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## **Not just another liner**

*Correctly specified rubber mill liners perform a variety of tasks which ensure the efficiency of processes and longevity of equipment.*

Carefully engineered liners should be able to protect machines and equipment from abrasion, impact damage and corrosion as a result of chemical interactions. Simultaneously, engineered mill liners may be required to provide the correct agitation and movement of materials to ensure the correct sizing of ore is produced inside the mill.

Johan Oosthuizen of Tega Industries South Africa advises operation managers to investigate using engineered rubber linings to achieve greater efficiency in their processes rather than merely providing protection for equipment. By enhancing the efficiency of the mill at the heart of a plant, the entire process can be dramatically improved.

## **More than protection**

“Of all the modifications that can be done to a mill - liners are the easiest way to boost efficiency. Patterns, treads, shapes, metal inlays and textures are easily incorporated into the design to allow materials to be better managed inside the mill. These may speed-up, slow down; mix direct materials as required and if done efficiently will dramatically improve the output.

“Mill manufacturers usually work closely with us to provide exact solutions to their customers’ needs. In these instances our technical team relishes the challenge of exactly matching the requirement. In other instances where rubber liners were not originally specified, or where liners are being replaced, they get even more excited because they are able to see the “before and after” results of their designs in action,” Johan says.

He adds that the mill is usually central to an operation but that other areas within the process may also benefit through the use of engineered rubber products. Typically, any transfer point, screen, chute, landing or conveyor can be improved to allow the plant to work at an optimum and to produce results as efficiently as possible.

## **Team effort**

Tega Industries South Africa is a fully registered company within the multi-national Tega Industries group which boasts a worldwide skills pool in the fields of polymer technology and engineering. Its technical specialists are able to undertake detailed analysis of customer's plant processes to formulate the correct solution based on the characteristics of the feed to the plant.

“Where possible we undertake a study of the whole process and will consult with clients to find efficient ways of dealing with materials. With the assistance of polymer engineers within the global group, as well as at our manufacturing plant in Benoni, the correct properties are formulated and products are manufactured according to these requirements.”

He continues that an advantage of manufacturing locally is that liners can be produced far more quickly and cost effectively. “In most instances our client's investment is quickly recouped through improved efficiency, while additional protection offered by the linings adds years to the lifespan of their process equipment.

## **Important decision**

“Some people think that a liner is a liner, but nothing can be further from the truth. Our liners are specially formulated to withstand the conditions they are required for and are engineered to add value to any process. Overall the job of a rubber liner cannot be underestimated nor should the job of specifying the right liner be underestimated either,” concludes Johan.

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