

PRESS RELEASE

High-strength fischer chemical fixings prop up the mining industry

***20 July 2018:** German-engineered fischer chemical fixings are popular in the African mining sector due to their high-performance, added safety benefits and quick installation, which avoids costly downtime. The complete fischer product range is available exclusively from leading distributor Upat.*

The chemical fixings from fischer used at mines comprise chemical mortar, glass-encased chemical capsules and epoxies, all with studs and accessories. Upat Mining and Exports Manager **George Williams** highlights that fischer is the best option for mines because, apart from their high strength, they are supplied with service guarantees of up to 50 years, a major advantage for long-life mining operations.

Before supplying any products to mining companies, fischer undertakes load tests to assess their suitability for the application required. The chemical fixings are used mainly on the mechanical side of mining operations, such as on conveyor-belt systems, crushers, and piping systems, as well as for the installation of ventilation systems in underground mines.

Chemical fixings are available that cure to a strength of 180 MPa, almost double the strength of concrete, affording increased protection from the possibility of structural failure. "The safety features, combined with the reduced maintenance required for these anchoring systems, are the two main priorities for mines," Williams points out.

He adds that fischer also undertakes regular mine-site inspections to ensure its products are all in working order. This is particularly important, because seismic events can result in ground movement anywhere from 5 m to 25 m a month, heightening the risk of fall-of-ground incidents. "This is why high-performance anchoring systems are essential in these challenging operating conditions," Williams stresses.

"Our assessment is undertaken in conjunction with the mine's resident rock engineer. For example, with the installation of a conveyor-belt system, we will determine the rockfall pattern, which is of critical importance in determining the depth of the anchors needed," he elaborates.

Another critical feature of the heavy-duty anchoring systems required by mines is the two-hour fire rating provided by fischer products, one of the highest in the industry. This provides for ample time to evacuate underground mineworkers in the event of any fire incident.

"We even offer combination anchoring systems to support headgear stabilisation, which can weigh up to 65 t, and typically require 12 anchoring bolts," Williams adds. In order to ensure the correct installation of its products, fischer provides training for mine engineers, and also issues certificates upon its successful completion.

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Notes to the Editor

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About Upat

Upat SA (Pty) Ltd., a 100% South African owned business, began trading in 1983 as the sole Southern African distributor of the Upat range of construction fasteners (anchor bolts, chemical anchors, nylon plugs, etc.) From the outset, Upat was committed to the building industry, supplying not only a range of anchor bolts, but also rotary hammer drilling machines, tungsten-tipped masonry drill bits,

powder actuated tools, and allied building and construction products. The aim was to supply a range of top-quality products at market-related prices. This philosophy resulted in Upat becoming a market leader in Southern Africa within a decade.

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