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Hexagon Mining has released an improved version of its activity scheduling and stockpile management package, Atlas 3.0, which provides a resource-based, true calendar approach to scheduling and handles material movement and reclaim

Staff reporter | 22 Mar 2016 | 11:46 | News |

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Hexagon Mining introduces its new short-term planning scheduling technology, Atlas 3.0

According to Hexagon, the Destination Optimization functionality in Atlas helps users set grade, volume or tonnage constraints for destinations to optimise reclaim parcels routed from stockpiles. The optimisation results can be manually modified to allow more control over the reclaimed material and generate more practical schedules.

Version 3.0 of Atlas offers a combination of manual and optimised routing solutions in a single setup to help generate more practical schedules.

Glenn Wylde, executive vice-president of technology and innovation, explained: "Atlas embodies Hexagon Mining's vision of integration. It's a powerful, easy-to-use scheduler that connects seamlessly with haulage calculations, reserves and visualisations. It quickly delivers scheduling scenarios via MineSight 3D.

"Our Planning suite continues to push technology and integration boundaries. The future of mining depends on companies harnessing emerging technologies and connecting previously isolated information. Atlas demonstrates this clearly by seamlessly integrating with longer horizon schedules, drill and blast designs, grade control, ERP data and plan execution."

Wylde added that Atlas bridges the gap with operations, driving the schedule with real productivities directly from Hexagon Mining's fleet management system.

"We have leveraged IBM's ILOG CPLEX for many years with MineSight Schedule Optimizer, and now Atlas delivers the same optimising power to short-term and underground schedules." Version 3.0 introduces a new license for Atlas integrated with CPLEX.

The engine can achieve optimised solutions for stockpile blending challenges and meet the quantity and quality requirements at target destination(s), such as processing plants.

Production scheduling focuses on extracting mining blocks, but stockpiled materials must also be blended before concentration. Blending challenges pervade medium- and short-term scheduling, where mining engineers must reduce grade fluctuations in the materials reclaimed from stockpiles and the quantity of the reclaimed material to satisfy demands in tonnage, volume, and composition.

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