

JCB Rollers and Backhoes impress ALS Equipment Hire

In Potchefstroom, the historic town in the North West Province founded by the Voortrekkers and known for its university, there are many businesses offering plant hire. One such company stands out from the others as it is known to be a solutions-driven company because of the experience its owners have in mining, bulk earthworks, road construction and a host of other disciplines.



That company is aptly named ALS Equipment Hire and is a sister company of the larger ALS Plant Hire that specialises in contract mining of a variety of commodities such as gold, platinum, chrome and especially coal. ALS Equipment Hire is in the capable hands of Johan Janse van Rensburg, the Managing Director, and Malan le Roux, the Group Operations Manager.

"We don't believe we're boasting when we confidently say that here in our area, we're a solutions-driven plant hire company," Johan Janse van Rensburg says. "A farmer may call us and tell us about a problem with a dam silting, up as an example, and we, with our broader experience, can offer a viable solution to that problem."

"Most plant hire companies have Backhoe Loaders of one make or the other but very few have the experience to effectively use that and other equipment that will provide a lasting solution to a problem a client may have."

ALS Equipment Hire has a policy to replace equipment at approximately 7 000 hours. Some older machines are at times moved to the group's award-winning farming operations where production demands aren't that critical while others are traded in on new models. In September 2022, two backhoe loaders and two rollers that had reached these respective limits were sold out of hand with full service histories.

When deciding on replacement backhoe loaders and rollers, ALS Equipment Hire researched the market thoroughly but, in the end, relied on the experience of Bell Equipment Sales Representative, Kobus van Niekerk, with whom they have built a solid business relationship stretching over many years.

"Kobus, who with his extensive product knowledge we've come to trust, told us all about Bell Equipment now being the South African distributor for the market leading JCB Backhoe Loader and Roller ranges. Although we've never owned any equipment from the JCB stable, we were happy to buy some machines as

they came from a reputable manufacturer, which was further backed by Bell Equipment, with whom we've enjoyed a long business relationship," Johan adds. "The machine models in question were two JCB 3CX Backhoe Loaders and two JCB 116D Rollers, one with a smooth drum and the other a pad-foot Roller."

Since the four machines arrived in November 2022, they have apparently seldom seen the inside of ALS Equipment Hire's yard, such is their demand. The two JCB 3CX Backhoe Loaders have been used on civil construction sites where their uses are never-ending from stockpiling building material, digging trenches for services that can be quickly backfilled, loading building rubble onto tipper trucks and various other housekeeping functions.

with vibratory capacity, such as the JCB 116D Rollers, are thought to be hard to find in the plant hire industry, so with the purchase of the two JCB machines with different drums ALS Equipment Hire believes they have the edge in their operational area.

Johan again brings up the important point of ALS Equipment Hire being a solutions-driven plant hire company when he says the following: "About 18 months ago we landed a contract to manage the main solid waste dump site for the local JB Marks Municipality and after careful consideration we knew exactly what equipment we'd need to effectively manage this site, where up to 180 truckloads of waste are dumped every day."

ALS Equipment Hire deployed two older Bell B30D Articulated Dump Trucks with large volume coal bins that could haul the big loads of household and light industrial waste that was brought to the site. Another fabricated wheeled loader from a mining site does the grunt work of building berms to contain the layers of waste but the real star of the show is the newest addition to that working fleet, the JCB 116D Pad-foot Roller. With its almost 16-tons of operational weight, the Roller compacts the layers of waste quickly and effectively after which the layers are covered with soil.

"Our thinking has been that using this fleet on the solid waste site is effective and should we finish the contract and move on to other sites, we'd be able to use this same equipment in civil construction, road building, and bulk earthworks as well, so making full use of its versatility," Johan says.

"But proving our effective use of the equipment comes by virtue of the fact that a recent audit of our performance showed that in 18 months our compliance had risen from 17% at the start of the contract to 87% as we stand now, and we're pretty proud of that!"

Johan makes a firm point that it was his company's long business relationship with Bell Equipment, stretching over 30 years, and the mutual trust that exists between the companies, that gave them the confidence to buy a brand of equipment that they may not have owned before.

"We're aware now that JCB is an innovative company that has kept pace with new technology that has been incorporated into its equipment, especially in the 116D Rollers, and knowing that we can rely on Bell Equipment for technical backup wherever we work in the country, makes it all worthwhile."



Johan Janse van Rensburg, the Managing Director of ALS Equipment Hire (left), with Malan le Roux, the Group Operations Manager.

