

# Plant efficiency at risk without careful chute design

The efficiency of crushers, screens, mills and other large equipment in a minerals processing plant can be severely undermined if the chutes at transfer points are not doing a proper job. Mark Baller, managing director of Weba Chute Systems, highlights the vital role of chutes in plant reliability and performance.

“A well-designed chute ensures that a crusher receives the right material at the correct angle for example,” says Baller. “By the same token, it will load a screen optimally, and will facilitate the correct feed rates into a mill, for best performance and economical power consumption.”

Baller argues that most plant operations are recognising that chutes are not just basic plate-work, rather, that they need to embody a high level of technical design that creates a fit-for-purpose solution for the particular commodity and application.

“More and more plant managers recognise that no two chute applications are the same. We have seen many plant shutdowns caused by incorrect chute design where the damage includes anything from holes in screen decks to damaged conveyor belts.

“Weba Chute Systems combines a sci-

entific approach; including finite element analysis and the latest design technology, with its extensive experience in the field to create a customised solution that controls the flow of material – taking into account its physical properties and the surrounding conditions,” he adds.

On the other side of the coin, the savings achieved through good chute design – leading to more efficient plant operation and fewer stoppages – means that most of Weba Chute Systems’ installations can pay for themselves in less than 12 months.

## Founder and chairman receives international recognition

The company’s founder and chairman, Werner Baller was recently inducted into the *International Mining’s* Technology Hall of Fame for 2018, a true testament to the global success of Web Chutes.



Founder and chairman of Weba Chute, Werner Baller.

The accolade marks a major achievement for Baller and the company he has developed since 1983.

With 45 years’ experience in mining and engineering – and 27 of those in transfer chute systems – he has developed nine patented products.

“It is humbling to be awarded a place in the Technology Hall of Fame,” he says. “More importantly, it is a recognition that there are innovators and quality OEMs in South Africa that are able to compete on the world stage.”

The company is now a global producer of customised bulk material transfer chutes and has supplied over 4 300 chutes into the global market over the decades. □



Skill and expertise are the major differentiators that allow Weba Chute Systems to produce transfer point systems engineered specifically for a given application requirement. **Inset:** Weba Chute Systems control the flow of material onto the belt minimising unnecessary wear.