

## UNDERGROUND DRILLING

### Underground rock drill performance

POGO, the Alaskan gold mine, was using drifters from a Joy Global (now Komatsu Mining) competitor, to lower consumable costs, and improve penetration rates and safety. Joy Global drill experts were brought to site to investigate potential solutions that would allow the mine to achieve and exceed its targets. After comprehensive, application-specific investigation and analysis, Joy Global proposed that POGO trial the Montabert HC95 drifter, which was designed for ease of drifter conversion, and to provide the penetration rate improvements and lower consumable costs of legacy Montabert drills. The mine agreed to validate the HC95 in regards to drill times, operating costs, maintenance and safety.

POGO was initially sceptical as it had previously tested competing drifter solutions that required significant time and modifications to install. These modifications also created a nuisance for the operator, as they were visually limiting during the drilling cycle and overall performance was found to be lacking. "The Montabert HC95, by comparison, was easily adaptable to POGO's existing jumbos and able to be installed in eight hours. Throughout the test period, the jumbo never went down due to drifter-related maintenance issues; they did not need to recharge the accumulator and water seal replacement was minimal. The operator and maintenance teams on site said they liked that



the drifter was easy to install and maintain. The replacement of the shanks was handled by the operator instead of mechanics. There was no daily maintenance required to the drifter. The drifter performed at a high rate and noise levels were noticeably decreased."

Joy Global states that the Montabert HC95 conversion met and exceeded the performance benchmarks: improving penetration rates and reducing consumable costs. Penetration rates increased by 33%. The competitor drifter's drill time averaged 3:22 per hole and the Montabert HC95 is achieving an average of 2:13 per hole (holes are 14 ft). There was a consumable cost decrease of 23% and maintenance intervals reduced by 33%; while noise levels also decreased. The rock drill improved the safety of the operating conditions and extended the amount of time employees can safely work with the equipment.

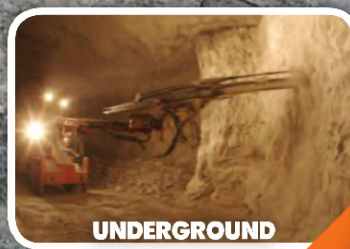
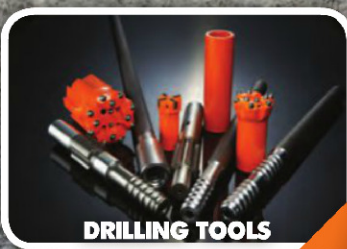
"The experience, knowledge and support

*At the POGO gold mine, a Montabert HC95 conversion met and exceeded the performance benchmarks: improving penetration rates and reducing consumable costs*

provided by Joy Global further established the industry-leading Montabert product line. The HC95 drifter is allowing the mine to meet increased productivity requirements while lowering its costs. The customer is now in the process of converting its jumbo fleet for a total of 13 HC95s, with the potential for more in the future. These conversions will be supported by Joy Global's worldwide service capabilities and expertise."

Doofer's latest offering to the world of drilling includes a Doofer component kit, that includes the main components necessary for building a feed system for a rock drill including the rock drill itself. The component kit was introduced globally during CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada and raised a lot of interest. "We want to

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A Doofor DF538L rock drill in a component kit

make drill feed building for our customers convenient”, explains Kalle Kuusento of Doofor Inc. “Customers may wish to source all the components of the kit, only some or none depending on their need. There are a number of companies and contractors, that want to build their own equipment. Our ready-thought component kit makes it almost effortless to get to the basics.”

The Doofor component kit can include the DF430X, DF430S, DF530X, DF530S and the DF538L rock drills and their variations. The component kit also includes, depending on request, the Doofor feed profile of Finland-made anodised aluminium, feed motor, drill carriage, drill steel centraliser, feed chain and a drill steel

retainer and protective cover. The drill feed can then be attached to an excavator, skid steer loader or a mini-loader.

Doofor is also celebrating its 30th anniversary in September this year. The company, which manufactures hydraulic rock drills and original spare parts in Nokia, Finland, was founded in 1987 by Jaakko Kuusento as a manufacturing consultancy and the design and manufacturing of hydraulic rock drills started in 1993.

### Contracted development

Specialist underground mining contractor PYBAR Mining Services has announced that it has been awarded the development and mining contract at Auctus Resources’ Mungana and King Vol projects, and has commenced operations at both sites. The contract covers 31 months service

provision at Mungana and five years at King Vol. The Mungana zinc, copper, silver, gold and lead mine is located 16 km from Chillagoe in far north Queensland. The mine commenced operations in 2006 and went into a period of care and maintenance in 2012 under its previous owner. Auctus acquired the project in 2015 with the objective of recommencing production as soon as possible.

The contract at Mungana follows PYBAR’s successful completion of an early works program at the project which took place from September 2016 to January 2017. Following a competitive tender process for the early works, PYBAR commenced work on site on 16 September under a four month agreement. The scope of early works consisted of the rehabilitation of the decline, the re-establishment of underground services and electrical supply, and the commencement of waste development out to the orebody. By the end of December 2016, over 2,000 m of decline had been repatriated, and access development was underway in the top four levels – 2225, 2200, 2175 and 2150 – of the planned sub-level cave.

The equipment fleet for the early works comprised of one jumbo, truck and loader which achieved up to 300 m per month of development. On 31 December the ore zone on 2225 level was accessed ahead of schedule and PYBAR was subsequently awarded the 31 month



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Doofor feed system component kit helps building a hydraulic drill feed easily, economically and quickly. The kit includes a Doofor drifter, aluminum feed, a hydraulic valve and other components according to your needs. The feed can be installed on number of platforms such as excavators, mini-loaders and can be used as a part of a drill rig.

An era of easiness starts with Doofor!

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