

## **Ferdinand Fourie**

Ferdinand Fourie was born and raised in South Africa. After he received his degree in civil engineering he joined the renowned design firm of Ove Arrup and partners based in the UK. He later accepted a position with the consulting firm Salmon and Cilliers and then moved on to become the head of the structural department and a partner of Du Toit, Lombard and Malan consulting engineers.

To better equip him for his role in management, he enrolled into a MBA program and received a M.B.L. (Master of Business Leadership) degree from the University of South Africa.

Intrigued by the construction side of engineering he joined NFK Construction and advanced through the ranks to become a director and head of the subsidiary responsible for the construction of civil works.

Because of the complexity of construction contracts and the multitude of problems and claims, he decided to attend law school and received his law degree.

In 1992 Ferdi joined the Kiewit Corporation in the USA and is presently the Corporate Director – Contract and Claims Administration for the company. His responsibilities include the development and maintenance of proper contract administration systems that avoid claims. At the same time these systems assure that the company is compensated fairly, receives all it is entitled to by the contract and maintains good owner relations.

Part of claims avoidance is to properly educate project personnel on how to fully utilize the advantages of the DRB system to avoid claims. He puts strong emphasis on frequent regular DRB meetings and insists that field personnel properly prepare for and use the regular DRB meetings efficiently. In his experience the optimal and proper use of the DRB process avoids claims to the benefit of all the parties involved in the project. Consequently, where many focus on the DRB as a formal hearing body, Ferdi puts strong emphasis on regular DRB meetings as a tool to avoid formal DRB hearings and claims. Although initially conceived by the tunneling segment of construction, Ferdi is an advocate of the fact that the DRB process can equally well serve industries outside construction.