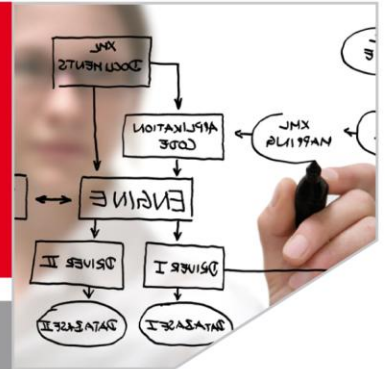


# Recent Innovations in Design of Overland Belt Conveyors

Lawrence Nordell - President of Conveyor Dynamics, Inc (CDI)

Mechanical Branch Engineers Australia WA, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Australian Society for Bulk Solids Handling



## EVENT DETAILS

### Date:

Wednesday, 20 March 2013

### Time:

11.30am – 2.15pm

### Venue:

Auditorium  
Engineers Australia  
712 Murray Street  
West Perth

### Cost:

EA & ASBSH members - \$15  
Non-members - \$35

### RSVP:

Registration essential by  
Tuesday, 19 March 2013 via the  
link below:

<https://events.engineersaustralia.org.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=1657&s=8VG13QWMA>

Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
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**ASME**  
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AUSTRALIA

What are the recent innovations in Australia? Conveyor Dynamics, Inc. (CDI) has enjoyed a long relationship with engineers in Australia since 1987 through 2007. This association has brought many advancements to the conveyor industry such as: 20 km Rio Tinto Channar (1989), 5 km Shell German Creek (1995), 7 km BHP Biway (1997), 14 km Westfarmers Muja/Collie (1997), 5 km BHP Yandi (2004) and 20 km Westfarmers Curragh North (2007).

In this session, Lawrence Nordell will offer what Conveyor Dynamics, Inc. (CDI) practices on Overland Conveyors (OLC). The target of the talk will be on what CDI promotes as Optimized Total Life Cycle Cost of Ownership. Among the salient points for both trough and pipe conveyors are:

## A. BELT DESIGN

1. Belt Cost Drivers – what is a good belt safety factor, cover gauge and specifications for wear and power; construction techniques that can save on raw material costs not practiced by belt suppliers/engineers
2. Belt Construction Limitations – Idler Junction Pressure Index (IJPI), belt squirm at high pressure point under steel cord and its consequences
3. Belt Specifications – speed, cord construction, cord pitch, splice advancements, belt reels and limits of length/reel
4. Belt Influence on Demand Power – rubber rheology's importance and lack of engineers/users embracing the performance gains – historical measurements and + 2 year Newcastle University testing of idlers and power loss in belt-to-idler contact zone
5. Belt Splice Techniques – definition of belt safety factor (SF), splice pattern advancements and consequences, modern strength limits as dictated by the splice dynamic efficiency; even or odd belt steel cord count. Old and newer practices
6. Belt Life Expectancy – based on Discrete Element Method (DEM) modeling and historical data. How long should an overland belt cover and splice last. An opinion of good and bad practices.

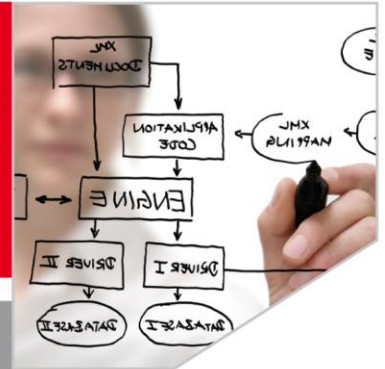
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## B. IDLER DESIGN

1. Idler Cost Drivers – quantity, quality, diameter, bearing size, spacing.
2. Idler Optimization Techniques: • L-10 Life, spacing & replacement costs • Noise generation vs. spacing – theory & measurements • Return idler trough shape configuration: 3-roll vs 2-roll; single roll • Replacement costs – capital, maintenance • Belt Flap – stringer theory, plate theory, FEM analysis, belt speed
3. Offset vs. In-line trough configuration – benefits of offset for trough and pipe conveyors
4. Idler Pipe Transom & its integration as a structural member and as a belt friendly support – brief discussion on sympathetic vibrations with respect to idler supports.
5. Idler Spacing Limitations – governing conditions include Idler Junction Pressure Index (IJPI), rubber squirm damage at belt cover to idler interface, belt flap and modal vibration avoidance with support structures, trough angle influence; tracking/belt alignment benefits to larger spacing.
6. Idler Ground Modules – types and benefits – stress limits & vibration modes

## C. PULLEY ARRANGEMENTS

1. First Axiom – avoid them = minimize their use = best configuration is no more than head & tail pulleys
2. Second Axiom – avoid belt high tension dirty side contact
3. Third Axiom – avoid belt dirty side contact between drives
4. Fourth Axiom - avoid belt dirty side contact
5. Ground vs. Elevated pulley configurations and ultimate cost of operation

## D. TAKEUP SYSTEMS

Gravity vs Powered Winch – return tension control – benefits and drawbacks

## E. ELEVATED STRUCTURES WITH SELF-POWERED MAINTENANCE TROLLEYS

## F. CONTROL METHODS

Brief – speed, tension, torque

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