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Press Release

Coal will remain part of energy mix *Techenomics helps optimise industry*

Coal will form part of the energy mix required to ensure reliable provision of electricity for many years to come, according to Centennial Coal managing director and CEO David Moulton, but a key to the industry's growth will be the adoption of new technology to enhance mining practices and make coal a cleaner product.

These were important messages delivered by David Moulton during an Austmine Smart Mining Networking event in Sydney. The messages are endorsed by Techenomics International, which supports the coal industry through its fluid management solutions.

Techenomics' CEO Chris Adsett says as well as being relevant to Australia's coal industry, the messages were particularly important in emerging Asian nations. "Coal will play a very important role in powering up nations such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar and Mongolia.



Techenomics International CEO
Chris Adsett

"Governments have set ambitious targets to supply electricity over the next 20-30 years and while renewable energy will play a role in meeting the targets, the only realistic way they will be met is through development of more coal-fired power stations," he said.



David Moulton told the Austmine forum that renewable energy was becoming more important as an energy source but should not be relied on as the only energy source – it should be part of an energy mix.

"Renewable energy creates greater volatility as shown in South Australia, which has the cheapest energy in Australia when the wind is blowing and the most expensive when it is not, while supply can also be unreliable. A reliable base-load source can only be supplied by coal.

"Australia needs 'clean coal' power stations which form part of an energy mix." He said the Isogo power plant in Japan was an example of what was needed. "It is not a new power station, but an old one converted to use ultra super critical clean coal, 33% of which is supplied by Centennial from the Western Coalfields in New South Wales.

“This is the future for coal,” David Moulton said, adding that the Isogo plant was held up as an example of how efficient clean coal could be.

He also stated that new technology was needed to make coal mining more efficient and safer, citing Centennial’s use of longwall and real time data analysis technologies as having greatly enhanced underground operations and safety.

He said the METS sector needed to do more to develop automation and singled out the area of roof bolting. “If a couple of seconds can be saved automatically installing each bolt, it will save a lot of time as thousands of bolts are used each year.”

Chris Adsett says Techenomics has a role to play in helping optimise mining operations. “Innovation, efficiency, optimisation and improved productivity will drive the future of coal and mining in general and Techenomics can be a co-driver with its state-of-the-art solutions, which include oil and fluid analysis, and condition monitoring.



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“These provide operators with a window into the internal workings of engines and equipment, enabling them to predict maintenance issues before they result in costly downtime for repairs or even replacement following failure.”

“The life of oils and performance of equipment can be further boosted by the addition of tungsten disulphide (WS₂) additives which Techenomics distributes across its network.”

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