The Spence project, in the Antofagasta province in the north of Chile commenced operation in 2006. Spence is an open pit, heap leach, solvent extraction and electro-winning project, with a capacity of 200,000 tonnes of copper cathodes a year. The Metallurgy department acquired a Maptek I-Site 8800 laser scanner in late 2010 for various applications.

One of the critical tasks is to manage reclamation of the leaching pads. The control method is by Roto shovel or estimated truck volumes. The I-Site 8800 system allows the operation to accurately measure height and volume of reclaimed material weekly, in a fast and safe manner.

SINCE INTRODUCING THE I-SITE TECHNOLOGY, A DEVIATION OF 5% IN RECONCILIATION TONNAGE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED.

The I-Site system has also been used for measuring the gravel overburden, the advancing mine face, and for geotechnical and geological slope analysis.

Thanks to Eduardo Hidalgo
Hydrogeologist Leader
Pampa Norte
BHP Billiton