



Media Release

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Roy Hill plots new path for end-to-end automation

Roy Hill has signed a contract with Epiroc to deliver their automated haul truck solution.

Leading global mining equipment and services provider Epiroc, in partnership with automation specialist ASI Mining, is set to convert Roy Hill's mixed fleet of 77 haul trucks from manned to autonomous use.

Epiroc/ASI Mining will meet Roy Hill's requirements to deliver a safe, interoperable solution for its truck fleet. The solution will have the ability to expand to other mining vehicle types and manufacturers, as well as capability to integrate with existing and future Roy Hill systems. As part of this project Epiroc/ASI Mining will work closely with Hitachi/Wencomine on truck conversion and integration of Roy Hill's existing Wenco fleet management system.

"Roy Hill is well positioned to transition to automation. Our teams on site and in our Remote Operations Centre (ROC) in Perth have demonstrated a clear capacity to deliver complex projects, sustainable change and operational excellence with the recent success of the autonomous drill program and fleet optimisation initiatives. Now is the right time to bring the combined expertise of Roy Hill, Epiroc, ASI Mining and Wenco together to convert our haul truck fleet," said Roy Hill CEO Mr Barry Fitzgerald.

"Our Chairman, Mrs Gina Rinehart, and our owners Hancock Prospecting, Marubeni, POSCO and China Steel Corporation, have led this project from the start in the interests of staff safety and sustainable productivity. Their vision has set us a challenge to seek out partners who have an aligned tenacity and commitment to bring viable autonomous solutions to the table, and I look forward to realising the significant safety and productivity benefits that will come with this shared goal," he added.

Roy Hill's people are at the forefront of the decision to undertake truck automation, with Mr Fitzgerald confirming safety as a key driver of the project. The commitment to people also extends to the effective transition of impacted operators to other roles. In addition, Mr Fitzgerald anticipated a range of operational benefits including increased productivity of the fleet.

"Care is one of our core values, with safety at the heart of everything we do. Roy Hill's Smart Mine program is driving innovation across our business, and the automation of our haulage fleet is central to delivering safety and production improvements," Mr Fitzgerald added.

Having delivered major automation projects across the globe, Epiroc and ASI Mining will bring together a highly credentialed delivery team based in West Australia who will leverage the knowhow of a worldwide team of experts.

"Epiroc is proud to collaborate with Roy Hill, ASI Mining and other partners to automate Roy Hill's haul truck fleet, boosting safety and productivity for a crucial aspect of its mining operation," says Helena Hedblom, Epiroc's Senior Executive Vice President Mining and Infrastructure. "This is a very strong example of how automation will take a mining company's operation to the next level."

ASI Chief Executive Officer, Mel Torrie, said "ASI Mining is pleased to partner with all key suppliers including mining technology integrator Sedna to deliver an AHS solution at Roy Hill - a world-class major iron ore

operation. As a manufacturer-agnostic solutions provider ASI Mining looks forward to highlighting the opportunities presented by an interoperable approach to autonomous mining.”

Roy Hill has carefully considered the impact of this project on its people, with reskilling and redeployment plans to assist operators transition to new roles within the business.

“Our people are the driving force behind our success. We are committed to an automation journey that creates an environment in which our people can develop new skills critical to the workforce of the future. Our focus is on setting people up to succeed and further contribute to the Roy Hill community,” Mr Fitzgerald said.

The project will see a phased implementation, with testing and production verification of up to eight trucks undertaken in the initial phase prior to the second phase of full fleet expansion from mid-2021.

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About Roy Hill

[Roy Hill](#) is a world-class iron ore operation and the largest single ore mine in Australia.

Situated 344km south east of Port Hedland in Western Australia’s mineral rich Pilbara region, Roy Hill is an independent iron ore operation with local majority ownership and chaired by Mrs Gina Rinehart.

With integrated mine, rail and port facilities producing 55Mtpa with approval to increase to 60Mtpa – Roy Hill is one of the world’s major resource-based operations, which will deliver enormous benefits to the broader community for many years to come.

Roy Hill’s first shipment of iron ore departed from Port Hedland on 10 December 2015 and has since loaded multiple shipments to its key markets in Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan. Roy Hill achieved many firsts, including for its largely Greenfield project, the largest mainland resource debt funding in the world, from 19 of the world’s largest banks, and five Export Credit Agencies.

Roy Hill operates some of the largest equipment in the world and in addition to having the fastest ramp up to 55Mtpa in the Pilbara, has maintained a focus on safety excellence.

In December 2015, Mrs Rinehart was recognised as “Miner of the Decade” by the Sydney Mining Club. She has also been awarded “Chairman of the Year” by CEO Magazine.

Roy Hill has been presented with a range of accolades, including:

- 2019 Diggers & Dealers Digger of the Year Award
- 2018 WA Training Awards WA Employer of the Year
- 2018 DMIRS Safety and Health Resources Sector Engineering Award
- 2018 Australian Mining Prospect Award for Community Interaction
- 2018 L&MH Mercury Awards Transport Solution of the Year: Rail
- 2017 Platts Global Metals Awards Rising Star Company Award
- 2016 Australian Mining Prospect Awards Excellence in Environmental Management Award
- 2016 Engineers Australia (WA) Australian Engineering Excellence in Engineering Distinction
- 2016 Engineers Australia (WA) Australian Engineering Excellence in Resource Development
- 2016 Engineers Australia (WA) Australian Engineering Excellence in Project Management
- 2016 Project Management Institute Project of the Year
- 2016 Railway Technical Society of Australasia Railway Project Award
- 2015 Mines & Money Asian Corporate Development Award
- 2015 IJ Global Asia-Pacific Project Mining & Metals Deal of the Year
- 2015 IJ Global Asia Pacific Deal of the Year
- 2014 FinanceAsia Magazine Project Finance Deal of the Year Award
- 2014 Finance International Magazine Asia Pacific Deal of the Year
- 2012 Diggers & Dealers Deal of the Year Award

About Epiroc

Epiroc is a leading productivity partner for the mining and infrastructure industries. With ground-breaking technology, Epiroc develops and produces innovative, safe and sustainable drill rigs, rock excavation and construction equipment and tools. The company also provides world-class service solutions for automation and interoperability. The company is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and had revenues of BSEK 41 in 2019 and has more than 14 000 passionate employees supporting and collaborating with customers in more than 150 countries. Learn more at www.epirocgroup.com.

About ASI Mining

ASI Mining is partially owned by Epiroc, which acquired 34% of the company in 2018. ASI Mining is recognised for its products and solutions in robotics and autonomous vehicle technology including autonomous haulage, semi-autonomous blasting, drilling, dozing, loading and other applications. In addition to providing solutions for some of the world’s largest mining corporations, ASI Mining is also an automation partner for several global mining vehicle manufacturers. Learn more at www.asirobots.com/mining [asirobots.com].