



GE Power Management  
215 Anderson Ave., Markham, ON, Canada L6E 1B3  
Tel.: (905) 294-6222, Fax: (905) 294-2098  
Email: [info.pm@indsys.ge.com](mailto:info.pm@indsys.ge.com)  
Web Site: [www.GEindustrial.com/pm](http://www.GEindustrial.com/pm)

## UR technology enters the diamond business

*New De Beers Combined Treatment Plant  
one of the world's first mining applications for UR technology*

**Markham, ON, December 21, 2001** – GE Power Management announces that De Beers Consolidated Mines, the largest diamond company in the world, has become one of the first mining operations to utilize GE Power Management's [Universal Relay](#) (UR) technology for its protection and control needs. The URs are being installed at the company's Kimberley site in three distribution substations to service its new Combined Treatment Plant. The order includes three [T60](#) Transformer Protection Relays, and three [F35](#) Multiple Feeder Management Relays for Feeder protection, as well as [369](#) Motor Management Relays. The devices will be connected over an ethernet wide area network. Drivecor PTY Ltd., a GE distributor and electrical engineering company is responsible for the installation, commissioning, maintenance and support of the URs. Commissioning is scheduled for completion in January 2002.



The new Combined Treatment Plant is an integral part of De Beers business strategy. Johan Smal, Project Manager for De Beers explains that while traditional mining activities are being scaled down, De Beers has been re-treating /re-processing Kimberlite deposits that lie in a large number of tailing dumps at the site. In order to improve recovery of the

“locked” diamonds and reduce costs, it was necessary to replace the existing treatment plant. “The current treatment plant reached the end of its economic and metallurgical life and was not capable of treating 100% dump material if processing of the remaining surface resources had to continue. Our main objectives were to minimize capital expenditure, working cost and project implementation time.”

Smal notes that the decision to work with UR technology was based on a need for flexibility and cost-efficiency. “We wanted the ability to add on for any future extensions as we transition to the PFC protocol. We also wanted a protection system that can be further developed for integration into the plant SCADA and IT networks in line with other new plants. With the UR we can have a system that can isolate faults quickly with a minimum of interruption, while allowing for remote fault diagnosis, zone type protection, and full integration with the energy management system.”

De Beers considers the construction of the Combined Treatment Plant as an important initiative from a social, economic and historical point of view. As such, it was imperative that they develop a highly advanced protection and control system that could extend the life of the operations. “The plant will secure the future of Kimberley Mines and ensure De Beer’s mining presence in the city well into this new millennium,” says Smal. “The acquisition of a treatment plant of this magnitude, specifically designed to treat tailing dumps is also breaking new ground and should serve as a benchmark for future operations.”

Blaize Magee, Marketing Director for Drivecor, says “De Beers was looking for flexibility and a modular structure for its protection and control scheme that would allow them to maximize return on investment and ensure continuous operations. With the UR offering we put together, they could have a complete solution at less cost that would answer all their protection and control requirements.”

Magee says that although the UR solution for De Beers is a mining industry first, it is a technology that easily lends itself to a broader scope of applications. “While the UR has been used extensively in South Africa for utility customers, it is now proving its worth in industrial, mining and water treatment applications.”

### **About De Beers**

South African-based De Beers, is the largest rough diamond mining and marketing company in the world, producing over 40 per cent of the world's gem diamonds by value from its own mines in South Africa and, in partnership with government, in Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania. De Beers' gem mining operations span every category of diamond mining - open pit, underground, alluvial, coastal and under sea - while its exploration programme extends across six continents. De Beers recently acquired a 100% interest in the Snap Lake project in Canada's Northwest Territories - the project holds the promise of becoming the Group's first Canadian diamond mine. Through the Diamond Trading Company (DTC) De Beers is responsible for marketing about 60 per cent by value of world diamond production.

**About Drivecor (PTY):**

Drivecor, based in Johannesburg, South Africa, is an electrical engineering company that specializes in protective relaying and substation automation. Drivecor has a regional office in Durban, South Africa. Drivecor has worked on numerous UR projects for utility and industrial customers, and has installed over 250 URs to date, making it the leading provider in the country. For more information, please call (031) 764 2212 or email [drivecor@drivecor.co.za](mailto:drivecor@drivecor.co.za).

**About GE Power Management:**

GE Power Management, a division of GE Industrial Systems, is a global leader in the design, manufacture, sales and service of protection, metering, control and automation systems, as well as telecommunication networks for utility, industrial and general industry applications. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.GEindustrial.com/pm>.

**About the UR**

GE Power Management UR products are PC-based solutions that support the open standard EPRI UCA(tm) MMS/Ethernet protocol. All UR products combine peer-to-peer high-speed communication capabilities with modularity, flexibility and field-programmable FlexLogic(tm) control for simplified substation automation. UR products include the B30 Bus Differential Relay, C30 Controller, C60 Breaker Management Relay, D60 Line Distance Relay, F35 Feeder Protection Relay, F60 Feeder Management Relay, G60 Generator Protection Relay, L60 Line Phase Comparison Relay, L90 Line Differential Relay, M60 Motor Management Relay, T35 Transformer Relay, T60 Transformer Management Relay and the R30 Data Recorder.

**For Further Information Please Contact:**

Christine Krokker  
Manager – Marketing and Sales Support  
GE Power Management  
905-201-2192  
[christine.krokker@indsys.ge.com](mailto:christine.krokker@indsys.ge.com)

- Ends -