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In its largest lump-sum turnkey (LSTK) project to date, Metix has reached and celebrated its 250 000-hour lost-time-injury-free construction milestone.

Metix engineering director, Andrew van Niekerk, says
that the size of this 600 OOOtpa sinter plant project
for Metix provides additional challenges compared to
previous projects.
"It is also the first time we have worked with Si-
nosteel's ASA Metals, which has turned out to be a fantastic opportunity and privilege for us."
Van Niekerk notes that the combined system of
standards and procedures promotes awareness of sur-roundings and the mechanisms that exist regarding per-sonal safety and health. "It includes task breakdown, risk assessments and permits required for personnel to work safely."
Having started the ASA Metals project at the end
of October 2007, with a Ready for Hot Commission-ing (RHC) target towards the end of the 2009 second quarter, there are currently 350 construction personnel active on site.
Metix will be increasing its construction manage-
ment team of 15 to 30, in an aggressive move towards earlier construction and commissioning completion.

"Ou r biggest challenge has been to stay within
budget," Van Niekerk says. "In the light of monstrous price escalations experienced during 2008 - espe-cially in steel - we fortunately acted pro-actively at the start of the contract and were able to place our orders early."
"We anticipate that our steady focus and additional
resources will keep us on schedule and possibly put us ahead of schedule," says Van Niekerk.
ASA Metals' COO, Herman Smith, says: "I have
not encountered a company as willing as Metix to meet our specific needs and requirements for quite some time. Its site management has been exceptional. Good project management skills have allowed them to not only maintain the construction schedule, but also remain within budgeted cost, notwithstanding certain changes requested by our project team during
the design review stages of the project. Their profes-sional approach and general attitude to create a safe construction site have now culminated in the milestone
of 250 000 injury-free hours." O

ASA Metals' 600 OOOtpa plant.

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