

CONFERENCE REPORT

Heavy Minerals 2003 Conference. Cape Town, South Africa, October 6–8, 2003

The Heavy Minerals Conference HMC2003 was held in Cape Town from 6–8 October 2003, immediately following the XXII International Mineral Processing Congress. Previous conferences in this series were held in Durban, South Africa (1997 and 1999) and Fremantle, Australia (2001).

The conference, organised by the SAIMM, was held in the magnificent new Cape Town International Convention Centre. Delegates heard 35 papers on a wide range of topics covering the geology, mining and the physical and pyrometallurgical processing of heavy minerals. The mix of papers was excellent, reflected in the large attendance at all sessions over three days and the range of questions posed to the speakers.

A number of papers will be of particular interest to readers of this journal. R. Abela from Multotec Process Equipment presented two papers on the design and operation of spiral circuits and the effect of slimes content on rougher spiral operation. Richards from Roche Mining (MT) described the development of new high capacity spiral designs.

Electrical separation has been the mainstay of the industry for the separation of HMC into its separate mineral constituents. After a long period of stagnation, new designs of electrical separator are now beginning to appear. The development of the *eForce* separator recently introduced by Outokumpu Technology Inc., and the new design concepts in the *Carrara* HTR separator from Roche Mining (MT) were described in papers from the two companies involved. In a research paper, Ng and Holtham from the University of Queensland described factors influencing the resistivity of heavy minerals during electrical separation.

The Organising and Technical Committees, drawn from the Zululand and Western Cape Branches of the SAIMM, are to be congratulated on a well organised conference and an excellent choice of papers which sustained the interest of the delegates.

Copies of the Proceeding in hardcopy and CD format are available from the SAIMM. The next conference in the series will be held in the USA in 2005.

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