

Lucor Construction loads up on JCB and Kobelco machines

Struisbaai on the Southern Cape coast is said to be one of the fastest growing coastal resorts in South Africa and here two energetic young men, involved in a dynamic partnership, are fast making their mark in the competitive world of civil construction.

Lucor Construction, headquartered in Bredasdorp and close to Struisbaai, is made up of Luwald Giliomee and Cornel Uys. Both hail from Bredasdorp and have garnered extensive experience in the civil and pipeline construction fields while working for other companies.

"In 2014, we decided to formalise our individual skill sets into a partnership and so Lucor Construction, a name made up of our first names, came into being," Luwald says. "We have been focusing our business on the construction of specialised concrete works such as that for warehouse floors and silo construction, steelwork for these warehouses, retail shopping centres, and a variety of civil construction services to the agricultural sector."

The implication that a civil construction company will be mechanised holds true as Lucor Construction boasts a substantial fleet of haulage and yellow metal

machines comprising tipper trucks, excavators, backhoe loaders, wheel loaders, skid steer loaders, volumetric concrete mixers, and a mobile screen.

Lucor Construction also produces and sells sand from its own sand mine to a variety of end-users in the local construction industry and farming community.

"During the first eight years of our company's existence we bought only used equipment on a cash basis, but you will appreciate that often we got downtime-causing issues along with the seemingly good cash price on a machine," Luwald says. "That's why in 2022, when we needed a reliable excavator for our sand mine, we changed tactics and bought a new machine that has really proved its worth."

The machine in question is a Kobelco SK220XD-10 Excavator bought from Bell Equipment in Cape Town with Sales Representative, André Jordaan, doing the honours. "We've had dealings with André before and respect him for his sound advice and product knowledge," Luwald adds. "Bell Equipment, as the official distributor for Kobelco Excavators, made the offer to purchase almost irresistible with a great price and a longer-than-usual warranty of three years or 5 000 hours."

"Kobelco Excavators are known for their excellent fuel consumption and, given the type of constant production this machine delivers in our sand mine, we've been mightily impressed with its performance and frugal fuel burn of 11,5 litres an hour."

Lucor Construction's Kobelco SK220XD-10 Excavator has at times been fitted with a hydraulic hammer and hired out on a plant hire basis where it has delivered sustained uptime on demolition projects.

The partners' newfound faith in new but financed earthmoving equipment seems to sit quite well with them as in August 2023 they took delivery of yet another new piece of equipment, a JCB 3CX Global Backhoe Loader. Lucor Construction currently owns a fleet of three Backhoe Loaders of which only one is a JCB.

When asked why they chose to change brands, Luwald explains: "Cornel owns a JCB 4DX Backhoe Loader in another company he has, which is separate to our construction company, and that machine has more than proved its worth with sustained uptime and clearly shows why the JCB brand is considered the market-leading Backhoe Loader. So, we decided to back this proven reliability by buying a new JCB 3DX Global Backhoe Loader for its versatility of uses on our building projects where it does general site work, loads and unloads material, and digs and backfills trenches for foundations and services."



Luwald mentions that the deal on the JCB 3DX Global Backhoe Loader was further enhanced by the financial assistance Bell Equipment offered through a local bank.

"We've recently noticed an uptick in demand for more specialised equipment in the plant hire market, especially in demolition work," Luwald says. "We have for some years owned a small Kobelco SK40SR-5 Excavator, which had been brought into the country by its owners, whom we bought it from. It has given us such good service that we're replacing it with a similar but slightly heavier Kobelco SK55SRX model."

"Our thinking is that this machine, fitted with either a bucket or a hydraulic hammer and rented out with a five-ton tipper truck as a package, will be sought after in the demolition and agricultural market where the Kobelco Excavator can knock down structures that

need to be demolished using the hydraulic hammer and dig and load with the bucket attachment into the tipper truck."

Luwald adds that their dealings with Bell Equipment's Cape Town branch, from the sales experience to the servicing, have been more than pleasant. When called to conduct services under warranty, the company's responses have been quick with technicians arriving promptly with the correct service kits and consumable spares.

"We're excited at the prospect of receiving the new Kobelco SK55SRX Excavator and seeing it add value to our plant hire offering as our other two new machines from Bell Equipment have done. Buying new equipment is definitely the way forward as we strive to be leaders in our field locally," Luwald says happily.



The dynamic business duo of Luwald Giliomee and Cornel Uys with their Bell Sales Representative, André Jordaan.

