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Mining software leader uses grant of over US\$4.5million to embark on largest mining software development project ever carried out

23 June 2008 – Micromine, global leader in providing software solutions and consulting services to the exploration and mining industry, revealed today that it has been successfully awarded a grant of over US\$4.5million by the Australian government. The announcement was made by Micromine’s Managing Director Graeme Tudor.

The grant marks a major milestone for the company. It will be used to develop MasterMine, an innovative mining software platform which promises to transform the industry.

‘At an estimated total cost of over US\$10.5million, MasterMine will be the largest ever mining software development project to be carried out,’ Mr Tudor said.

As the demand for exploration and mining software soars in the big resources boom fuelled by demand from China and India, the grant comes at just the right time as Micromine intends to closely integrate and consolidate its principal applications.

With Micromine’s growing global presence having just recently opened another office in South Australia making it no. 14, the grant will increase the international competitiveness of its mining software. Micromine operates offices in 12 countries on six continents, giving it access to some of the most remote mine sites in the world. Certain products are available in up to four different languages and Micromine is the first stop for companies looking for software to be deployed at multi-lingual sites.

The company meets the challenge of ongoing change in the resources sector by investing heavily in R&D, a commitment that’s allowed it to grow with its partners and clients.

Spanning the next three years, MasterMine will be a revolutionary new platform for mining and exploration software. The new information technology environment will see close integration between Micromine’s key applications, MICROMINE (mine design and modelling tool), GBIS (data management system), PITRAM (mine production control system) and DOME (mine production management system). Users will significantly benefit from a single-vendor solution that will facilitate strategic enterprise management.

Featuring the latest technology and engineering know-how, MasterMine will focus on evolving Micromine’s existing solutions in three distinct streams including resource data management, resource modelling and underground mine production control.

The new approach to the management of resource data will lead to the development of data management models and approaches which is currently not possible through existing environments.

The main aim of the project is to develop a platform which will increase effectiveness of companies' IT infrastructure and utilisation of skilled human resources. Potential savings through reduction of data management costs can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Micromine, together with leading domain experts, will advance resource modelling techniques and subsequently introduce them into mainstream software products used by the geological resource modelling professionals.

Through automated underground production control, MasterMine will provide operators with advanced production control features that are currently available only in the open-pit environment. There will be notable improvements to utilisation of equipment and people, with cost savings to be made per tonne mined.

Micromine will expand its product development team by more than 30%. This grant comes hot on the heels of the company's overwhelmingly successful development and release of DOME which was also conceived with the help of a grant back in 2005. Since then, DOME has been deployed at major mining houses around the world including at Rio Tinto, Barrick and De Beers sites.

Solution prototypes are expected to be deployed towards the second half of 2009.

About Micromine

Micromine is the global leader in providing innovative software solutions and consulting services to the exploration and mining industries. The organisation has grown significantly over the years and now boasts offices in more than twelve countries, with affiliates in almost every continent. Micromine is renowned for its world-class consulting team consisting of skilled geologists, surveyors, mining engineers and other key personnel who can provide the expertise needed for solving complex challenges on-site. With a global footprint and the pedigree that comes with experience, together with a world class support and service infrastructure, Micromine has developed a blue chip client base servicing industry leaders and continues to be at the forefront of innovation.

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