
Press Release

Ampla delivers on cost saving and data integrity for metal accounting reporting

Paris, France – Schneider Electric announced the release of Ampla's Plant Metal Accounting v1.0 solution, designed to meet the growing regulatory compliance and reporting needs of the metals and minerals industry, at the lowest cost.

Colette Munro, SVP Manufacturing Execution Systems, Schneider Electric says, "The Mineral Processing and Metals industries have been forced to develop custom solutions or purchase expensive niche applications because commercial packages for process control systems and operations management systems have not supported the data handling requirements of Metal Accounting.

We have extended our commercial MES package to deliver a unique solution to support Metallurgists who are responsible for validating and reporting Metal figures, without duplicating data collection."

Ampla's Plant Metal Accounting v1.0 solution includes:

- Auditable Data Collection and Management
- Data Security
- Measurement of Saleable Product (including stock-takes, lockup and errors)
- Metal Balancing (including monitoring performance and reconciliation)
- Reporting (including month end lock and transparent adjustments)

Colette Munro adds, "These features have been developed in close collaboration with our Minerals processing customers and our aim has been to support those that are working to comply with the AMIRA p754 code and guidelines."

The AMIRA code and guidelines states **Several commercial metal accounting software packages for the compilation of metal accounting data, using a central database, are available. These packages are usually designed to be user-friendly, requiring minimal training of metal accounting personnel, and they are considered preferable to the use of spreadsheets developed in-house, as they can easily be corrupted and they are seldom adequately documented.*

Best in class operations are improving metal accounting transparency and removing the silos between process control, metallurgy and IT.

Colette Munro says, "These departments all have a vested interest in accessing the same reliable and validated data and working from one version of the truth. At the same time there is a need to ensure that data cannot be manipulated, due to the nature of metal content, so a high level of data security is required".

Ampla uses standard functionality to collect production and quality data at a range of points across a plant from crushing, grinding, flotation, leaching, smelting and refining. Ampla's strength in security and auditing means the quality of data produced is credible and

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auditable. Ampla uses role-based security, allowing managers to allocate access to selected users, and provides an audit trail each time data changes.

Ampla's Plant Metal Accounting solution is part of its broader operations management offering. By combining the two solutions, around 70% of the data required for metal accounting reporting is collected by the operations management function. This delivers significant cost savings, reduces software integration and increases data reliability.

To enhance Ampla's plant metal accounting functionality Schneider Electric also announced its partnership with Caspeo, a leading global software vendor of advanced solutions for material processing management, whose customers include Vale, Barrick, Zhongzhou Branch China Aluminium Co Ltd, Newmont, Lumwana Mining Company and Xstrata. Ampla will seamlessly integrate with Caspeo's Inventeo software to deliver validated reconciliation and mass balance. Inventeo is used to perform mathematical exact balances and is being used in applications such as smelting and bioleaching.

Ampla's reconciliation process can be configured to utilise Inventeo's heterogeneity models, measurement protocols, error calculation rules, gross error deduction rules, flow sheets, phase description, constraints and so forth. Ampla uses the reconciled values to improve reporting accuracy.

Marie-Veronique Durance, General Manager Caspeo says, "This partnership will allow Caspeo to focus on its main competencies, while benefiting from Ampla's strengths in pre and post processing of the balance data".

To produce an adjusted and reconciled metal accounting report, companies are required to run a mathematical exact balance to ensure concise metal content reporting.

About Schneider Electric

As a global specialist in energy management with operations in more than 100 countries, Schneider Electric offers integrated solutions across multiple market segments, including leadership positions in energy and infrastructure, industrial processes, building automation, and data centres/networks, as well as a broad presence in residential applications. Focused on making energy safe, reliable, and efficient, the company's 120,000 employees achieved sales of more than 17.3 billion euros in 2007, through an active commitment to help individuals and organisations "Make the most of their energy". www.schneider-electric.com

About Caspeo

A global provider of solutions for material processing management, Caspeo deliver a range of software tools including USIM PAC, The BILCO, ECHANT and Inventeo. Caspeo solutions are used by mining companies operating in various fields, including precious and semi-precious metals, iron, non-ferrous base metals and phosphates. In operation since 2004, Caspeo is based in France with customers around the globe.

*AMIRA quotation from the AMIRA P754: Code Guidelines Release 3 20070219, p106. AMIRA International Ltd is an independent association of minerals companies which develops, brokers, and facilitates collaborative research projects.

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