

INCREASING SAFETY and REDUCING DOWNTIME WHEN FITTING TYRE PROTECTION CHAINS for LARGE LOADERS

Eliminating two reasons against fitting Tyre Protection Chains



Several years ago Westate Mining Supplies were contacted by a customer who wanted to discuss the Safety issues regarding large earthmover tyre protection chain fitment and the long down time associated with this task.

Westate were asked if they could look at the issue further and research ways of resolving these two problems.

Mike Ledger who is the Managing Director of Westate Mining Supplies, a Perth based Mining Supply and Engineering business began developing a solution.

Keeping safety an uncompromising priority, several options were investigated with the final concept and design of the '**Tyre Chain Spindle System**'[®] which was completed with resounding success.

After two years development the first System was commissioned at the Rio Tinto West Angelas mine in the Pilbara. Western Australia - '**A World First**'.

The system was immediately embraced and praised by highly experienced Tyre Management people and Chain fitting experts when the very first fitment of a Tyre Protection Chain to a WA1200 Tyre took only 45 minutes.

Rio Tinto in recognition of two employees, Mick Lazic and Bill Backers who introduced the first system duly awarded them the Sam Walsh Safety award and subsequently have installed the Tyre Chain Spindle Systems on 8 additional sites.

The System comprises of two specifically engineered rotating spindle head attachments, storage and handling stands for the spindles and

heavy duty storage racks to house the Tyres fitted with the Tyre Chains.

The complete process to fit a tyre chain to a WA1200 Loader Tyre took less than one hour requiring only two people. A competent tyre hand operator and a trained tyre chain fitter. The procedure is carried out whilst the Loader is still in production.

After fitment of the chain the complete Wheel, Tyre and Chain fitted is returned to the rack ready for fitting to the loader. When the loader is then scheduled for the normal maintenance the Tyre with Chain can be fitted by means of the normal remove and replacement procedure or a straight vertical mount. Decreasing the downtime of the loader substantially.

When you consider that large loaders can load up to 2,000 Tonnes of ore per hour and previous methods of fitting tyre protection chains rendered these loaders down for anything up to 12 hours the saving speaks for itself.

But far more importantly is the elimination for the need for the tyre fitter to work within the footprint of the loader and allows the chain to be fitted without heavy tools, reducing the risks associated with the task from Critical to Low.

Westate have now supplied systems into the Eastern States and Mongolia with further sales pending in South America and Africa. The complete system is supplied in a sea container in kit form and easily shipped anywhere in the world.

As the saying goes '**Necessity is the Mother of Creation**' and this innovation has been no exception.

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