THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGY
JOHANNESBURG 2013

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BASE METALS CONFERENCE 2013

2–4 September 2013

Ingwenyama Conference & Sports Resort, Mpumalanga
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The Seventh Southern African Base Metals Conference comes at a time when the mining sector faces a distressing slump in commodity prices. Straitened times like these put pressure on capital projects and operating CAPEX; mining companies are compelled to improve operating efficiencies and employ better technologies. These circumstances are partly reflected in the number of papers being presented at the conference: there are fewer than at previous conferences in the series. Delegates will not have to choose between parallel sessions, and there is no division between mining and metallurgy. The papers in these proceedings, nonetheless, embrace the full gamut of operations in the value chain, albeit with an emphasis on metallurgy. There is much to digest. The topics span geology, geometallurgy, and descriptions of technologies in specific applications. Four papers describe more expansive projects in design, and several papers relate detailed developments in process metallurgy. Despite pressing times, these papers bear testimony to active endeavours in the base metal sector.

The conference venue—Ingwenyama Conference and Sports Resort north of Nelspruit, Mpumalanga—will provide a welcome contrast to the conference proceedings. The peaceful setting away from the hurly-burly of city life will give delegates an opportunity to make new acquaintances and renew old ones at leisure. We hope you all find the setting invigorating and the presentations informative. And if you feel the urge to return to the rock face, as it were, there is always the post-conference technical excursion to Nkomati Nickel.

On behalf of the organizing committee I extend a word of thanks to authors and reviewers for their papers and technical contributions, to the sponsors for their financial support, and a special word of appreciation to Raymond van der Berg and the SAIMM secretariat for their tireless efforts in organizing the conference. You have all played a part in bringing about the Seventh Southern African Base Metals Conference. The organizing committee welcomes all delegates.

Paul den Hoed,
On behalf of the organizing committee
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