

# Amandla Construction goes from strength to strength with Bell machines

**Apart from time constraints, it is generally not economical to rent earthmoving equipment. The choice to invest in plant and acquire equipment often seems more sensible. A Cape Town construction company understood this and proceeded to acquire plant, along with pre-owned equipment on the open market, from a well-known original equipment manufacturer.**

Amandla Construction is the BBBEE arm of GCF Construction (Pty) Ltd based in Cape Town's light industrial area in Brackenfell. Graham Jones started GCF Construction on a farm in the Welgemoed area in 1982 and Amandla Construction was established in 2007. The parent company, GCF Construction, has always concentrated on civil construction of buildings, bridges and roads.

Delmaine Le Roux, Amandla Construction's Plant Manager, explains their thinking in acquiring plant and

equipment: "All our plant and earthmoving equipment is owned by GCF Construction as the holding company and it rents this equipment to Amandla Construction when and as needed. As Amandla Construction, our focus of late has seen us undertake a lot of road rehabilitation and maintenance, laying of pipelines, building culverts and low-water bridges, and asphaltting."

The company has also successfully undertaken the bulk earthworks for sports fields and water reservoirs. The core staff of 165 full-time employees comprises of administrative, maintenance, operator and supervisory personnel.

"Prior to a bulk earthworks project in 2015 we realised we needed reliable off-road haulage machines and found three Bell B30D Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) on the open market," Delmaine explains. "With Bell Equipment being so well-known for the quality of design and build of its ADT range, we could buy them with confidence as we

knew we could rely on Bell Equipment for technical backup and spares from its Customer Service Centre in Cape Town and the company's wider footprint, should the machines be needed further afield."

In the past GCF Construction owned older yet newly-bought Bell B17B ADTs. These ADTs lasted such a long time that buying pre-owned, newer model machines left them with no doubt as to the machines' longevity, despite two having clocked 18 000 hours and a third 20 000 hours. According to Delmaine, the three Bell B30D ADTs' utilisation is high. With enough work internally and enquiries for plant hire, the machines don't stand idle.

"Our long relationship with Bell Equipment really is a win-win situation as good experiences with any piece of equipment made or sold by the company has led us to buy more and varied machines," Delmaine says. "A case in point is the Bomag MPH 122 Recycler that we bought new through Bell Equipment's Sales Representative, Fiona Johnson, back in 2012. We had landed a contract to build access roads leading to the wind turbine farm near Cookhouse in the Eastern Cape and this machine

performed so well over the year it was deployed there that we knew, that in future, the way to go with road construction equipment would be with Bomag, which is sold and backed up by Bell Equipment."

The 'future' arrived sooner than expected. In 2016, Amandla Construction started a pre-mix road rehabilitation division. A well-used paver that the company had inherited was on its last legs and Le Roux knew it was time to replace it with something newer and more reliable.

"We confidently approached Fiona Johnson at Bell Equipment again and she came up with a pre-owned Bomag BF600P HSE Paver with around 3 000 hours on its clock. As it was reasonably priced we had no hesitation in buying it," Delmaine smiles. "It has been an extremely good buy for us and well worth the money as it forms the backbone of our pre-mix division. With its speed and efficiency, we're confident of landing a lot more road rehabilitation business and it goes a long way to prove again that owning your own plant is the profitable way forward."



Delmaine Le Roux with the company's Bomag MPH 122 Recycler that was bought in 2012 as a pre-owned unit.



The Bomag BF600P HSE Paver on a road rehabilitation project on the R45 above the Theewaterskloof Dam between Villiersdorp and Franschoek.