



Press Release from Atlas Copco Mining and Rock Excavation Technique

For further information please contact:

Lerato Mokgethi
+27 (0)11 821 9000 / Fax: 011 388 3813
lerato.mokgethi@za.atlascopco.com

Sonia Laverick – Laverick Media Communications cc
Tel: 011 0400 818 Fax: 086 671 6836
lavmedia@iafrica.com / www.laverickmedia.co.za

For Immediate Publication
09th February 2016

Increased safety in underground drilling with Atlas Copco's new Diamec Smart series

Atlas Copco introduces core drilling rigs that eliminates many of the hazardous operations for mines involved in underground core drilling.

The risk of handling inner tubes and drill rods, while extracting core samples, is a well-known problem for drillers around the world. Despite safety regulations, accidents with severe injuries still occur.

Atlas Copco's Diamec Smart core drilling rigs have an advanced control system that enables automatic functions such as drilling and adding and removing of rods. By using the unique rod handler, the operator can perform the work from a safe distance. All adding and removal of in the hole (ITH) equipment are done automatically.

The automatic functions is not only increasing the safety for the operators, it also improves the working environment and increases the productivity. A three meter long inner tube with core samples can weigh about 100 kg and the handling is heavy and hazardous. The rod handler eliminates operator fatigue and helps keeping the pace during an entire shift. Martin Sommers, Vice President Marketing - Exploration Equipment at Atlas Copco, explains:

2/..Atlas Copco introduces core drilling rigs

Atlas Copco Mining and Rock Excavation Technique

Postal address:
P O Box 14110
Witfield
1467
Gauteng
South Africa

Visitors address:
Innes Road
Jet Park
1459 Gauteng
South Africa

Reg No.: 1911/003838/07

Phone: + 27 (0)11 821-9000
Fax: + 27 (0)11 821-9202
+ 27 (0)11 821-9246

2/..Atlas Copco introduces core drilling rigs

“There is an increasing focus on safety within the mining industry and the new Diamec Smart series sets a new standard for underground core drilling rigs. Customers that have tried automatic drilling and rod handling never want to go back to the old way of drilling.”

The new improved control system on the Diamec Smart is based on the Rig Control System (RCS) that is used for all drilling rigs from the Mining and Rock excavation business area at Atlas Copco. More than 20 important improvements have been made in both hardware and software compared to the previous control system, making it even more robust and reliable.

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 2015, Atlas Copco had revenues of BSEK 102 (BEUR 11) and more than 43 000 employees. Learn more at www.atlascopcogroup.com

***Atlas Copco Surface Drilling Equipment** is a division within Atlas Copco's Mining and Rock Excavation Technique business area. It develops, manufactures, and markets rock drilling equipment and mobile crushers and screeners for various applications in civil engineering, quarries and open pit mines 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.*

***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.*