BRANKO BABIC

Logistics and Expediting Specialist

DIAVIK DIAMOND MINE (*Rio Tinto/Dominion Diamond Mines*)

Branko has been working as a logistics specialist since 2014, although he is certainly not new to mining – he has been in the industry since 1988. Branko plays a very important role in the overall functioning of the mine.

As a logistics specialist, his duties include, organizing the transport of all the goods destined for the Diavik site from all over the world, whether it be by air, sea or ground transport, including coordinating the supply for the mine during the winter season over the winter road, which can be a challenging task. The ice road can be very difficult to deal with as it is only open for part of the year. He said, "The loads change depending on the ice thickness. You must plan for when the ice can take more and when it will shut down. There are a lot of loads that must make it to the site in a small window of time. It can be very hectic – operations must run 24/7 – but could be shut down due to severe weather conditions at any time. This creates a back log of loads which then have to be transported later."

It is a very detailed process that takes significant experience to be able to coordinate.

He must create strong relationships with all the suppliers and be able to communicate effectively with his team to make sure things happen safely and effectively. "I supervise all of the dispatch coordinators and administrators. It is important that everyone understands their role in the process."