



Maxam on-site operators conducted MIC calculations and studied history blast data to ensure the project design met the environment vibration limits.

BLASTING OF TASMANIAN SPILLWAY DAM WALL MEETS VIBRATION LIMITS

Gradco, the specialist mining, civil construction, environmental and heavy haulage services supplier, contracted blasting solutions provider Maxam in July 2015 to provide full blast design, support and loading services to create a tailings dam spillway in the MMG-owned Rosebery mine in Tasmania.

Rosebery mine is an underground polymetallic mine, located in the town of Rosebery, on the pristine west coast of Tasmania, approximately 300km northwest of Hobart and 125km south of Burnie. It has operated continuously since 1936, with its current mine life running to 2024.

Gradco hired Maxam to provide safe, meticulous blasting solutions that required stringent blast control to ensure vibrations were kept under 25mm per second (25mm/s) at the spillway dam wall, located less than 30 metres from the proposed blasting area.

The contract terms included breaking the rock sufficiently to allow excavation while not exceeding the previously mentioned

vibration limit. To safely and efficiently deliver this requirement, Maxam on-site operators conducted maximised instantaneous charge (MIC) calculations and studied extensive history blast data to ensure the project design met the environment vibration limits.

The first blast was performed on 23 July, 2015, two weeks after the initial site visit. The final two blasts were fired a week later on the same day, thanks to the success of the first blast results and design parameters. The three operations were carried out using RIONEL initiation systems, Maxam's leading edge technology assembled at its Baldivis, Western Australia facilities. All blasts delivered outstanding results, not only in performance but most importantly in achieving vibration levels below the limits set by the construction brief.

Maxam's proven experience carrying out similar projects around the world made it a natural fit for special operation projects such as this one performed in Rosebery mine. Its global logistics system, which relies

on production plants located on all the five continents, reinforces the company's ability to supply state of the art products to meet a wide variety of challenges, while its in-house developed technology ensures conditions that are both safe and achieve efficient results.

Maxam has been operating in Australia since 1988, when one of its predecessor companies ERT acquired ETS, a small, local company. Today, Maxam employs over 150 people in the country. Since its establishment in Australia, the company has supplied blasting solutions to large mining and extraction companies, such as Holcim and Hanson, and has achieved a majority share of the quarry market.

With its headquarters in Brisbane, and with production facilities in Bajool (Queensland) and Baldivis, Maxam provides technical assistance services, as well as products (civil explosives and initiation systems) to large mining and quarrying companies throughout Australia.

Source: Maxam Australia