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THE IMPORTANCE OF A FULL-SERVICE TYRE OFFERING

Tyres are vital to mine operations, and obtaining the toughest, most appropriate, most sustainable tyres plays a major role in both cost and ESG considerations.

There are many pressing mining challenges that organisations face across the various stages of tyre life. First it's important to have access to a selection of brands, as well as understand the compound specification of the range of tyres available on the market, in order to start with a tyre that has a reasonably good probability of

adapting to the prevailing conditions.

Furthermore, notes John Martin, VP: Southern Africa at Kal Tire's Mining Tire Group, the perennial challenge of finding and maintaining access to best cost-per-hour performing tyres for the mining application remains a never-ending pursuit.

"Testing and proving new and alternative products or new technology should still be a standard procedure on any mine. It serves as a means to identify opportunities to positively contribute on an ongoing basis, in a manner that's aligned with the mine's tyre management strategy," he says.

"There are also ongoing operational decisions as to what tyres to repair, and when to repair them, as well as considering the possibility of retreading off-the-road (OTR) tyres, and the value that these life-extending decisions and actions can bring."

Throughout the lifetime of the tyre, adds Martin, mine owners will be mindful of their respective commitments to environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. This will drive decision making as to how best to deal with their tyres throughout their operational life cycle, as well as the tough decisions around how to deal with end-of-life tyres, and how these tyres are disposed of in an ethical manner.

"From a Kal Tire perspective, we have access to the performance data of many thousands of tyres and can therefore best advise in the initial stages of mine planning and development as to what

“A full service tyre offering positively impacts cash flow and dilutes operational risk.”



Expect more sustainability



“Innovation remains a core function of the group.”

tyre has the best chance of succeeding in the environment. We also maintain close relationships with all significant tyre manufacturers, as a means to access new products and technology that can potentially benefit such mining operations.”

Explaining what a full-service offering means, he says it's the ability to provide a range of all-encompassing services, starting at the point where a tyre leaves the manufacturing unit, through to the ethical recycling of the carcass at the very end of the useful life of the tyre.

The service is initialised with optimised planning and forecasting of tyre-related products, as a means to positively impact on customers' cash flow, as well as diluting operational risk, specifically in remote operations in Africa.

“A comprehensive tyre-management strategy needs to be agreed between a mine and its service provider, with key performance indicators, which could include maximising mine operational performance and/or minimising tyre costs. Management systems should then be comprehensive in their capability to capture every aspect of the tyre's life, including repairs, retreading and all related cost and performance data,” Martin says.

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRAINING

Once the tyre has fully contributed to the defined strategy, and has exhausted all opportunities for repair or retreading, it can be retired for recycling. As part of its services, where a Kal Tire recycling plant has been established, tyres can be recycled in an ethical manner, further contributing to the circular economy and supplementing the customer's ESG targets.

“It's important to note that risk is present in many forms for any mining operation. However, one way that Kal Tire can contribute to minimising its customers' risk profiles is through providing highly competent OTR tyre-management specialists,” he says, adding that Africa has a shortage of skills for the growing mining footprint on the continent.

“To this end, Kal Tire's Learning Management System is a standardised training system that is fully aligned and endorsed by the Tire Industry Association (TIA), which is used to develop team members to a consistent global standard, and can be applied in any mining operation with confidence.”

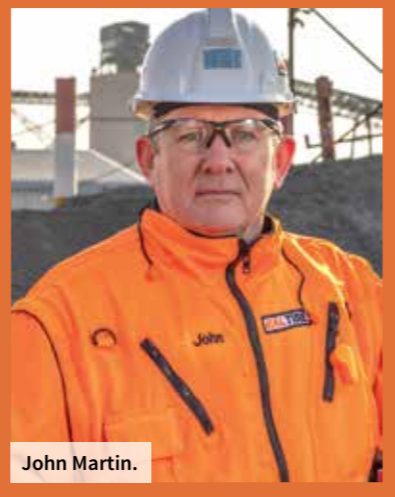
A core component of Kal Tire's service strategy is to ensure that the customer extracts the maximum potential value from all tyres used on site. This philosophy on its own is a means to reduce the carbon footprint of the client, as fewer tyres are used during the course of the mine life. This combined with repairs and retreading can significantly contribute to reducing the carbon footprint.

“For Kal Tire, safety and sustainability are interdependent concepts that are applied throughout the company, as part of the service offering to its customer base. One aspect of sustainability is evident in its local employment policies, where Kal Tire employs – as much as is practically possible – from local communities in and around customers' operations,” he says.

“These team members are trained in a managed and measured fashion, of which health and safety training is inextricably intertwined in all the training modules, creating a sustainable skills development

KEY INNOVATIONS BRINGING ADDED CUSTOMER VALUE

- Gravity Assist System (GAS) – designed to support heavy tools like torque guns, reducing muscle strain and fatigue.
- Ultra Repair™ technology – enables repairs to OTR tyre injuries that would otherwise be scrapped.
- Tire Operations Management System (TOMS) – innovative technology providing on-site real-time decision making capabilities.



John Martin.

platform from which both competence and safe working practices can be honed. Customers can therefore benefit from using our team members, who in turn contribute to customers' ESG commitments.”

There is only one globally recognised authority for safe work practices and training, continues Martin. This is the United States-based TIA, of which Kal Tire has been a member of good standing for almost 20 years. This has allowed Kal Tire to bring world-class OTR management standards, including safe work practices and globally consistent training standards, to all local markets in Africa and around the globe.

“Innovation remains a core function within Kal Tire's Mining Tire Group, and all our innovations are recognised as contributing positively to both safety and productivity, while improving the cost efficiency of customers' operations.” ■