Managing Operator Fatigue Underground: The Importance of Management of Change

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Traditionally accepted as standard in surface mining, Hexagon and MMG partnered to deploy Australia’s first application of Hexagon’s Operator Alertness System (OAS) to 11 underground mining trucks at MMG’s Rosebery mine in Tasmania, Australia.

MMG wanted a solution that would help detect fatigue in their operators, with the challenge of this being at a complex underground environment. Hexagon’s OAS works in both light and dark conditions to provide real-time notifications to operators, empowering them to act should they experience fatigue or distraction.

Operators could rely on a single solution in the cab for fatigue and distraction monitoring, from underground to when the trucks come back up the surface.

MMG was able to easily integrate OAS into its systems to provide its operators with an additional safety check during their 12-hour shifts.

Hexagon and MMG worked together through the course of the deployment to ensure the project was introduced seamlessly, from procurement to user acceptance testing and implementation. Over a year later, the project is successful at reducing risks and further strengthen operator safety at Rosebery. The success of the project was a combination of an adaptive technology, and an appropriate level of guided change management that helped re-set the safety culture on site.

This presentation is a case study that will illustrate:

* The demonstrated level of fatigue and distraction faced in the underground environment and the subsequent improvements.
* How data from OAS allowed for rotations and break times to be unified for a stronger safety culture.
* The Management of Change (MoC) principals applied throughout the OAS deployment that allowed for the operators to be heard and continue to build a stronger and safer work environment.