

Concentrating on Concentrators

The current concentrator work on Pilanesburg Platinum Mines (PPM), awarded to **B&W Instrumentation and Electrical** by DRA, is the latest in a long line of concentrators that these two giants of the industry have successfully worked on together over the years.

"I've lost count of exactly how many concentrators," says B&W marketing director Ken Nel, "but suffice it to say that we regard our association with DRA, which goes back a long way, as exceptionally important to B&W."

He adds that DRA is an outstanding EPCM contractor with their world-class expertise and exceptional discipline ensuring that projects are of the highest standards. "They also have an enviable record for finishing projects in time and on budget," says Nel.



The job at PPM involves the electrical and instrumentation (E&I) for two primary and two secondary crushers, two mills, two flotation roughers and cleaners, a DMS plant and a tailings plant area.

"We are responsible for the installation of the cabling and the instruments and the associated racking as well as the lighting and small power installation," says B&W director and contracts manager for this job, Johan Rall.

He adds that included in the scope of works are MV and LV sub-stations and all the cabling from them to the various sub-sections of the plant.

The numbers are quite impressive – 230 000 m of cabling, 10,7 km of racking, 1250 IO's, 11 LV sub-stations, 2 MV sub-stations and, at the peak of the project, more than 370 people on the job for B&W.

Rall says that the time factor has been the main challenge on this job. "This is really fast track with all the work having to be completed in eight months."

He adds that while these attributes are important on all jobs, they are especially important on fast track contracts.

Nel says the ability to execute fast track contracts successfully depends on a combination of things. "Good planning, communication, monitoring and people management are essential in being able to finish complex jobs fast," says Nel. He adds that while these attributes are important on all jobs, they're especially important on fast track contracts.

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Pilanesburg Platinum Concentrator Plant as viewed from the DMS Silo with the Merensky stream in the foreground, the UG2 stream to the right and the press filter in the background.

For thermal imagers

Comtest is pleased to announce that Fluke Thermography has added a new visor accessory for the Ti10/Ti25/TiR1 and TiR range of thermal imagers. This durable, heavy-duty plastic accessory visor is perfect for reducing LCD screen glare and reflections on bright sunlight, or in other areas where ambient lighting conditions are bright. The visor can be used inside or outside, and clips onto the thermal imager without the need for any additional hardware. It is easy to remove and can be stored when not in use.

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