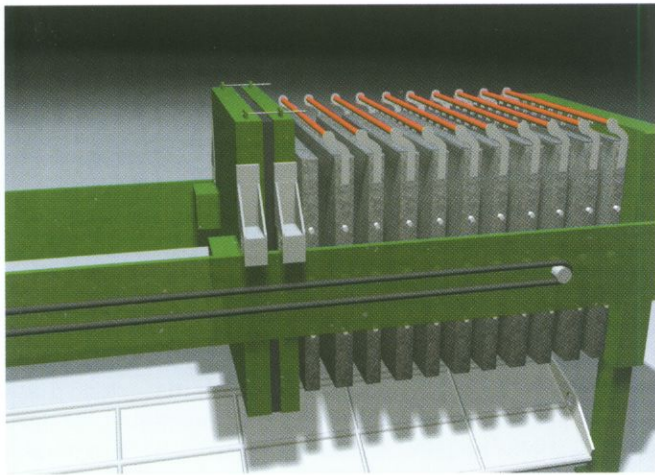


Market Forum



World first filter press

Multotec has developed an environmentally-friendly filter press believed to be a world first. The new filter press, the result of a significant investment in time and funding, was developed in response to the increasingly critical need to recycle waste water from mining operations in South Africa, specifically acid mine drainage.

Traditionally hydraulically operated filter presses are used in metallurgical processes and water reclamation plants, but these conventional products are associated with a high risk of contamination from oil and other lubricants during operation.

Multotec's state-of-the-art fully automatic filter press, based on the successful Seprotech Rapid Filter (SRF) press, eliminates the risk of any contamination in this application. This exciting new product has been developed using patented technology, with components sourced internationally to ensure long life and spares availability. The new filter press has been 100% locally manufactured at Multotec's ISO 9001 accredited facility.

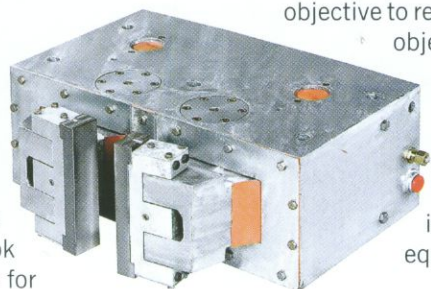
The hydraulic power pack has been replaced with a water pressure system which, while achieving the same clamping force, ensures optimum sealing of the plate pack while dramatically reducing noise pollution. The filter cloths have been further developed to ensure longer life, in turn achieving lower consumable consumption. Components have been designed to ensure safe operation, while finite element analysis has been applied to substantiate the integrity of the machine. The filter press is characterised by its energy efficient electric motors.

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First installation

The Horne Group has reported mid-year sales of R12-million to Canada's mining sector, the result of a focus by Barrie-based subsidiary, Horne Conveyance Safety, on Levelok and Technogrid product lines.

The sales include two group firsts. At Vale Inco's Totten mine in Ontario, two Levelok systems, one for skip-clamping and one for



skip-clamping, have been installed for the first time worldwide on a single mine shaft conveyance.

At Rocanville mine in Saskatchewan, the first sale of Technogrid into a Canadian over-wind application has taken place against a competitive product priced at 70 percent below the Technogrid tag.

André du Preez, group managing director at Horne, says that he believes both successes can be attributed to the technical superiority of the products involved.

"Horne Conveyance Safety is taking off," said du Preez, "and we are gearing up for Canada's accelerating order book."

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Service levels

A new South African research study into the mining sector's supply chain strategy reveals much about the industry's responses to the shifts in the global resources market, and in particular the competition the local industry is experiencing from other emerging economies such as Russia and China.

The research this year demonstrates that a particular emphasis on squeezing supply chain efficiencies and costs predominates. While Russia and China in particular are lower-cost producers, they also have logistics advantages in their proximity to their major markets, with China still a major consumer of its own commodities.

The overall report this year features a strong focus on increasing service levels to customers as the top objective for the industry. By contrast, the top mining objective is lowering procurement costs, at 62% of the sample, versus the 39% of the total who opted for this. Increasing service levels to customer is a distant third as an objective, with 38% as opposed to 53% of the total sample. Reducing order lead times appears as a new objective this year, in second place overall. This undoubtedly reflects the increased competitiveness of the global mining landscape, since volatility in demand and fluctuation in price makes it imperative that the supply chain can respond. This is difficult when the lead time for much mining equipment can be measured in years.

The industry's challenges are largely unchanged from last year, except in two important respects: planning and forecasting has increased in importance, to become the leading industry challenge – as it is for the general sample, but at a significantly higher level in mining. The second biggest challenge did not feature at all last year, and that is the return on capital investment in the supply chain. This tallies with the objective to reduce order lead times in this year's industry objectives.

The upturn in demand across the board for mining resources – either as a currency hedge for precious metals or as construction and infrastructure commodities in a post-recession environment – is likely to be driving the need for additional investment in delivery mechanisms and equipment, and the need to mitigate the risk