About BME's founder

Date: 2021/06/22

To help prospective Customers identify if BME can contribute to their businesses and projects, I have included some information and motivation below. Please note that a resume, references, and a portfolio of projects completed & mine sites visited are available on request.

Now >10 years ago, as an internship I enjoyed neared completion, SRK Consulting encouraged me to start Blast Mining Enterprises (BME). From 2009 onward, whilst I finished my studies, I continued mine design & feasibility study work and interfaced with Clients as an SRK Associate.

Thereafter, I supported Rio Tinto's Mine the Future projects in Australia via BME and directly. Having lived abroad for years, I recognize both the benefits of travelling & new experiences and the importance of being in close proximity to friends & family at particular stages in life. So when the compelling project that lead to my employment for Rio Tinto drew to a close, I returned home.

Because there are no metal mining operations in the Netherlands, I applied to innovative startup Inashco (now Blue Phoenix Group), that extracts copper, gold, and other metals from waste ('urban mining'). It was fascinating to be involved as this multinational in the making grew from 3 to 30 sites, and from 30 to 300 personnel in less than 3 years.

Incinerated household waste recyclers extract the periodic table of elements that we also mine. Head grades are often comparable and health, safety, and environmental issues are also paramount. An important difference is that operations are small in comparison to mine operations. As a result stringent capital & operational cost constraints apply. To maximize performance, a dynamic trade-off between technical & financial feasibility and an innovative mindset are necessary. My strong suit. In 2015, I helped sell the business to private equity as part of the core team & assisted in the acquisition of a competitor. This resulted in the creation of the largest metals recycler from incinerated household waste in the World.

At the start of 2016, I considered it was possible to contribute more to the industry – and embrace the principles of a lifetime of learning to greater extent – if I were to continue BME in favor of a senior management or investment analyst role. The industry experience gave me the confidence to resume BME, and I still much enjoy the work. Offering whatever is needed (within my range of capabilities), when it is needed for the mining, metals, and recycling industry. To date, I have visited 47 mine operations in various stages of development and completed 190 different projects for a wide range of different metals & minerals. Customers have included mining companies, equipment manufacturers, service providers, and research institutes.

Because we only have so much time given to us, and people tend to unite and achieve things greater than themselves when the need or opportunity is greatest, I prefer to contribute to projects that really move the needle. I believe that with the right attitude, if you focus and put your mind to the test, anything is possible. Which is why BME's company motto has remained unchanged since the inception of the business in 2009: "Tick, tick, boom!"

If you would like to work with BME, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Willem Blaisse

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