

European Mining CapEx

Feedback from our Mining Equipment call

Industry Overview

Key Industry Trends: Underground Mines; Electrification

Yesterday we hosted Mr Jeffrey Dawes, ex-CEO of Komatsu Mining with >24 years of experience. The two biggest trends within the Mining Equipment industry he sees are: 1) The movement toward electrification and the reduction in miners' carbon footprint; 2) An increasing number of mines moving underground. Competitively, he sees Komatsu gaining significant underground market share in the next 10y. More broadly, he sees the Mining industry becoming more aware of ESG issues and of environmental concerns.

Electrification: Major cost benefit is ventilation

The major cost benefit to underground mines from electrification is a reduction in ventilation costs. If you were to remove drilling, blasting and diesel engines from an underground mine, total mine costs would drop 30%. Additionally, electrification enables the reduction of mine emissions. The biggest limitation to mine electrification is the power infrastructure required.

Moving underground: Driven by necessity and technology

Mr Dawes believes the movement underground is being driven by two factors; 1) Necessity; as ore bodies are being mined out, you need to mine deeper to obtain further ore bodies. Eventually this means you move from having an open pit mine to an underground mine to achieve this; 2) Technology; exploration techniques are improving, meaning you can now obtain deeper ores that previously unavailable.

Brownfield>Greenfield. Permitting challenges to increase

The main barrier to opening new mines is permitting, with payback periods for most greenfield mines making sense (ex the permit). However, permits are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, pushing greenfield projects to riskier regions where obtaining permits is less challenging. Obtaining permits in areas such as Chile can now be as challenging as the US. This consequently means new production capacity is likely to come from mine expansion, or brownfield opportunities.

Komatsu to gain underground market share on 10y view

Mr Dawes believes Sandvik's/Epiroc's competitive advantage in the underground OEM market comes from their products and distribution network. Although Komatsu have a comparable distribution network, it will take time to build a full underground product offering. However following this, Mr Dawes believes Komatsu's market share could quickly grow, obtaining a significant amount of market share in the next 10 years.

Harmonised automated & human fleets unlikely

There is unlikely to be a fleet which contains both humans and automated machines on the same production line, given the automated fleet's software is unlikely to be able to effectively predict human behaviour. However, they could co-exist on separate lines.

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Timestamp: 15 March 2024 01:30AM EDT

15 March 2024

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 ≤ 70%

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 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

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