



Friedemann Essrich – Brief Summary of CV

Friedemann Essrich is a mine seismology consultant with 20 years experience in the South African mining industry.

Friedemann was born in 1957 in Germany and grew up near Tübingen, a historic university town south of Stuttgart. Friedemann travelled for a number of years before taking up geophysics at the Friedrich-Wilhelm University in Münster to obtain his MSc with a thesis on “The development and application of audio-seismic technology for near-surface reflection seismics”. In his first professional appointment, Friedemann carried out fieldwork in ground water exploration in the Republic of Djibouti until the outbreak of the Gulf War in mid 1991.

In 1994, Friedemann obtained the Chamber of Mines Strata Control Certificate while on secondment to Anglo American’s Elandsrand Gold Mine as mine seismologist. Later, his responsibilities also covered Deelkraal Mine when it was acquired by Elandsrand in 1997. In 1999 he moved to AngloGold’s Vaal River Operations to oversee the installation of mine-based seismic systems at Great Nologwa, Kopanang and Tau Lekoa. He left AngloGold in 2001 to form SiM Mining Consultants (Pty) Ltd., a consulting company specialising in the optimization of seismic hazard management strategies for deep level gold mines and intermediate level PGM mines.

Friedemann has developed specialised training courses in mine seismology for rock engineering, production and safety personnel. He is a qualified OD-ETDP assessor and a member of the TRG3 ‘Rock Engineering’ at the Mining Qualifications Authority, who has over the years provided training to the Department of Mineral Resources and to the major mining houses in the gold and platinum sector. His publications include conference papers and peer-reviewed papers on topics ranging from rockburst hazard assessment methodologies to knowledge and technology transfer in mine seismology. Friedemann has been a collaborator and project leader in Mine Health and Safety Council directed research into rockburst risk.

Friedemann Essrich
Director, SiM Mining Consultants
C 082 488 7142
fessrich@sim.co.za