

Rockwell Diamonds and i to i technologies in world-first security initiative

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Rockwell Diamonds Inc

Canadian listed diamond mining company, Rockwell Diamonds Inc ("Rockwell"), has signed a major new deal with technology security company i to i technologies to establish one of the world's first turnkey security initiative for its South African mining operations.

The multi-million rand deal, concluded last month, will encompass people, technology and processes and, according to Ian Downie, Key Account and Mining expert at i to i, is set to change the face of global security forever.

"This deal is significant for the future of security globally, because to date no other company has taken a holistic view of their physical risk and used one partner to drive all the desired results in the manner that i to i and Rockwell are doing," said Downie.

Rockwell – a mid-tier diamond mining and exploration company – is a relatively new player on the South Africa mining scene with four key alluvial diamond mines in the country. The company has invested in a security solution encompassing CCTV, Access Control, Biometrics, and specially trained managers, control room operators, protection personnel and maintenance teams. Many process components will be integrated in a control room environment with multiple tiers, as well as remote view control rooms that will, in essence, allow the Company to monitor all operations and drive a holistic security processes on its mines from anywhere in the world.

Roll-out of the state-of-the-art system is already under way with teams actively working at Rockwell's Northern Cape mines.

Downie said that the new system will allow Rockwell to improve yield, processes and management by exception. Deterrence and risk reduction will also be key factors.

"I believe we will save Rockwell money, make their environment safer and drive good processes allowing enhanced return on their investment," he said.

Glenn Norton, Minerals Resource Manager at Rockwell, said that the investment made sound business sense and was driven on the one hand by the need to improve security processes on its mines and on the other by a lack of skilled people to fill this role.

"There is a skills shortage in South Africa, qualified people are difficult to find so we decided to move away from the human element as much as possible and to manage the company with few, highly trained and motivated managers and employees working in combination with technology that provides a complete security efficiency solution," said Norton. "We are proud that this has never been tried in any mining company in the world before. Rockwell are pioneers in this regard."

Norton said that with the new system, the company will now focus its HR efforts on making sure that all staff, from managers to guards, are well trained and well remunerated. In conjunction with i to i, Rockwell will set up a training centre at its Holpan mine to ensure that employees will receive continuous, relevant and accredited training that will contribute towards their personal and career development.

This focus on skills and knowledge transfer- particularly to previously disadvantaged South Africans - is in line with Rockwell's commitment to social responsibility and upliftment.

Norton said the deal with i to i was also positive news for investors.

"Investors have put money into our company and we need to be able to demonstrate to them that we are protecting that investment. With the new system we are able to show them results that are driven by processes. Too many companies are not properly accountable to their investors. We are listing in South Africa in September and we want to provide that same confidence to our international and South African shareholder base," he said.

Downie said that Rockwell should be congratulated for taking a bold step in meeting their security challenges head on and that their vision will pay dividends.

"This initiative will help make Rockwell attractive to investors as a forward thinking company that applies the latest technologies to improve yields in an affordable manner," he said.

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