THE AUSTIN ADVANTAGE

RFID TECHNOLOGY REDUCES LOGGING TIME BY MORE THAN 50%

GENERAL **INFORMATION**

Location: Southern Ontario, Canada

Project Type: Surface Quarry

Industry: Aggregate

Products Used: E*STAR RFID, Eagle E*STAR Booster, Hydromite 4100 Emulsion

Project Lead & Author: Campbell Robertson – Global Manager, Electronic Initiation Systems

THE **HISTORY**

At one of Austin Powder's customers in southern Ontario, Canada, our team provides blasting services that include the complete drilling and blasting sequence from the layout of holes, drilling of holes, to the loading and firing of the holes.

Our professional team consistently delivers a safe and efficient result and looks at ways to further optimize this efficiency and time taken on-site for the drill and blast process.

THE **GOALS**

1. Identify blast optimization opportunities by using E*STAR Electronic Initiation System with RFID.

"I was impressed with the new RFID functionality within the Logger 2 and E*STAR detonator.

Making this technology available to blasters will improve efficiencies on the bench as well as provide an edge over other systems.

The new logger firmware worked flawlessly."

Al Romp, Technical Manager
Austin Powder Canada

CUSTOMER **CHALLENGE**

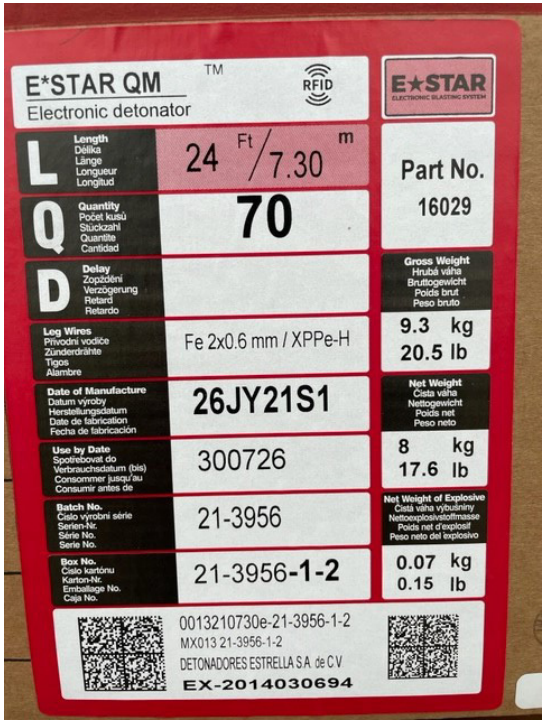
One of the tasks undertaken on the bench is to physically connect to each detonator during the logging process, which takes between 8-10 seconds per detonator.

THE **AUSTIN** SOLUTION

The RFID tag technology introduced passive RFID tags attached to the E*STAR leg wires, which are easily scanned without making physical contact with the detonator, thus significantly speeding up the logging process.

THE **OUTCOME**

Time studies completed during the RFID field testing showed more than 50% reduction in the logging process while deploying the RFID logging method, compared to the standard physical connection method. E*STAR electronic detonators using the RFID method were logged in 2-4 seconds, compared to 8-10 seconds for standard connecting and logging.



“It’s a real pleasure to use, a very fast and efficient system, cutting programming times by 50 percent!”

Aaron Merritt, Blaster, Austin Powder Canada

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