

Evaluating Mining Industry Databases

With 30 years of experience working with thousands of clients, we understand that having the right information plays a critical role in achieving your business goals. The most effective database selection process always begins with careful consideration of your specific needs.

The following questions are designed to help guide your database evaluation process by providing criteria you should collect from any information provider you are considering. Following the questions, we've provided answers from MEG's perspective.

Key questions to ask any potential database provider:

1. Does the database's coverage match the real requirements of my business?
2. How do you ensure the accuracy and quality of your data and information?
3. What types of projects and companies are included in the database?
4. Do you track all mining companies?
5. Do you cover projects from all countries?
6. How deep is your data and information?
7. Is your data spatially linked?
8. Is the information in your database easily verifiable?
9. Can data be easily exported from the database for further analysis?
10. Does the database offer automated monitoring and alerting on the information that is most important to me?

Response to database selection questions from MEG's perspective:

1. Does the database's coverage match the real requirements of my business?

MEG provides thorough coverage of projects and companies involved in

- Base metals
- Precious metals
- Diamonds
- Uranium
- Iron ore
- Rare earths
- Lithium
- Potash and Phosphates
- Coal coming soon

In addition to full project and company coverage, MEG offers database services detailing project and company transactions, early-stage activities and financings, and exploration budgets and strategy.

2. How do you ensure the accuracy and quality of your data and information?

Each member of our research team undergoes intensive training for an extensive period of time in MEG's meticulous data collection methodology. Our researchers carefully analyze incoming data before entering it into our databases. We take great pride in the quality of our information and continually check and review data to ensure that we uphold MEG's stringent level of accuracy.

MEG's in-house use of our services to produce detailed analytical reports and studies offers a further opportunity for review and quality control.

In addition, we annually make direct contact with more than 3,500 mining and exploration companies who provide us with first-hand information for inclusion in our database services and studies.

3. What types of projects and companies are included in the database?

MEG tracks projects from their first significant drill or trenching result through production and mine closure. In addition to a detailed history of each project's development, we track ownership, location, reserves and resources, general and annual production, capital and operating costs, financial data, transactions, geology, subcontractors, news, and much more. (Details are available on our web site – www.metalseconomics.com)

4. Do you track all mining companies?

MEG covers all publically listed mining companies—not just those listed on the major exchanges. We also cover many private companies, as well as governments and state-owned entities, from around the world.

Company information includes historical ownership, table and map views of company projects, interactive market capitalization graphs, company news, and direct links to SEDAR and EDGAR filings and to detailed real-time financial and company management data.

5. Do you cover projects from all countries?

We cover all projects worldwide, without geographic bias.

6. How deep is your data and information?

MEG pioneered mining-intelligence databases with the launch of MineSearch in 1981. Tracking many projects for well over 20 years allows us to provide an unmatched depth of project and company history—the standard of excellence for mining industry information.

7. Is your data spatially linked?

MEG's MineSearch is a spatially-linked database with powerful functionality that allows you to see global mining projects organized by any criteria you choose. Satellite, relief, and line-based maps can also be used to identify infrastructure and protected areas. Create unlimited searches and alerts on selected maps areas (rectangle, ellipse, and polygon selection options)

8. Is the information in your database easily verifiable?

MEG is committed to delivering the most credible information in the industry. As part of that commitment, we make it easy to verify data. We provide direct links to key source documents including reports, news, and data related to reserves and resources, production, and costs. Every public-source document used to create our profiles is stored within the system for instant access by our clients.

9. Can data be easily exported from the database for further analysis?

Project data can be exported to Excel, as a shapefile for use in your GIS application, or as a JPEG for use in presentations.

Company data (including attributable reserves and resources) can be exported to Excel or PDF.

MEG does not place any restrictions on downloads or exports from the system.

10. Does the database offer automated monitoring and alerting on the information that is most important to me?

MineSearch allows all users to create unlimited Saved Searches and Watch Lists. Project and company portfolios are monitored daily, and users can choose to receive email notifications of news or updates related to their searches.

About Metals Economics Group (www.metalseconomics.com)

Metals Economics Group (MEG) is the most trusted source of global mining industry information and analysis. We draw on three decades of comprehensive information and analysis, with an unsurpassed level of experience and historical data. To help our clients reach better decisions more quickly, we supply raw data and sophisticated analysis based on unbiased research and reporting. From worldwide exploration, development, and production to strategic planning and acquisitions activity—our databases and studies help you make confident decisions and, ultimately, improve results.