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Triple ton for Jameson

Anglo American's coal business has become the proud owner of the 300th installed Xstrata Technology Jameson Cell.

Said cell is being commissioned at Anglo American's Capcoal Lake Lindsay project.

Xstrata Technology general manager Lindsay Clark said the B6500/24 cell being installed at Lake Lindsay was one of the largest cells used in the coal industry.

The cell has a flotation area that is 6.5 metres in diameter and comes equipped with 24 downcomer contacting zones.

One of the main advances has been improved downcomer design and layout, which has resulted in cells with more downcomers and with greater diameters, improving cell productivity.

It will be used to treat tails from existing column flotation cells there to produce final product.

Xstrata Technology Jameson cell manager Le Huynh said the 300th cell installation was made just over 20 years after the first cells were installed at the Mt Isa site.

These were used for treating lead slimes.

In that time the cell has been greatly improved.

One of the main advances has been improved downcomer design and layout, which has resulted in cells with more downcomers and with greater diameters, improving cell productivity.

Another improvement has been the introduction of the tailings recycle mechanism. This greatly improved the stability of the cell, enabling it to operate steadily even if the feed to it had been disrupted.

Le said the coal industry had been extremely interested in the Jameson technology for the past couple of years as coal handling and preparation plant expansions and retrofits had been carried out.

He said there also was interest in upgrading older style Jameson Cells to the latest Mark IV



The Jameson Cell being installed at Anglo American's Lake Lindsay CHPP.

design, which offers advantages in operability and maintenance.

Large Jameson Cells were bought recently for Rio Tinto's Kestrel CHPP and Lake Vermont's CHPP in Queensland's Bowen Basin region.

Base metals players also have been showing a lot of interest in the Jameson offerings.

New cells have gone into copper cleaner scalper duties at Newcrest's Telfer operation and at Lumwana in Zambia, where final grade copper concentrate will be produced.

Jameson Cell technology also has been selected for the Anglo-Xstrata Collahuasi operation in Chile. There it will be part of a large solvent extraction-electrowinning

raffinate application, as well as for cleaner duties.

A large potash operation in Canada also wants the technology for cleaner duties.

Clark said the technology's future was bright, with the cell being widely used.

"The technology has found a myriad of applications over its 20 year development but we recognise the common thread between them and that is the need for an efficient and robust flotation technology that is easy to operate and maintain," he said.

"We think the Jameson Cell fits these applications nicely and will continue to do so for future operations." **AMM**

• See the Mineral Processing feature page 82.