## **Our History**

1940 to 2020



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## Celebrating 80 years in 2020, Mineral Technologies has been built on the passion and vision of our people striving to bring innovation and unparalleled quality solutions to the mineral processing sector worldwide.

Beginning with Bert Watson walking door to door in Southport selling shares to establish the Mineral Deposits Syndicate, to Ernst Reichert developing the first Cone Concentrators to separate heavy minerals, mainly Rutile and Zircon, from sand at local Gold Coast beaches, to today's position as a world leader in mineral separation solutions.

We are delighted to present this book to commemorate our first 80 years, and we look forward to continuing to bring technology and innovation to improve mineral processing operations for the next 80 years.

## **Our History**













1970s







2000s



2010s





1980s



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS | 1940 - 2020



## In the 1940s Bert Watson and a handful of other investors established Mineral Deposits Syndicate (MDS).

With operations based on the Gold Coast, mineral was shovelled off the beach into trucks before being dried and exported. Lower grade material was processed over crude spirals made from tyres and concrete on the banks of the Nerang River at Brighton Parade, Southport to extract the valuable heavy minerals. Joining MDS in 1946, Ernst Reichert developed electrostatic plate separators for use in the Southport plant. <image>

Spiral Plant, Burleigh Heads, 1944





Spiral Production, Southport, 1950s

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS | 1940 - 2020

## The National Lead Company acquired a controlling interest in forming Mineral Deposits Pty Ltd (MDL) in 1955.

Six dredging and mobile spiral separation plants were established on Gold Coast beaches from the Spit to Coolangatta. During this decade Ernst Reichert developed the first Cone Concentrators to provide improved separation performance over the rudimentary spiral technology of the time. In 1957 MDL developed its Crescent Head operation in NSW utilising newly developed MDL equipment.

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Yours simulately .

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Letter regarding the Agreement for the purchase of the Syndicate by Mineral Deposits Pty Ltd, 1955



MDL Employees, Southport, 1955

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Mineral Deposits Pty Ltd, Southport, 1952



Spirals being loaded, Southport, 1960s

DEPOSITS PTL

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MDL developed and manufactured the first fibreglass spirals for its own use and started to manufacture for export.

Listed as a public company in 1967, MDL ceased mining on the Gold Coast in that same year and in 1968 commissioned a new mining operation in Hawks Nest, NSW. The Reichert Mining Equipment Division was established to manage MDL's equipment manufacturing and plant design activities. Technical marketing and sales of MDL equipment and services started in the late 1960s.



Installing Reichert Cone Concentrators in MDL's 900 tph Booti Booti Plant, near Forster, NSW, 1969











## $\bigcirc$

Equipment manufactured at Southport workshops, 1960s



MDL had 10 wet separation plants and 3 mineral separation plants in operation, and for a time was the second largest producer of rutile and zircon in the world.

MDL prepared the first ever environmental impact statement in Australia for a mining operation which included the ultimate rehabilitation of its proposed Bridge Hill Ridge operation in New South Wales.

In 1970 MDL's office, factory and metallurgical testing laboratory was relocated to Bundall and in 1971 its first overseas office was established in Denver, USA. This was followed by the establishment of an office in South Africa in 1973.

In 1979 MDL was purchased by United Mining Australia Limited (UMAL).



HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, being briefed by Mr Charles Newey, MDL's Manager, Planning and Development on mine proposals in the NSW Myall Lakes District, 1972



New Bundall Head Office, 1970s



Aerial View, New Bundall Head Office, 1970's





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Environmentalist and TV presenter, Harry Butler (wearing hat), visited the Bridge Hill Ridge operation and praised the rehabilitation work being done post-mining

Booti Booti, 900 tph plant relocated from Forster, NSW to Viney Creek, NSW in 1987 and upgraded to 1700 tph plant

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MDL expanded by relocating an existing plant to Bridge Hill Ridge in 1974 which operated successfully until 1983, having mined and processed over 130 million tonnes of mineral-bearing sands.

Purchased by BHP in 1984, MDL acquired new technologies and expertise including Doug Wright's wash water-less spiral technology in 1985 and Vickers Fine Minerals Engineering Division in 1986.

New methods of spiral manufacture were developed incorporating reverse casting and solvent-less polyurethane spraying techniques.



Trade show promotion, Las Vegas, USA, 1982

Mineral Technologies employee Peter Haber commissioning work at Sierra Rutile, Sierra Leone, 1985

Mt Newman Iron Ore Mine, WA, 1980s

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Wet Gravity and Magnetic Separation Plant, Ceylon Mineral Sands, Sri Lanka, 1984

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Sierra Rutile, Sierra Leone, 1980s

Team outside new head office, Carrara, 1990s

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A significant slump in the mineral sands industry in the early 1990s had a major impact on MDL's equipment business with staff numbers reducing from 350 to just 75.

