

Announcement

New Product – Underground Potash Scheduling and Design Solution

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RPMGlobal Holdings Limited (ASX: RUL) [RPM®] is pleased to announce the release of its newest integrated mine planning and scheduling product which has been specifically tailored for the Underground Potash industry.

95% of the world's potash is used as a nutrient to improve the fertility of soils and is also a key component of feed supplements used to grow livestock and enhance milk production. Global annual potash production capacity is estimated to be 61 million tonnes with the sources for hard rock potash concentrated in Canada, Belarus, Russia, South East Asia and Ethiopia. Underground mining is the most common form of potash mining accounting for over 80% of global potash production as Potash deposits are typically deep deposits and form a layer across large areas with a very uniform thickness. Whilst the geology of potash deposits is consistent and predictable, there are many factors that influence where mining can and cannot take place.

Working closely with a number of potash miners, RPM has developed its Underground Potash Solution (UGPS)™ to address the unique challenges of underground potash operations through a single integrated mine planning and scheduling package that can be used for design, reserving and scheduling across all scheduling horizons—from strategic to short term.

The release of UGPS includes the parametric scheduling benefits pioneered by RPM to automate the repetitive and time-consuming tasks that can often take a mine planner days or weeks to perform. Instead of having to manually draw the mine layout in a CAD package, the parametric design techniques of UGPS enable a planner to rapidly generate and analyse multiple scenarios. Changes to any aspect of the design or geology are automatically applied to the final schedule with minimal intervention. This allows mining engineers to focus on applying their skills to run different scenarios, deepen analysis and deliver more value.

Commenting on the new product, Richard Mathews, RPM's Chief Executive Officer, said "We are proud to have worked collaboratively with our development partners on UGPS to ensure it meets the everyday practical needs of engineers working in underground potash operations. We are confident UGPS can drive a pivotal step-change in mine design and scheduling at potash operations."

"Potash deposits are characterised by numerous exclusion zones that must be avoided by the design for many different reasons. RPM's intelligent parametric design tool is aware of these exclusion zones and UGPS can automatically adjust the design accordingly."

"While existing alternatives in the market consist of poorly integrated modules, UGPS provides a single product that incorporates all aspects of the scheduling process in one. Scheduling changes are often triggered by changes to the mine layout, and in such instances, users are forced to make numerous manual adjustments across several independent tools to correctly model and understand the impacts."

"Unlike other 2D design tools on the market, UGPS undertakes detailed modelling of the potash deposit in 3D, creating a complete mathematical model of the mine. Moreover, users are able to import existing designs, create new designs or use a combination of both."

UGPS also introduces major enhancements to the scheduling process that have been configured specifically for potash operations. Whilst users generate detailed schedules for each item of equipment, automated mining rules ensure logical mine development sequences are always followed. This allows the engineer to focus on alternative equipment deployment strategies, while having confidence that the detail is being managed automatically in the background.

Mr Mathews concluded by saying "the release of UGPS is strategically placed to help mine planners unlock new levels of capability and as a fully integrated mine planning and design tool, the advanced scheduling methodology and 3D capability contained within UGPS provide a level of sophistication that is unmatched in the market today."

Authorised by:

James O'Neill
Company Secretary
+61 7 3100 7200
companysecretary@rpmglobal.com

About RPM:

RPMGlobal Holdings Limited (ASX: RUL) [RPM®] was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange on 27 May 2008 and is a global leader in the provision and development of mining software solutions, advisory services and professional development to the mining industry.

With history stretching back to 1968, RPM has been trusted by mining companies of all sizes and commodities to support their growth. Our global expertise has been achieved over the past 50 years through our work in over 125 countries and our approach to the business of mining being strongly grounded in economic principles.

*RPMGlobal Holdings Limited ABN 17 010 672 321 (ASX : RUL)
Head Office: Level 14, 310 Ann Street, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4000*