Cat autonomously hauls 1bn tonnes in 2021

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Caterpillar trucks equipped with Cat MineStar Command have made mining history by autonomously hauling approximately 1.2 billion tonnes of material in 2021.

This brings the total material autonomously and safely hauled using Command for hauling trucks to more than four billion tonnes since 2013.

To date, trucks equipped with Caterpillar's autonomous haulage system (AHS) have travelled more than 147 million kilometres with zero lost-time injuries, nearly the same distance as travelling from the Earth to the sun.

Image: Caterpillar

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"Safety and sustainability continue to be top values in the mining industry. We are now entering our ninth year with zero lost-time injuries with Command for hauling, a testament to its safety record," Caterpillar Resource Industries vice president Marc Cameron said.

"A recent five-year study by one of our customers autonomously hauling iron ore reported an 11 per cent reduction in fuel usage – resulting in a 4300 tonne-per-year CO2 emissions reduction – 11 per cent increase in hourly production, 50 per cent higher maximum truck travel speed, and 35 per cent improved tire life."

The Command hardware and technology is currently deployed on the Cat 789D autonomous water truck (AWT) at Rio Tinto's Gudai-Darri mine in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, the world's first AWT.