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Invitation to Join Us

If the *Journal* is to fulfil its mandate to the mining and metallurgical industry, it needs to expand its readership and, by implication, membership of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. This we hope to do by increasing the appeal of the *Journal* to a wider audience through the inclusion, in addition to our high-quality research papers, of equally high-quality papers, articles, and contributions that will be of interest to our less research-minded members.

It is not our intention to have the *Journal* compete with the excellent commercial magazines produced in the country; but rather to produce a professional publication that highlights the developments, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the industry, and acts as a communication medium for the dissemination of this information.

The present membership reflects our past preoccupation with the technical aspects of the industry, and is heavily biased towards engineers. While this remains a prime interest, we have expanded our horizons and recognize that we are in the minerals business and are highly dependent on the skills and experience of a multi-disciplinary group of people, and that the major consideration for Institute membership should be professionalism and contribution to the mining and metallurgical industry. Consequently, the former rigid academic barriers to membership no longer apply, and most people involved in the industry can find a home in one or other of the flexible membership categories of the SAIMM.

The Institute is a vibrant professional association that serves the needs of its members and of the industry through its numerous committees, which promote education, training, and the transfer of relevant information locally and internationally. At industry and government level, senior members promote and defend the interests of the industry to the benefit of us all. These activities provide individual members with the opportunity of pursuing their interests with any degree of involvement they choose or have time for. At the end of the day, the real benefits of membership are the camaraderie of association with people of similar interests and values, and the satisfaction of contributing to the vitality and progress of the industry and profession.

I invite you to explore these benefits with me or with the Membership Committee, who can be contacted through our secretariat at Cape Towers in Johannesburg

President