

ENDOCOAL: A GEOBANK AND MICROMINE CASE STUDY



MINING SOLUTIONS BOOST EFFICIENCIES AND REDUCE RISK

Endocoal Ltd is an ASX listed Australian coal exploration and development company, which is focused solely in the Bowen Basin, Queensland. The company is one of the larger holders of EPC tenements in the Bowen Basin, with 11 tenements across approximately 5,200km². Endocoal’s aim is to become a long-term, sustainable supplier of diversified coal products to global markets.

THE PROBLEM

From early exploration drilling, two major targets had been identified at Orion Downs and Rockwood in the Bowen Basin. These projects are a vital influence to the company’s share price, and as such needed accurate data models and quality control.

At this time the company was facing two major challenges. Firstly, there was no data management software system in place and there was clearly the need for data control, validation and to be confident in having one single truth data source. Secondly, the company didn’t have the capacity to create data models and the cost to outsource Resource Estimations was perceived as too expensive.



THE SOLUTION

The next step was to conduct an assessment of the different software products in the Australian market. By January, 2011, Endocoal had confirmed they were going to invest in both MICROMINE’s products, Micromine for Resource Estimation and Geobank for Data Management.

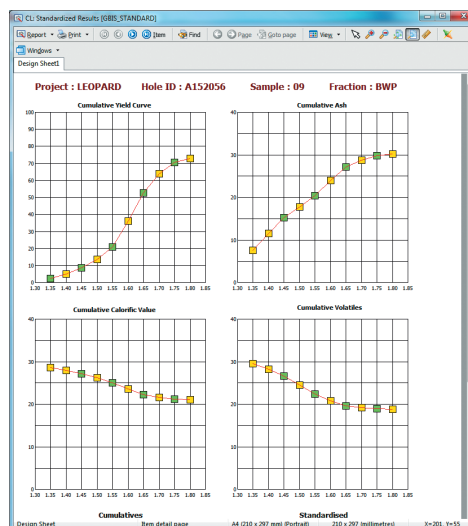
Charles Lord, Resource Geologist at Endocoal explains, “There were two main reasons why we chose MICROMINE’s products. Firstly, the products appeared quite easy to learn and use, as visually they have the familiarity of any Windows program which most people would be comfortable with. Secondly, MICROMINE won on cost. Both products were considered cost effective compared to other competing software in the market.”

Endocoal commenced implementation with MICROMINE’s software in February, 2011. MICROMINE sent both Geobank and Micromine product specialists to Endocoal’s premises in Brisbane for one-on-one training. Knowing that Endocoal was going to use both Geobank and Micromine, the individual product specialists worked together to ensure Endocoal could have streamlined use of both products. Support calls were encouraged to address areas of concern that the company had, in order to ensure they had a smooth, seamless experience.

Lord explains, “Once we decided on the Micromine and Geobank software, everything moved very quickly. The initial training we received contributed to the success of a smooth implementation. The level of personalised

training on both Micromine and Geobank meant we felt confident we could hit the ground running using the new software.”

“The set up of Micromine was straight forward. It literally worked straight out of the box, with no complex data formats or file structures.”



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Endocoal made strong progress in refining their Geobank database to ensure a validated and consistent overview of their exploration activities. They were then able to move swiftly into the phase of using Micromine's Resource Estimation capabilities to build a portfolio of their Coal Reserves.

"One of the main reasons we chose Micromine was because of its powerful capabilities. We found the software easy and intuitive to use, it was so simple to surface tops and bottoms of seams, load LAS and plot event files next to the drill hole trace, and create our own hatch patterns for the lithology trace."

"We chose Geobank as it fulfilled our data management, validation and reporting criteria. From our experience with Geobank, areas such as importing and exporting data were easy, yet powerful. Simple data views or export queries can be set up to output the data to a large variety of data formats."

"You can have confidence the data validation is robust, because the data goes to a temp table first, is then validated and then promoted to the final table. It also helps that the validation rules are simple to set up and maintain."

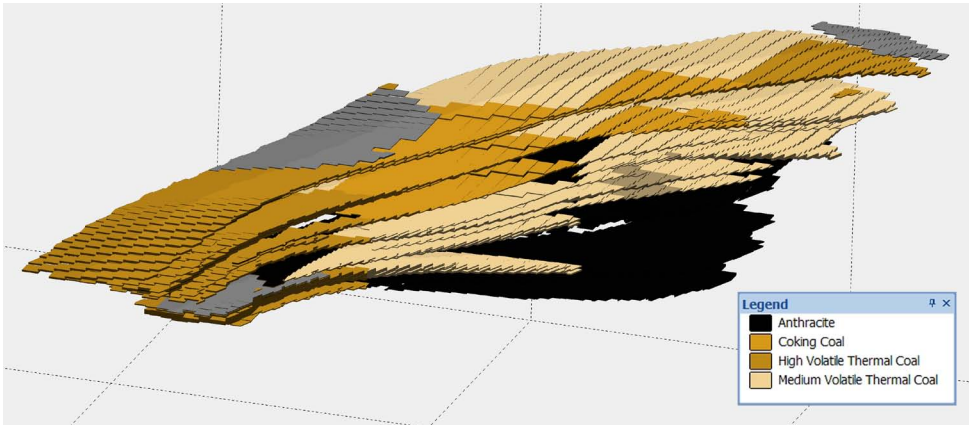
We felt the benefit for choosing both Micromine and Geobank, meant it provided an advantage in the integration between the two applications," says Lord.

THE OUTCOMES

The company believes that now the Micromine software is running internally they will receive long term benefit from being able to undertake resource modelling in-house. "We believe it will be simpler, faster and cheaper to format prior to being forwarded to external consultants to develop the Resource Models."

"We now have a formatted database, so we are able to achieve quicker turnaround times and to track data from the field to the database more accurately. Our internal and external workflows are more sound and consistent, and most importantly we have total confidence in the quality of our data," says Lord.

Endocoal has been working with MICROMINE in Brisbane for the past six months. Charlie adds, "They have made the purchase and implementation of Geobank and Micromine incredibly easy and seamless. We have an ongoing development plan, which includes managed service upgrades and consulting support when needed. We have enjoyed working with MICROMINE and look forward to growing our business relationship with them further in the future."



"Most importantly we have total confidence in the quality of our data," says Lord.



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