The Technology and Equipment division was subsequently purchased by Clyde Industries Limited in 1994 which was subsequently taken over by EDI in 1996 with the company renamed MD Mineral Technologies.

MDL's Mining Division was retained by BHP as BHP Titanium Minerals. MD Mineral Technologies was subsequently engaged to design BHP Titanium Minerals' Beenup operation and supply the bulk of the separation equipment.

MD Mineral Technologies office was relocated to Carrara, Queensland in 1996.



Kenmare Resources, Mozambique, 1990s (Previously Beenup plant relocated from Australia)



BHP Titanium Minerals 3,000 tph Plant, Beenup, Western Australia, 1997



Ginkgo Plant, Australia, 2005

## In 2001, Downer merged with Mineral Technologies' parent company, Evans Deakin Industries, to form Downer EDI.

Mineral Technologies acquired the Readings Magnetic Separator and Kelsey Jig technology and designed the new Carrara Insulated Plate High Tension Roll (HTR) separator providing a step change in performance, transforming the design of Mineral Separation plants worldwide. Continuing research into spiral design led to the development of new high capacity mineral spirals and 2 stage spirals for coal treatment.

One of the busiest times in Mineral Technologies' history, the team commenced design of the world's largest spiral plant for Grande Côte Operations in Senegal, Africa. During this period spiral production capacity reached 20,000 starts annually which was a new world record.



Millennium Plant, Brazil, 2000s



Jacinth-Ambrosia, Australia, 2006

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CELEBRATING 80 YEARS | 1940 - 2020

Mineral Technologies' flagship MG12, 2-stage rougher/scavenger spiral was developed along with smaller, lower cost units for chrome and iron ore treatment.

Manufacturing was rapidly expanded to deliver over 8,400 spiral starts to ArcelorMittal's Mont Wright mine in Canada from 2010 to 2012. A key engineering innovation was the development of rubber alternatives to standard polyurethane parts to meet ArcelorMittal's objectives of extended spiral longevity and durability.

Process plants were designed for tailings retreatment projects and modular designs were introduced providing customers with mobile plants that could be easily moved from site to site.

New technologies were explored resulting in smaller compact spirals and new additive manufacturing techniques.



Iron Baron, OneSteel, Australia, 2012

Mineral Technologies' manufacturing process underwent a step change by implementing LEAN Manufacturing principles and training all employees on continuous improvement techniques. Whilst the Australian manufacturing competitive index was falling and key production facilities closing down, Mineral Technologies continued to innovate and remove waste from workflows which allowed the niche intellectual property to be protected by remaining proudly Australian made.









Southern Ionics, USA, 2012

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Today Mineral Technologies is living its vision to be the leading global provider of quality physical mineral separation solutions that maximise the value of customer mineral assets through highly skilled people and innovative process technologies.

As we move into the 2020s we are bringing new, innovative process solutions to customers. These include new surge bin technology with our Lyons Feed Control Units, truckless mining solutions with our Mobile Mining Units and a new range of Modular Plants which are enabling customers to easily relocate processing operations across mine sites and across different projects, maximising capital expenditure and operational efficiencies.

We are introducing Industry 4.0 technologies such as IoT connected sensors and devices, big data management and additive manufacturing to product ranges.





Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, visits Mineral Technologies, 2020

We are also working in collaboration with leading universities and research funding centres as we start to revolutionise the way composite polymers are used to manufacture precision-engineered mineral separation parts.

Our global teams look forward to continuing to bring new technologies and innovation to help improve our customer's mineral processing operations for the next 80 years.





Alex de Andrade, General Manager and Thomas Romeijn, Mechanical Engineer, working on the additive manufacturing project and PhD research.





Principal Process Engineer John Lyons, Innovator of the Lyons Feed Control Unit, Queensland Finalist, Engineer of the Year Awards, 2020

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## MINERAL TECHNOLOGIES SHARES SECRETS OF SUCCESS IN INDIA

EXPORT CASE STUDY | JUNE 2020

## Mineral Technologies reveals seven success factors for its flourishing business in India.

Mineral Technologies is a global leader in mineral processing solutions and is part of the Downer Group, a leading provider of infrastructure services in Australia and New Zealand. The company has expertise across a wide range of minerals including iron ore, mineral and silica sands, coal, chromite, gold, tin, tungsten, tantalum and other fine minerals.

With teams based in major mining regions stretching across four continents, Mineral Technologies' solutions incorporate metallurgical testing, plant design and equipment supply – transforming ore bodies into valuable commodities for customers wordtwidt.

## Recognised industry leadership

Mineral Technologies has 30 years' experience in India. While many countries and companies have only recently prioritised the local market based on its scale and potential, Mineral Technologies has long understood the commercial power of both.

