

OceanaGold optimises mine performance with OPMS

“Using OPMS is as easy as Microsoft Word – the solution is incredibly intuitive and process-driven – it has been built to allow engineers to do the work they are supposed to do and not programming. OPMS allows engineers to add value over and above expectations.”

Knowell Madambi
Technical Services Manager

Overview

As mining companies continue to operate in increasingly challenging economic conditions, players large and small are looking to digital technologies as a vehicle to help increase production, reduce costs and improve operational efficiency. Despite increasing revenue pressures resulting from a depressed market, production expectations often remain the same. This was the trigger for OceanaGold to seek a technology partner to optimise mine planning practices.

In 2015, mid tier global gold miner, OceanaGold, launched a business improvement initiative to step up mine planning practices at the 'Macraes Gold Project', New Zealand's largest gold operation located on the South Island.

With gold mines based in the Philippines, New Zealand and the United States, Canadian Investment Bank RBC Capital Markets has listed OceanaGold as one of the top two mining companies in the world for operational efficiency and productivity.

Case Study

Company	OceanaGold
Commodity	Gold
Solution	Open Pit Metals XPAC Solution (OPMS)
Mine Site	Macraes Gold Project
Location	New Zealand



Challenge

OceanaGold experienced challenges with mine scheduling practices amidst a backdrop of increasingly complex operating conditions. Prior to 2015, OceanaGold's mine scheduling processes were time consuming, involved 10+ excel spreadsheets and often resulted in schedules that missed opportunities for optimal mine planning & revenue.

"OPMS is perfect for companies with multiple mine sites scattered across different countries as it allows them to set up processes that can be rolled out and followed at each site."

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Technical Services Manager

The objectives of OceanaGold's initiatives were straightforward:

- Increase revenue through optimised gold production
- Improve productivity and efficiency in the workflow requirements of life of mine planning and scheduling with standardised processes
- Improve visibility and transparency in mine scheduling
- Provide an audit trail to deliver robust data integrity
- Reduce scheduling operational errors with risk mitigation and optimised operations
- A replicable solution that could be transferred across multiple sites

To meet these objectives, OceanaGold evaluated five vendors.

Solutions

RPMGlobal's (RPM) Open Pit Metals Solution (OPMS) provided a robust, consistent and highly capable technology platform to address OceanaGold's challenges. RPM implemented and configured OPMS to meet OceanaGold's specific requirements in 3 days.

Following implementation, OceanaGold was completely autonomous and able to see immediate benefits within the first week of operation.

Impact

OPMS has delivered significant value to OceanaGold's Macraes Gold Project that have directly impacted positively on OceanaGold's bottom line.

- **85% reduction in time to produce schedules.** The mine is now producing schedules in days as opposed to weeks.
- **Significant reduction in maintenance costs with optimised trucking.** Users can trial multiple scenarios to identify the most productive trucking route so that trucks are running efficiently at all times and maintenance costs are reduced.
- **Produce updated mine schedules within 5 minutes.** Product Optimiser implements changes to mining constraints in real time. Users can choose to "maximise production of gold" with a revised commodity price and produce the new mine schedule within 5 minutes.
- **Integration of previously disparate systems.** OPMS seamlessly integrates all elements of mine scheduling into the one application.
- **80% increase in productivity for new recruits.** Using OPMS, there has been a significant decrease in downtime for new mining engineers and less reliance on specialised roles.

"If you want to unlock value from your deposit, this is the application to use as it allows you to look at multiple scenarios and ask a lot of "what if" questions and add value in a short period of time."

Knowell Madambi
Technical Services Manager

