

Carocept joins the Bell family with five B30Es and a Bomag Roller

A company that first saw life as a modest venture to render services such as cleaning, security, transport and discard handling to a coal mining group, has shown exponential growth in a short space of time with haulage equipment from Bell Equipment headlining its growing fleet.

Carocept is contracted to work at the Umsimbithi Coal Mine near Belfast in Mpumalanga, South Africa which is jointly owned by Lithemba Wonderfontein Coal and Umcebo.

Carocept has four directors and the company's dynamic CEO, Nolwazi Qata, fills us in on its origins and structure: "Our company is a nominee of Lithemba Wonderfontein Coal, which owns

50% of Umsimbithi Coal, and we have been tasked with services on the mine that are seen as non-core mining activities," she says. "To this end, Carocept was founded in Johannesburg in 2016 with me, Tandi Mohale, Lunga Ngcobo and the 'thorn amongst us roses', Bongani Raziya, as directors.

"Of all our tasks on the mine, coal discard handling promised to be the most daunting as we realized

early on that we'd need material haulage and handling equipment for this," she says. "This obviously meant a major capital outlay and you'll appreciate that, as a start-up company, finding that type of serious financial backing wasn't easy."

According to Nolwazi, a major South African bank came to their aid with competitive financing at reasonable rates and the next



Bell Equipment's Bruce Ndlela presents Carocept CEO, Nolwazi Qata, with a model Bell ADT to commemorate their recent purchase. With them are (from left): Wiseman Sitole (Operations Manager, Carocept), Aaron Sibiya (Bell Sales Representative) and Bright Zwane (Production Superintendent, Carocept).



Bell Articulated Dump Trucks haul more, for longer at the lowest cost-per-ton to deliver more on your profit margins.

hurdle was to obtain the correct equipment with reliable technical backup.

"We did some thorough research of our own within the South African yellow machine market and spoke to leading industry players about what we should look at buying as this was our first and somewhat tentative venture into a challenging and competitive market," she adds. "The one name that kept recurring was that of Bell Equipment, which was compounded after we met Bell Sales Representative, Aaron Sibiya."

"It was immediately clear to us that in Bell Equipment we'd found

an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) that not only understood our business but had personnel who were patient and knowledgeable and who would be committed to us as customers in the long term. And, as Aaron Sibiya showed, salesmen who were tenacious and simply wouldn't let go," she says with a smile.

Nolwazi also indicates that other important points that warmed them to Bell Equipment were the company's huge local content advantage, expansive footprint with customer service centres, trained mechanics and a comprehensive parts holding as well as the knowledge that

purchasing locally would have the downstream benefit of sustaining employment for others.

"Our immediate needs to successfully handle the discard coal service on the mine saw us buying five new Bell B30E Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) and a Bomag BW211 Tandem Smooth Drum Roller and these machines were delivered in early May 2019," she says. "They are used to load both wet and dry discard coal from feed-bins and haul it anywhere between 1km and 3,5km to the mining pits, which get rehabilitated as mining progresses in a traditional strip-mining method."

Wiseman Sitole is Carocept's Operations Manager and he is enthusiastic when discussing the new Bell ADTs and Bomag Roller. "We were pleased when Bell Equipment offered training to our 16 drivers and operators who, despite being relatively experienced, were happy to be shown the correct way of handling these Bell B30E ADTs and the Bomag BW211 Roller.

"We work two shifts a day and this should see our Bell B30E ADTs clock between 5 000 and 5 800 hours a year, which is in keeping with the comprehensive extended

warranties to 10 000 hours that we specified when ordering the equipment. A further confidence booster for sustained uptime is that Bell Equipment undertakes all maintenance and repair during that time and we have our own Bell-trained mechanic on site, assisting our operators with their daily checklists."

The fleet is further monitored with the Bell Fleetm@tic® monitoring system.

Once the discard coal has been dumped in the pit, a dozer is used to flatten the heaped coal before

the Bomag BW211 Tandem Roller compacts it into the mined-out areas of the pit. According to Wiseman, average loads of around 27 tonnes are hauled at a fuel burn rate of 26 litres an hour.

"We feel that this is the start of greater challenges for our small company and we're gearing up mentally for bigger things," Nolwazi says. "Future plans could see us venturing into topsoil mining and getting involved in other mining activities. We are confident that with a trusted OEM such as Bell Equipment in support, the sky is the limit."

