

Century Mine



SAG Mill Stabilising Control

Fast Facts

Customer:
MMG Limited

Location:
Century Mine, Queensland

Project:
SAG Mill Stabilising Control

Date:
2006 - 2007

Plant Details:
The Century Mine, in the remote lower Gulf region of north-west Queensland, is Australia's largest zinc mine based on concentrate production. The open cut mine also produces lead concentrate.

Control System:
Foxboro I/A



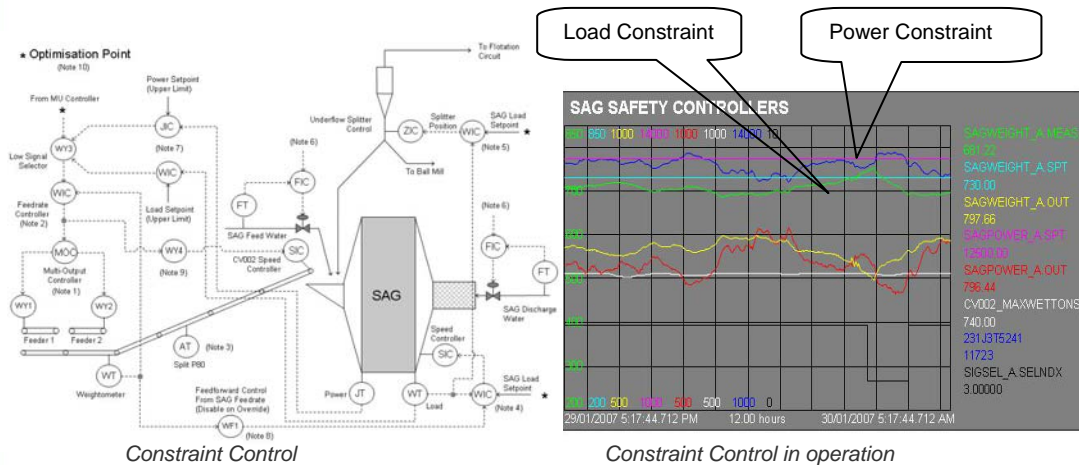
Project Overview:

The Century Zinc SAG mill has been the recipient of two major advanced control projects since its commissioning in 1999. Over time both systems had failed to meet the needs of the mill and operating staff lost confidence, preferring to operate the mill semi-automatically. The first system used expert system technology and failed due to a lack of site based experience and expertise. The second system although DCS based was unnecessarily complicated, failed to deliver performance and did not meet operating objectives.

MIPAC Solution:

MIPAC provided a practical solution for SAG mill control using four key strategies:

- Determining the real requirements of Century personnel.
- Making the best use of the plant DCS (e.g. model-based control).
- Loop-tuning and commissioning skills.
- Support for operators to understand and use the system.



Results:

The result is a robust control strategy which stabilises the SAG mill and meets operating objectives. Operators see this control strategy as a valuable tool in the day to day operation of the primary grinding circuit. With grinding circuit stability achieved, Century Zinc is keen to embark on an optimising control project.