

Soft Starters for the Gold Mining Industry

Driving water pumps
1200 and 2100 meters below ground
Harmony Gold Mine, South Africa



4 x 6.6KV / 1.5MW at 2100 and 1200 meters underground



Harsh environmental conditions and high inrush currents lead the engineers at the Harmony Gold Mine towards a soft starter solution. When it came to choosing the right soft-starter for installation 2100 meters below ground level, the final choice was Solcon's HRVS-DN

Since the power grid was unstable, it was very important to eliminate the high inrush current and torque during starting. And the ability to soft-stop these pumps to eliminate damaging water hammer that threatens the pipe joints and valves with every stop was equally as important.

Solcon soft-starters not only soft-start and soft-stop, but also provide start and stop curves that increase the life expectancy of both the pumps and the piping infrastructure. The built in motor protection system and the additional motor protection relay provided complete protection to both the motor and the soft-starter.

