Mining is shifting the focus from how well an operation moves material to how well it collects, analyses and acts on information to move material more productively. RPMGlobal’s Shift Manager is a solution for short term planning and execution that allows transparency so users can collaborate and communicate through a single integrated web based plan. By updating in real-time, Shift Manager allows users to be agile and pro-actively respond to intra-shift changes. From disconnected to connected, from uncoordinated to coordinated, Shift Manager is an easy to deploy solution that can increase efficiency, safety and shareholder value.

Benefits

Break down the silos
Most organisations have a common planning meeting where all of the different departments come together to discuss how to achieve the plan. The detailed plan is built in separate spreadsheets (information silos) for each department and it’s near impossible to be across all of the information in the various plans.

Encourage collaboration
Some tasks require cross-functional teamwork (i.e. when installing a pump, equipment from the production team may be used by the services team and an electrician may be required to isolate the power). Cross-functional tasks that are generally managed in an ad-hoc way using the discretion of the front line supervisors can now be planned and executed more effectively using Shift Manager.

Keep your plan up-to-date
A major flaw with the spreadsheet-based system is that all plans are out of date as soon as they are created. Shift Manager provides a mechanism to plan tasks from inspections to audits and ensures that they are completed and that you have the supporting documentation. Shift Manager helps to keep your plan up-to-date, allowing you to respond to changes as they occur.

Get more done
Planning is now able to be completed cross-functionally in a single system. Time spent in meetings, working on spreadsheets and trying to keep up with actual performance can be reduced and your planners can focus on learning from results and building more efficient plans.

What gets measured gets done
The problem with most plans today is the only tasks that get ‘measured’ relate to productive activities and not activities that enable that production. Metrics such as metres drilled and material moved are all easily quantifiable but they cannot be completed without support from the rest of the team. These enabling activities are as important as the activities that are measured. The power of Shift Manager is that these ‘enabling’ tasks are captured, assigned and measured so that you can ensure they are completed.

“Shift Manager applies operations management thinking to operational problems.”
Tier One Nickel Miner

Make handovers a breeze
When the shift supervisor arrives to start the next shift, there can be a mountain of information to absorb in a short period of time. Shift Manager can help make shift change communication and management much simpler and far more effective, by giving the oncoming supervisor visibility of the previous shifts activities as well as the plan going forward.

Safety
It is essential that tasks relating to safety processes are completed and that you have the supporting documentation. Shift Manager provides a mechanism to plan tasks from inspections to audits and ensures that they are completed. Regular tasks can be set up on a recurring basis making them simple to stay on top of.

Think big, start small and grow
Shift Manager can be connected to as many systems as it needs to be, however it will also operate in a standalone environment. While it is possible to connect and share data from any system (maintenance, production, training), connection to other systems is certainly not mandatory. If managed well, a big bang approach is achievable; however many customers start with the basics, then integrate additional systems once the benefits are demonstrable.

Features

One plan, accessible to all team members
Shift Manager is a web-based software that is accessible by multiple users at the same time and allows users to plan in ‘shift’ activities. User’s access to the system is controlled so they can only change what is required.

Stay in control
Some tasks may require monitoring within the shift. Short interval control provides detailed feedback on tasks so that corrective actions, or changes to the plan can be made early.

“To leverage the power of digital transformation, miners cannot afford to get caught up in the widgets and toys. Instead, they need to embed digital thinking, processes and structures into their entire organization in an effort to take corporate decision making to the next level.”
Andrew Lane, Mining Leader Deloitte Africa

The right information at your fingertips
There is no limit to the amount of information that can be included with a task, meaning that the right information is available when it is needed. Shift Manager supports a range of document formats including plans, detailed instructions, photos, material safety data sheets, survey memos and risk assessments.

“Shift Manager increases the visibility of ‘enabling’ tasks. Failure to complete ‘enabling’ tasks such as, extending a trailing cable or fixing a ramp, will impact productive tasks eventually.”

Close the loop
Once a task is completed, it is reported so that there is a record of what was actually achieved against the plan. If a task is incomplete, Shift Manager will automatically prompt users to provide reasons to explain why, allowing you to improve the plan next time.

Measure the entire workforce with increased visibility
When compiling the weekly plan, the detail normally stops at high level ‘productive’ tasks that have easy to measure metrics such as ‘tonnes, bcm’s or metres’. Shift Manager increases the visibility of ‘enabling’ tasks. Failure to complete ‘enabling’ tasks such as, extending a trailing cable or fixing a ramp, will impact productive tasks eventually.

Get connected
RPMGlobal’s Enterprise Planning Framework allows you to integrate plans from other systems with Shift Manager. If your maintenance planning is being done in a specialised system we can connect it, so that you are kept abreast of any changes that are made. You no longer have to rely on phone calls or emails to find out about critical information that will impact your plan.

“It’s really about getting rid of variation and improving predictability process to process. It forces a level of behavior, a level of delivery, consistency, stability of plan. It forces your discipline on delivery and it forces a level of quality. It forces you to stop doing stuff that is wasteful.”

*EY 2017. How do you prepare for tomorrow’s mine, today.
About RPMGlobal

RPMGlobal is the global leader in the digital transformation of mining. We provide data with context, transforming mining operations. Our Enterprise approach, built on open industry standards, delivers the leading digital platform that connects the systems and information and seamlessly, amplifying decision-making across the mining value chain.

RPMGlobal integrates the planning and scheduling, with maintenance and execution, with simulation and costings, on RPM’s Enterprise Planning Framework, the mining industry’s only digital platform that delivers insight and control across these core processes.

RPMGlobal’s Advisory Team advise the global mining industry on their most critical issues and opportunities, from exploration to mine closure. Their deep domain expertise, combined with their culture of innovation, and global footprint, ensures our mining customers continue to lead.

RPMGlobal is the global leader in Enterprise mining software, Advisory services and Professional development who operate offices in 23 locations across 13 countries and have worked in over 118 countries.

For more information visit rpmglobal.com or email info@rpmglobal.com.