

Airobotics Partners with RockBlast to Bring Automated Drones to Chile



Airobotics, a manufacturer of automated drone technology, has entered in an exclusive distribution partnership with engineering company RockBlast to allow Chilean mining companies to utilise the advanced Airobotics system at mining sites. In the permanent search for new technologies, RockBlast became one of the first companies to introduce a fully autonomous drone system into South America to enhance and improve the mining industry.

The mining industry in Chile is significant with over 60 large companies with workers in open pits or underground mines. As one of the leading mining companies in Chile, Minera Centinela is actively seeking to improve the efficiency and productivity of its operations while creating a safe work environment for its employees and the surrounding area.

Airobotics' autonomous drones will be used at the Minera Centinela mine to help achieve this goal with their 24/7 multi-purpose functionality and safe and easy operations which do not interfere with mine operations.

[Airobotics](#) is successfully implementing their autonomous UAVs with Tier 1 mining companies in the US, Australia and Israel, and are now expanding their operations into South America. Ran Krauss, CEO and Co-Founder of Airobotics, said the Optimus UAV will help improve Minera Centinela's competitiveness in the market, increase efficiency, and improve safety for its employees. The partnership with RockBlast, specialists in [surveying in the mining sector](#), will also allow to deliver Airobotics' disruptive technology to mines across Chile improving the overall mining industry in the country, Krauss added.

Hazardous and remote sites

Automation has boosted productivity at mine sites by 25% and drones are one of the most versatile and cost-effective ways to integrate automation into the industry. Without the need for human pilots, they can operate safely in the most hazardous and remote sites. Airobotics' automated drones perform a variety of applications, which will be implemented at RockBlast's customer mine sites, enabling continuous operation of the open pit while retrieving highly accurate data of operational progress. These applications include:

- Stockpile volumes and end-of-month reconciliation
- Terrain mapping and change detection
- Asset management and scheduling
- Situational awareness and emergency response
- Infrastructure and equipment inspection
- Security and surveillance

Growing digitisation of information in mining

Drones have positioned themselves as a technological tool of high value throughout the world, particularly in mining. As part of the growing digitisation of information in mining, the data obtained by drones has become an essential factor for decision-making in the different stages of the mining process and [RockBlast](#), together with Airobotics, is a part of this new era, said Horacio Gutierrez Abelaida, CEO of RockBlast.