

Agreement paves the way for emerging road contractors

The national roads agency (SANRAL) and Bell Equipment Sales South Africa Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding in July that will accelerate the transformation of the construction industry by giving black-owned and managed CIDB graded contractors access to earthmoving machinery. This will enable them to participate more meaningfully in major construction projects.

“Our primary objectives are to grow the construction and engineering sectors and attract new entrants, especially black contractors who can build businesses and create jobs,” says Skhumbuzo Macozoma, the Chief Executive Officer of SANRAL.

The cooperation between SANRAL and Bell Equipment will help to promote fair competition in the construction and engineering sectors. Black-owned CIDB graded contractors will now get access to finance, leasing and rental options, training and maintenance services.

Commenting on Bell Equipment’s local heritage, global footprint and over six decades of experience in the manufacturing of equipment, Skhumbuzo said: “They bring a vast understanding of the local construction and engineering sectors and share our commitment to the transformation of the industries.”

Bell Equipment sees this as an opportunity to position itself as a road construction equipment supplier of choice. “This partnership with SANRAL will enable us to grow our customer base and contribute greatly to the empowerment of emerging contractors in the industry,” says Bell Chairman, Gary Bell.

CIDB graded contractors will now be able to purchase, rent or lease road construction equipment that will enable them to participate in major public sector construction where high standards of quality are required. Bell will also leverage its existing partnerships with the financial sector to give black-owned and managed CIDB graded contractors access to financing.

Skhumbuzo says the cooperation with Bell Equipment is a “trailblazing step for the South African construction industry.” It demonstrates SANRAL’s resolve to use its contracting and procurement processes to facilitate the growth of emerging contractors.

Both Bell and SANRAL confirmed that they will host an information sharing session with black-owned and small businesses in construction to unpack how their collaboration will benefit them.

Seen from left are: Leon Goosen, CEO Bell Equipment; Dumisani Nkabinde, SANRAL Eastern Region Regional Manager; Simphiwe Mxhosa, SANRAL Stakeholder Manager; Duncan Mashika, MD Bell Equipment Africa Sales & Distribution; Gary Bell, Bell Equipment Chairman; Skhumbuzo Macozoma, SANRAL CEO; Ismail Essa, SANRAL Transformation Manager and Bruce Ndlela, Bell Equipment Director: Public Sector.

