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## MICROMINE firmly established at Taung

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The measure of any product's excellence is its word-of-mouth reputation, and Taung Gold project manager **James Wilson** speaks highly of his experience with MICROMINE.

"Having used MICROMINE in various companies over the past seven years, and with some having bought their own copy, I can confidently vouch for this software" says Wilson. "Using the flagship product and building up to five modules since 2003, MICROMINE has assisted in running projects efficiently and I believe has saved the companies I have worked for huge amounts of money."

With over 2 000 installations worldwide, mining professionals such as Wilson have been relying on MICROMINE for over 20 years for the processing of exploration and mining data. Modular in format, it assists the user in exploration data interpretation, generates 3D models, quantifies the ore resource and designs the mine.

"Mistakes in exploration can prove enormously costly," explains Wilson. "It's the type of work you need to get right first time, and MICROMINE narrows the margin of error effectively."

According to Micromine CEO, Africa, **Sean Heathcote**, the company's commitment to research and development, and its ability to find of practical solutions for individual clients' needs has made it one of the most innovative software developers in the mining industry since 1986.

"Not only do we provide ready-to-use systems like MICROMINE, we also develop and support products that are customised to the specific needs of each client," says Heathcote.

A project manager at Taung Gold since June 2008, Wilson comments. "Gold is faring better than platinum right now, with some talk of it going up to \$1 500 per ounce. It's a bullish market and in light of the future gold price forecasts, old exploration targets have become very attractive and we are also re-evaluating a number of old mining operations.

"We are often faced with projects that use paper-based geological database systems with no information in digital format. In one such project, the entire dataset was digitally captured in MICROMINE, followed by re-interpretation of the geology. It enabled us to rapidly generate inputs needed for scoping and pre-feasibility studies that included updated structural and grade distribution models. It also assisted in developing the exploration programme in a focused and cost effective manner," Wilson maintains.

In a number of historic projects, the data compilation exercise has often revealed disturbing results; Wilson comments, "data has been compiled and we have identified data errors or omissions using Micromine's data validation function. These errors could have been rectified if appropriate software had been used - or available - at the time. In some cases we have had to reject expensively-obtained data as a result of these errors. In terms of 'real time' flagging of data capture errors and omissions, I believe that a company can recoup the cost of MICROMINE in a matter of days."

With sister company African Precious Minerals operating in Mali, Tanzania and Mozambique, Taung Gold has been around for "some time in a number of guises," explains Wilson, "but has recently begun building an impressive portfolio of local gold projects. Our current objective is to generate targets, evaluate and add value to projects, and ultimately, where appropriate, mine them."

To date, Taung has been able to outline a total attributable mineral resource of 15 958 Moz ounces, of which 9 207 Moz is in the Indicated Mineral Resource category. Taung also has a number of surface outcropping Witwatersrand resource targets. "In many cases these targets are likely to be relatively low grade, but potentially amenable to open pit mining methods. Exploration for such orebodies necessitates a clear idea of the scale and nature of the target horizon.

"The likely economics of any deposit is the primary driver for continued expenditure on a prospect and Taung's approach is to commence pre-scoping level economic evaluation at an early stage. In this manner, an effective screening process is used, which enables management to streamline and focus limited resources to those areas where economic viability is indicated," says Wilson.

One tool used in this type of preliminary economic evaluation is pit optimisation software, which in this case is part of the MICROMINE suite of products. The tool has been successful in informing the optimal positioning of exploration borehole drilling, as well as the discarding of projects which clearly fall outside the limits of likely economic viability.

Heathcote notes: "MICROMINE is recognised across the industry as the easiest software to learn and use, providing all the functionality required by any geologist, surveyor or engineer without the need for weeks of on-site training. In mining particularly, time is money – so saving our clients on training time means saving our clients real money."

Wilson adds that Micromine's customer service and backup is as slick as the package itself. "The combination of a comprehensive and user friendly product with competent after sales service and support tends to grab the attention of geology professionals. In particular, MICROMINE has been an excellent product for the exploration of gold and platinum".

Growing from its original base in Perth, Western Australia, Micromine currently supports a global client base with an unsurpassed suite of integrated software products. Micromine is the only company to have developed in-house, and own, a fully integrated software solution that manages and monitors every step in the mineral exploration and mining process.

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For more information contact:

**Micromine Africa**  
0861 MICROM  
[mmafrica@micromine.com](mailto:mmafrica@micromine.com)

**Russell Tandy** – Media contact  
011 867 7763  
083 659 5374  
[russell@ngage.co.za](mailto:russell@ngage.co.za)

**Notes for the editor:**  
**About Micromine**

Micromine is a global leader in providing innovative software solutions and services to the mining and exploration industry. From capturing, managing, visualising and understanding data, to controlling and reporting on mine production, Micromine has a solution for all operations. With offices in 13 of the world's major exploration and mining countries, and its solutions translated into four languages, Micromine is close by with a solution that can be adapted as your operation changes.