

CASE STUDY

VERTECH GROUP

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KOOLAN ISLAND HELICOPTER MESHING CAMPAIGN





1 / Introduction

Rock face stabilisation is paramount for ensuring safety, primarily where workers and machinery operate. Traditional methods involved the use of cranes to deploy stabilising mesh. This case study

explores an innovative approach adopted by the team to enhance efficiency and safety in meshing campaigns.

2 / Innovation

Based on their experience from previous meshing works, the engineers and technicians discovered the potential advantages of using helicopters over cranes. Not only did helicopters allow for quicker placement of multiple mesh rolls on rock faces, but they also brought the flexibility of operating in areas challenging for cranes to access, particularly in remote settings. Helicopters can fly low, enabling precision in placing mesh rolls eliminating the constraints of cranes that are limited by pathways. While the concept of helicopter meshing promised efficiency, it was fraught with complexities, particularly in planning.

An essential first step involved charting the flight path and determining precise mesh

placement points. This task required an experienced pilot to collaborate closely with the ground crew. Furthermore, the helicopter's down draft inadvertently prepped the rock face by clearing dust, preparing it for meshing. Each mesh roll, weighing 300 kilograms and spanning 4 meters, amounted to a cumulative 224 meters of mesh or 16,800 kilograms daily.

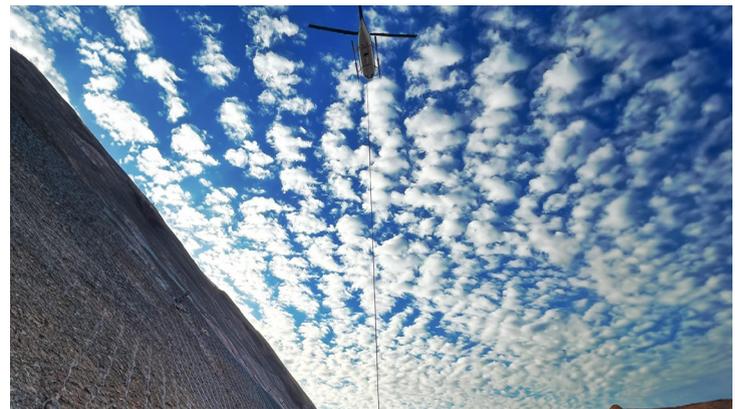
In tandem with helicopter operations, rope access teams played a crucial role, especially for more prominent rock faces. Combining both technologies was pivotal in scaling heights and ensuring effective mesh installation.

3 / Project Summary

The meshing campaign, especially with the introduction of helicopters, required a significant revamp of existing procedures. Faced with the challenge of integrating helicopter regulations into their operations, the team at Koolan demonstrated remarkable adaptability. The central pit saw extensive meshing through rope access and footwork in areas inaccessible to cranes or vehicles.

Two significant campaigns, termed HEC 12 and HEC 13, were carried out within this framework. HEC 12 witnessed the installation of 106 rolls of TECCO mesh over three days, utilising 22 rope sets on the rock wall. HEC 13, despite the placement of 110 mesh rolls, was also executed in a similar three-day timeframe. Remarkably, both campaigns culminated without any injuries or significant incidents, underscoring the efficacy and safety of the innovative approach.

In conclusion, this endeavour is a testament to Veritech's commitment to innovation and safety. The campaign's success stands as a beacon of Veritech's innovative journey. The team extends its gratitude to clients, business partners, and employees, eagerly anticipating future collaborative ventures.



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