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WATERSHED YEAR FOR KILLARNEY ENGINEERING

Jet Park-based Killarney Engineering, a subsidiary of Andrew Mentis, is experiencing a watershed year, with a significantly increased order book that includes large orders for its unique serrated grating.

In response to the accelerated pace of production required to keep up with the new orders, Killarney Engineering is currently upgrading and reconfiguring its 3 500 m² production facility to create a more streamlined production flow and achieve improved lead times. The company's premises are also going through a refreshing facelift, with new corporate signage and vehicle livery.

Newly appointed general manager, Prega Sundran, says the unprecedented upturn in the company's business can be attributed to repeat orders from loyal longstanding clients, coupled with an influx of large orders from first-time customers.

"For more than 12 years, this business has been built on the twin pillars of service and quality," he says. "We are a small, but highly productive company and we treat customer companies of all sizes with equal attention and commitment. Customers welcome our ability to tailor-make products to suit their own unique requirements, at highly competitive prices and with fast

turnaround times. We are able to offer this price advantage because we source all our raw materials from our parent company, Andrew Mentis, which purchases these materials for its own product range in bulk quantities.”

Killarney Engineering was established on the East Rand as a small grating company that also produced positive die-line safety walkway products.

Andrew Mentis purchased the company in 1999 and moved the operation to its current site in Webb Street, Jet Park. Andrew Mentis junior, grandson of the founder of Andrew Mentis, is Killarney Engineering’s managing director with Barry Worthington as its engineering director and Chris Green and Clive Worthington also serving as directors.

The operation is run by a personnel complement of 68, although Sundran says the production team is likely to increase after the reconfiguration of the production area, with the possibility of a new production line being commissioned to further reduce lead times.

Killarney Engineering is the only company in South Africa that manufactures continuously serrated grating, produced using a unique process that does not generate waste material and results in a consistent and high quality product. This continuously serrated grating creates a slip-free surface which is recommended for any environment where the utmost safety is required. The company’s KS43 grating is based on the tried and tested production methods used to manufacture the Andrew Mentis RS40, which results in pressure

locked grating of the highest quality standards. This popular product is supported by a range of expanded metal, Interlink handrailing systems and Positive die-line safety walkway sections.

The Killarney team also assists Andrew Mentis with tailoring work when certain lead times are required.

The production area comprises a press shop, cutting shop and fabrication line, producing the product line-up in mild steel, with three optional finishes: uncoated, bitumen dipped and hot dip galvanised.

CAPTION FOR PIC 01: From left to right – Prega Sundran, general manager of Killarney Engineering and Andrew Mentis junior, managing director of Killarney Engineering during quality inspection.

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