

Machines repair mining equipment, save clients millions

By [Sebastien Perth](#)

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Sebastien Perth The Sudbury Star B & D Manufacturing's Multi Handler base with a Motor Handler attachment on top makes changing wheel motors much easier and safer.

In the world of open pit mining, where downtime can mean losing millions, one Greater Sudbury company is emerging as a world leader in providing the tools needed to stay in business.

B & D Manufacturing out of Chelmsford makes big, heavy machines that can help fix the industry's biggest, heaviest machines.

Its appropriately named Super Jack can lift a 400tonne truck off the ground, while its tire handler machine takes off 10-tonne tires.

And its Swing Shaft changer can cut down maintenance time from two days to two hours, saving a client millions.

B & D opened their doors to media this week as three representatives from International Wheel were learning how to use the equipment they are selling in Peru.

Using a remote control, they were able to manoeuvre a multi-handler machine that can be outfitted with a variety of attachments, depending on what job needs doing.

Wayne Desormeau, international sales manager for B & D Manufacturing, said the equipment used in open pit mining has gotten so big they can't be fixed using traditional methods.

"The size of the trucks, the size of the shovels ... they are using equipment that the mechanics cannot use cranes to change any more," Desormeau said. "Forklifts are not allowed as a mechanic tool in South America, it has to be a specialized tool to change components on a truck.

"Everything from the struts to the wheels to the electric drives, that now requires a specific tool to do the job. Safety is probably the number one focus, number two is the availability. We improve the safety and increase the productivity with these tools."

Desormeau said B & D got into open pit equipment manufacturing after a Barrick gold strike in Nevada about seven years ago. The company came to B & D and asked it to design something for them. Now, B & D equipment is in six American states, four South American countries, in the oil sands of Alberta, and is about to go into Australia and an open pit mine near Cochrane.

Melina Sevilla, a sales executive from International Wheel in Peru, was at the Chelmsford plant to learn how to operate the machines. She said mining in Peru is quite difficult due to the high altitude. Machines have to be made to work there. She said a mine at 4,500 metres above sea level already has a Super Jack and works great.

Desormeau said clients don't want to buy more trucks -- they just want them to be operational for longer periods of time. B & D makes the machines that allows that.

"The pieces of equipment we have here today weigh 30 tonnes, we're taking components off that weigh about 100,000 pounds," Desormeau said. "The pieces we're building now are definitely the heaviest and strongest in the world because they have the be able to handle the heaviest components in the world. The equipment is always getting bigger, Caterpillar and Komatsu are always getting bigger, to be able to move more material around.

"The problem is that these companies were going so fast (designing bigger machines) they couldn't keep up with the demand of how you can maintain the equipment."

That's where B & D stepped in and built the tools needed to fix some of the world's biggest machines. And they are getting recognized, too.

"We seek out contracts with these equipment manufacturers. I was in Vancouver last week talking with a Caterpillar vice-president about our partnership," Desormeau said. "We're talking with Komatsu, too. They are coming to us now as the company of choice, they know us now. We're starting to be globally recognized. It's been a long time coming.

"We are very good at it. We have a team here in Chelmsford and North Bay that creates these unique prototypes. About 140 people work in Chelmsford, another dozen in North Bay."

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