



## RAPID UNDERGROUND MINE and CIVIL ACCESS CONFERENCE 2017

### FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

#### BACKGROUND

This conference is in response to the industry being under immense pressure to sink shafts and develop tunnels in safer and more efficient ways. The global call for no harm has been taken very seriously. The advance rates and daily production has come under immense pressure to improve and shorten the entire project period to make it financially viable. We can sink shafts and develop tunnels without hurting people, however to repeatedly achieve this while achieving the productivity targets has proven to be a challenge. We need to critically examine all aspects related to the sinking process. The way in which we conduct the entire project, right from mine concept study through to commissioning and handover all needs to be considered. Shaft sinking and tunnelling is not only about the sinking cycle. There are many diverse factors that influence the sinking process including: business drivers in the concept phase, mining methodologies and technology alternatives in the pre-feasibility stages, cost and timing parameters in the feasibility as well as partner selection, technical criteria and management systems during the execution phase. Mechanisation attempts to remove people from the hazards of sinking and to provide a continuous consistent advance rate has made great strides in the past five years.

#### OBJECTIVES

The objective of this conference is to demonstrate an understanding from mining companies, sinking contractors, EPCM organizations and investors on their perception of the current process. The idea is to look at current best practice, Research and Development that is in process and to raise suggestions on how to improve the process using experiences collectively gained worldwide. At the very least the conference must identify areas of action in order to plan for improvements going forward. Otherwise, deeper ore resources may remain beyond our reach for the foreseeable future (and mining of asteroids may become a reality).

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The Conference will be of value to:

- All stakeholders involved in the shaft sinking arena for mine access and heavy underground civil projects
- Mine owners, executives and management
- Underground civil construction companies
- Engineering design and consulting companies
- Project management practitioners
- Mining entrepreneurs
- Hydropower experts and other underground civil experts
- Technology suppliers and consumers
- Health, safety and risk management, personnel and officials
- Governmental minerals and energy personnel
- Research and academic personnel
- Rock engineers
- All engineering disciplines
- Consultants
- Contractors
- Financiers

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#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**SAIMM**  
THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE  
OF MINING AND METALLURGY

7–8 August 2017—CONFERENCE | 9 August 2017—TECHNICAL VISIT

**EMPERORS PALACE, GAUTENG**

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

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Papers are invited on the following topics and any other relevant aspects associated with:

#### TOPICS

- Vertical excavation technologies
- Tunnel boring technology and raise boring technology
- Innovation in shaft sinking methodologies
- Mining related civil construction projects – new innovations, opportunities and challenges
- Mechanisation, Control and the internet of things
- Project team safety culture and motivation
- Case studies and specialised projects ; Deepening, Reconfiguring, Widening, Reaming
- Horizontal tunnelling
- Modelling
- Support systems
- Rock breaking systems
- Lashing/mucking/bogging systems
- Transport systems
- Rock support methods
- Equipping best practice
- Safe excavation of large chambers
- Safety systems
- Risk management
- Forms of contracting
- Projects' feasibility studies

- Mine designs and access methods
- Shaft sinking capital costs
- Criteria for shaft positioning
- Geological block modelling
- Geotechnical consideration in sinking
- Rock engineering design and support recommendations
- Shaft infrastructure modelling
- Modern shaft sinking methods
- Optimal shaft size/diameters
- Civil design for shafts and large excavations
- Ventilation, Cooling and Freezing designs requirements for sinking and future operation
- Mining/excavation activity outsourcing
- Supplier involvement during design phase (vertical integration)
- Supply value chain and contract models
- JIT service to projects
- Materials' inflation and impact on project costing

#### KEY DATES

Submission of abstracts:	27 March 2017
Acceptance of abstracts	3 April 2017
Submission of papers	3 May 2017
Conference:	7–9 August 2017

Submit the title and abstract of your paper, in English. The abstract should be no longer than 500 words and must be submitted to: Camielah Jardine [camielah@saimm.co.za](mailto:camielah@saimm.co.za)

### EXHIBITION/SPONSORSHIP

There are a number of sponsorship opportunities available. Companies wishing to sponsor or exhibit should contact the Conference Co-ordinator.

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