

Smelter company completes platinum plant

The completion of work at the world's third-largest platinum producer, Lonmin's plant, near Rustenburg, is further evidence of smelter technology equipment provider Metix's commitment to client service and satisfaction, says Metix marketing director **Pat Davies**.

Apart from having replaced the electrode systems on a six-in-line matte smelting furnace for Lonmin, Metix was also contracted to completely rebuild the existing furnace, including its linings and bus tubes.

"The project was valued at about R125-million and was completed in 12 months from start to finish. This is no mean feat on a project of this nature," says Davies.

Metix believes that the selection of its electrode system technology equipment by Lonmin is based on the easy operation

and low maintenance levels it offers, as well as Metix's success in the ferroalloy industry, where it is a principal supplier of such equipment.

"Metix is a provider of process and engineering services, as well as specialised patented equipment to the ferroalloys industry.

"The company's offerings range from consultancy to turnkey contract packages that include technical and commercial guarantees," says Davies.

With ferroalloys being a core focus of Metix over the past five years, the company has reached a point in its growth where it plans to use its previous experience in the platinum sector to increase its presence there.

"Key Metix directors have had prime inputs to the platinum industry in the past, including the then Mathey Rustenburg base



PAT DAVIES

Metix anticipates building on its existing relationships in the ferroalloys sector and creating others in the platinum arena

metals refinery, as well as the Saref Platinum Group Metals (PGM) metal refinery, also in the Rustenburg area," explains Davies.

"The Saref PGM project originated from a pilot plant in the UK where Metix MD **Reinier Meyjes** spent two years on a final feasibility study, before proceeding with

