

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***MESA Southern Africa Annual Conference and MESA International Global Education Program in October a huge success***

***Gerhard Greeff MESA Southern Africa Chairman and Divisional Manager of Bytes PMC***

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MESA SA held its third successful Annual Conference at the Indaba Hotel in Fourways in October this year. The theme of the conference was “Innovation and Flexibility in Manufacturing Execution“, and this was very topical, especially in the global economic environment. The conference was the biggest MESA Conference yet in South Africa with over 60 registered delegates from all areas of industry. Return delegates commented on the quality of the presentations and agreed that “the quality of presentations this year was far superior to those of the year before.” These types of comments show that the MESA SA expansion committee is doing something right. It also proves that the local market is getting more educated and the total MES/ Operations Management user-base is increasing throughout the region as a wider range of presentations are available to choose from.

The day started with a Clinton Mackintosh the Adventure Racer telling the delegates how Innovation and Flexibility is critical in Adventure Racing to have a successful race. His main points of Planning, Preparation, Perseverance and Teamwork resonated with everyone that ever worked on a difficult project.

The key-note speaker of the day Craig Simpson a Lead Analyst at IDC Manufacturing Insights, CEMA, Prague talked about Driving Business Innovation through Systems Thinking. His presentation was full of valuable statistics and trends and delegates clamored to get hold of his material.

The rest of the day was filled with the following presentations:

- Gerry Geertshuis from Eskom and Machiel Engelbrecht from Bytes PMC presented on the Implementation of an Integrated Decision Support Centre for the Eskom Generation Fleet.
- Eddie Botes the Planning Manager at SCAW SWR presented the Haggie Steel Wire Rope (SWR) Scheduling and Execution System Implementation.
- Shueyb Vally and George Webster from Hulamin presented their Implementation and Rollout of OEE at Hulamin.

- Deon Smit, Production Integration Manager at Eskom had the whole audience eating out of his hand and delivered a most entertaining and valuable presentation called Remote Monitoring and Diagnostic Centre Implementation at Eskom Return to Service Plants.
- The presentations were closed off with a presentation by Aleksandra Paton a Process Specialist at Hatch and Dr Kobus van der Merwe from Industrial Management Enhancement with a presentation on Developing New Performance Measures to Improve Production Process Management.

The conference closed off with a networking session where delegates could relax and discuss trends, ideas and a little bit of business in a more relaxed atmosphere over some liquid refreshments.

The pre-Conference MESA GEP training the two days before the conference was attended by a whopping 22 delegates, making it one of the biggest MESA GEP courses held in the world this year.

The MES/MOM skills shortage within Southern Africa and indeed globally is recognized as a major barrier to plant and supply chain optimization and global operations excellence. Since the program launch, MESA has experienced a remarkable worldwide response. GEP Programs are ongoing, and the next Bytes Systems Integration sponsored GEP CoC course scheduled for Southern Africa area will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Midrand. Other GEP courses are scheduled at locations throughout the world, and companies can have them at their locations or host public GEP courses at their site.

The MESA Global Education Program aggressively addresses the knowledge gap that serves as the primary barrier to growth of the Operations Management space. Slowing that growth inhibits the realization of the significant gains available to end users who successfully embrace MES/MOM. So, End User Manufacturers, Producers, Miners and Solution Providers alike have reason to attend these programs.

[MESA Certificate of Competency \(CoC\) for MES/MOM\\* Methodologies](#) - a 4-day, comprehensive program of MES/MOM Methodologies courses aimed at Systems Analysts, Architects, Programmers, Project Managers and Consultants.

[MESA Certificate of Awareness \(CoA\) for MES/MOM\\* Business Awareness](#) - a 2-day, high-level program of MES/MOM Business Functions courses geared for executives, manufacturing/operations and IT personnel and sales professionals. The CoA courses are higher level, short versions of the CoC program.

Learn more about MESA's Global Education Program and register on-line at <http://www.mesa.org/en/globaleducationprogram/educationprogram.asp>.

Contact Gerhard Greeff through his company website at [www.bytessi.co.za](http://www.bytessi.co.za)

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***About Bytes Systems Integration***

Bytes Systems Integration designs, implements and manages customised IT solutions through the integration of hardware and software systems from global technology leaders. It has five distinct business units, all providing clients with world-class solutions and services based on platforms, processes and methodologies from acknowledged industry leaders. They include SAP, Kronos, Microsoft, MTN, Motorola, Cisco, Enterasys, Business Objects, Honeywell, Symantec, Wonderware, InStep, Traksys, OSISoft, Sun, Juniper and HP.

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