

Digitising mining for growth

As CFO and MD of Metrofile, Shivan Mansingh brings deep financial expertise and strategic insight to a business powering Africa's digital and sustainability evolution. He discusses how data, compliance and governance are unlocking growth and resilience across the mining sector and beyond.

SHIVAN MANSINGH | CFO AND MD OF METROFILE

Can you elaborate on the services Metrofile offers and how are you positioning the company for long-term growth across African markets?

Metrofile offers a comprehensive suite of services designed to manage, protect, and optimise data across industries, especially within compliance-heavy sectors like mining. Our key offerings include:

Digital Transformation Services:	Transitioning mines from outdated paper-based systems to digital platforms to ensure data accessibility and scalability.
Compliance and Governance Solutions:	Enabling full compliance with regulations through accurate, consolidated data management, centralised repositories, and verifiable records.
Disaster Recovery Services:	Protecting critical data from operational and natural disruptions with robust backup and recovery frameworks.
Workflow Automation:	Streamlining processes to improve collaboration and reduce inefficiencies.
Cloud-Based Solutions:	Ensuring secure, remote access and scalability for mines managing large, diverse data sets.

Our solutions are rooted in unlocking growth by reducing risk, improving efficiency, and meeting evolving compliance demands.

How does Metrofile support mining companies through their energy transition?

We aid mining companies in their energy transition by enabling digitisation of their record-keeping, which reduces paper dependency and physical storage needs. This shift not only contributes to environmental sustainability but also significantly improves operational efficiency. Additionally, we help clients set up robust data governance frameworks tailored to track and manage Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance.

What are the compliance gaps you've identified in the mining sector today?

The mining sector frequently struggles with:

- Scattered training records across paper files, legacy systems, and physical locations, resulting in inefficiencies and heightened compliance risks.
- Manual processes that delay the retrieval of critical information needed for audits, incidents, or investigations.
- Gaps in meeting the constantly evolving Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) compliance requirements.

Metrofile addresses these issues with a centralised digital repository where training records are securely stored, maintaining accuracy and accessibility.



How is Metrofile enabling standardised ESG reporting for miners?

Metrofile supports mining companies in achieving standardised ESG reporting by providing the tools and infrastructure required for real-time data consolidation and audit readiness. Through our digital repository and workflow automation solutions, we help mines collect accurate, up-to-date information.

Are there new opportunities emerging as industries digitise their compliance and ESG reporting?

Absolutely. The digitisation of compliance and ESG reporting creates opportunities to:

- Improve decision-making by analysing consolidated and accurate datasets.
- Enhance legal readiness through real-time access to critical records during audits, incidents, or investigations into fatalities.
- Boost operational efficiency, enabling HR, safety, and training teams to focus on core activities instead of time-intensive manual processes.
- Strengthen data integrity, reducing errors in record-keeping and verifying certifications or training histories for compliance purposes.

To give an example, mining clients who adopt our digitisation processes have reported a 90% improvement in data integrity and a significant reduction in the time spent locating and compiling records.

Are you seeing an increased demand from mining companies looking to digitise legacy systems?

Definitely. Many mining companies are now recognising the risks posed by legacy systems, including compliance gaps, the high costs of manual data management, and integration challenges. Our solutions effectively support this transition by providing enhanced benefits such as:

- instant retrieval of critical training records during audits or incidents, reducing regulatory risk and improving legal readiness. We work across HR, Safety, Health and Environment in this regard.
- full compliance with DMR requirements, thanks to centralised storage of training records and verifiable certifications.
- improved operational efficiency by helping teams cut down on time spent on manual tasks, enabling a focus on core business functions.

How do you ensure strategic alignment across such a geographically and operationally diverse organisation?

To align strategies across different mines, each with its distinct challenges and methods, it's crucial to establish a system that works effectively for all employees within those environments. This involves utilising technology to simplify work processes for the entire workforce and ensuring that each person can swiftly and conveniently access necessary information. By merging modern tech solutions like converting paper documents into digital files and employing internet-based storage with conventional practices like storing physical documents at an offsite location, we aid mines in operating more coherently and ensure that all members within these operations are working towards the same objectives.

An example of this is when we were approached by a mine for basic storage services but an onsite assessment revealed these significant inefficiencies: Record-keeping was fragmented and scattered over multiple offices, particularly in the HR, HRD, Planning, Community Development, Engineering, Finance and Geology departments.

We introduced an integrated storage strategy combining offsite physical storage, document digitisation, and the implementation of the digital repository platform. By digitising records and centralising them, the need for the physical retrieval of documents was eliminated, which was critical, given the great distances between sites. The solution provided the client with secure, instant access to critical records, particularly beneficial for compliance audits and efficient day-to-day operations.

This transformation led to enhanced operational efficiency and reduced administrative burden, and sparked interest in extending the digitisation to include historical records, paving the way for broader implementation across the organisation – a win for all. ■

