

MINING HUB

To facilitate and accelerate the process of mining modernisation, a Mining Hub is being set up to co-ordinate research and development (R&D), mining equipment manufacture and skills development by mining companies, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), research entities, skills-development entities and government in collaboration.

The hub is envisaged as a public-private partnership with a view to “open innovation” so that the costs and rewards of R&D would be divided equitably among contributors.

Open innovation goes beyond drawing on external sources of innovation, such as customers, rival companies and academic institutions. It can integrate adaptations in the use, management and employment of intellectual property by systematically encouraging and exploring a wide range of internal and external sources for opportunities, integration and exploitation through various channels.

The primary objective of the hub is to be a partnership that advances the mining cluster by

- co-ordinating research and development with initial focus on future underground narrow reef, hard-rock mining systems
- developing South African mining manufacture that supports the country’s narrow-reef, hard-rock mines, and promotes export potential of locally manufactured mining equipment
- facilitating skills development for future narrow-reef, hard-rock mining systems

The hub will only co-ordinate R&D, manufacturing and skills development – it will not have these capabilities – in terms of a management structure. The organisations involved will be selected as “centres of excellence”, which engage voluntarily, complementing the ideals and objectives of the hub and not competing counter-productively.

It will be a virtual centre connecting an established network through a central database that monitors progress on selected pilot projects.

CONTACT

Chamber of Mines
Tel: +27 11 498 7100
Email: info@chamberofmines.org.za
Address: 5 Hollard Street, Johannesburg

Media
Tel: +27 11 880 3924
Email: chamber@rair.co.za

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 @Mine_RSA

OBJECTIVES OF THE MINING INNOVATION HUB

The primary objective of the Mining Innovation Hub is to be a partnership that advances the mining cluster through:

- 1 Coordinating research and development with an initial focus on future underground narrow-reef, hard-rock mining systems
- 2 Developing South African mining manufacturing that supports the country’s narrow-reef, hard-rock mines, and promotes export potential of locally manufactured mining equipment
- 3 Facilitating skills development for future narrow-reef, hard-rock mining systems

