



Taking Diesel Engines to Dhanbad

Tony Martin, Manager Physical Testing Branch, TestSafe Australia

Decades of experience in testing the safety of diesel engines recently came to the fore with the visit of a top-level Indian Government delegation to TestSafe's facilities.

The Indian Government specifically sought out TestSafe because it is interested in establishing a similar facility to assist its largely State-owned coal mining industry to make the transition from hand drilling to more mechanised systems of extracting coal.

The delegation contained representatives from the Indian Diesel Project Committee and was led by its Chairman, Mr. Bhaskar Bhattacharjee, Director-General of Mines Safety, Government of India. The bulk of the Committee came from the town of Dhanbad, which is located 170kms north of Kolkata, and internationally famous for its rich Jharia coalfields. Much of the coal won from these collieries is used to support the India's largest steel complex in nearby Bokaro, and power stations.



Not surprisingly, the Mines Safety Directorate is also located in Dhanbad, and it provides services including research and laboratories to all the coal-mining regions of India from this base.

TestSafe's Technical Officer, Geoff Staples provided the delegation with an insight into the workings of the diesel dynamometer and all the equipment required to establish a similar facility. He was able to convince them that such a facility could not be simply be purchased off-the shelf or be constructed from an instruction manual, but had evolved and been equipped over a long period of time responding to the needs of industrial clients.

From left to right front row -

Mr Peter Harley, Director TestSafe Australia

Mr C.L.Srivastav, Director South-Eastern Coalfields

Mr Bhaskar Bhattacharjee, Director-General of Mines Safety, Government of India, Dhanbad

Mr Rajendra Prasad , Deputy Director-General (Elect) Mines Safety, Government of India, Dhanbad

Mr A.K. Mukherjee, Deputy General Manager, Mining Equipment

Mr Ravi Johnpulle, Business Manager, TestSafe Australia

From left to right back row -

Mr Geoff Staples, Snr Technical Officer, TestSafe Australia

Mr Peter Kacev, Mechanical Engineer, DBT Australia

Mr S.K. Ritolia, Scientist Engineering Division, Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad

Mr Tony Scott, Business Unit Manager, DBT Australia

Mr Rien Pouls, Snr Project Engineer, DBT Australia

Mr S.Venkataraman, Deputy Director of Mine Safety (Mech) Government of India, Dhanbad