

Press Release

RPMGlobal Release Major New Functionality in Version 2.1 of the Industry's Leading Planning and Scheduling Software, XPAC Solutions

(BRISBANE, October 24, 2018)

RPMGlobal (RPM) has today announced the release of XPAC Solutions 2.1 – the industry's leading planning and scheduling software solution.

Following on from several large releases this year, including the new Steeply Dipping Coal Solution, RPMGlobal have continued development on the XPAC Solutions suite to include Intelligent Design and short-term scheduling capabilities.

Commenting on the release, Mr Michael Baldwin, Executive General Manager of Product Strategy said "Our initial goal was to create commodity and mining method specific solutions that were targeted towards medium to long-term scheduling. This has been incredibly successful, and our clients have insisted we expand our solutions planning horizons into the shorter term."

To provide additional support for short-term a fully synchronised and interactive Gantt chart has been included. The Gantt chart allows users to drag blocks from the plot, to a resource in the Gantt chart and drag the bars to new locations. When the user runs their 3D animation, the Gantt chart is synchronised and scrolls seamlessly alongside the animation within the interface.

"The Gantt chart feature allows the planner to schedule with more detail in the short-term and less detail in the future, ensuring there is a smoother handover to operations. The scheduler can then focus on details they know are correct to ensure achievable schedules."

Including short-term planning in the same solution means the planners in the short-term can also utilise all the key integrated modules that are available to medium and long-term planners.

"All the key modules such as haulage, auto scheduler, auto destination scheduler and a fully integrated product optimiser are now available to the short-term planners. There is nothing available on the market today that offers such a complete, and fully integrated solution. The entire schedule runs as one process and can handle large data sets, rather than having to run each component as a series of steps on segregated data sets."

Prior to XPAC Solutions 2.1, creating a set of practically shaped mining blocks on each bench of the pit that reflects how those benches will be mined has been extremely time consuming. The release introduces the first of the Intelligent Design capabilities being rolled out by RPM.

"We have always been a big believer that your choice in a design tool shouldn't dilute or limit your scheduling capabilities and that's why we have ensured our solutions can work with all vendors on the market. Our users however have asked us to apply our innovative thinking to help speed up the process of some scheduling orientated design tasks."

Mr Baldwin is referring to the intelligent design capabilities in version 2.1 where users can automatically generate *ramp*, *trim* and *production blocks* covering every bench of a pit in just a few minutes. The geometry of the blocks is then confirmed with the pit design and users can adjust the key parameters.

"Feedback from our earlier adopters has been extremely positive and I am really excited to see this particular feature making a big impact for our user base," Mr Baldwin said.

Alongside the intelligent design and short-term scheduling improvements, the backend architecture has also been enhanced.

In XPAC Solutions 2.0, a new graphics subsystem was introduced that completely replaced the original 3D visualisation and delivered an array of improvements to each 3D plot in the solution.

“Rebuilding the graphics provided us with the foundation to focus specifically on performance and the time it takes to load the data each plot is based upon. Every plot now loads in 1/3 of the time, allowing the user to spend more time focusing on delivering value back to the site,” Mr Baldwin said.

The current release also leverages on the core capabilities of RPM’s Enterprise Planning Framework by including improved integration with their execution planning system, XECUTE.

The schedule developed in XPAC 2.1 can be passed directly to XECUTE and likewise, any changes made within XECUTE can be passed back to XPAC Solutions to update the short-term schedule, ensuring a seamless scheduling interchange and more importantly, far easier analysis of plan compliance.

Mr Baldwin concluded by stating “XPAC Solutions 2.1 continues to advance on the core capabilities of 2.0. The intelligent design, short-term scheduling and architectural improvements further demonstrate RPMGlobal’s commitment to providing integrated, enterprise solutions that tackle the industry’s biggest challenges. Whilst it’s late in the year we are not finished yet. There are about to be some very big announcements for this product and I am excited about what the next few months are going to bring.”

To learn more about the enhancements made in XPAC Solutions 2.1 or to book in for a demonstration, contact your local RPMGlobal office.

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About RPM:

RPMGlobal Holdings Limited (ASX: RUL) [RPM] is a global leader in the provision and development of mining software solutions, advisory services and professional development. With history stretching back to 1968, RPM’s experienced global team are the largest publicly traded independent group of technical experts in the world.

Listed on the Australian Securities Exchange on 27 May 2008, RPM is a global leader in the provision of software solutions, advisory consulting and professional development solutions to the mining industry. We have global expertise achieved through our work in over 118 countries and our approach to the business of mining is strongly grounded in economic principles.
