

# Focus on mining



Claes Ryttoft

## Dear Reader,

This journal regularly looks at industrial processes and at the way in which ABB helps support, control and power them. Being an engineering journal, it is to be expected that it considers mostly their technical aspects. But in looking at these we should not forget that such processes would have no real purpose were there not a refined product coming out at one end – which in turn means raw products must be fed in at the other.

Not all of these raw materials are mined of course, but the importance of mining becomes clear when we consider that there is hardly a man-made object that does not contain some mined materials or was not produced using equipment containing them.

One of the reasons mining is so easily overlooked and underestimated is that it occurs mostly in distant locations, be they underground or in sparsely populated deserts or mountains regions. The remoteness of these locations often presents challenges to equipment: It must perform under extreme conditions (both climatic and operational) while maintaining the highest levels of reliability with minimal intervention. One domain in which ABB is making an important contribution is in large drive systems, for example for mine hoists, crushers and ventilation.

A central component in avoiding wastage and increasing profitability lies in operators making decisions based on accurate and actionable information. ABB is bringing its rich background in industrial control and system design as well as wireless communications into the field of mining, enabling for

example, the convergence of information in the control room.

These aspects are discussed in 12 dedicated articles in this issue of *ABB Review*.

Looking beyond the scope of mining, the journal also features articles on trends in wearable computing, improving air quality in docks, and a new current measurement system. Continuing with this year's anniversary theme, we also look back on the company's 60 years in semiconductor manufacturing (both ASEA and BBC launched their first power semiconductor activities in 1954).

Did you know that besides this print edition, *ABB Review* is also available electronically? Both a classic pdf and interactive versions for tablets and smartphones are available for download. Details on this are provided on the inside back cover of the journal.

I trust that this issue of *ABB Review* will provide you with a deeper understanding of some of the issues facing mines and miners, and show how ABB is helping advance and support the industry.

Enjoy your reading!



Claes Ryttoft  
Chief Technology Officer and  
Group Senior Vice President  
ABB Group



