

4 May 2017

## ASX: Market Update – LaserBond® cladding cell shipped to China

### Tailored advanced laser cell designed and manufactured in Australia

LaserBond has shipped its first customised turnkey LaserBond® cladding system to a licensee partner in Mainland China. This is the initial step in an expansion of its business that leverages 25 years of innovation in surface engineering technologies. The sale has an initial value of \$1.4M plus ongoing royalties and fees.

LaserBond's Technology Division was established in response to a number of international enquiries to license our laser cladding technologies. It capitalises on the company's unique knowhow around the application of very high-powered lasers to apply specialised surfaces to heavy machine parts, typical of the resources sector. The division offers tailored turnkey systems in customised hardware, software, and support packages.

These packages typically involve design, building, installation and commissioning of an additive manufacturing / laser cladding cell tailored to a customer's specific application. In this case, for 1.6m dia x 5.5m long 10 tonne mineral processing crusher components. Other configurations are being designed and constructed, including a 16kW dual station unit for LaserBond's operation in SA.

The system design and integration for this export package was carried out within LaserBond's own in-house facilities. Many of the major components, assemblies and technologies are developed and manufactured in-house for heavy industry and protected with patents (and applications). Executive director Wayne Hooper is leading the Technology Division. He described the unique opportunity LaserBond has created, "Cladding large mining industry components is unlike other laser applications. Our niche is focused at the heavy end. Maintaining close operational control of the laser head and workpiece, over a long reach with heavy loads and sustained high temperatures called for a rethink in design of the multi-axis work piece manipulator and its associated control system. Many surface engineered products for our resources sector customers require extended running times at high power levels. Some of these projects run 16 hours at full power."

To accommodate these challenges, LaserBond engineers have developed a number of (patent pending) innovations. A new powder injection nozzle design better manages the intense heat accumulating in the laser head in long runs. The heavy-duty work piece manipulator provides more stable support of heavy, hot, large and complex components. A new design of control software offers more accuracy and provides an easier, more intuitive user interface.

Awareness of the application and economic benefits of laser additive manufacturing and advanced metallurgy to heavy end of industry is growing. LaserBond has an unmatched technology suite for the global mining services industry. Enquires for LaserBond® cladding system packages indicate that our Technology Division is well positioned to take orders for more tailored systems – especially from overseas - in coming years.

This project has generated new high skill jobs at LaserBond along with many others in local supply and contract services, The company is working on additional R&D collaborations, through both its facilities, to develop a centre of excellence for surface engineered components which will help resource, infrastructure, defence and agricultural industries become more productive and efficient..

For further information <http://www.laserbond.com.au/about-us/news-in-the-news>

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