



MechCaL to retrofit fans for Amplats

Local fans and ventilation firm MechCaL has been appointed by Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) to install 316 of its fans at seven of the group's mines.

Delivery and installation of the fans has already started, and will continue until March.

Gavin Ratner, director and spokesperson for MechCaL, states that the mines that will benefit from MechCaL's technology include Dishaba, Tumela, Bathopele, Khuseleka, Thembelani, Siphumelele and Twickenham. MechCaL will be supplying fans ranging from 22kW, 762mm fans to the standard 45kW, 762mm fans, as well as a few of its 75kW, 1016mm units for underground use.

Gerhard van den Berg, group energy engineer: Amplats, says: "We replaced 36 fans at Union Mine with MechCaL fans as part of an Eskom demand side management project. The success of the project prompted the company-wide roll-out of MechCaL fans." ■

PlantPax system for Impala's No 17 Shaft

As part of Impala Platinum's drive to standardise operational control and plant visualisation across the mine, Rockwell Automation states that it has extended the installation of its PlantPax system to the mine's new No 17 Shaft refrigeration plant.

Rockwell Automation lead engineer, Christo Lötter, says that, using standardised control modules and engineering methods developed specifically for the mining industry, this turnkey project with PlantPax at its core will help to reduce refrigeration costs and improve efficiency by reducing downtime and lowering energy requirements.

The No 17 Shaft is one of Impala Platinum's deepest, at over 1750m, and the refrigeration plant is designed to provide cold air for mining operations underground.

Rockwell Automation was sub-contracted by BBE Projects, who was contracted by Impala Platinum and managed by the mine's main EPCM contractor, WorleyParsons. The role of Rockwell Automation was to design, cost, procure, manufacture, install and commission a turnkey system that controls and reports on the shaft's York YD centrifugal chiller – the first of its kind to be installed in Africa. ■