

Press Release:

'Generating' powerful safety: Vital Engineering completes largest grating and handrail supply contract in Africa on Medupi and Kusile power stations

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Vital Engineering, a company dedicated to ensuring optimum human resource safety on site, has been closely involved in Eskom's power generation projects, Medupi and Kusile. An established manufacturer of safety handrails, floor gratings and expanded metals, the company has supplied bespoke components to both plants. This has included 100,000m² of grating panels per power station, as well as some 70km of hand railing and over 8,000 stair treads.

According to Dodds Pringle, Managing Director of Vital Engineering, this project represents the largest gratings, handrail and stair tread supply contract to be undertaken in Africa.

"We are extremely pleased that Vital was well ahead of schedule in meeting our capacity guarantees for both power stations. In addition, we are proud to have reported a 0 – 0001 % NCR (non-conformance report) on both plants, out of a total supply package of over 8,000 tons of product. This related to revisions after the products were already delivered on site. This commendably low NCR rate, I believe, is testament to Vital's high manufacturing standards, our total quality management (TQM) philosophy and strict adherence to systems management," says Pringle.

Founded in 1939, Vital Engineering has built a reputation for its uncompromising attitude towards quality in the industries which it serves, including petrochemical plants, materials handling projects, mining, power generation, process plants, food, beverage as well as civil and structural engineering. The company's range of non-slip walkways, stair treads and safety hand rails are manufactured using a variety of materials to match design specifications, including galvanised steel, stainless steel, fibreglass and aluminium.

Vital Engineering also has extensive experience in the supply of components to power stations both locally and internationally. These include combined cycle, gas, nuclear, hydro and fossil fired stations in South Africa, Hong Kong, China, Turkey, South America and more recently into Africa.

The high grade 350WA steel used for the Medupi and Kusile projects had to conform to stringent Eskom specifications; as well as project contractor specifications, in this case MHPSA (Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Africa). To further ensure the highest quality possible, various tests and procedures, including load testing and welding grade testing, were undertaken by Vital Engineering.

"A high-strength and quality, hard-wearing product has long-term cost saving implications for the client because maintenance cycles are significantly reduced. More critical, however, is the performance of this product which ensures a high level of worker safety on site," notes Pringle.

"Most suppliers feel that eliminating lost time injuries (LTI's) is the responsibility of the erector or contractor," he argues. "At Vital we see safety as our top priority, ensuring not only

that our products conform to the design specifications of the client but are manufactured with the highest grade material.”

Going the ‘extra mile’ is part of Vital’s modus operandi, offering a number of ‘back office’ value-adds that the company sees as being part of the normal course of business, to ensure client satisfaction.

“To ensure proper fitment on site, we undertake full pre-trail layouts of flooring before the product is released to site. This serves to minimise any downtime or installation delays,” says Pringle.

“Vital is proud to have delivered 200,000m² of a high-performance, quality product - with minimal NCR’s - ahead of schedule for Eskom’s new power generation plants. Our extensive experience, high-grade materials and qualified welders have all contributed towards a successful project completion,” Pringle concludes.

Ends

(580 words)

Note to Editors

Since 1939 Angus McLeod and Vital Engineering have established a reputation for quality and service in the manufacture of all types of gratings, stair treads, pressed floors and safety handrails. Its brand names of Vitagrid and Maclock have become synonymous with versatility, quality and service.

The Group offers a wealth of product expertise and has been involved in the supply to power plants, petrochemical plants, materials handling projects, mining, process plants, food, beverage as well as most facets of the civil and structural engineering industries, both domestically and internationally.

A variety of products and materials for numerous applications are readily available, when either costs or corrosion are factors. The range includes bitumen dipped, galvanised (610g/m²) and mild steel. Other grades of materials such as SS304, SS316, structural grade aluminium and 3CR12 can also be manufactured.

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