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## **Komatsu celebrates 10th anniversary of commercial deployment of Autonomous Haulage System (AHS):100-AHS-trucks-in-operation milestone inspires plans to accelerate pace of mining automation**

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Komatsu Ltd (President and CEO: Tetsuji Ohashi) (hereafter “Komatsu”) today announced the company is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the commercial deployment of its Autonomous Haulage System (hereafter “AHS”).

Today, more than 100 AHS trucks operate in Australia, North and South America. Based on the 10-year proven record of safety, productivity, environmental resistance and system flexibility in an array of mining environments, Komatsu plans to accelerate the pace of AHS deployment.

In 2005, Komatsu began the AHS trial at CODELCO’s copper mine in Chile and succeeded in achieving the world’s first commercial AHS deployment with Codelco in January 2008.

A second successful deployment followed in late 2008 at Rio Tinto’s iron ore mine in Australia and Rio Tinto currently operates AHS trucks in four mines in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

The entire AHS operation is controlled remotely and efficiently from Rio Tinto’s operations centre in Perth, roughly 1500 km from the mines. Following those successes of AHS deployments, Komatsu supported Suncor’s pilot of AHS in a section of their oil sands mine in Canada in 2013.

Today, the AHS operates around the clock, hauling three different commodities, in six mines across three continents.

By the end of 2017, the AHS recorded a world-leading, cumulative total of 1.5 billion tons of hauled materials.

In the area of safety, AHS is significantly safer than in conventional mining environments where even a small truck driving error could cause a serious accident.

AHS-enabled customer productivity has improved, reducing load and haul unit costs by more than 15%, compared with conventional haulage methods.

In addition, the optimised automatic controls of the AHS reduce sudden acceleration and abrupt steering resulting in 40% improvement in tyre life compared with conventional operations, and the various benefits of AHS deployment also show a great contribution to reducing the environmental impact.

To extend the proven AHS benefits to operations with manned haul fleets, Komatsu conducted and successfully completed trials of its AHS retrofit kit at Rio Tinto's existing mine in September 2017.

The retrofit kit, mounted on a Komatsu electric drive standard truck 830E (nominal payload: 220 tons), enabled the truck to operate in autonomous mode. As a result, Komatsu recently received an order from Rio Tinto for 29 AHS retrofit kits, to be installed on 830E standard trucks currently operating at Rio Tinto's Brockman 4 mine.

In addition to expanding the AHS retrofit kit to include other main models of Komatsu electric drive standard trucks, Komatsu is planning to enhance the AHS's mixed-operation functions.

The planned enhancements will enable manned haul trucks of any make to safely interoperate with Komatsu AHS trucks in a blended fleet operation.

Under this initiative, Komatsu has committed to provide mining customers with AHS solutions that meet the growing demand for gradual transition from existing to fully automated mines.

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