The amount of data flowing off connected mining equipment has grown significantly in recent years. Komatsu’s mining products now stream more than 60,000+ data points per second, more than double what was measurable just a few years ago. In the next five years, it’s anticipated that number will grow to half a million data points per second. Starting with a foundation of best-in-class Dantotsu (unrivaled) Products that can be programmed for specific operation conditions, we then leverage data insights to further optimize performance.

The mining industry is changing rapidly due to the need to improve efficiency, reduce costs and increase safety. With these challenges in mind, Komatsu is helping bring mining performance to the next level.

“The ability to have the right part and right person in the right spot, or make an operational decision across a fleet, has significant impact to operations that measure downtime in tens of thousands of dollars an hour. Every second counts and we aim to help customers avoid unplanned downtime while safely maintaining production targets.”

Michael Rikkola
Director of Analytics

Smart products

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Global service network

With a focus on safety first, we provide essential services to maximize availability, prolong machine life, optimize performance and help customers tap into the advancing capabilities of connected products. Working hand-in-hand with mine site crews, our teams help implement technologies and services to consistently help improve mining operations. From technical and field service teams to life cycle management and monitoring, our wide range of service offerings can be customized to directly address customer needs.

Advanced analytics and processes

Smart Solutions leverage connectivity, big data, high-speed computing and advanced analytics to optimize performance in real time. To accurately predict machine behavior, there must be an understanding of what normal looks like. Customized models, known as digital twins, are built unique to each machine and the conditions they are in. As the conditions change, so do the models and predictions. Effective data analytics focuses on looking at abnormalities in the data from typical operation and highlighting abnormal behaviors to improve performance.
Costs
- Lower cost per unit produced by reducing overall parts and consumables expenditures
- Optimized costs for power/fuel, labor and rebuilds

Safety
- Automated processes and controls reduce the probability and/or severity of mishaps at the mining site
- Increased awareness through training and standard setting

Productivity
- Improved system availability, performance, utilization and consistency
- Improved awareness via on-demand reports and dashboards
- Leverage extensive Komatsu engineering knowledge to solve problems

Customized Smart Solutions offerings are significantly improving productivity, cost curves and safety at our customers’ mines. Here are some examples of other potential benefits:

Smart Solutions at work

Data ➤ Information ➤ Direction ➤ Results

Underground mining: Joy longwall systems
Smart, connected Joy longwall systems include complex networks linked to highly sensitive gyroscopes, and thousands of sensors that are constantly reporting on the performance and health of the system.

During operation, as the longwall system moves forward, the roof is collapsing behind it. Sensors placed in the roof supports transmit data to the surface. Complex algorithms translate the data points into visual information that can predict significant changes in operating conditions in the mine.

“In one example, the roof support data analyzed by Komatsu’s algorithms detected a roof cavity forming. With advanced analytics, we were able to predict roof instability, impossible to see with the naked eye, and define the root cause for those changes. This allowed for immediate actions that impacted the overall mine productivity.”

– Rudie Boshoff, Global Director – Lifecycle Management and Smart Solutions

Surface mining: P&H electric rope shovels
Smart Solutions team members helped a mining client reduce operator-induced damage on their fleet of electric rope shovels, avoiding additional maintenance costs, and increasing the availability and productivity of the fleet.

“Shovel operators were not aware of the damaging effect swing impacts were having on their machines. Collisions between the dipper and the bank while swinging accumulate damage in the handle structure and ultimately result in cracking that requires significant machine downtime and cost to fix.

Using combined offerings customized as a Smart Solutions package, we were able to engage with the customer to understand how the established operating behaviors and environmental conditions combined to increase the likelihood of swing impacts. We used data from the machines to illustrate the problem. We quantified how individual collisions contributed to the overall damage observed on the machine. All this information was used to guide an operator training plan, to set targets for improvement and to monitor ongoing performance.

By providing that visibility and understanding, we were able to achieve an annual reduction of 40% in swing impacts, reducing wear on the machines and increasing availability.”

– Anthony Reid, Sr. Manager – Analytics
Dantotsu mining solutions

Our commitment to quality and reliability is part of everything we do, making it possible to provide the mining industry Dantotsu Products, Dantotsu Service and Dantotsu Solutions: unrivaled by any in the world. Ideas inspired by needs at the site become part of our integrated approach to research, development and design; resulting in ground breaking advancements for the mining industry, including fully automated haulage solutions, and advanced fleet monitoring and management systems.

“With the data coming off the machines, is analyzed and turned into useful information, the more quickly mines can react; heading off potential delays and preventing costly downtime.”

Jason Knuth, Product Manager of Analytics and Smart Solutions

Global network

Smart Solutions centers are strategically located around the world in order to conveniently serve our customers. With each new service center built, Komatsu products and people are becoming more connected, allowing for expanded benchmarking.

Located strategically in zones of mining activity, each service center brings local support that is world-class. Services offered are structured to fulfil the lifecycle of mining equipment, optimizing equipment for increased availability and performance.

Our commitment to world-class service is delivered through world-class processes and metrics. We employ operational excellence by prioritizing the elimination of waste, simplifying processes, automating and removing people from harm’s way. We leverage those principles throughout our global network, with the ability to rapidly customize locally.

Ready to take mine performance to new levels?
Talk to our Smart Solutions team today.