

Civils 2000 adds six new JCB Backhoe Loaders to its fleet

Back in the early 1990s when Cape Town was being touted as a possible venue for the 2000 Olympic Games, Colin Shapiro and Rob Starke were planning too.

These Cape Town-based business partners were planning to start a civil construction company and it was their dream to ensure that the company made it to the year 2000, which is why they called it Civils 2000.

We can happily report that Civils 2000 has not only passed that milestone but has grown exponentially into the third millennium. The company currently employs 170 permanent staff but depending on operational requirements, meaning employing more labour for specific contracts, that number easily swells to between 300 and 500. Living one of its core values of 'unlocking potential', Civils 2000 prides itself on upliftment and training when employing people and mentoring SMMEs and emerging contractors.

Tackling civil construction projects in mainly the Western Cape, Civils 2000 has built a name for itself in housing and commercial buildings, bridges,

installing infrastructure services, sustainable energy projects, township development and road construction to the final asphalt layer.

Working in civil construction implies that yellow machines will be used extensively, and Civils 2000 is no different as the company's Plant Manager, Andrew Newborn, explains: "We own and operate a substantial fleet of yellow plant comprising excavators, compaction equipment, backhoe loaders, graders, wheel loaders, recyclers and milling machines, pavers and a fleet of rigid tippers and water trucks."

"We offer full plant hire solutions, both internally and externally, and our clients know that they can rely on our well-maintained equipment for maximum uptime during rental times."

Civils 2000 adheres largely to its own policy of running yellow equipment to the viable limit of its



(From left): Justin Williamson (Civils 2000 Workshop Foreman), Percy Edwards (Civils 2000 Plant Maintenance and Workshop Manager), Tyron Ravenscroft (Bell Equipment Sales Manager: Coastal Region), Andrew Newborn (Civils 2000 Plant Manager), André Jordaan (Bell Equipment Sales Representative) and Dirk du Toit (Civils 2000 Plant Operator and Utilisation Manager).



first life, which means backhoe loaders, as an example, are operated to 8 000 hours and excavators to 12 000 hours.

"We don't only buy new equipment to replace older machines but may also want to increase our capacity, which is important to properly service a growing client base and project order book," Andrew explains. "This was the case recently when we took delivery of six new JCB 3DX Eco Backhoe Loaders from Bell Equipment where four were replacement machines and two were to assist us in building more capacity."

According to Andrew, Civils 2000 has had a long and happy relationship with JCB Backhoe Loaders for their role as versatile tools on their sites but more so for the durability of their design and build, factors which promote sustained production from these workhorses of the construction industry.

We used to use the JCB 3CX naturally aspirated model, which has now been replaced by a turbo charged option on the new 3CX Global model but have found that the naturally aspirated worked just as well at the coast, where most of our work is. We therefore have opted for the JCB 3DX Eco naturally aspirated unit when rejuvenating and expanding our fleet," he explains.

"We're also pleased that Bell Equipment, a company we've had many pleasant dealings with over many years, is now the South African distributor for JCB equipment as this means we can depend on reliable technical backup when working locally and in other parts of the country."

The cost of fuel has become a major factor in the pricing of work, but Andrew does not expect much to change from the JCB 3CX Backhoe Loader to the JCB 3DX Eco. Civils 2000 currently has eight JCB 3CX models and are selling four out of hand as these machines have done between 7 500 and 8 000 hours. As they are known to have been well-maintained with a full service history, a good resale value is almost guaranteed.

To acquire six new JCB 3DX Eco Backhoe Loaders all at once takes more than merely relying on petty cash, but Andrew is quick to point out that the offer to purchase the machines through JCB Finance and ABSA Bank was unmatched in the industry. A generous amount of cash assistance sweetened the deal further to match the competitively low interest rate and reasonable terms.

Andrew is of the opinion that the competitive pricing of the JCB 3DX Backhoe Loader makes it an ideal machine for plant hire.

We visited the site of an extension to a waste-water plant in the Cape Winelands where one of the new JCB 3DX Eco Backhoe Loaders was working in a deep pit. It was impressive to see the machine ease up a steep ramp with a full front bucket of waste rock material that had been excavated.

When Civils 2000 marks its thirtieth year in business in August 2023, the company will be able to look back with pride and reflect on its purpose of 'to build a better tomorrow together'. We are confident that Bell Equipment with its outstanding range of product offerings will be made to feel part of that purpose.