

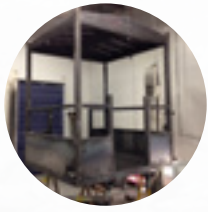


CASE STUDY

A CUT ABOVE

A custom designed-and-built rock-scaling basket helps Dominion Diamond Corporation improve crew safety and site efficiency at their mine operation.





DOMINION DIAMOND CORPORATION is a major supplier of rough diamonds to the world market. Their operation at the Ekati Diamond Mine near the Arctic Circle often requires specialized

equipment that can withstand challenging work environments and harsh climates.

Part of the process that brings rough diamonds to the surface involves skilled workers known as High Wall Scalers. This specialized crew works in the open pits to remove hazards, like large rocks and boulders, from the sheer, vertical walls of the mine, which can be as high as 30 meters.

“The High Wall Scalers are there to protect other crew members,” says Chantal Lavoie, Chief Operating Officer for Dominion Diamond Corporation. “They’ll scale down from the walls of the mine using a scaling bar to push or pry the rocks off or an airbag to loosen it. If the rock is too big to move, they’ll anchor it in place by installing ground support.”

It’s this last activity that necessitated the need for a rock-scaling basket. Chantal notes that if there’s a large area where ground support is needed, the basket lets the team go in and install ground support materials in a more efficient manner.

Dominion Diamond Corporation had used a similar piece of equipment years before but wanted something bigger and better. Enter Bigfoot Crane Company. Working with the engineering team at Dominion Diamond Corporation, Bigfoot Crane designed and built a customized rock-scaling basket according to the company’s requirements. “We wanted to make sure this was going to work for the crew so one of the first things we did was reach out to them to see what kind of improvements would help them do their job,” notes Chantal.

The completely customized finished product turned out to be better than expected. It’s ergonomically-designed, with adjustable wall supports, covered sides and a solid bottom steel wall to cut down on wind. Best of all, it has significantly improved crew safety and allows the workers to use a different type of drill that’s more efficient for them. “The customized basket has doubled highwall scaler productivity,” says Chantal. “The team is pleased with how fast and how efficiently it works. It also allowed us to extend our operating season as well.”

“This was a good investment for us. The equipment works well in our specific operating environment and given our specific and unique requirements.”

The customized basket has doubled highwall scaler productivity.

ABOUT DOMINION DIAMOND CORPORATION

Dominion Diamond Corporation (TSX: DDC, NYSE: DDC) is a Canadian diamond mining company with ownership interests in two major producing diamond mines situated approximately 200 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle in Canada’s Northwest Territories. The Company operates the Ekati Diamond Mine (in which it owns a controlling interest) and also owns 40 percent of the Diavik Diamond Mine. It supplies rough diamonds to the global market through its sorting and selling operations in Canada, Belgium and India.

Photos courtesy of Lesley Town and Dominion Diamond Corporation



Technical Specifications & Features

Technical Specs

- 114" L x 82" W x 105" H
- Platform Weight 2850 lb
- Rated Capacity 2500 lb

Features

- Built-in FOPS (Falling Object Protective Structure)
- Total load capacity is equivalent to that of our basket
- Equipment storage cribs
- Solid bottom steel wall cuts down on wind
- Mounted drill slide
- Mounts for solid airlines and pneumatic controls
- Adjustable wall supports
- Rear storage platforms for diesel generator and resin box
- Removable test weight
- Associated rigging & documentation



