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Advanced fence dropper technology launched

FARM owners in South Africa can benefit from the new range of StoneRod fence droppers that are made from basalt rock, and are distributed nationwide by Basalt Technology – a member of the PMSA group of companies.

Basalt Technology Director Gordon Forrester explains that the droppers are manufactured by taking basalt rock in its purest form and melting it, before drawing it through dies and transforming it into high-strength fibre, which is 87% lighter and twice as strong as industry-standard steel.

"It is an efficient new concept for game and farm fencing, as the droppers are highly-flexible and do not bend under impact, but rather shift back to their original shape after being hit. This unique characteristic is particularly advantageous to farmers, as permanent damage to the fence can be avoided if an animal runs into it at high speed," he explains.

Due to the lightweight of basalt fibre, Forrester highlights the fact that they substantially reduce transportation costs, and resultant carbon dioxide pollution. "A one-ton bakkie can typically load approximately five thousand 8 mm x 2,4 m bars, or more than nine thousand 6 mm x 2,4 m bars, without overloading.

New concept fence droppers highly efficient for game and farm fencing

"This significantly reduces fuel consumption by minimising the amount of delivery trips that have to be undertaken to and from the site. What's more, the lightweight characteristics ensure that less labour is required to install more droppers, thereby ensuring further cost savings."

Unlike industry-standard steel, the droppers are electrically inert, which provides the farmer with the peace-of-mind that electric fencing will not short-circuit. They are also fire-resistant, rust-proof and require no periodic maintenance or painting. Forrester notes that another major advantage is that it has no value to thieves. "Basalt rock fibre material has no scrap yard value, and the risk of fencing being damaged as a result of theft is eliminated."

According to Forrester, the rod is also more environmentally-friendly when compared to steel. "During steel production, a blend of materials are compounded, and many of these negatively impact on the environment. StoneRod is 100% natural lava rock, and significantly reduces any carbon footprint due to the fact that during the formation of the lava, all the harmful emissions were already released," he continues.

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