

Laman Resources and PMSA create building blocks for the future

Laman Resources has cemented its reputation as a leading manufacturer and supplier of building and construction material, by making use of an exclusive range of machinery supplied to the company by PMSA, Africa's leading manufacturer of concrete block, brick and paving machinery.

Laman is a resource-based manufacturing company that operates six quarries in the Eastern Cape, where it mines speckled dolomite for crushing into aggregate that is subsequently used to manufacture ready-mixed concrete, bricks and blocks.

Laman Resources manufacturing manager, Theunis O'Kelly, points out that the company mainly converts the aggregate into M140 concrete blocks for the low-cost housing market, by making use of two PMSA VB4-X block-making machines.

"Both VB4-X machines were installed in the brickyard last year, and have proven to be highly reliable in an extremely challenging working environment, where they are run for 10 hours a day, six days a week. Thanks to the strength and reliability of the machines, Laman Resources is able to achieve an output of 60 000 blocks/day, placing the company in a highly competitive position," he explains.

"Laman Resources is located in hostile terrain, about 20 km from Umtata. This presents a number of logistical challenges when transporting machinery to the site. What's

more, heavy rains here can last for days, creating exceptionally muddy conditions that further limit access to the site," O'Kelly notes.

Despite these challenges, O'Kelly says PMSA's after-sales support and service has been dedicated and unrivalled. "Despite our remote location and logistical challenges, I am assured that should a problem occur, PMSA will ensure that I am provided with a solution on the same day, regardless of location and weather."

Laman Resources was established in 2010 in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Industrial Development Corporation and the Department of Trade and Industry. The company has 200 employees, and processes over 1 200 tons of dolomite per shift.

O'Kelly says: "Laman Resources beats the competition by providing a cost-effective solution to the building and construction industry by sourcing all of its own products. In addition, the reliability and strong output capabilities of the PMSA equipment has ensured that the company's production facilities are able to run uninterrupted and to full capacity."

Looking at the year ahead, O'Kelly observes that most of Laman Resources' revenue will come from RDP projects in the Eastern Cape. "RDP housing is the biggest development taking place in the Eastern Cape, with thousands of new homes due to be constructed in the course of 2011. Laman Resources

is well positioned to be the prime supplier to the industry – owing to the company's cost-effective manufacturing process, and the fact that it can produce higher volumes of material in shorter lead times than its competitors. PMSA will continue to be our supplier of choice when purchasing additional equipment," O'Kelly concludes. ■

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