

CASE STUDY

Gekko Systems



CATEGORY:
Manufacturing

LOCATION:
Ballarat, Victoria

A Team Effort That's Pure Gold

Gekko Systems has grown from a husband and wife team in a small Victorian town in 1996, to a leading global supplier of mineral processing equipment with operations in North America, South America and South Africa, and knows a thing or two about what works. Which says a great deal about their enduring 16-year working partnership with BlueScope Distribution.

Mind you, the dynamic duo of Elizabeth Lewis-Gray and husband Sandy Gray weren't starting exactly from scratch. Each brought exceptional talents to the table in the creation of Gekko Systems – talents which have played an integral part in the company's extraordinary success.

CEO and Managing Director of the powerhouse mineral processing technology company, Elizabeth Lewis-Gray, worked in stockbroking and strategic planning prior to co-founding Gekko Systems. Bringing her wealth of experience to bear on the establishment of Gekko's operations, Elizabeth is a multi-award winning businesswoman whose accolades include membership in the Australian Businesswomen's Hall of Fame, Director on the Australian Federal Government's Innovation Australia Board, member of the newly established National Precincts Board, and Deputy Chair of Austmine.



Our partnership with BlueScope Distribution over the last 16 years has been a very fruitful one which has made our task of delivering on projects so much simpler," Phil said. "They are able to work with short lead times and still deliver in a timely fashion which helps us meet a busy delivery schedule when multiple projects are on the go.



And beside every great woman, particularly in the case of Gekko Systems, is a great man. Now Technical Director of Gekko Systems, Sandy Gray has grown from one-time mine manager to become one of the world's foremost figures in the development of mineral processing technology, rejuvenating the art of gravity separation of alluvial gold using the basis of panning and becoming a leader in gravity gold and leaching flowsheet design, materials handling and effective plant design.

Sandy's designs are breakthroughs in the field of mineral processing, with over 400 of his inventions installed at mines in 40 countries worldwide including Gekko's patented systems such as the InLine Pressure Jig, InLine Leach Reactor and the Python modular plant. Sandy has also won multiple awards for his work, including the prestigious Clunies Ross Award, Australia's pre-eminent award for scientists, technologists and innovators, and holds memberships on bodies including the CSIRO Mineral Resources Sector Advisory Council.

"Our developments have the potential to significantly improve financial returns, which is why we believe Gekko will play an important role in the mining industry's future," Sandy said. "Despite our youth, the company has built outstanding teams of specialists who are passionate about producing timely, high-quality products and services for our customers."

On the ground at Gekko Systems' Ballarat headquarters, this dedication to customer service and satisfaction is greatly assisted by the support of BlueScope Distribution, as Gekko Systems' Manufacturing Planning Team Leader, Phil Amoores, can attest.

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"We issue the orders to BlueScope Distribution and they consistently deliver when we want it and how we want it, with the steel supplied to us in a kit basis, cut to size, which eliminates waste and supports one of Gekko's core values of working in a LEAN manufacturing environment."

Our recent Steel Efficiency Review™ has strengthened our ability to deliver for Gekko Systems in kit form for five ILR5000 InLine Leach Reactors, predominantly used for mineral separation in gold mining, and required for a Russian mining operation.

"We had a 22-week build time which started two weeks before Christmas, so it's been a mad rush with closures over the holiday season," Phil Amoores said. "The longest piece we needed was 11 metres and the finished product, with tanks on top, is about 12 metres high and over two metres wide, so this has been no small task for BlueScope Distribution

"With BlueScope Distribution's assistance the project stayed on track and all five units are now on their way to Russia."

BlueScope Distribution's Ballarat Account Manager, Ben Carey, is equally enthusiastic about the team effort between BlueScope Distribution and Gekko, particularly in relation to the latest project.

"This has been a big, complex project with tight deadlines. Meeting the challenging schedule has relied heavily on working closely with the team at Gekko," Ben said. "But they are great people and the spirit of co-operation in both companies has enabled us to play our part in helping Gekko be successful with this important business opportunity."

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