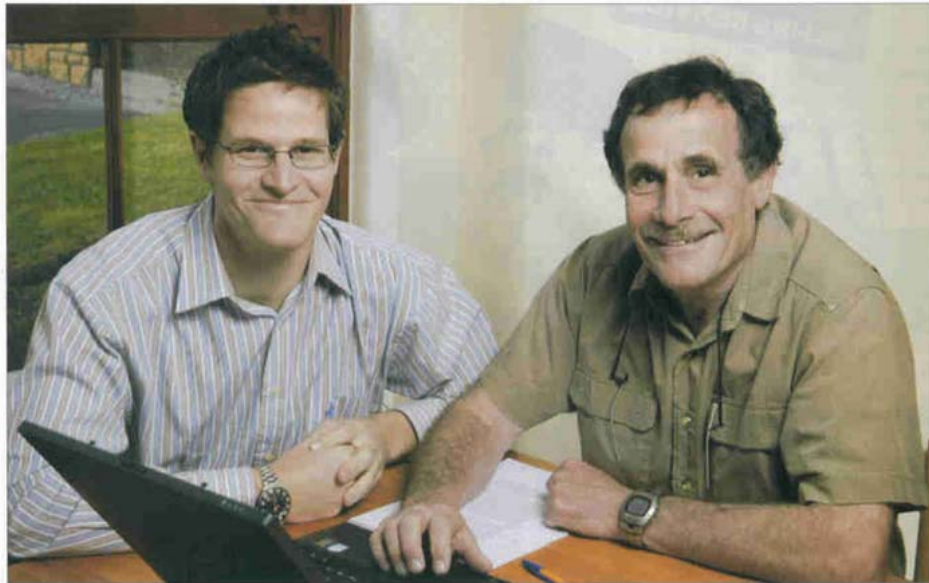


Mineware

good gold graders

IT specialist, Mineware Consulting, has carved out a niche for itself by offering a service specifically to the SA mining industry.

A common household name across the Harmony and Gold Fields stable when it comes to solving grade problems, Mineware is constantly striving towards devising and implementing new programmes to enhance overall company performance, including a new bonus and safety recorder. Laura Cornish spoke to GM, Ian Saker, and MD, Paul Saker, about the company's problem-solving reputation.



GM, Ian Saker, left, with his father, MD, Paul.

The Mineware grade solution packages are implemented at every Gold Fields South Africa operation (Driefontein, Beatrix and Kloof), and are also being executed into its newest project – South Deep. Its other large, more recent client - Harmony – also stands to realise significant increasing benefits from the grade analysis programme going forward, as the mine emerges from a period of substantial financial loss.

More specifically, Mineware's grade analysis system entails analysing and detecting reasons for grade changes in the run of mine tons on an ongoing basis, i.e. deviations in content, tonnage or grades that do not reflect initial estimates, according to Paul. There are many unforeseen reasons behind this - either not enough blasting or blasting in the wrong area, unexpected grade changes or inaccurate original estimations.

One of Mineware's specialities is to develop customised programmes to determine and subsequently limit variations between planning and mining. Together with a new bonus system programme, Paul says that mines can expect to see significant reductions in this problem area, as workers become incentivised to work towards preventing poor adherence to plan.

Although the programmes essentially work towards a single outcome, system customisation is essential in meeting clients' specific requirements - "A Harmony mine works differently to a Gold Fields mine," Paul explains.

At South Deep, the geology is complicated, with multiple reefs and high stoping widths. The grade system for this gold giant will measure the stopes in cubic dimensions due to the large stoping areas. As the underground infrastructure between Kloof and South Deep connects, the programme

Visit SA Mining on the Web: www.samining.co.za



Paul Saker.

may be incorporated into one large, single programme, which will monitor both ore bodies simultaneously.

The new bonus programme will determine workers' bonuses based on performance, by monitoring work progress and good company practice. It is currently in a 15-month pilot phase at some of the Gold Field operations, and will be automated before release into the rest of the market shortly.

"Even more exciting than the bonus system is Mineware's most recent system - a pro-active safety system which will help to prevent accidents from happening," says Paul.

This new system is due for release in the next two months. Paul is not at liberty to reveal any further information on

the 'mechanical workings' of such a potentially attractive programme, for which the repercussions to the mining industry could be immense. Linked to the bonus programme, mine's safety records could realise dramatic improvements.

Mineware's gold mining client base also includes its latest project partner Simmer & Jack. Mineware has extended its applications into platinum mining clients, including Northam and, more recently, Lonmin.

Over and above grade analysis programmes, Mineware offers a variety of software systems and programmes

which convert many 'fundamental mining operations into a computerised process'. This includes stoping and development monitoring, equipping, equipment tracking and more. In addition to this, the programmes are able to route problems immediately to the person responsible for fixing them, using a variety of technologies.

"Once a system is installed, it is just a case of tweaking or updating the available programmes, as technological enhancements are made - a simple pruning and propagation exercise routine," Ian notes.

"Our company's major advantage is our ability to make our systems adapt to the clients' needs, while keeping them user-friendly and still charging a fair price." ◻

ERIEZ RARE EARTH DRUM SEPARATORS



High Intensity Permanent Magnetic Drum Separators (REDS) are ideal for:

- ◻ Removal of weakly magnetic contaminants from dry, free flowing ores such as:
 - Diamond and precious metal concentrates
 - Upgrading of ilmenite, garnet, hematite and other weakly magnetic minerals.

Features:

- Rolls or vibratory feeder to ensure an even feed to the magnetic drums
- Single, double or triple pass units
- Low power consumption
- Totally enclosed for dust containment and security.

Units available for testing at our Wynberg factory

MADE WITH PRIDE IN RSA

ER/U



Eriez Magnetics S.A. (Pty) Ltd
4 Lees Avenue, Wynberg, Ext. 1
P.O. Box 391281, Bramley 2018
Tel: (011) 444 9160
Telefax: (011) 444 9166
Email: eriezmag@iafrica.com

