed from the ponds.

Focused on providing effective pumping and hydro mining solutions in the most challenging environments, Integrated Pump Rental was able to apply its latest technology and resolve the issue for the mine.

Lee Vine, managing director of Integrated Pump Rental, says that the company’s Slurry Blaster hydro mining equipment solution was deemed the most appropriate for this harsh application.

This locally developed and manufactured equipment offers optimum performance coupled with reliability, and this, according to Vine, was exactly what was required to hydro mine the slime out of the ponds.

“Not all applications are the same and for this reason, and after assessing the specific requirements on site, we custom built a SlurryBlaster unit for this particular task,” Vine says.

All stainless steel components including pumps were used for the pontoon mounted SlurryBlaster. The system comprises a 90 kW feed pump with float, two 30 kW slurry pumps for the removal of the slurry, a 200 metre heavy duty hose and electric control panels for protection for the pumps .

The two acid ponds are identical; each 100 metres by 50 metres and 6 metres deep. The unit operated at a 7 bar pressure and discharged material at 80 litres per second with a concentration by volume of 70%. It took a month to clean each dam.

Integrated Pump Rental has an existing footprint of local partners in Africa and this ensures that the teams operating the equipment are familiar with local conditions.

In addition to the SlurryBlaster hydro mining solutions, Integrated Pump Rental operates an extensive pump rental fleet which includes Grindex submersible drainage and dewatering pumps, diesel driven pumps and accessories. Value added services such as dam cleaning and pontoons, pump flotation modules and pipe floats are available. All products used by Integrated Pump Rental are ISO 9001 certified.

SLURRYBLASTER IN DRC PIC 01 : Integrated Pump Rental's Slurry Blaster hydro mining equipment solution was deemed the most appropriate for this harsh application at a copper mine in the DRC.

SLURRYBLASTER IN DRC PIC 02 : The Slurry Blaster hydro mining equipment solution in operation at a copper mine in the DRC.

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