

# CASE STUDY



## DRILL RODS GO THE DISTANCE DOWN UNDER

*"We truly appreciate that Fordia rods have better life spans, reducing the cost per meter drilled with them and eliminating down-hole problems."*

*Geoff Muir  
Managing Director  
Australian Underground Drilling (AUD)*

As drill rods are crucial components of drilling equipment, choosing the right manufacturer is an important decision for purchasing departments and operations managers of mining companies. Drill rods made from superior materials and production processes can offer longer lifespans, which in turn provides significant benefits to operational costs. The impressive longevity of Fordia's Husky line of drill rods has been helping one of their customers to make significant savings across operations, as well as increasing productivity in other areas.

Australian Underground Drilling (AUD) is a fast-growing drilling company that currently operates 18 rigs across regional Western Australia, covering an area stretching 1500 km from Perth. Ground conditions vary, but hardness is normally between 6 and 8 on the Mohs scale, and abrasiveness is common. The company prides itself on fast, safe and efficient production and, as a result, they have earned a reputation in the industry for being one of the most productive companies in the business.

### Needs

However, due to the high number of meters drilled per day, AUD was going through rods very quickly which lead to the turnover of the drill rods becoming too high.

### Solution

To remedy this problem, AUD tried one drill rod batch from Fordia and were impressed by its longevity. Despite the fact that Husky rods are more expensive, Fordia's team in Australia knew that the rods' higher quality and durability would lead to a wide-reaching positive impact on AUD's operations. Fordia uses the highest quality materials for their rods and manufactures them in a new cutting-edge plant utilizing consistent, quality assurance processes.

### Results

Over a six-month period, AUD was able to get approximately 18,000 meters per rod string, representing about a 40% increase in rod life. This means that they needed to purchase, import and transport 40% fewer drill rods per year. Even with the higher cost of Husky rods, the longer lifespan meant that the cost per meter was 20% less when compared to the competition. AUD's operations manager was impressed and pleased that he could confidently count on budgeting for the rods based on a six-month lifespan, without worrying about down-the-hole problems or a premature need to replace them. He added that he is confident drilling deep holes with Husky drill rods and now uses them exclusively in his operations.

Husky drill rods brought other benefits to AUD, such as reduced transport costs. AUD runs operations up to 1,500 km from Perth, so being able to keep transport costs low is a huge advantage. And other benefits were realized as a result of the rods' high quality: less time was wasted switching out rod strings and fewer problems occurred down the hole due to rods breaking, or belling.

AUD was very satisfied with their experience using Husky drill rods and the resulting positive impact on the cost of operations. The relationship between the two companies has grown and solidified over the years.

