

Australian Industry **OZWELD**

WINS!

WTIA National Diffusion Networks Project (NDNP) funded by the Federal and State and Territory Governments and industry



AusIndustry

SUCCESS STORY NUMBER M02: LATEST TECHNOLOGY KEEPS IRON ORE ON THE MOVE – *Demonstrations in outback Pilbara, WA make available the latest technologies.*

The Story

As a member of the Mining Industry Sectoral Project, Pilbara Iron, incorporating both Hamersley Iron and Robe River Iron Associates, has access to the expertise of the WTIA technical staff, the WTIA Expert Technology Tools and the fantastic resources of the OzWeld Technology Support Centres (TSACs) Network. These combined resources provide support for the company's network of nine mines, three ports and the largest privately owned railway in the world.



This expertise is made possible through the WTIA's National Diffusion Networks Project which is supported in WA by the Department of Industry and Resources through the former Minister for State Development, Clive Brown MLA and his staff.

Equipment Review

Working with Pilbara Iron's Specialist Technical Advisor, Steve Oswald, WTIA conducted a review of all the operating equipment at several of the group's mines, including Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Yandi and Brockman and at Robe River's deep-water port facilities at Cape Lambert near Wickham. Cape Lambert operations include a power station, rail and port facilities and ore crushing and screening plant.

Clearly equipment such as this, in the harsh mining environment, is subject to continual and extensive wear, and requires constant maintenance and repair. By conducting the review, WTIA was able to identify a number of ways in which the company could enhance technology, productivity, quality and safety in their operations.

New Technology

One particular need identified was for leading-edge welding technology that would make welding operations safer and more efficient. The inverter technology which was proposed offered the benefit of precise welding parameters and the ability to work to qualified weld procedures, thus improving quality and productivity. It also featured built in fume reduction at source and OEM fitted voltage reduction devices (VRDs) for improved electrical safety - particularly important in mine environments.

The technology to satisfy these needs was sourced through OzWeld TSC The Lincoln Electric Company. A technology demonstration was arranged, bringing the new welding technology to the Pilbara for a full on-site assessment.

The results showed significant potential for improving quality, productivity, reliability and safety in the repair of earthmoving equipment alone.

As a result, Pilbara Iron is now investing in this new welding equipment at a number of its operations across the Pilbara.



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