

Pit to Port to PNG

A supply deal with Ok Tedi Mining breaks new ground for a New South Wales company. **Charlotte Dudley** reports

Signalling its first foray into both the copper sector and the Papua New Guinean mining market, bulk materials management company QMASTOR has secured a software supply deal with copper concentrate producer Ok Tedi Mining.

The PNG contract will see QMASTOR supply the resource company with its flagship Pit to Port supply management system as well as its automated data extraction and web-based reporting tool, iFuse.

QMASTOR said the installation of its software systems at the Ok Tedi copper and gold mine will provide improved ore tracking and stockpile management across the supply chain.

The contract will provide Ok Tedi with access to a swag of QMASTOR technologies including blending, barge loading, grade

control, stockpile and transportation management, and supply chain planning and scheduling.

No stranger to foreign lands, QMASTOR has already demonstrated its presence in countries such as China, New Caledonia and Romania; and given the company's openly aggressive growth strategy, the move into PNG should come as little surprise.


While pleased with the company's global expansion, QMASTOR managing director Trent Bagnall told *Australia's Mining Monthly* the PNG contract presented potential logistical challenges, due to the mine's isolated location.

"QMASTOR will utilise remote installation techniques to deploy the solution and establish appropriate support from our Australian offices," he told *AMM*.

As well as branching out into new geographical markets, Bagnall said the Ok Tedi deal served to consolidate the New South Wales company's position as a supplier to diversified commodity customers.

"This contract win illustrates the commodity independence of our systems representing our first copper-gold ore installation, and it is pleasing to see our global customer base expanding into Papua New Guinea," he said.

While QMASTOR has historically had a strong presence in the coal sector, more recently it has managed to secure deals with non-coal customers. In addition, the Ok Tedi deal follows on from a string of contracts for the Newcastle-based company, including major supply agreements with the likes of Rio Tinto and Anglo Coal Australia. **AMM**




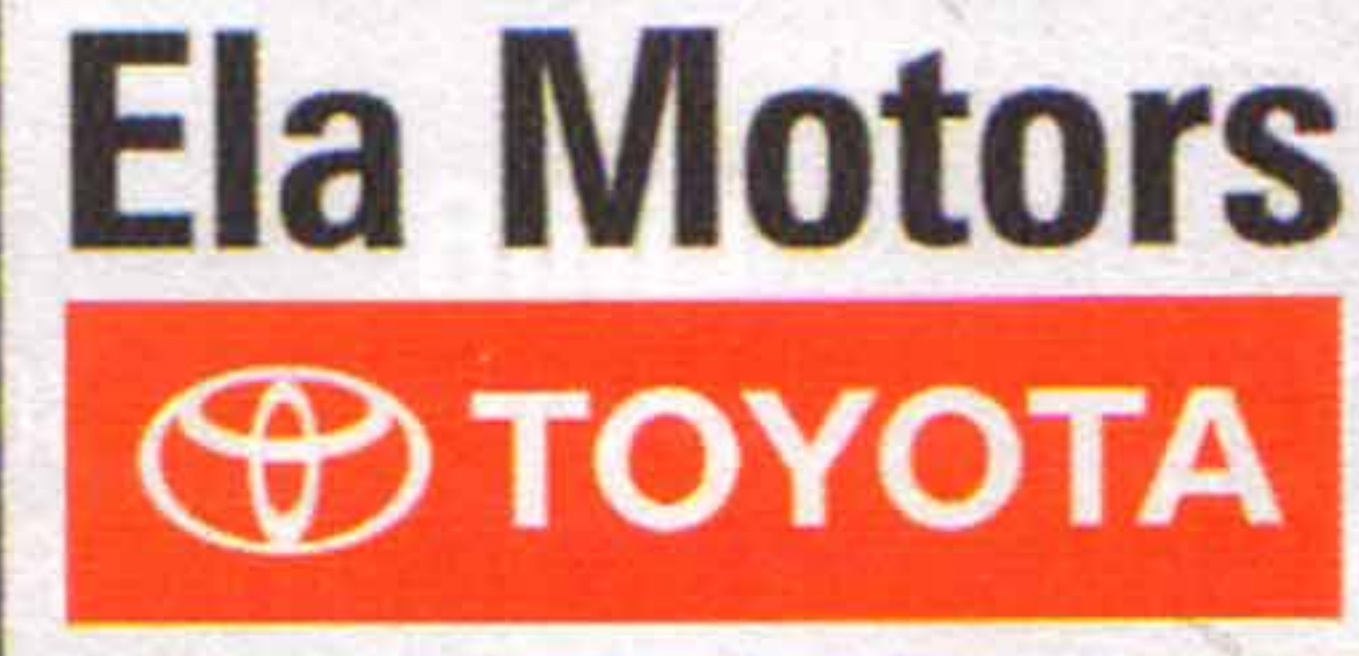
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