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EXPLORATION

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METALLURGY

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Plant Commissioning - Why & How

Plant Commissioning - Why & How

The primary objective of metallurgical plant commissioning is to ensure that all systems and equipment of a plant are installed, tested, operated, and maintained according to the operational requirements of the client. For large projects, this process usually comprises planning, execution, and control of thousands of inspection and test activities on sections to be commissioned, and these include instrumentation, control loops, and all electrical and mechanical equipment.

The process of commissioning is integrated into various phases. This is executed by the project team and includes the plant operational and engineering staff as well as the contractors responsible for the installation and cold commissioning. The overriding factor is the attention to detail required with respect to safety of people, protection of equipment and the environment.

Ideally, all deficiencies should be identified and corrected before the commissioning phase takes place. In practice,

project management and plant management working as a team to meet the client's objectives; ultimately the client is responsible for his own destiny.

When cold commissioning is done properly, hot commissioning normally runs smoothly.

From our experience the following factors have an influence on the successful completion of plant commissioning:

- Plant size and design
- Process type
- Client management and training
- Contractual agreements with Project Management Company and Contractors
- Level of process automation or control

As part of the Agere services our personnel have been involved with the commissioning of new plants and are

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- Ineffective Leadership
- Rushed Installation
- Poor Quality of Work
- Inadequate Resources
- Inexperienced Resources
- Inadequate Training

A seamless start up cannot be guaranteed, but through our experience we can share with you lessons learnt and ways to avoid the pitfalls. We are expanding our team and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

What's Happening

We will once again have a stand at the "Mining Indaba" in Cape Town. Please pop in and see us.

We have recently completed the upgrade of our Web Site. Please take a look!

www.agereprojects.co.za

News Letter

In our forth coming issues:

- Mechanised Augur Drilling
- Plant Audits
- Taxation and other unforeseen matters in other countries

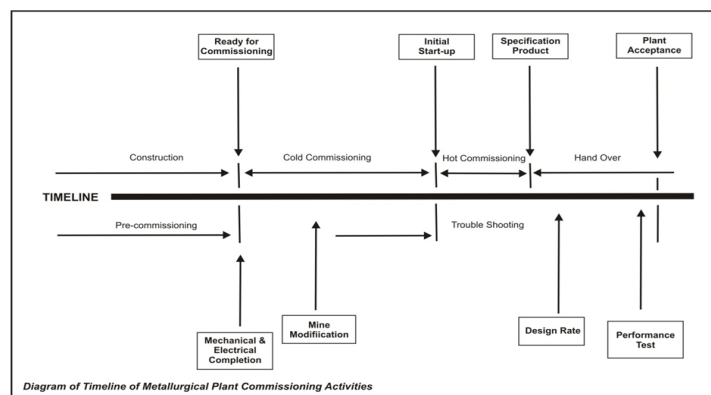
If we can be of any assistance, or should you require a back copy of our news letter, please feel free to contact us.

It Has Been Said:

"Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much"

-Oscar Wilde-

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and happy festive season and a prosperous 2011



however, this is not always the case and it is often necessary to make some alterations after commissioning. It has been our experience that when Plant Management is involved in the design and closely associated in the construction and commissioning process, fewer problems are experienced during final hot commissioning and operation.

Seamless transition from commissioning to full operation is not always possible but this can be facilitated by

well placed to offer their expertise to any client who may be in the process of commissioning a new plant or extending an existing plant.

We will share with you some of the root causes that will impact the successful completion of the commissioning process, i.e. on time and within budget:

- Inadequate design
- Poor Planning and Project Manage-