

14 July 2023**Thiess and Epiroc celebrate autonomous drilling milestone at Lake Vermont**

Thiess' fleet of autonomous Epiroc drills has achieved a significant milestone, safely drilling more than one million lineal metres at Lake Vermont mine in Queensland.

In 2019, Thiess was the first mining services provider to deploy an Epiroc Pit Viper drill fitted with an autonomous drilling system (ADS) and has since expanded its fleet with additional autonomous drills now in operation.

Thiess Group Executive Assets, Technical Services and Technology Ramesh Liyanage and Epiroc Business Line Manager Drilling Solutions Alex Grant joined team representatives on-site this week to celebrate the achievement.

Mr Liyanage recognised the milestone as an opportunity for Thiess and Epiroc to celebrate their collective success, proving the drills capability in a complex mining setting. "Drilling more than one million lineal metres without an operator in the machine is a significant milestone and a reflection of Thiess' ongoing commitment to increasing operational efficiency and safety outcomes through technology and innovation."

Thiess Group Executive Chair and CEO Michael Wright said: "It's through our relationships with leading equipment manufacturers such as Epiroc, that we're able to support our clients with innovative products and services to meet their sustainability and production goals."

At Lake Vermont, the multi-pass drills operate remotely from the site's office, working autonomously for up to 22 hours per day. These drills employ advanced guidance technologies to precisely drill holes according to the specified location and depth in the drill plan. With the current multi-pass capability, operators can drill holes ranging from 171mm to 270mm in diameter and reach depths up to 72m.

The drill program is also unique in its implementation of a number of "firsts" including the first Epiroc fully autonomous Pit Viper 275 to operate at a coal mine in Australia, the first project with a fleet of multi-pass fully autonomous rigs drilling side-by-side globally and Thiess being the first mining services provider to autonomously drill one million multi-pass lineal metres, globally.

Epiroc President and CEO Helena Hedblom said: "We are proud to celebrate a momentous milestone with our valued customer, Thiess, as we reach the remarkable milestone of autonomously drilling one million metres together. This achievement underscores our strong partnership and commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions in the mining industry and demonstrates the power of collaboration setting a new benchmark for the future of autonomous drilling."

Thiess is exploring the application of this technology to its projects in the Americas.

ENDS

Photos and video interviews and footage are [available for download](#).

Issued by Thiess Pty Ltd ABN 87 010 221 486 www.thiess.com

Contacts

Jenna Johnstone, Thiess | E jjohnstone@thiess.com.au T +61 0448 703 013

Claire Meyer, Epiroc | E claire.meyer@epiroc.com T +61 0427 704 304

Thiess

Thiess partners with its clients to deliver sustainable solutions in open cut and underground mining in Australia, Asia and the Americas. For almost 90 years, Thiess has operated across diverse commodities, geologies, environments and cultures. As a global services provider, Thiess is uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to responsible, sustainable mining and a low-carbon future by working with our clients, suppliers and the industry to enable the global energy transition. Thiess is committed to harnessing the power of its people and technology to drive sustainable change. Visit www.thiess.com.

Epiroc

Epiroc is a vital part of a sustainable society and a global productivity partner for mining and infrastructure customers. With ground-breaking technology, Epiroc develops and provides innovative and safe equipment, such as drill rigs, rock excavation and construction equipment and tools for surface and underground applications. The company also offers world-class service and other aftermarket support as well as solutions for automation, digitalization and electrification. Epiroc is based in Stockholm, Sweden, had revenues of SEK 50 billion in 2022, and has around 17 000 passionate employees supporting and collaborating with customers in around 150 countries. Learn more at www.epirocgroup.com.