



VIPAC Engineers & Scientists Ltd wins contract for supply of its RailBAM® Bearing Acoustic Monitoring System to BHP Billiton Iron Ore (Mt Newman)

Vipac has been awarded a contract to design, supply, install and commission its RailBAM® Bearing Acoustic Monitoring System, for detection and trending of bearing faults on the Heavy Haul Ore Line at BHP Billiton Iron Ore, Mt Newman, Western Australia. The tender was won against local and international competition.

The Faulty Bearing Acoustic Monitoring System will operate at a location on the mainline between Port Hedland and Yandi that captures all ore trains and other rolling stock operated on the Company's Mt Newman Joint Venture Railroad. The railroad is a standard gauge (1435 mm) heavy haul railroad constructed generally to the requirements of the American Railway Engineering Association. Typical journey length is 400 kilometres. BHP Billiton Iron Ore runs a continuous operation throughout the year. 27 million tonnes were shipped last year.

Port Hedland is located in the North West of Western Australia with temperature range of 55°C to – 6°C. Cyclonic winds of up to 225 kph with heavy rains may occur from one to six times per year. Rain may be infrequent but extremely heavy and up to 254 mm in 24 hours may be experienced. Relative humidity ranges from 0% to 100%

There is a high content of abrasive and corrosive atmospheric dust at both the Port and Mine associated with the iron ore mining and processing equipment. Airborne dust may be experienced at all locations long the track.

The current rolling stock fleet comprise 2330 Gondola Ore Cars with primarily G Class bearings and Support Rollingstock with a mix of F and G Class bearings. Wheel diameters are 910 to 965mm. Axle loads are up to 40 tonnes. There are ~ 18 trains per day, each comprising ~ 220 cars.

For more information on VIPAC's RailBAM® System, Look under the following website:

<http://www.vipac.com.au/infrastructure/index.asp?page=products&page=RailBAM>

For more information on BHP Billiton, Look under "Global Operations" to "Carbon Steel Materials" on the following website:

<http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/aboutUs/companyOverview/ourProfile.jsp>

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE