

Mr. Hans Smit
President, Chief Executive Officer, Ocean Minerals LLC

Mr. Hans Smit has decades of worldwide underwater mining and subsea engineering, operations and management experience. Before joining and leading OML, he was President of Neptune Minerals, Inc. from 2015 to 2017. He served as Managing Director of IHC MMP focused on providing services to the underwater mining industry worldwide. Prior to this, Mr. Smit was the Projects Director of Marine and Mineral Projects (Pty) Ltd a company specializing in providing the subsea diamond mining industry engineering and operation solutions. He has designed, developed, implemented and optimized numerous underwater mining systems, in particular, the crawler technology being used by De Beers Crawler for subsea diamond mining.

Extended CV Information

Mr. Smit is a successful and experienced Engineer, Business & Project Manager who has successfully managed several profitable businesses and completed numerous large complex projects.

Mr. Smit's experience in underwater mining is extensive and includes the following projects:

- Overseeing the development of the Cook Islands polymetallic nodule project inclusive of so far, the delivery of the JORC / SK 1300 resource reports, Environmental Impact Assessment data collection, metallurgical processing development and mining system development and selection.
- Project and contract managed the numerous research campaign executed by OML from December of 2019 till present and associated test programs. Recovered 5,000kg of Cook Islands nodules, conducted laboratory metallurgical testing, and developed and upgraded FFG for use as a resource tool.
- Project and contract managed the exploration and deep-water drill program executed by Neptune Minerals at the Tinakula site. Recovered 398 meters of the core with core recovery rates in excess of 70%.
- Project managed the System Scoping study for Neptune Minerals Inc. to evaluate and then define a mining solution for the extraction of SMS minerals from the seafloor.
- Project Manager and Electrical and System engineering of the development of the underwater Crawler technology and associated systems now used by De Beers for mining of diamonds off the west coast of Africa.
- Provided technical consulting in assisting Nautilus Minerals in raising funds by presenting crawler-based mining solution to UK-based financiers.
- Project managed and delivered the Namibian Marine Phosphate scoping study report.

- Project managed and system engineered a seafloor sampling system for commercial use in the sampling of deep-water seafloor minerals deposits.
- Designed, built, and commissioned a customized electrically driven 700t winch system designed specifically for deploying and recovering mining tools on the seafloor. Special features are redundancy and reduction of operator workload.
- Project managed, designed, and implemented an automated control and electrical system for Namco's large diameter underwater sampling tool.
- Project managed, designed, built, and implemented the automation and electrical system for Namco's sampling vessel sample processing plant complete with sample tracking and sterilization.
- Project managed, designed, and implemented an automated control and electrical system for Samicor's large diameter underwater sampling tool, launch and recovery system, and deck handling equipment.

Mr. Smit previously served as the Chief Executive Officer for Neptune Minerals where he was Responsible for business management including Strategy, marketing, P&L, budgets, reporting, and Human Resources, and working with the board to set and implement business strategic objectives and raise capital for business operational funds.

At Neptune Minerals, Mr. Smit also served as SVP Engineering and Marine Operations and was responsible for providing management and guidance to multi-functional project teams, all engineering-related activities across disciplines (electrical, mechanical, and Naval Architecture), and accountable for engineering and exploration projects and operational budgets and schedules. He managed and delivered highly complex technological exploration projects including the development of complex SOW, business proposals, project schedule/financials, and managing multiple global projects. He was responsible for vendor selection and management, procurement and purchasing, contracts, and equipment supplies as well as managing configuration and compliance with relevant standards and codes of practice including quality management, implementation of quality practices and procedures, and all Health and Safety compliance. While in this capacity, Neptune successfully completed a \$17 million complex offshore drilling campaign.

Mr. Smit served as Managing Director for IHC Marine and Mineral Projects, a division of the international Dutch company Royal IHC and an engineering and equipment manufacturing company employing mechanical, electrical, and electronic engineers servicing the underwater mining, oil & gas services, general marine, and land-based mining industries worldwide. In this role, he was responsible for business management including Strategy, marketing, P&L, budgets, reporting, and Human Resources. He also conducted marketing and sales-related activities including a compilation of technical proposals, SOW, business proposals, project schedule/financials, and tenders, and provided management and guidance to multi-functional project teams and oversaw design reviews related activities

across disciplines (electrical, electronic, mechanical and structural). He personally project-managed a scoping study of a grab-based underwater mining solution for Neptune Minerals. Mr. Smit held full accountability for business and operational budgets and schedules as well as overall responsibility for procurement, quality, configuration, and health and safety. Mr. Smit's efforts in this role helped to secure IHC MMP's place as the center for technology development in underwater mining.

As Projects Director for Marine and Mineral Projects (MMP) in Cape Town, South Africa, Mr. Smit's key duties and responsibilities included all Client related activities, proposal generation, negotiation, relationship management, presentations, reporting, management, and guidance to multi-functional project teams, overseeing all engineering related activities across disciplines (EE, ME and Naval Architecture) and full accountability for project and operational budgets and schedules. He oversaw and managed the delivery of very highly complex global technology projects running simultaneously while providing oversight and involvement in compiling complex SOW, business proposals, project schedule/financials. He held overall responsibility for vendor selection and management, procurement and purchasing, contracts and equipment supplies, configuration and compliance with relevant standards and codes of practice, Quality management and implementation of quality practices and procedures, and workplace and job site Health and Safety compliance. Mr. Smit also served as Managing Director for the Automation Division while at MMP.

While at MMP, Mr. Smit was responsible for the successful delivery of the world's largest underwater diamond mining system valued at \$35 million and achieving full production within six weeks.

MMP is an engineering and equipment manufacturing company employing 65 staff that included software, mechanical, electrical and electronic engineers servicing the underwater mining, oil & gas services, general marine, and land-based mining industries worldwide.

Mr. Smit holds a National Technical Certificate in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Wingfield Technical College of Cape Town, South Africa, as well as a Project Management Diploma from Damelin Business School and a Project Management Professional Credential from the Project Management Institute, both of Cape Town, South Africa.