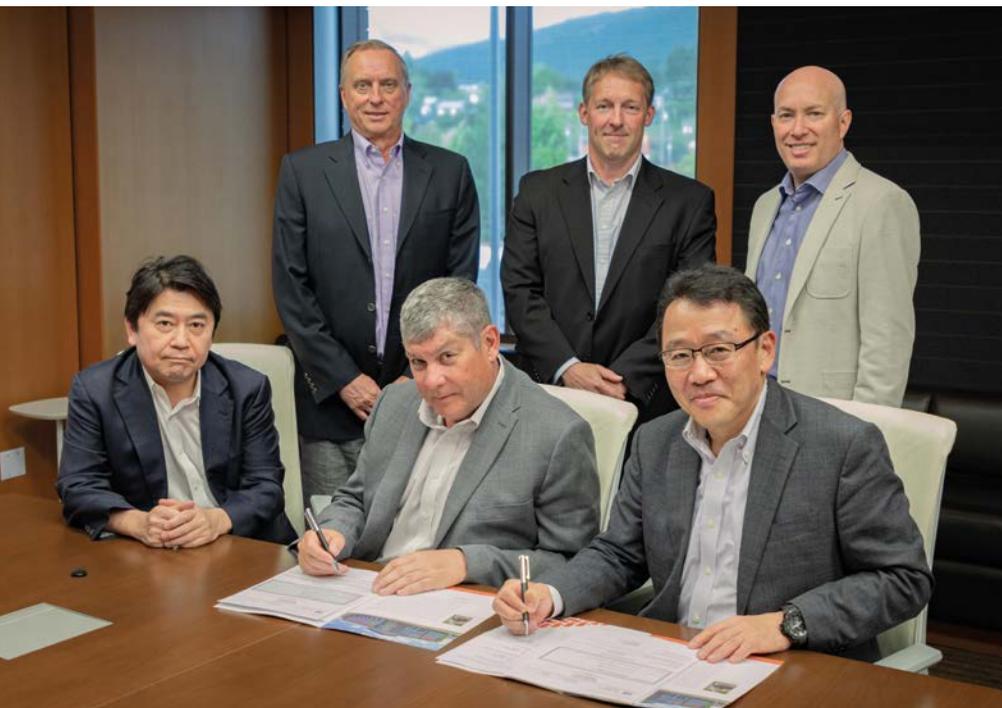


Kal Tire's recycling tech goes global with Mitsui deal

Capital injection could give Kal Tire first mover status on the emerging mining tyre recycling market

By Craig Guthrie



Dan Allan, senior vice president, Kal Tire Mining Tire Group, and Hiroshi Kakiuchi, COO of Mitsui's Performance Materials business unit, sign the joint-venture letter of intent recently at Kal Tire's headquarters in Vernon, British Columbia

Canadian mining tyre supplier Kal Tire has agreed with Japanese firm Mitsui to form a joint venture aimed at advancing mining tyre recycling solutions.

Kal Tire, which has developed a thermal mining tyre recycling solution currently being used at a specialised plant in Chile, said the collaboration will support the demand for solutions to handle end-of-life mining tyres by enabling the solution to be trialled and deployed in locations around the world.

"[It will do this] in ways that lead to the best and highest use of recycled rubber products, and promote a circular economy," said Kal Tire.

"Mines are challenging themselves to demonstrate environmental stewardship, and yet in many regions, sustainable OTR tyre recycling solutions aren't yet available," says Dan Allan, senior vice president, Kal Tire's Mining Tire Group.

"This is a great opportunity, as we have found a partner who believes in similar things. We share similar values. They want to be actively involved in that sustainability space, and they're prepared to invest capital to do it. So I think it's going to turn out really well," Allan told *Mining Magazine*.

At the thermal conversion OTR tyre recycling facility in Chile, scrap ultra-class tyres are converted to their base elements (carbon black, oil and steel) for reuse. Virtually 100% of the tyre can be reused, said Kal Tire.

A full load at the Chile plant is 20,000 kg of tyres—the equivalent of five 63" tyres, which is converted into 6,500 litres of alternative fuel, 4,000 kg of steel 8,000 kg of carbon black.

