

# DIAMOND PLANT SUPPLIER IN STRONG GROWTH PHASE

*A company which has emerged as one of South Africa's leading suppliers of diamond processing plants in less than a decade is ADP Projects of Cape Town. Although the company has worked as far north in Africa as Sierra Leone and Tanzania, its strongest markets are Angola and Namibia and, of course, South Africa itself. Established in 1997, ADP currently has over 50 full-time employees and a very full order book. Says Gerhard Meyer-Rodenbeck, a Director of the company: "We're currently experiencing the strongest growth phase in our history."*

**A**DP (the name comes from 'Alluvial Diamond Projects') is based in Paarden Eiland, where it not only has its offices but also a CAD-based design and drawing facility, a 3 500 m<sup>2</sup> factory under roof, a 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> plant assembly yard, paint and sandblasting facilities and fabrication equipment for structural and plate steelwork. While it offers a relatively wide range of products to the diamond mining industry, including dredgers, jet pumping equipment and jack-up platforms, its specialties are DMS plants in either modular or fully mobile form, as well as in-field screening and final recovery plants. It is a wholly

owned subsidiary of Metco Global, an offshore company with directors based in South Africa, the US, Portugal and the UK.

Recounting the history of the company, Meyer-Rodenbeck says that it was founded by Andrew Jakins, a metallurgist with extensive experience in Southern Africa. Jakins was approached by contacts in Angola who convinced him that there would be a place in the market for anyone able to make and supply 'fit-for-purpose' modular plants for diamond mining companies operating in remote areas such as Angola.

"I joined Andrew right at the start, and we were essentially a

two-man operation in the initial months," he recalls. "We designed and supplied a few smaller plants in Angola that got us off the ground, and have continued to work there right up to the present. I would estimate that we have operating plants on at least 12 mines in the country, mainly in Lunda Norte province where most of the diamond mines and exploration projects are located."

Among ADP's Angolan clients are BHP, Petra Diamonds, Trans Hex, ITM Mining, LL Mining, Xceldiam and De Beers Exploration. The scope of supply ranges from pre-treatment and sampling plants through to DMS and final recovery plants. At Petra's Alto Cuilo exploration project, a 100 t/h plant has processed both alluvial gravels and kimberlitic material.

Meyer-Rodenbeck says that ADP has also had considerable success in Namibia. "We secured our first order from Namdeb, which is Namibia's biggest diamond producer, in the late 1990s," he says. "Namdeb remains a key client and we have been extensively involved with its 'Pocket Beaches' programme, its Elizabeth Bay mine, as well as its in-shore marine mining division. Current orders include the supply of a Vosta dredge for Pocket Beaches Phase 2 and a 400 t/h process plant for treatment of dredge mining product."

ADP has entered into a long term partnering agreement with Namdeb. Two Namdeb employees are based full-time in ADP's offices and work with dedicated Namdeb project teams headed by Ron Swart and Viv Reyneke



*The ADP factory in Cape Town. The factory offers 3 500 m<sup>2</sup> of space under roof and has a 5-t overhead lifting capacity.*

(both engineers, ex Namdeb). According to Meyer-Rodenbeck, the intent of this agreement is to collaborate on project execution through synergy, teamwork, transparency and trust. Continuous improvement and added value is the objective and ADP has formed ADP Namibia in order to empower Namibians and Namibian companies through this relationship. DBCM (De Beers Consolidated Mines) and ADP have negotiated a similar partnering agreement and a dedicated ADP project team has been established to service Namaqualand Mines on South Africa's West Coast.

Within South Africa (and apart from Namaqualand Mines), ADP has provided plants for Trans Hex Operations, De Beers Exploration, Firestone Diamonds and the Alexkor mine. In Tanzania it has installed a 65 t/h DMS unit at the famous Williamson mine, which is owned by De Beers and the Tanzanian government. Comments Meyer-Rodenbeck: "Projects further afield for which orders have recently been awarded are a kimberlite sampling plant for Rio Tinto Exploration, which is headed for India, and a 100 t/h alluvial plant for RST Brazil."

