

Data Stewardship – getting the best out of your mine

A lack of data stewardship is hindering mines from achieving significant efficiencies, according to a mining intelligence leader.

Ground Breaking Innovations CEO Graham Lumley said a wealth of valuable mining data was being produced around the world every day, however, mines were failing to benefit from it as they didn't have the ability to capture and meaningfully apply it.

"Through poor management of available data and the loss of personnel, the continuity of information acquired and knowledge applied to run mines efficiently is being broken. If not remedied, this may prove very costly in the long-term," Mr Lumley said.

"Mines create a lot of data and conscious, deliberate decisions must be made in determining how it should be handled and who it should be given to," he said.

"Data by itself is just a mass of numbers - it needs to be analysed and assessed to extract value. However, mines must be wary of subjective analysis which is done for the benefit of another party rather than the mine itself," Mr Lumley said.

As well as managing data stewardship programs on mine sites, GBI has a proven process to extract value from data through data -> information -> knowledge -> change.

Mr Lumley advised that to improve their operations, mines need to implement a data stewardship program.

"Companies are demanding better use of data through new knowledge, smarter work practices and dynamic infrastructure. Data, in the form of information, must be delivered to decision-makers quickly, concisely and more importantly, accurately," he said

"Just as the demand for a data analysis with good data has grown, the need for a data stewardship function has likewise grown. More and more mining companies are recognising the critical role this function serves in the overall quest for increased operator and equipment productivity growth," said Mr Lumley.

"Data is the most valuable resource a mine owns and an appropriate data stewardship program recognises that mines need to make the treatment of data (who it is given to, how it is analysed and communicated and secured) a serious strategic management issue. Maximum return from your resource can only be

achieved through active decision-making about the value it holds for the company.”

GBI is working with a number of large mining companies and provides data to third parties through an agreement with the client. GBI has guidelines on who can get it and who can't. “If you are a supplier of mining equipment you can ask to have analysis done by GBI or others but don't ask for the data because you won't get it. Subjective analysis of mining data is something GBI is trying to help mines eliminate”.

“Every day a mine operates, vital information is gained. Around the world a vast amount of information is being accumulated at thousands of sites on a continual basis. This mostly resides with the people at the mine and has a habit of walking out the door when people retire, leave or projects are completed. The continuity of information acquired and knowledge applied to run the mine efficiently is broken, data is archived or worse still, disposed and the latent or potential knowledge lost each time this happens.

“Actively acquired, absorbed and applied, data can add to the sustainability of the mining operations.”

Ends.

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