

Metix celebrates safety milestone

In its largest lump-sum turnkey 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 600 000 tpa sinter plant project for Metix provides additional challenges compared to 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," says Van Niekerk.

According to Metix, ASA Metals requires a strict adherence to safety, health, environment and quality standards,

and because of compliance to these, Metix has reached this milestone. Van Niekerk says 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 says.

Having started the ASA Metals project at the end of October 2007, and with a ready-for-hot-commissioning target towards the end of the 2009 second quarter, Metix will be increasing its construction management team of 15 to 30 in an

aggressive move towards earlier construction and commissioning completion.

According to ASA Metals chief operating officer, Herman Smith, it is Metix's "professional approach and general attitude to create a safe construction" that have culminated in the injury-free hours.

Another Metix project currently under way is the Middelburg Ferrochrome EPCM contract for Samancor Chrome, which has a ready-for-hot-commissioning target of the beginning of the 2009 second quarter. "We are responsible for the engineering, procurement, construction and management of this 600 000 tpa sinter plant," says Van Niekerk.

There are currently 350 construction personnel active on site.

