Press Release



For your business and technology editors

ABB wins \$35-million mining contract in Chile

Energy-efficient drive systems will help raise productivity in new mine

Zurich, Switzerland, Nov. 30, 2007 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, has won an order worth about \$35 million from Antofagasta Minerals SA to deliver gearless mill drive systems to increase productivity and lower energy consumption at a new mine in northern Chile.

Scheduled to open in 2010, the Esperanza mine is expected to yield on average about 700,000 tons of milled ore powder annually in its first 10 years, containing 195,000 tons of copper, 229,000 ounces of gold and 1.5 million ounces of silver. ABB's gearless mill drives (giant motor and drive systems that power ore-crushing mills) are more reliable and energy efficient than traditional mill drive systems, and increase mill productivity.

"ABB pioneered gearless mill drives, and is committed to giving our customers the technology, service and support they need to maximize productivity and energy efficiency," said Veli-Matti Reinikkala, head of ABB's Process Automation division. "Our technology supports essential mine applications like ore processing, where huge volumes of ore and brute strength are balanced against energy efficiency and around-the-clock reliability."

ABB's delivery includes three gearless mill drive systems: one 22.4 megawatt (MW) system and two 18.6 MW systems. The scope of supply also includes gearless mill drive motors, transformers, spare parts, project engineering, installation, training and other related support services.

ABB delivered the world's first gearless machine drive in 1969, which is still operating with its original converter, providing cost-effective, energy-efficient performance with proven long-term reliability.

Antofagasta Minerals is the mining division of Antofagasta Plc, a Chile-based conglomerate that also has interests in transportation and water. The new mine is located near the city of Antofagasta, about 1,130 kilometers north of Santiago.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs more than 110,000 people.

For more information please contact:

Media Relations:

ABB Corporate Communications, Zurich Wolfram Eberhardt, Thomas Schmidt Tel: +41 43 317 6568 Fax: +41 43 317 7958 media.relations@ch.abb.com