Mitsui noted the deal was part of its focus on environmental solutions in the mining industry on environmental solutions. But it also noted growing demand for mining tyre recycling and

recycled rubber products, specifically for carbon black and rCB.

"From when we first started talking about this, we've had a very pragmatic view. This is good for sustainability, it's good for customers, but at the end of the day, it needs a return on capital investment," noted Allan.

Hiroshi Kakiuchi, COO, Performance Materials Business Unit, Mitsui, added:

"We are pleased to announce that Kal Tire and Mitsui will be starting a collaboration in the mining tyre recycling business ... Waste tyres currently piled up at mining sites are becoming more urgent and increasingly an issue for mining companies these days, and we are proud to be able to provide a real and sustainable recycling solution together with our partner."

Kal Tire's thermal conversion recycling facility in Chile was the first operating facility of its kind, and the two organisations aim to collaborate on commercialising the plant starting early 2023.

The Chilean plant will provide the foundation as the joint venture pursues opportunities to bring OTR tyre recycling solutions to mining regions around the world.

"We're seeing far greater uptake from customers when they explore ESG, including recycling, and we're also seeing more interest in carbon black solutions from manufacturers," says Allan. "We've invested significantly in a solution at the top of the recycling hierarchy because we're committed to solving our customers' challenges, and Mitsui is the ideal partner to scale, evolve and invest in mining tyre recycling."

Kal Tire has said at the Electra mining event in South Africa in August that it was ready to bring its recycling solution to other regions such as Africa.

"In Southern Africa, mines are keen to pursue ESG commitments and develop a tyre abatement program that's sustainable and ethical," noted John Martin, vice president, Kal Tire

Southern Africa, adding that estimates suggest there are millions of tonnes of scrap mining tyres stockpiled on mine sites and dedicated stockpiling areas throughout the region.

"That might seem complex, but we can learn a lot from what's been done in Chile."

Several years ago, Chile became one of the first countries to develop mining tyre disposal legislation, and the company feels that similar laws will soon be introduced around the world.

"We've been actively talking about the markets where we see either customers wanting to push that agenda, or we see legislation becoming imminent. And again, we, you know, we've looked at this landscape, and we can see that there will be a window of opportunity here that's going to come in several markets," says Allan.

"What we're trying to do here is to help solve a customer's problem with a pragmatic and scalable solution - we're trying to stay true to the highest and best use of product, and then find something that at the end of it can be used regardless of where the end user is." ▼



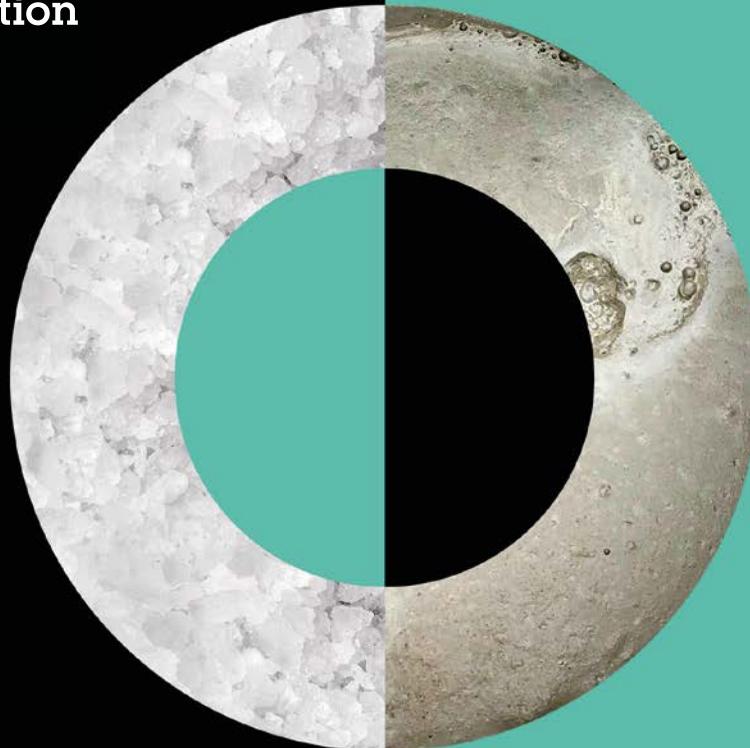
Kal Tire's recycling facility in Chile



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