

African infiltration

AfriSam expands cement capacity in East Africa

AfriSam has embarked on an ambitious growth strategy focused on strengthening and growing its existing businesses in South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Tanzania, whilst simultaneously expanding the company's physical presence through growth opportunities outside of our current footprint. As part of AfriSam's Africa Growth Plan, the company's main target is identified countries of interest, involving both acquisitions and greenfield projects, says AfriSam CEO Stephan Olivier.

The cement producer's current expansion projects include constructing a second kiln to increase its current capacity at the Tanga Cement Company (TCCL, which serves the East African market. The expansion initiative is currently in the process of being rolled out. The construction of the kiln was approved in May 2012 in response to the consistently high demand for cement both from the Tanzanian market and markets beyond the country's borders.

Until now, TCCL has been obliged to import clinker to meet this demand and the new kiln will enable the company to produce enough clinker to supply all its own requirements and significantly reduce imports.

With completion expected in 2015, the second kiln will increase the company's clinker production capacity by 600 000 tons per annum, more than doubling current capacity. The installation comprises a new state-of-the-art five-stage precalciner kiln, which will use the lowest thermal energy in the AfriSam group and play a role in reducing its average thermal energy consumption.

"The East African market is experiencing rapid economic development as a result of infrastructure improvements and housing needs, and this will give AfriSam the significant competitive advantage of being the first to add clinker capacity to this market. The company believes that the construction of the second kiln will not only benefit TCCL and AfriSam, but will also contribute greatly to the economic development of Tanzania and the East African region," says Olivier.

Within South Africa's borders, AfriSam is currently involved with two expansion projects. The first is the establishment of a cementitious milling and blending plant in Zone 5 of the Coega Industrial Development Zone (IDZ).

AfriSam's new cementitious milling and blending plant in the Coega IDZ is expected to come on line during 2016. The plant will have a production capacity of 740 000 tpa and will supplement AfriSam's existing supply of cement to the Eastern Cape market. The new plant will complement AfriSam's three distribution depots in the Eastern Cape, benefitting customers in the province through increased security of supply and shorter lead times.

An added advantage offered by the Coega IDZ milling plant is its proximity to the Port of Ngqura, which makes it cost-effective to import the raw materials required for the manufacture of cementitious material and offer advantages for export, if viable.

AfriSam is also moving towards the establishment of a greenfields cement plant located in Saldanha, comprising a grinding and packing facility that will be followed by a clinker manufacturing plant. The project also encompasses limestone and clay quarries that will be located parallel to the coast, between Saldanha and the farm Trekkossenkraal 104.

Large infrastructure projects

AfriSam has supplied quality construction material solutions to the following infrastructure projects:

- Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project
- Platinum Joint Venture (PJV), consisting of a 95km section of the N1 running from Pretoria northwards to the town of Bela Bela and a 290km section of the N4 running from Pretoria westwards to the Botswana border.
- OR Tambo International Airport, Gauteng – AfriSam supplied readymix concrete to the value of R2.2bn for the construction of the central terminal building.
- King Shaka International Airport, Durban - AfriSam supplied 160 000 m³ of concrete and 120 000 tonnes of aggregate for the construction, as well as 210 000 tonnes of aggregate for the asphalt on the parking areas, internal roads and aprons.
- The Durban Harbour entrance was deepened and widened using AfriSam concrete. The harbour mouth was widened by approximately 150 meters and the depth increased from minus 12 to minus 19 meters to allow modern container vessels to enter the harbour mouth.
- Gautrain Project – AfriSam supplied ballast as well as specialised aggregate and readymix concrete products for various sections of the ground-breaking Gautrain Rapid Rail Link project.
- Nelson Mandela Bridge, Newtown - To fill the deep piles underpinning the Nelson Mandela Bridge in Newtown, AfriSam designed a special self-compacting flowcrete with extended workability. The concrete was then pumped into the 47 metre high pylons, from the bottom upwards, a process which had never before been attempted before in South Africa.
- Spring Grove Dam – AfriSam supplied 120 000 m³ of concrete, which equates to about 318 000 tonnes of aggregate.
- Katse Dam, Lesotho - AfriSam's cement and 2.32 million cubic metres of concrete were used in the state-of-the-art Katse Dam, with a wall height of 185 metres, length of 710 metres along the top and a 60 metre thick base.
- Jeffreys Bay Windfarm project – AfriSam supplied 4 000 tons of its High Strength Cement to the 138 Megawatt Jeffreys Bay wind farm project in the Eastern Cape.