



## Azimuth Aligner

Case Study



Surface



Underground



### Customer

Swick Mining Services is an established drilling services contractor based in Australia, providing drilling services to a diverse group of mining houses in precious and base metals and bulk commodities, with operations in the United States, Canada and Portugal. Since 2014, Swick has employed the Azimuth Aligner across its drilling fleet.

Swick Mining Services specialises in underground diamond drilling and has a reputation for pioneering innovative rig designs that deliver improvements in productivity, safety, versatility and value.

Known as the “Minerals Industry Drilling Innovators,” Swick is constantly seeking new innovative solutions to maximise drill rig operational efficiency.

### Challenge

A lack of reliable drill-alignment techniques resulted in time-consuming set ups, inaccurate drilling, more secondary blasting, wear and tear on loading and crushing equipment, and slower throughput and production rates, all of which have a negative impact on cost and profitability for both Swick and the end client.

### Solution

Hexagon’s Azimuth Aligner is the most accurate drill alignment technology in the world ( $\pm 0.2^\circ$ )—more than double that of the nearest competitor!

Swick began using the Azimuth Aligner in 2014, working closely with our experts to ensure the tool could be as mobile and versatile as the drill. Swick has since been systematically fitting the Azimuth Aligner to a number of rigs across the fleet.

The Azimuth Aligner replaced the conventional exploration drill-rig alignment methods on numerous Swick rigs, allowing them to reduce the time setting up new drill holes.


The time-saving measure resulted in less down time and more time spent drilling for Swick, meaning the end client (the mine) received their core samples sooner than expected.

### Results

Initial drill rig setups were completed in just five minutes, with no assistance required from surveyors—all thanks to the Azimuth Aligner. The solution has delivered a significant bottom line increase for both Swick and the end client (the mine).



**INITIAL DRILL RIG  
SETUP TIMES WERE  
COMPLETED IN JUST  
5 MINUTES**



**INCREASE IN  
DRILLED METRES  
PER SHIFT**




**DRILL HOLE  
DEVIATION  
ELIMINATED**



**DECREASED  
OVERHEAD COST**



**REDUCED RELIANCE  
ON SURVEYORS**



**INCREASED  
BOTTOM LINE**



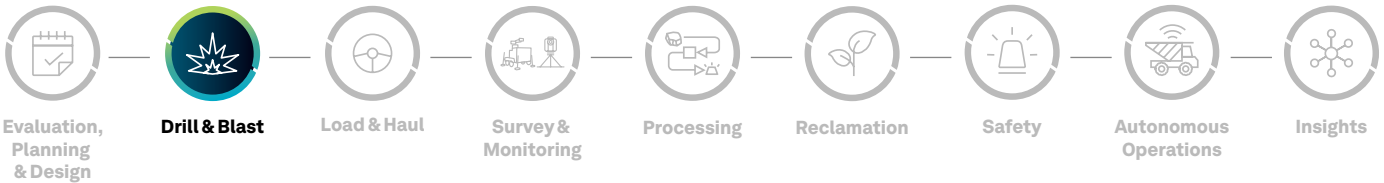
**The return on investment for using the tool is the efficiency it provides by reducing setup time.”**

Nathan Ings, Site Supervisor, Swick Mining Services

## Integrated life-of-mine solutions

Having one technology partner for the life of your mine is a superpower in the face of modern mining challenges. Our integrated, data-driven solutions help eliminate the need for disparate products across workflows within mine planning, fleet management, monitoring, safety and beyond. With Hexagon, you gain a trusted partner backed by over 50 years of expertise who remains focussed on an autonomous future both above and underground.

This offering includes solutions to support:



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