



# PROBLEM SOLVED™ PAPER

**SOLUTION:** Martin® SHD Cleaner

**INDUSTRY:** Mining

**LOCATION:** Rheinbraun AG  
Erfstadt, Germany



*Bucketwheel excavators and high-capacity conveyors are used in Rheinbraun's lignite mining operations.*



*The Martin® SHD Cleaner is built to stand up to fast belts and heavy material loads.*

## PROBLEM

Rheinbraun is a major lignite mining company located near Cologne, Germany. The company operates several mines to supply over 100 million tons of lignite per year to mine-mouth power plants run by a sister company.

To reach the coal seams, the mines must move over 350 million tons of overburden per year. The mining method is open cast excavation using bucket wheel excavators and high-capacity conveying systems. Belts are up to 2.8 meters (10 feet) wide and travel at speeds up to 7.5 meters per second (1500 fpm). To control expenses, Rheinbraun wanted to extend the life of belt cleaning components while reducing the maintenance these systems required.

## SOLUTION

Martin® SHD Cleaner

To help Rheinbraun reach its corporate goals for cost control and maintenance reduction, Martin Engineering developed a custom belt cleaning solution for the overburden belts.

## RESULTS

This rugged cleaning system has dramatically reduced cleanup costs while providing an average blade life of 11 months.

The belt cleaning system, known as the Martin® SHD Cleaner, has become the industry standard in lignite mines across Europe, including Germany's LAUBAG and MIBRAG operations and Hungary's MATRA.

*Martin® SHD Cleaner is protected by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,439,373; 4,917,231.*

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