

Bell Loaders deliver on AEMFC's goal to become an mine operator

There is a tangible sense of excitement at African Exploration Mining and Finance Corporation (AEMFC), which celebrated mining its one millionth tonne of coal in mid-2012 and followed this milestone by taking delivery of three Bell L2606E Wheeled Loaders in September.

State-owned AEMFC commenced mining operations in July 2011 and currently mines coal at Phase 1 of the Vlakfontein Mine, in the Witbank area. The mine is 583 hectares in extent and currently produces 1,6 million tonnes of coal per annum. The crushing and screening plant handles 600t per hour, which is then loaded onto road trucks and transported to Eskom's Kindel Power Station.

Mining is planned to commence on Phase 2 of the mine in 2014 and includes the Anglo and Northern blocks, which will effectively extend the life of the mine to 2028. At this time Eskom will remain the major customer, but the mine will instead supply the Kusile Power Station.

AEMFC's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sizwe Madondo said: "The growth phase of the company is very exciting because as the state-owned mining company there will be future integration with other state-owned companies."

He added that future prospects include an underground mining project in Bethal,

which will create 1 000 job opportunities as well as spin-off projects for other products. The project will supply 3,4 million tonnes of coal to Eskom with the first coal planned for delivery in the 2015/16 financial year. AEMFC is also planning to drill areas in Limpopo Province and Mpumalanga where they have existing mining rights for coal prospects.

The delivery of the Bell Front End Loaders are the first units of heavy equipment to be purchased by AEMFC and marks the start of the company's progression to become a mine owner/operator. Explains Mr Madondo: "We're excited to be partnered with you as a South Africa company because we are also proudly South African. Our vision is to be one of the top five coal producing companies in the country by 2020, and mainly supplying Eskom. This is just the start for us because ultimately we would like to run our operation ourselves and buy our own equipment. Where possible we will continue to work with local industries."

Congratulating AEMFC on their one millionth tonne milestone, Bell Group CEO Gary Bell thanked the company for supporting Bell as a South African company. "We appreciate the fact that we're a strategic partner of yours and our goal is to ensure that our products deliver the lowest cost per tonne to your business so that you can be sustainable and deliver the lowest cost per tonne coal to your customers."

The Bell L2606 Wheeled Loaders fitted with 6 cubic metre coal buckets will be used to load coal from the Vlakfontein Mine's stockpile onto 30-tonne road trucks.



"As two South African organisations what we do here in the handover and presentation of these machines is an example that many other South African businesses should follow. What we have is Team South Africa

working together to provide you with solutions that will enable you to grow your business. We thank you for your support and hope that we can grow our relationship in the years ahead."



AEMFC's General Manager: Strategy and Planning, Sicelo Sikakane with Bell Equipment Group Chief Executive, Gary Bell and AEMFC's Chief Executive Officer, Sizwe Madondo at the official handover of three Bell Front End Loaders at AEMFC's Vlakfontein Mine.