

“How AI is transforming the workplace for metallurgists, process- and control engineers.”

ABSTRACT

The evolution of AI technology has brought transformative changes to various fields, and the metallurgical and process engineering sectors are no exception. Since the launch of the first GPT model by OpenAI in June 2018, significant advancements have been made, culminating in the current GPT-4, released on March 14, 2023. These AI models have revolutionized the workplace for metallurgists, control engineers, and process engineers by offering powerful tools for data analysis, data trending, problem-solving, and system identification. GPT-4, in particular, enables professionals to perform complex tasks that were previously beyond their capabilities, bridging skill gaps and significantly reducing the time required for various engineering tasks. This enhancement in efficiency and capability not only boosts productivity but also fosters innovation and continuous improvement in metallurgical and process engineering practices.



Theo van Schalkwyk
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Theo van Schalkwyk is a seasoned Process Control Engineer and the owner of Blue Nickel Solutions. With a B. Eng. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Stellenbosch and an MSc in Process Control from the University of Cape Town, Theo brings extensive expertise in process control and optimization. He has over two decades of experience, starting at Anglo Platinum, where he honed his skills in dynamic process modelling, simulation, and advanced process control techniques.

Since 2005, Theo has led Blue Nickel Solutions, focusing on business management, commissioning, optimization, and advanced process control for various mineral processing plants. His work involves developing systems for process performance monitoring, conducting capacity and performance studies, and driving innovation in process control technologies.

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