



Regional Mineral Economics (“RME”)

The RME section's core focus is to undertake strategic regional mineral scans and Spatial Development Initiative (“SDI”) studies for a variety of governmental and multi-lateral organizations. The studies highlight resource potential, infrastructure requirements, and advantages of ordered development and clustering of projects. Where necessary the studies provide preliminary economics analysis and identify downstream developmental opportunities from mineral-based projects. The RME section has developed an analytical methodology that takes a spatial view of a region identifying potential anchor projects and a supporting ‘spine’ that can be built upon the region's natural endowments. These can then act as a catalyst for the development of mineral, tourism and agricultural projects.

Who is MINTEK?

Mintek is South Africa's internationally renowned minerals research organization. It was established in 1934 and is now based on its own techno-park campus in Randburg, South Africa, where it employs a diverse group of researchers and technical staff.

Mintek is a world leader in the development of mineral processing technologies to improve the utilisation of mineral resources and to enable mineral endowed countries to derive maximum benefit from them. Mintek actively promotes the further beneficiation of minerals and undertakes ongoing research to develop suitable technologies to make such added value operations viable.

As a national Science Council, Mintek operates in partnership with government, the minerals industry, other research institutions and academia to enhance the sustainability of the mineral sector's contribution to the economy and to society. As an institution, it houses and sustains a body of specialists constituting a core component of national science, technology and engineering knowledge.

Mintek has developed strong relationships with many national government departments as well as provincial governments, to the extent that a number of Memorandums of Understanding have been signed, paving the way for closer and more effective interaction in the development of minerals sector.

Who is MESU?

The Mineral Economic and Strategy Unit (“MESU”) is a division of Mintek. MESU is staffed by an interdisciplinary team of professionals with a diverse range of expertise including geology, metallurgy, chemical engineering, logistics, environmental science, economics, development studies, market & policy analysis and financial valuation.

Vision

MESU's vision is to maintain its rating as a leading mineral-economics strategy unit focused on Africa. MESU provides high level policy input and strategic advice to governments, multi-lateral organizations, development finance organizations, and industry.

MESU's competitive advantages lies in its ability to offer its clients unique products that incorporate the techniques and methodologies from three complementary areas of research, represented by its primary operational sections:

- Regional commodity-based mineral economic studies (RME)
- Resource Based Technology Strategies (RBTS)
- Sustainable Development (SD)

RME Services:

- Strategic mineral resource reviews
- Mineral commodity concept studies
- Mineral Scans
- Input into mineral policy development
- Policy impact assessment
- Legislative input
- Project identification for investors
- Mining Charter input and support.

Resource Based Technology Strategy (“RBTS”)

The RBTS section's core focus is to investigate how South Africa can leverage off its expertise in mining and mineral production to diversify from a dependence on primary mineral production into high-tech activities supplying inputs to the global resources sector. This will lead to an expansion and deepening of the South African mining equipment and services industries through a process involving, inter alia, collaborative technology development, marketing and human resources development.

RBTS Services:

- Identify policy levers to facilitate cluster development
- Map of economic clusters and upstream economic linkages
- Develop solutions to facilitate the sustainable development of input industries supplying the minerals industry
- Develop measures to support exports of mining capital goods and services
- Undertake procurement studies

Sustainable Development (“SD”)

“Sustainable Development” is defined as development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (UN Brundtland Report, 1987). It achieves this through a holistic consideration of environmental, social, economic and governance issues. The MESU Sustainable Development Unit works towards this objective by providing governments, development organizations, regional structures and industry with strategic direction, policy levers and procedures that encourage development within the mining industry to take place on a sustainable basis.

SD Services:

- Develop appropriate strategies and policies to facilitate SD in the minerals industry.
- Design implementation programs and procedures to support SD strategies
- Design performance criteria and systems to evaluate SD programs
- Evaluate and recommends alternative remediation strategies and technologies
- Investigate the role of SD in promoting sustainability and growth in the minerals industry.

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