

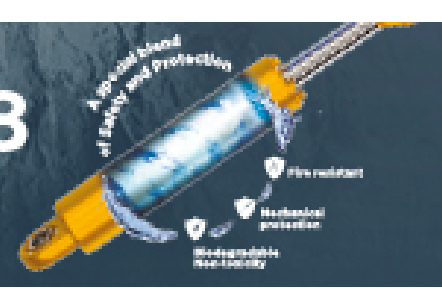
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BHP to trial Epiroc Boomer M2 battery-electric jumbo at Olympic Dam mine

Posted by Daniel Gleeson on 28th November 2022



BHP has unveiled a battery-electric Epiroc Boomer M2 jumbo at its Olympic Dam mine in South Australia to help support the company's target to reduce operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including by minimising reliance on diesel.

The 28.7-t, 14.5-m long battery-electric rig will be powered by a 150 kW traction motor and 150 kW battery system, eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from diesel-powered tramming. **It will be tested for efficiency, productivity and comfort over the 12-month trial period**, BHP said.

Jumbos are used in underground mining development to drill holes, which are then loaded with explosives and open up new areas. Post-blasting, jumbos install large bolts to stabilise mine walls. **BHP currently operates 16 Epiroc jumbos at Olympic Dam.**

The fully-electric machine will also break new ground in its user experience by reducing noise and vibration, and eliminating heat and the emissions of diesel particulate matter, the miner said.

Andrew Harris, General Manager Olympic Dam Mine, said: "The world is going to need a lot more of South Australia's high-quality copper, and the team at Olympic Dam is behind our push to produce that copper more sustainably.

"Collaboration with supply partners like Epiroc will be critical to developing the technology required to reduce emissions, while ensuring we continue to improve the safety and productivity of our operations. I can't wait to see what this new fully-electric jumbo can do."

BHP's Group Procurement Officer, James Agar, said: "The fully-electric jumbo is yet another innovation that will support our progress towards achieving our medium-term target of reducing operational greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by financial year 2030."

Alisa Bennett, Underground Business Manager for Epiroc Australia and Mongolia, said: "Epiroc are excited to partner with BHP in a new era of electrification in Australia. Epiroc's ambitious sustainability targets like halved carbon emissions by 2030 matches BHP's sustainability agenda well. The Boomer M2 Battery rig will facilitate a healthier and safer underground working environment for our customers without compromising on productivity."

BHP has a medium-term target to reduce operational GHG gas emissions by at least 30% by the 2030 financial year, from a financial year 2020 baseline. Approximately 40% of BHP's operational emissions in its baseline year came from diesel-powered vehicles.

The trial of the jumbo also supports BHP's efforts to minimise the operational impact of diesel particulate matter in underground mining operations by 2025, as part of BHP's participation in the International Council on Mining and Metals' Innovation for Cleaner, Safer Vehicles initiative.

The fully-electric jumbo trial builds on electric vehicle initiatives at Nickel West in Western Australia, Olympic Dam in South Australia and BMA's Broadmeadow mine in Queensland. BHP is also collaborating with Caterpillar Inc and Komatsu to develop zero-emissions electrified haul trucks, and battery-electric locomotives with Wabtec Corporation and Progress Rail.

BHP has also signed Power Purchase Agreements to source renewable power for a number of its operations in Chile, Queensland, South Australia (with Iberdrola and Neoen) and Western Australia. BHP also has customer decarbonisation partnerships with steelmakers in China, Japan, Korea, India and Europe, which collectively represent around 17% of reported global steel production capacity.

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