Although ADP is now primarily focused on the diamond in-



*A 150 t/h alluvial plant erected and commissioned for 'Projecto Fucauma' in Angola in mid-2005. Endiama, the Angolan state diamond-mining company, and South Africa's Trans Hex are the main stakeholders in the new mine which is located in the north-east of the country.*

dustry, at one stage it also had an involvement in the mineral sands industry, carrying out a four-year contract for Richard Bay Minerals during which it ran a 1 200 t/h skid-mounted sand screening and jet pumping plant on a 'build-own-and-operate' basis. "This was an interesting and successful 'greenfields' venture for us but we have since developed to the point where we view the servicing of the diamond mining industry as our core business," says Meyer-Rodenbeck.

While ADP has its own design capability and manufacturing facilities, it has also forged alliances with several local and overseas companies. For example, it has cooperation agree-

ments with project management company Fluor Daniel, and specialist structural and civil design engineering company Euro-Technology. It also carries agencies for Vosta LMG, Haver & Boecker and Seacore.

Vosta LMG is a Dutch/German dredging company able to supply a range of dredging equipment (up to 5 000 t/h capacity) while Haver & Boecker, a German manufacturer, offers 'hydroclean' technology (which is currently under test by De Beers). Seacore is based in Cornwall in England and is perhaps best known for its jack-up 'walking' platforms. ADP has installed one of these platforms, named the 'Jet Rig', at Namdeb where its capabilities



*A containerised Ultrasort recovery unit at the Murowa diamond mine near Zvishavane in Zimbabwe. Supplied by ADP, it is capable of treating 1 t/h of -16 mm DMS concentrate material.*



An ADP process plant at one of Namdeb's 'Pocket Beach' operations in Namibia.

for acting as a mining platform in the ITC (Inter Tidal Corridor) are being assessed.

Explaining ADP's philosophy, Meyer-Rodenbeck says the company has concentrated on designing and manufacturing plants that operate reliably, are modular in nature (meaning they can be easily transported or expanded) and can be readily maintained. "Generally, people come to us because they see us as giving them solutions which are fit for purpose, innovative and simple," he states. "Operating efficiently with a flat management structure allows us to offer competitive pricing without compro-

mising on content or quality."

He adds that ADP has recently established an experienced team to service projects at both operating and engineering levels in Angola. "From our Luanda office we aim for personalised service and are able to provide on-site services that go past the commissioning phase. We can also provide training here in Cape Town," he says.

In terms of DMS plants, ADP can supply modules ranging from 5 to 200 t/h. The standard 5, 10, 30, 55 and 65 t/h DMS units can handle land or marine duty applications, and were developed specifically for operations in re-

mote areas where site works can be problematic and mobility is important. Modules supplied are generally 'container size' and are shipped and transported to site in a semi-assembled state, reducing erection and commissioning periods substantially.

"While we have standard products, most clients do require certain modifications to suit their specific requirements and we are happy to carry these out," says Meyer-Rodenbeck. "Indeed, we have often supplied fully customised plants, although this is obviously a more expensive option than buying standard models." He notes that ADP is currently working on an entirely new DMS design that will have fewer operating equipment items, making it substantially easier to operate and cheaper to run than existing models in its range. A 50 t/h prototype is currently in the detailed design and build phase.

Summing up, Meyer-Rodenbeck says that ADP is looking forward to taking on the next ten years in the diamond mining industry, building on its strong focus for well engineered and innovative solutions. "We are hoping to add even further value to the market by engineering continuously better and more efficient ways of mining and processing diamonds." ■

Report by Arthur Tassell



An ADP 'jack-up platform' mining system working in the surf zone for Namdeb on the southern coast of Namibia.