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# A diamond

## in the rough

New technology introduced to the South African industrial market by Diamond Products can significantly improve the lifespan and speed of cut. Diamond Products, a specialist in the manufacture, assembly and sales of diamond tools and equipment for heavy industries, has acquired exclusive local distribution rights to world-renowned ARIX Technology, a process of controlled deposition of diamonds onto a substrate at predetermined positions.

### Need to know more?

Diamond Products is a specialist in the manufacture, assembly, sales and support of diamond tools and equipment for the construction, glass, quarrying and flooring industries. Based in Jet Park, the company is unique in its ability to assemble and support its product range and is the only diamond tool company in South Africa with laser welding facilities for the manufacture of diamond blades and core drills.

**ARIX Technology is the ideal solution to mining applications where hard materials such as banded ironstone and quartz have to be cut**

Brian Clark

ARIX Technology places diamond grits with precision into three-dimensional patterns on blades and drills in order to ensure the maximum performance of tools in applications ranging from mining to construction.

"The diamonds are aligned in an almost grid-like system, thereby, allowing for consistent cutting speeds," explains Brian Clark, Diamond Products director. "In industry-standard tools, the diamonds are mixed randomly throughout the surface, which results in significant wear-and-tear, owing to the fact that different areas of the surface end up carrying inconsistent workloads. With the alignment of diamonds in separate rows, ARIX Technology ensures that each diamond carries precisely the same workload, which ultimately extends the lifespan of the tool and allows for quicker and more accurate cutting."

He points out that the technology is only applied to the higher-end of Diamond Products' range of equipment, which are custom-built for the most challenging tasks. What's more, he notes that this method has been proven to increase the lifespan of diamond

tools by 400%, while achieving cutting speeds of twice the industry-standard, making it perfectly-suited to the harsh South African conditions.

"ARIX Technology is the ideal solution to mining applications where hard materials such as banded ironstone and quartz have to be cut. What's more, it can also be used in construction projects where steel-reinforced concrete has to meet specifications," he says.

One of the company's clients, an iron-ore mining operation, has reduced its impact on the environment significantly after adopting the technology. "In the past, the company was making use of conventional blades to cut through banded iron ore. However, this required the use of a cutting fluid that had detrimental environmental issues. Since adopting ARIX Technology, the company's environmental-impact has been greatly-reduced, as it has gone back to using standard water in the cutting process," Clark continues.

"ARIX Technology is becoming increasingly popular as it becomes a more widely-known name in the industry. Although it is only aimed at

a specific market segment, where cutting is difficult and speed and the longer lifespan of tools is required, the technology has exceeded all expectations in these fields and the response from users over the last few months has been phenomenal," he explains.

While the technology has its distinct advantages, it has been a challenge introducing a specialised instrument to the market. "The cost of ARIX is 10-15% higher than industry standard products, and some companies do not realise that the benefits of this technology offset the price," he explains, adding, "Another problem in the industry is that a number of companies do not record the lifespan of their machinery and are, therefore, not aware of the advantages that the technology offers." **DIY**

### For more info...

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