

Site makes finding parts easy

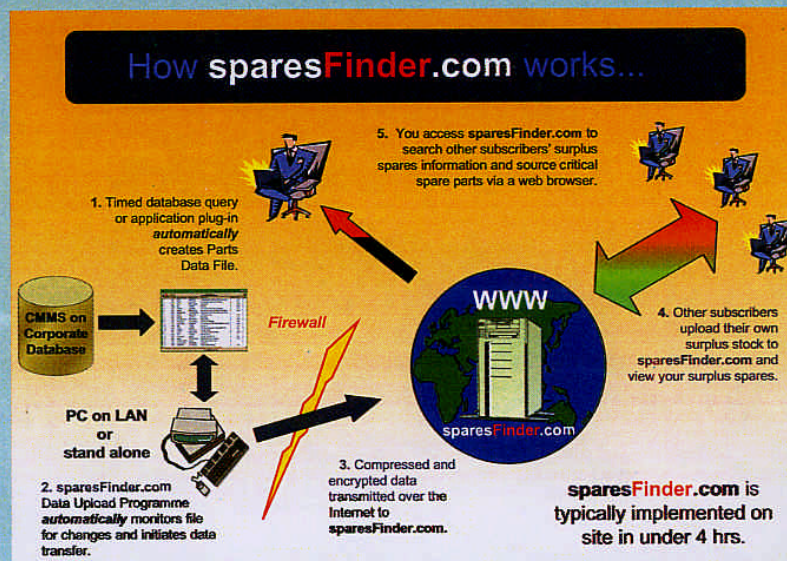
A LEADING Internet-based service provider to the oil and gas sector sees considerable potential to expand its presence in the mining industry.

sparesFinder.com promises subscribers they can locate the engineering spare, equipment or machine part they need among the eight million-plus items listed on its global database, within 90 seconds. That level of convenience, "insurance" and potential for significant cost savings through inventory reductions costs subscribers \$US3000-5000 a year. A who's who list of Australia's major oil companies has already embraced the service.

purchase of items. We simply link someone looking for an item with prospective sources of that item."

The Asset Partnership and other sparesFinder.com suppliers provide software that automatically uploads subscribers' spare inventory details onto the sparesFinder.com site. Young said subscribers controlled what data was uploaded. Once loaded, all data and search activity was completely secure.

He said spare parts holding issues were similar in the petrochemical and mining industries. Companies held "insurance spares", particularly for older equipment. Remote sites needed their own level of insurance



Stephen Young, director of Sydney-based sparesFinder.com marketer The Asset Partnership, said the two-year-old service provided information, not physical spares and parts. It enabled companies with subsidiaries or operation sites in different countries or regions to bridge software, hardware, language and other barriers, opening the door to more efficient global inventory management.

"Having the same inventory management system on site is no longer important," Young said.

"We don't want sparesFinder.com to be seen as a second-hand market. The service enables subscribers, including companies and operation sites within corporate groups, to share inventory more efficiently.

"It works purely on subscriptions, we don't make a commission and we do not take part in the sale or

when it came to the availability of spare parts, and many sites held significant excess quantities of stock.

Sites within the same organisation — whether in the same region or a different state or country — often had no idea of the surplus stock available in their own corporate backyard. sparesFinder.com made the stock visible. "Maintenance managers and procurement people can see all their sourcing options, on-line and in the one place, with all the contact details they need to source the part," Young said.

He said global sparesFinder.com subscribers numbered "in the hundreds". The list included major oil companies, engineering and construction contractors, and mining companies such as AngloGold, which has more than \$40 million worth of inventory listed for disposal.