

# CLIENT CASE STUDY: GREAT PANTHER SILVER



Great Panther Silver Limited (Great Panther) is a profitable, primary silver exploration and mining company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (GPR) and the New York Stock Exchange (GPL).

The Company's current activities are focused on the mining of precious metals from its two wholly-owned operating mines in Mexico. It is also pursuing acquisition opportunities throughout Latin America to add additional mines to its portfolio of properties.

Great Panther strives to maintain profitability while developing and exploring to continually increase metal production. The company's goal is to increase silver production year-on-year at continually decreasing unit costs.

Great Panther expects further growth from its two wholly owned Mexican silver operations.

## THE ISSUE

In 2005, after a year of operation, Great Panther's management realised the company needed to organise its geological and mining data more effectively and introduce plans to secure the future of the business.

The company also needed further technological support to achieve its mission of becoming 'a leading primary silver producer by acquiring, developing and profitably mining precious metals in Latin America'.

These objectives could only be achieved through the implementation of a third-party software solution that would facilitate more effective and efficient processes.

Management began looking for suitable applications, however, it became evident that the majority of options didn't provide adequate support services and weren't compatible with the company's budget expectations.

# THE SOLUTION

In 2006, after considering a variety of competitor solutions, Great Panther decided to introduce MICROMINE's namesake exploration and mine design solution, Micromine.

Micromine is a modular solution that allows users to capture, manage and interpret critical mining and exploration data. Micromine provides explorers with an in-depth understanding of a project so prospective regions can be targeted more accurately, increasing the chance of a project's success.

Miners are provided easy-to-use modelling, estimation, and design tools to simplify day-to-day design and production tasks.

#### **Superior Technical Support**

Great Panther's Mapping Manager, Alistair Barrett, commented "We selected a MICROMINE solution because of the high quality in-house expertise they offered."

"With Micromine's support, we have been able to improve efficiencies in the exploration process. I don't believe the company would be where it is today without Micromine alongside us. It has assisted Great Panther to become a more efficient operation, with structured work practices and methodologies".

Alistair Barrett, Mapping Manager, Great Panther



Great Panther's San Ignacio Project, located in Guanajuato, Mexico

"MICROMINE's geological and product experts answered all of Great Panther's questions, and clearly understood Great Panther's needs and how to achieve outlined objectives through software. This provided management with the confidence that MICROMINE and its software application would meet our needs and expectations".

"MICROMINE also provided superior technical support compared to other providers. And, with plans to expand throughout Latin America, it was evident that MICROMINE could provide localised support. Ongoing technical support was a major consideration for Great Panther".

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Great Panther's Topia silver operation, situated in the heart of the Topia Mining District in west-central Durango State, Mexico

"Micromine was initially introduced within Great Panther's headquarters in Vancouver. We found the implementation quick and easy without causing disruption to business. More licenses were soon purchased and historical data was manually entered into the program's database".

## **Cultural Acceptance**

To ensure the program was used efficiently from day one, Great Panther invested in Micromine software training. The training was specifically tailored to the company's needs and delivered by MICROMINE's geological experts. Staff training ensured correct user processes were adopted and the company's return on its software investment was maximised.

Barrett adds "Because staff could see the benefits Micromine offered the company, they were very receptive to the solution. The ongoing support provided by MICROMINE also contributed to peoples' acceptance of the implementation. If staff have a query about the solution and its functionalities, MICROMINE's support personnel are always available to assist".

# THE OUTCOMES

Barrett explains "Micromine has introduced significant benefits to Great Panther by improving work practices and efficiencies. The MICROMINE team has worked closely with Great Panther to ensure that they understand our needs and the Micromine solution continues to add value to the business".

"Before Micromine's implementation, Great Panther wasn't undertaking quality modelling work and all modelling was done using AutoCAD, a software solution not specific to the mining sector. Micromine has provided a smarter and more efficient way to plan and conduct exploration activities".

"With Micromine's support, we have been able to improve efficiencies in the exploration process. I don't believe the company would be where it is today without Micromine alongside us. It has assisted Great Panther to become a more efficient operation, with structured work practices and methodologies".

"Micromine has helped management plan the company's progress and ensure success. Like many companies, Great Panther needed to assess which software could best help the

operation improve its processes. Having utilised Micromine, experienced its benefits, and taken advantage of the training and support offered, we fully appreciated that it is a very worthwhile investment", Barrett concludes.

Great Panther is always satisfied with the latest Micromine releases and the new functionality provided. It is considering investing in extra modules to further strengthen the benefits Micromine provides the company. Additionally, Great Panther receives regular training so it can become increasingly self-sufficient and reduce the quantity of work outsourced to external consultants.

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Alistair Barrett, Mapping Manager, Great Panther

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