

Updated software improves business

Being a key provider of bespoke systems for the mining industry provides Mineware Consulting with an exclusive view of aspects of the mining business that can be improved with updated software. According to Mineware managing director, Paul Saker, a core focus of his company is to ascertain where a lack of effective business communication, control, accountability or project ownership has caused management structures to be less effective. "We design software that puts control back into the hands of the appropriate personnel, which is where Mineware's PAS (production analysis system), SHEC (incident management system), PPE (personal protective equipment), BCS (bonus control system) and survey systems have provided invaluable solutions to mining houses," says Saker.

A large platinum producer recently incorporated all of these products into one integrated management system (IMS), where production outputs, PPE usage and control, bonuses payable and incidents are logged and tracked in real time. Mineware client manager, Ken Ansell believes that, in many instances, certain sectors of

mining operations are open to human error and abuse. "For example," he says, "some mines have little or no control over the issuing of PPE. Our software ensures that internal control is tightened, and cost savings can be expected."

One such system was developed on site for a client, and management was able to make additions and alterations "on the fly" during development and implementation.

"In this instance, integration with the payroll division simplified the tracking of PPE deductions, when appropriate. An end-of-month employee PPE deduction report was set up to be E-mailed directly to the payroll system, combined with a summary of contractors' deductions. The mine is thus able to monitor every aspect of its payroll and make adjustments quickly where necessary," Saker informs.

According to Mineware, a primary benefit for mines is annual cost savings. "There's far more internal control and monitoring of costs from the production unit through to the individual level," he says.