With offices in Kolkata, Kochi and Goa, Mineral With ottces in Kolkata, Kochi and Goa, Mineral Technologies is recognised as the 'ga-to partner' for mineral processing solutions across the project lifecycle. Its Indian customers include producers of coal (including the Steel Authority of India), iton ore (such as NMUCC, BMI and Tata Steel) and mineral sato Trimex Sands).

Mineral Technologies is perhaps best known for its spiral technology, a form of gravity separation. The company is also a market-leading Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) supplier of centrifugal, magnetic and electrostatic separation equipment manufactured in-house to high ISO9001:2015 quality standards.





New spiral banks specifically designed to replace the Cone concentrators installed at New Zealand Steel operations in the 1980s

Case Study, 2020

38



Seven secrets of success With over three decades in India, Mineral Technologies has identified seven factors it



Austrade India



Mobile Mining Unit, USA, 2020



## **AUSTRALIA**

- Australian Tin Resources
- Iluka Resources
- **Keysbrook Mineral Sands**
- OneSteel
- **Bemax Resources**
- Gwalia
- **Tiwest Joint Venture**
- **BHP** Titanium Minerals
- AMC Eneabba West
- Mineral Deposits Limited 10
- **Queensland Titanium Mines**
- 12 Consolidated Rutile Limited
- 13 BHP Iron Ore
- Fortescue Metals Group
- 15 Ardlethan Tin
- 16 Cape Flattery Silica Mines
- Associated Minerals
- 18 Westralian Sands

## BRAZIL

- 20 Mineracão Metais LTDA MML
- Mineração Morro Ipê 21
- 23 MBPD

- 27 Multitécnica
- 28 Taboca SA
- 29 London Mine
- 30 CSN
- 31 Anglo Ferrous American
- 32 GERDAU
- 33 MINERITA
- 34 Herculano Mine
- 35 J. Mendes
  - VALE
- 37 AVG

36

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS | 1940 - 2020

- 38 Millennium Inorganic Chemicals
- 39 AMG Mineração
- Mineral Sands **CANADA** 
  - 41 ArcelorMittal
  - 42 Wabush Mines
  - 44 Quebec Iron Ore

46 Egyptian Black Sand Company

49 Bhushan Power and Steel

Mineral Sands COLOMBIA Mineral Sands

EGYPT

- Mineral Sands 45 MILPA
- Mineral Sands
- - INDIA
    - 47 Trimex
- 48 IRE (Chavara)
- **Mineral Sands**

Tin

- IRAN
- 51 IMIDRO

50 JSW Steel

**KENYA** 

54 QMM

52 Base Titanium

53 ArcelorMittal

MADAGASCAR

MOZAMBIQUE

56 Kenmare Resources

57 Namdeb Diamond Corp

58 New Zealand Steel Limited

**NEW ZEALAND** 

NAMIBIA

55 Terengganu Silica Consortium Sdn Bhd Silica

- LIBERIA
- Chrome Iron Ore
- Iron Ore
- Manganese
- Tin, Tantalum MALAYSIA
- Iron Ore

- Iron Ore

Mineral Sands

Tantalum

Chrome

Iron Ore

Iron Ore

Iron Ore

Iron Ore

Coal

**Mineral Sands** 

Mineral Sands

Mineral Sands

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Diamonds

Iron Ore

Iron Ore

Iron Ore

Iron Ore

RUSSIA

59 OAO TGOK Ilmenite

62 Grande Côte Operations

63 Tonkolili Iron Ore (SL) Limited

SIERRA LEONE

SOUTH AFRICA

66 Namakwa Sands Ltd

67 Iscor Heavy Minerals

68 Richards Bay Minerals

72 Palabora Mining Company

74 Advanced Mineral Processing

64 Sierra Rutile Ltd

65 Samancor

69 Tronox

71 Exxaro

SPAIN

USA

78

79

UKRAINE

75 Motronovsky

76 Southern Ionics Inc

77 Twin Pines Minerals

TE Consolidated

80 Mineral Recovery Systems

RGC (USA) Mineral Sands

Chemours

82 Dupont

70 Anglo Coal

73 Anglo American

60 Mikhailovsky

SENEGAL

61 Kovdorsky GOK

**Mineral Sands** 

**Mineral Sands** 

**Mineral Sands** 

Heavy Mineral

Concentrate

**Mineral Sands** 

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**Mineral Sands** 

Various Minerals

**Mineral Sands** 

41

Coal

Coal

Zircon

Iron Ore

Chrome

Iron Ore

- 40 Ferbasa

- 43 Iron Ore Company of Canada

- **Mineral Sands**
- Iron Ore

Tin

Mineral Sands

**Mineral Sands** 

Tin, Tantalum

**Mineral Sands** 

Iron Ore

- Iron Ore
- Silica
- Mineral Sands

Iron Ore

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Rutile

- 19 José Mendes Mineração JMN
- 22 SAFM
- 24 Magnesita
- 25 MIB Mineração Ibirité
- 26 USIMINAS





America

North America

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