



Press Release from Atlas Copco Mining and Rock Excavation Technique

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Boliden's Garpenberg Mine doubles productivity with Atlas Copco's Minetruck MT42

The underground Garpenberg Mine in central Sweden is to establish a new haulage operation based on dedicated mine trucks as part of a plan to almost double production by 2015

A major project is under way at the Boliden-owned Garpenberg Mine in central Sweden to increase production from 1.4 Mt to 2.5 Mt per year by this year, and as a key part of that plan the mine has taken the decision to revise its haulage strategy.

Until now, the mine, which produces lead, zinc, silver and gold concentrates, has relied on general-purpose road trucks to haul the ore to the surface. However, with effect from January 2015 these vehicles are replaced by a fleet of Minetruck MT42 trucks developed and manufactured by Atlas Copco.

Local haulage contractor Långdahls Åkeri AB, which recently purchased four Minetruck MT42 trucks along with two Scooptram ST14 loaders, has been given the responsibility to optimize haulage operations at the mine for the next five years.

Elving Långdahl, owner and President of Långdahls, says: *"This is a major investment for us. The deciding factor was that our Boliden contract is a relatively long-term one which means we can now replace the existing road trucks at the mine with trucks and loaders that have been designed and built for underground mining."*

Långdahls has long experience of transporting a wide variety of goods. It has also been trucking ore at Garpenberg before, but only on the surface between the mine and the processing plant. With its Boliden contract, Långdahls will now be *"going underground"* for the very first time.

Elving Långdahl continues: *"Naturally, trucks that are specially made for the job are more expensive than general-purpose trucks, but they are also much more effective."*

2/...Atlas Copco's Minetruck MT42

Atlas Copco Mining and Rock Excavation Technique

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2/...Atlas Copco's Minetruck MT42

By using the Atlas Copco equipment we are confident that we will be able to make the haulage operation in the mine more efficient than ever before."

"The new trucks load 42 tonnes while the trucks that have been used up to now only take 28 tonnes. That's an improvement of about 40 per cent which will make a big difference to productivity." Tire consumption is also an important cost factor. As the tires on the Minetruck MT42 are adapted for the tough mining environment they also last much longer than standard road tires.

Another reason for choosing the Atlas Copco equipment is safety. Långdahl's Lena Jensen, who will be in charge of health and safety for the 60 or so drivers who will be working in the mine, says: *"The cabin on the Minetruck MT42 is FOPS/ROPS approved which means they are built to withstand rock falls and protect the drivers. In addition, the cabins are ergonomically designed and comfortable."*

During the later part of last year, Atlas Copco carried out a two-day training program for the Garpenberg haulage team at Långdahls. In addition to theoretical and practical training, selected drivers will also be given in-depth tuition on specific technology features such as the vehicles' advanced control system.

Atlas Copco is a world-leading provider of sustainable productivity solutions. The Group serves customers with innovative compressors, vacuum solutions and air treatment systems, construction and mining equipment, power tools and assembly systems. Atlas Copco develops products and service focused on productivity, energy efficiency, safety and ergonomics. The company was founded in 1873, is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and has a global reach spanning more than 180 countries. In 2014, Atlas Copco had revenues of BSEK 94 (BEUR 10.3) and more than 44 000 employees. Learn more at www.atlascopco.co.za.

***Atlas Copco Underground Rock Excavation** is a division within Atlas Copco's Mining and Rock Excavation Technique business area. It develops, manufactures, and markets a wide range of tunneling and mining equipment for various underground applications worldwide. The division focuses strongly on innovative product design and aftermarket support systems, which give added customer value. The divisional headquarters and main production center is in Örebro, Sweden.*