

## Debswana and Huawei Unveil World's First 5G-oriented Smart Diamond Mine Project

[Barcelona, Spain, February 28, 2023] Today, at MWC Barcelona 2023, Botswana's Debswana and Huawei jointly announced the world's first 5G-oriented smart diamond mine project.

Debswana's Head of Information Management Molemisi Nelson Sechaba said that the Huawei-enabled smart mine solution has been deployed at Debswana's Jwaneng open-pit diamond mine, and the project started operation in December 2021.

Huawei's 4G eLTE private network solution provides stable connectivity for the Jwaneng mine, connecting more than 260 pieces of equipment, including drilling rigs, excavators, heavy trucks, and pickup trucks. This enables interconnection between the mine's production, safety and security systems.

Before this solution was adopted, the previous solution has two limitations. First, it has limited coverage. Second, it uses public wireless frequencies and has less robust anti-interference capabilities. As a result, the mine's different types of data could not be transferred stably in real time.

Sechaba said that it is important to deploy the eLTE solution to connect mining equipment more stably. There are two reasons for this. The first is **efficiency**. The ability to transfer data in real time makes equipment like mining vehicles more efficient, increasing yield and reducing long-term OPEX. Second, the solution helped improve **safety**. Real-time data collection, backhaul, and interaction make the system more sensitive and accurate to provide more reliable protection for staff and vehicles.

The Jwaneng mine is the world's first 5G-oriented smart diamond mine. This means the hardware equipment such as base stations used in the mine's digital transformation solution support network upgrades to 5G. 5G features like high bandwidth and low latency can support the application of cutting-edge technologies like autonomous driving, enabling more intelligent digital transformation of the

mining industry in the future.

Hon. Thulagano M. Segokgo, Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology of Botswana, stated that, the Government of Botswana is pleased to see Debswana and Huawei's joint efforts to drive digital transformation in the mining industry. Debswana is a leading mining company in Africa that, by working with Huawei, can take the efficiency, productivity and safety of mining to the next level. The Government of Botswana will continue to put in place facilitation measures to further support the digital transformation agenda across all sectors including the mining industry and welcomes international companies, such as Huawei, to participate in this agenda. Measures already underway including formulated digitalization agenda, 5G roadmap and other supporting policies.

Xu Jun, Chief Technology Officer of Huawei Mine BU, said that Huawei is committed to using its strengths in ICT technologies like 5G, cloud, AI, and IoT to develop smart mine solutions that are based on an industrial Internet architecture for customers in the mining industry worldwide. These solutions make mine production safer, more efficient, and more intelligent. In China, Huawei has jointly developed a number of intelligent applications with leading mining enterprises. For example, Huawei has commercially deployed the AI mining model in projects with Jinneng Holding Group and Shandong Energy Group. Huawei has also delivered mining digital transformation projects in regions like Asia Pacific, Latin America, and Africa. Huawei's collaboration with Debswana is an example of such successful projects.

Liao Yong, Vice President of Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa Region, said that mining is the economic backbone for many Sub-Saharan African countries and plays an important role in the economy of Africa as a whole. Over the past five years, Huawei has provided services to mining enterprises in a number of countries in the region, including South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, and Ghana. Looking to the future, Huawei will work with more local partners to accelerate mining digital transformation and create more value in Africa.



According to Debswana, building on the success of the project in the Jwaneng mine deployed together with Huawei and Botswana local companies, in line with Botswana's citizen economic empowerment program, the company plans to also deploy the smart mining solution in its Orapa, Damtshaa, and Letlhakane mines in 2023.

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