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GEOSCAN-M use at Ma'aden Phosphate Al Jalamid mine, Saudi Arabia

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EOSCAN-M-Use at a Middle Eastern Phosphate Plant - Case Study -

Dr Luke Balzan, Ph.D, B.Eng (Hons)

3 May 2018





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Scantech – Company Overview

- Founded in 1981 as Mineral Control Instrumentation (MCI)
- Core business is on-belt process control analysers for coal, cement and minerals industries
- ISO9001:2008 Certified
- Head office in Adelaide; Sales office in Brisbane; Service Engineers located in overseas hotspots
- Strong technical team performs its own R&D
- Over 1000 analysers sold worldwide (~90% exported)
- World leader in on-belt moisture and elemental analysis for minerals







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Sensors for On-Belt Analysis

MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUE	ANALYSIS PROVIDED			
Natural Gamma Ray Detection	%Ash in coal, %U in uranium ore, %Elements in ore			
Dual Energy Gamma Ray Transmission	%Ash in coal			
Prompt Gamma Neutron Activation Analysis (PGNAA)	%Elements in coal, cement raw materials, minerals			
Microwave Transmission	%Moisture in coal, cement raw materials, minerals			
Fast Neutron & Gamma Transmission	%Moisture in electrically-conductive materials			







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GEOSCAN-M: The World's First...

- GEOSCAN elemental analysers have been widely used for real time analysis in many commodities in the minerals sector for 15 years
- Extensive use in coal and cement industries
- Scantech supplied the world's first on belt elemental analyser for iron ore in 2003, and now has over 40 GEOSCAN iron ore installations
- GEOSCAN has been adapted to other minerals, reporting a wide variety of elements present

Commodity	Year
Coal	2001
Iron ore	2003
Copper ore	2008
Iron sinter	2011
Manganese ore	2012
Lead-Zinc	2012
Phosphate	2014
Bauxite	2018
Lithium ore	2018





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GEOSCAN-M in Phosphate

- The phosphate industry has adopted the use of GEOSCAN for analysis in a number of different applications over the past 4 years
- Initial phosphate testing carried out in 2013 at Scantech's factory in Adelaide, Australia
- Testing verified the GEOSCAN's ability to measure the elements of interest, namely phosphorus (as P_2O_5 and BPL), calcium and magnesium oxides, and sulphur, among others, at the concentrations typical in phosphate rock
- World's first on belt analyser installed in the phosphate industry in 2014





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Typical Applications in Phosphate







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GEOSCAN-M Installations











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How GEOSCAN-M Works



P ₂ O ₅ %	CaO%	S %	$Al_2O_3\%$	SiO ₂ %	MgO %
29.59	48.69	2.59	0.38	2.25	0.95





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GEOSCAN-M in Middle Eastern Phosphate

- GEOSCAN was installed after primary crushing and was commissioned in 2017
- Site performed installation; Scantech performed commissioning, calibration and radiation safety training
- Primary purpose is real time mine grade control using continuous 2-minute analyses
- Instantaneous, average and historical analysis data are available to plant
- Key elements of interest include P₂O₅, CaO, MgO, and SiO₂
- Moisture and several other elements are measured and reported
- Data provides feedback to mine for grade control, and is also used in downstream processing





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Site Benefits from GEOSCAN-M

- Real time P_2O_5 mine grade data (previously waited 3 hours for laboratory data)
- Simple installation
- Online elemental analysis (various elements)
- Maintenance friendly
- No sample handling
- Non contact measurement
- Radiation safety
- Operational response times
- Mine resource management





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Laboratory and GEOSCAN Comparison

- Installation of the GEOSCAN reduces site's reliance on laboratory samples and allows immediate action for grade control
- Laboratory samples still collected for verification of GEOSCAN data
- Since commissioning, data validation processes undertaken by making comparison between laboratory data and GEOSCAN data
- Composite samples are collected over 1—2 hour period, and compared to GEOSCAN data collected over the same period





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Laboratory and GEOSCAN Comparison

• To determine the accuracy performance of the GEOSCAN, the root mean square deviation (RMSD) between laboratory and GEOSCAN analyses and is calculated as

$$RMSD = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - x_i)^2}$$

• Calculation incorporates all sources of error, including sampling, handling and analysis errors, as well as GEOSCAN's precision, yet performances are still excellent

Element/Oxide	P ₂ O ₅ %	CaO %	SiO ₂ %	MgO %	Al ₂ O ₃ %	Fe %	CI ppm
RMSD	0.55	0.51	0.14	0.15	0.24	0.37	71





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GEOSCAN Results







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GEOSCAN Results







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GEOSCAN Results







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Through Belt Moisture (TBM) in Phosphate

- Most GEOSCAN-M include a TBM to measure moisture
- TBMs can also be installed independently
- TBMs utilise microwave transmission to observe two independent electrical properties of the material to measure moisture
- TBMs enable real-time analysis of moisture in the full bed depth of the conveyed phosphate
- TBM is widely used in minerals industries







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TBM for Phosphate







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TBM Performance on Phosphate Rock







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Conclusions

- GEOSCAN successfully applied for use in phosphates
- Wide uptake by numerous phosphate producers globally
- Middle Eastern case study presented, showing successful outcome for GEOSCAN measuring feed material
- Accuracy of equipment demonstrated compared to laboratory analyses
- Site already observing significant benefits in grade control and downstream processing
- Increasing use of GEOSCANs on site for process control and improving result visibility with Historian





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Thank you!

Any Questions?

www.scantech.com.au





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