

DKL Plant Hire & Civils grow its JCB Backhoe fleet to eight

A civil construction company head quartered in the picturesque Cape Winelands has found that its fleet of JCB Backhoe Loaders rarely stands idle as these versatile machines are in constant demand both on the company's own sites and to a select few plant hire customers.

DKL Plant Hire & Civils cc, founded in 2006 by Dirk Kampfer Lutz, started out as a plant hire concern based at Klipmuts, north of Cape Town. A current partner and Director of the company, Rossouw van der Merwe, joined the company in 2007 and helped to establish a civil construction arm that started making its mark by the following year.

"Since our beginnings as a plant hire company, the focus of our business has swung through 180 degrees to focus mainly on civil engineering construction as opposed to plant hire," Rossouw says. "Although

we've retained the original name of the company, the ownership has also changed and DKL Plant Hire & Civils cc is now owned by Elizma and Philip Botha, Eduan Naudé, Uhan Rossouw, and me."

The company focuses on supplying civil construction for services in township development including water and power reticulation, roads, and bulk earthworks. Working in the agricultural sector, DKL Plant Hire & Civils also creates infrastructure aimed at tourism on wine estates, which has become a popular sideline for those estates offering more than just wine tasting, such

as accommodation and hiking trails. Further services to the agricultural sector form a large part of the business with the construction of farm dams, pump stations, roads, and culverts. The extraction of older or established fruit trees, when a fickle market demands that new cultivars be planted, has added a new dimension to DKL Plant Hire & Civils' service offering.

Projects are undertaken throughout the Western Cape Province with brief forages into the neighbouring Northern and Eastern Cape.

"Working in civil engineering construction you'd appreciate that we would be mechanised and to this end we have built up a fleet of yellow machinery over the years comprising among others, excavators ranging from 8- to 21-tons, water trucks, 10-cubic metre tipper trucks, low beds for transporting machines, a roller and our stalwart equipment, backhoe loaders," Rossouw says. "We also have a wood-chipper and a mulcher for when we bush clear new land and take out the old fruit trees."

DKL Plant Hire & Civils ensures that its plant earns its keep by internally hiring equipment for specific projects. This ensures a solid return on investment and the knowledge that when a specific machine is replaced, it has earned its keep.

"We will run any piece of plant to a maximum of 8 000 hours and then sell it out of hand with a full service history," Rossouw explains. "We've built a reputation of selling well-maintained equipment, which means that with a few phone calls used equipment virtually sells itself."

The company first bought JCB 3CX Backhoe Loaders some years ago and has since evolved to own four JCB 3CX Eco and another four JCB 3CX Global machines. "We've owned 11 of these machines within the space of 15 years and they have been simply superb," Rossouw says. "While we won't buy machines for a specific project, our order book has recently filled up substantially and we added two more JCB 3CX Global machines to now bring our fleet to number eight."



The most recent four JCB 3CX Global Backhoe Loaders were bought in 2022 when Bell Equipment, the South African distributors for JCB equipment, offered a favourable financing deal with a leading bank. Rossouw and his partners made good use of this offer and the four JCB 3CX Global machines were delivered in November 2022.

"We've had dealings with Bell Equipment's Sales Representative, Andre Jordaan, for many years and trust him implicitly to give us the correct advice on machine models that suit our business model," Rossouw explains. "Our construction teams don't feel complete without a JCB Backhoe Loader on site for

the versatility the machine offers in trenching, backfilling, levelling platforms, and loading building material or rubble into tipper trucks."

"We sometimes view our JCB Backhoe Loaders as an oversized 'site wheelbarrow' as you can load almost anything into it," Rossouw says with a smile. "And returning fuel burn of between six and eight litres an hour, depending on the application, really does not impact our bottom line negatively."

The versatility of one of the company's new JCB 3CX Global Backhoe Loaders fitted with a multi-use clamshell bucket was evident on a unique

construction site. A former wine farm in the Simondium area was being restored to resemble that of its 18th century heritage and the machine spread fill material to be compacted on a road and dug trenches for water reticulation.

"What we particularly enjoy about JCB, apart from the solid design and build of their Backhoe Loaders, is the wide range of different machines the company offers. And having a reputable company like Bell Equipment

offering competitive pricing, along with its legendary back-up service, really creates a win-win situation for all," Rossouw says. "We've bought our four new JCB 3CX Global Backhoe Loaders with extended warranties to 4 000 hours on the wet drivetrains and this gives us the confidence that this equipment will deliver a decent return on investment."



Bell Equipment Sales Representative, André Jordaan, with DKL Plant Hire & Civils cc's Rossouw van der Merwe, a shareholder and Director, and Constant Teubes, Plant Manager.