

# Canyon Coal sees benefits of owning Bell fleet

**A go-ahead South African junior coal mining company has found that even though it was relatively inexperienced in the actual mining of its coal, researching the market and taking note of what mining equipment was most used, is paying dividends.**

And nowhere are these dividends more noticeable than in the cost savings the company has generated in running its own fleet of yellow metal, to bring the 'black gold' to its washing plant before it is exported.

Canyon Coal is a coal exploration and mining company with projects and operations in the Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces of South Africa. Founded in 2006, the company currently runs three active, opencast mining operations at Phalanndwa, near Delmas and the Hakhamo and Singani collieries, which are nearer Middelburg. Two exploration projects near Springs and Bronkhorstspuit respectively, show promise for future development.

Vuslat Bayoglu is the Executive Chairman of Canyon Coal; and as a mechanical engineer, who fully appreciates the value of reliable yellow metal equipment, he is enthusiastic about the direction his young company has taken. "Although mining contractors still add value to our operations, we had in 2014 taken the decision to do the mining ourselves at our principal operation Phalanndwa, which lies east of Delmas," he says. "We had taken a

critical look at what mining equipment some of the leading South African mining contractors were using and the one brand that we constantly found to be at the forefront was Bell Equipment, which seemed to have acquired a reputation for reliability through quality design and build with solid technical support."

In March 2015, Canyon Coal took delivery of four Bell B40D Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs), a Bell B30E 27 000 litre Water Truck, a Bell 770G Grader and a Bell 315SK 4x4 Tractor Loader Backhoe (TLB). In May 2015, four more Bell B40D ADTs were added to the fleet.

The equipment was bought with extended warranties on the wet drivetrains and valid for five years or 10 000 hours. A maintenance agreement with Bell Equipment sees that qualified Bell technical personnel do all maintenance and repairs during that time.

We visited the Phalanndwa Colliery to see firsthand how the equipment was performing and were shown around by Guy Thompson, Canyon Coal's General Manager: Mining Services.

Canyon Coal runs a typical rollover coal mining operation where topsoil, overburden and mid-burden are removed to expose the coal seams. The mid-burden, which consists mostly of hard rock, remains in the pit for rehabilitation which takes place continuously.



"These Bell B40D ADTs are fantastic haulage machines and the Fleetm@tic® system helps us keep tabs on every Bell machine, day and night," Thompson says. "Depending on what material the Bell ADTs are carrying affects the fuel consumption but we're averaging 15,5 litres per hour on a typical haul of just under 1 kilometre and that to us makes for lower than expected production costs."

"We do concede that the Bell B40D ADTs are still new and we're enjoying their high mechanical availabilities and usage," he adds. "But if you consider that their average production of five cycles per hour sees each truck hauling between 100 and 140 tonnes of material, it is the stuff that gladdens any production manager's heart."

Thompson and his mining teams appreciate the long-term benefits that good haul roads, gentle ramps and debris-free loading platforms bring in terms of cycle times

and tyre life and to maintain these they make extensive use of their Bell 770G Grader, Bell B30E Water Tanker and Bell 315SJ TLB. "We spray an organic dust suppressant on our haul roads but grade the roads and loading platforms regularly and our Bell TLB does wonders in terms of getting rid of debris and maintaining housekeeping standards," he says. "A smooth haul road makes for good cycle times and adds safety benefits too."

When asked whether the company would expand its yellow fleet, Bayoglu says: "We appreciate that our mining contractors do add value to our operations but the cost saving of owning our own fleet cannot be denied. We further believe that partnering with a company like Bell Equipment with its extensive range of mining equipment and wide service footprint will stand us in good stead in this challenging field."



Back left: Bell Equipment Sales Representative, Kobus van Niekerk and Bell Sales Manager: Central Region, Bevan Veall together with (front left): Bradley Hammond, the Operations Manager at Canyon Coal and Vuslat Bayoglu, Canyon Coal's Executive Chairman.