

Ukwazi Acquires Sidus Consulting, Solidifying Transaction Advisory Capability

Establishes Ukwazi Transaction Advisory

1 February 2022, Johannesburg – Niche mining services company, Ukwazi, today announces its acquisition of financial modelling consultancy, Sidus Consulting. The transaction will help grow Ukwazi's existing solutions portfolio, expanding the business' integrated mining offering for clients across Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Sidus' Chief Executive and seasoned techno economic specialist, Kerron Johnstone, will head up mining valuations as part of the new Ukwazi Transaction Advisory (UTA) division, which will provide industry-leading public reporting, mine financial modelling, project valuation reports, Independent Technical Reports (ITRs) and Competent Person Reports (CPRs), amongst other key services.

“As we move into 2022, we see a revision in mining capital allocation strategies, driven largely by post-pandemic economic recovery trends and a rise in demand and pricing,” says Ukwazi's Managing Director, Jaco Lotheringen. “While this certainly presents an opportunity to make bolder decisions - particularly when it comes to viable and responsible mining investments - accurate financial modelling and risk assessments will be essential to the sustainability of these investments.”

According to Lotheringen, Sidus' vast experience in capital budgeting and investments, closure liability assessments, due diligence and mining IPOs, perfectly complements Ukwazi's range of multi-disciplinary advisory services as well as the company's expert capabilities in mining, engineering and environmental solutions. “Leveraging these core competencies will ensure that clients achieve a cost profile that is efficient, sustainable and safe to operate.”

Johnstone, who will play a major role in UTA, has more than 20 years' experience analysing the viability, feasibility and life-cycle costing of large mining, water engineering and industrial capital projects. He also has a strong track record in financial modelling and valuations, closure costing and the calculation of financial impacts and provisions resulting from due diligence, investment decisions and funding or transaction requirements. Johnstone's main area of specialisation is techno economic assessments, a field he became interested in during his time working in merchant and investment banking and engineering consulting.

Explains Johnstone, “Simply put, there is never a good time to make a bad decision. The mining sector has reached a pivotal point – rapidly evolving technology, the requirement to sustain the licence to operate and increasing environmental, social and governance (ESG) pressures, including the journey towards decarbonisation. Determining future production figures, profitability and expenditures through effective cost modelling and estimates, will greatly assist the industry in successfully navigating these perceived risks, turning them into workable opportunities. Robust modelling and analytics, as well as Code compliant technical reports, will also help inspire international and local investor confidence, enhancing sector access to appropriate capital and much needed funding.”

UTA forms part of Ukwazi's 360-degree service offering, which integrates critical activities and disciplines across the mining value chain. This comprises specialist services ranging from

permitting, mining studies and sustainable mining solutions, through to feasibility studies, business improvement initiatives, public reporting, techno-economic assessments and valuations, project development and delivery and compliance with relevant mining codes and stock exchange regulations.

Ends

About Ukwazi

Ukwazi is a South African-based, niched mining services company with expert capability in independent advisory, onsite technical services and mining operations, spanning multiple markets and geographies in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The company provides industry-leading mining feasibility studies, project development and delivery, environmental services and onsite technical solutions. Ukwazi, which is a Zulu word that means “to know”, plays a pivotal part in various mining transactions through due diligence studies, mine valuations and code compliant Competent Person Reports (CPRs) and Independent Technical Reports (ITRs) across a range of commodities and mining methods. This enables owners to effectively raise capital, and list and retain listings on particular stock exchanges.

In addition, Ukwazi’s specialist teams and industry experts are well-positioned to provide transaction, legal and risk advisory services, including sustainable mining solutions for ESG compliance and integrated permitting. As mining solutions architects, Ukwazi seamlessly integrates key activities and disciplines across the mining value chain, partnering with clients to achieve a cost profile that is efficient, sustainable and safe to operate; whilst simultaneously fostering growth, transformation and employment creation.

Ukwazi is a level 2 BBBEE contributor.

For more visit: <https://www.ukwazi.com/>

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

About Sidus Consulting

Founded in 2012, Sidus Consulting offers financial valuation, risk and statistical analysis services to help clients in the mining, water and energy sectors make capital investment decisions. Sidus prides itself on connecting the dots, bringing together diverse streams of financial, economic and technical information to provide valuable insights that underpin sound data-driven decision making. Working closely with clients, the consultancy develops bespoke financial models to understand the true value of corporate finance activities, enabling informed investment decisions. Specialist service areas include financial modelling, risk and statistical analysis, mergers, acquisitions and disposals, asset valuation, liability calculations, due diligence and statutory reports for IPOs.

For more, visit: <http://www.sidus.co.za/>