

Mining IT: product releases to fill 2012 calendar

Richard Roberts, 15 December 2011



THE optimism of many leading mining software suppliers about business in 2012 is linked to what a number of them are calling major product releases scheduled for the next 12 months. Let what promises to be a rolling series of launches and technical seminars begin!

Coming off a frenetic year of product updates in 2011, US GMP software developer Mintec's president John Davies says there is growing excitement at the company's Tucson, Arizona, HQ and at branches around the world about what's programmed for 2012.

"We're on the cusp of releasing some major new products, so we're very optimistic about Mintec's growth in 2012," he said.

"We have been pushing hard on our scheduling/planning applications, ranging from long-term planning to short range, to operational support tools. The integration of the tools in our STP suite –MineSight Interactive Planner, MineSight Haulage, MineSight Schedule Optimiser and Material Manager – provides a formidable tool for rapid schedule evaluation."

Change a truck constraint, a feed grade requirement, a tonnage constraint, and reschedule in seconds, is what Mintec is telling users.

"The STP suite is all linked through a common database that contains all the source and result data so there are some amazing reporting opportunities with the data," Davies said.

"The biggest focus [in 2012] will be on short-term planning. We have a new product in development that further ties together the complex world of STP. This product will include Gantt scheduling, animation and interactive display connected to MineSight 3D and with full equipment scheduling, and dynamic charting and reporting.

"We are continuing to develop new tools and applications that will serve clients with underground and stratigraphic deposits."

More 64-bit versions of MineSight products will be released in 2012.

“You’ll also see the integration of scheduling tools such as MineSight Schedule Optimizer with visualisation in MineSight 3D. The animation of schedules, and direct interaction between cuts and the scheduler will make the workflow in MSSO amazing,” Davies said.

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