

## Metix achieves 250 000 LTI-free hours on two major projects

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 said that the size of this 600 000 ton per annum sinter plant project for Metix provides additional challenges compared with previous projects. "It is also the first time we have worked with Sinosteel's ASA Metals, which has turned out to be a fantastic opportunity and privilege for us."



Metix engineering director Andrew van Niekerk.

**A**SA Metals requires a strict adherence to SHEQ (Safety, Health, Environment and Quality) standards and, thanks to compliance with these and Metix procedures on-site, 250 000 hours were achieved. Van Niekerk notes that the combined system of standards and procedures promotes awareness of surroundings and

the mechanisms that exist regarding personal safety and health. "It includes task breakdown, risk assessments and permits required for personnel to work safely," he said.

Having started the ASA Metals project at the end of October 2007, and with a Ready for Hot Commissioning (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 management team of 15 to 30, in an aggressive move towards earlier construction and commissioning completion.

The local construction industry has provided challenges for Metix. "Our biggest challenge has been to stay within budget. In light of monstrous price escalation experienced during 2008 – especially in steel – we fortunately acted pro-actively at the start of the contract and were able to place our orders early. In-house knowledge and experience associated with all project disciplines allowed us to generate accurate (>95 per cent bills of quantities) and sign contracts early.

"We anticipate that our steady focus and additional resources will keep us on schedule and possibly put us ahead of schedule," said Van Niekerk.

ASA Metals' chief operating officer, Herman Smith said that ASA is extremely impressed with the approach followed by Metix during the tendering, contract negotiation and construction phases of the project. "I have not encountered a company as willing as Metix to meet our specific needs and requirements for quite some time. Their 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 professional approach and general attitude to create a safe construction site have now culminated in the milestone of 250 000 injury free hours."

Another Metix project currently underway is the Middelburg Ferrochrome (MFC) EPCM contract



