

# Rise of the Redbore 30

Redpath's new Redbore 30 raise drill seen from different angles

Redpath introduces its brand new raise drill to MM's readers ahead of the official launch at MINExpo 2012

**G**lobal mining contractor and engineering firm Redpath has been innovating, increasing performance and promoting a safety-first attitude at mining operations since 1962.

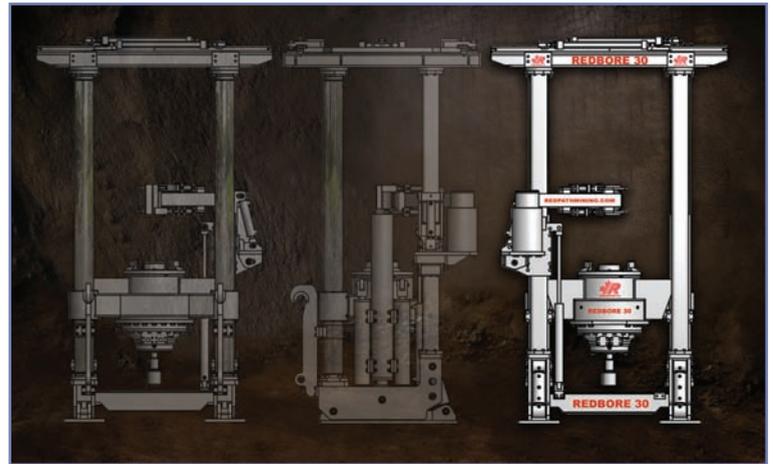
The company is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2012, and its product line has expanded significantly in this time to include six raise drills for mining applications – the Redbore 40, 50, 50MDUR, 70, 90 and 100.

At MINExpo in September Redpath will be launching its seventh raise drill, the Redbore 30, which is specifically aimed at block-cave mining operations.

## EVOLUTION

Redpath says that the new Redbore 30 up-ream drill package is built by raise drillers for raise drillers. The company has continually worked toward overcoming up-ream drilling challenges, starting with the Redbore 40 in the mid-1990s; this raise drill was tested in hard rock conditions in northern Manitoba, Canada. It was later delivered to South America and is now working on mine sites in Australia.

Redpath subsequently recognised the requirement for an additional specific drill in South America. Field-tested input from its team of experienced drillers delivered a list of enhancements that



could be implemented into a raise drill to satisfy current and future drilling issues.

This was the beginnings of the Redbore 50, which, over the course of four years, spawned variants with a double-chuck unit, different muck chutes, down-ream capabilities and varying electrical power options. The Redbore 50 MDUR is presently operating in Chile and Australia, in a variety of configurations, and has been adapted to some of the most challenging settings in the raise bore industry.

As with the previous models, with the Redbore 30 Redpath wanted to increase the performance of its machines and lower the operating cost per tonne for its global client group.

The company is confident that the Redbore 30 will spark interest among new and existing clients, and says that

the model satisfies an obvious gap in the block-caving market; the need for portability and low clearance heights were key drivers behind developing the new model.

Senior vice-president Mike Kelly told MM: "Raise drilling is the fastest and safest method of developing raises, provided you have the infrastructure and power to utilise the method. Workers do not have to enter the raise, you do not have to support the ground, and the capital cost of the equipment is relatively low."

Redpath is currently undertaking boxhole boring at Codelco's Andina and El Teniente operations in Chile using its Redbore 50 machine. "We are also manufacturing a Redbore 30 for future use at these projects to allow setups in drifts under 4m in height," explained Mr Kelly.

Redpath has developed four drills specifically for use in block-cave operations: the Redbore 40UR for raises up to 1.2m in diameter; Redbore 50 for raises up to 1.3m in diameter in low back applications; the Redbore 70 for down-reaming 1.2m raises to connect to ore passes; and the Redbore 30, which is the newest addition for small boxhole raises up to 0.9m diameter in low back height applications.

## FEATURES

The Redbore 30 was designed specifically for rapid boxhole development at angles from 45° to 90°. Redpath says that it is the lightest and most compact model on the market.

The rig can create raises 15m long and from 0.9m to 1.1m diameter, with a back height of less than 4m. The hydraulic motor produces 133kN of force for pilot ▶

**"As with the previous models, Redpath wanted to increase performance and lower the operating cost per tonne"**



Redpath is currently building the first three Redbore 30 units for delivery in September and October

► hole drilling and 444kN for reaming.

For ease of transport, the machine measures just 2.9m in length and 1.4m wide, with a total weight of 3.4t. Quick attachments and an integral chute are also included.

The drill's energy-efficient power pack and operating console have been combined into one unit to make the two-piece compact drill extremely mobile. Redpath has designed the power pack and electrical connectivity to be universally compatible so that the Redbore 30 can be used at any operation with a sufficient power supply.

**PRODUCTION**

Redpath is currently manufacturing the first three Redbore 30 units for delivery in September and October. The first machine will be on display at MINExpo in Las Vegas, US, from September 24 to September 26, at Redpath's booth (number 4665). The company also has an additional four units slated in its production schedule, and its international raise drill team will be available at MINExpo to answer questions and facilitate orders.

Redpath says that beyond drill deliveries it supports its products with a range of spare parts. The company can also provide a full complement of project-support services focused on safety, risk management, project controls, training packages for each drill model and commissioning personnel. ♥

**“Raise drilling is the fastest and safest method of developing raises, provided you have the infrastructure and power to utilise the method”**

*A Redpath technician works on the first Redbore 30 raise drill*



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