

Big Stuff for Mining

Sandvik makes a move on the Thai market for heavy duty mining and quarrying with drills, conveyors, and other big machines.

By Morten Rendsmark

Sandvik Thailand Ltd. is making a move on the Thai market for really big stuff. The company has in the past few years manufactured a new range of drill rigs, rock crushers, and other machines for mining and quarrying. And the company is now ready to compete on the a market that already has suppliers in heavy duty machines and equipment.

Sandvik's presences in both mining and quarrying in Thailand has been moderate so far, but now the company is aiming to penetrate both markets.

"We have been active for some years in mining. But now we are stepping up our efforts, and have employed people with knowledge in those sectors. And we are expecting to increase our market share with our new range of machines and equipment," says Keith Johnson managing director for Sandvik Thailand Ltd.

Sandvik's range of mining machines are both for surface and underground operations. The machines are also used for quarrying rocks. That is, they crush rock into chippings and powder, which end up in cement mixers on construction sites all over Thailand.

The mining market in Thailand spans over several dozens of mines, where the state owned Mae Moh

surface coal mine near Lampang in northern Thailand is the largest. Other companies are for example mining for led, gold, rubies, lignite, ball clay, potash, and also for coal, that often ends up as briquettes.

Apart from mines, other companies operating rock quarries. There are about 250 quarries in Thailand, all using heavy and expensive machines like the mining industry. They ranges from drills, hauling trucks to conveyors, that transport material away from the quarries or mining areas. Some conveyors are just a few meters long, for example used when loading trucks, while others are two to three kilometres in length.

"We have among other machines, sold 30 crushers to different rock quarries, and six big drill rigs and ten small ones to the Siam Cement Company," says Keith Johnson. He adds, that a two kilometre long Sandvik conveyor is in operation at the state owned Mae Moh coal mine, already.

Sandvik's product line for surface mining includes really Big Stuff. The Bucket Wheel Excavator is getting ready to do some digging.

