

MINING

REVIEW AFRICA

ISSUE 7
July 2011



 **mip** | PROCESS TECHNOLOGIES

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Unparalleled process solutions | BEE empowered partner

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MIP BOLTS IT

MIP Process is moving forward at a rapid rate and has supplied sixteen thickeners and clarifiers in the last year.

The largest of these 16 is for a diamond project in Botswana. What makes it unique is that it is one of the largest units in the world, made from a complete bolt-together structure.

This means that no welding is required on site which drastically reduces erection costs as well as installation time. According to Philip Hoff, managing director of MIP Process Technologies (Pty) Ltd, "customers can have the thickener available for cold commissioning and water storage within a couple of weeks, where previously the erection activity took in excess of eight weeks. Furthermore, the weather conditions have very little effect compared to a welded construction."

"This is the future for construction of thickeners, especially in African countries outside South Africa. We are also getting more requests from customers that want to build a processing plant for say, five years and then uplift and relocate it and this philosophy suits their requirement. The same bolting type design is used for current projects in Lesotho and Gabon," Hoff says.

According to process manager, FC Russouw, "The settling characteristics of diamond tailings can vary from one site to another. We incorporated special design features into the unit to ensure the process requirements and



21 m diameter MIP gold thickener from bolted construction.

guarantees are met. Some of this includes a dual feedwell design that dissipates the initial energy of the feed as well as pickets on the rakes to ensure additional interstitial water is removed. Furthermore, an extra heavy duty drive is used to compensate for the viscous material.

"This all epitomises what MIP Process stands for, an innovative and value adding partner," Hoff concludes. **MRA**



26 m diameter MIP coal thickener.