

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AFRISAM SCOOPS CEMENT AND AGGREGATE SUPPLY TO GAUTRAIN
SOUTH SECTION**

Quality control, availability of product and proximity to sites were all factors that led to the Bombela CJV awarding AfriSam the contract to supply aggregate and 200 000 tons of cement to the Gautrain Rapid Rail Link Project South Section.

Eugene Francis, concrete scheduling manager, Bombela CJV, tells Engineering News that AfriSam secured the contract to supply cement to the Gautrain Rapid Rail Link Project on the basis of being able to meet the stringent technical requirements laid down for this project. "Durability was a major contractual requirement and AfriSam's state-of-the-art use of cement, slagment, fly ash and additive mixtures in their product ensures adherence to this requirement," he says.

"The consistency of our All-Purpose Cement (APC) is extremely accurate and means quality is assured. The customer does not have to invest capital in

doing on-site blending,” Graham Hannah, contract manager – multi-products key accounts at AfriSam says.

In addition to the APC, AfriSam will supply smaller quantities of its High Strength Cement (HSC) and Rapid Hard Cement (RHC) with product being primarily supplied from its Roodepoort facility with its Brakpan facility as a back up. This back up source of supply ensures continuity of supply from AfriSam.

Close communication between both parties ensures optimum delivery with cement being delivered to three batching plants as per the construction programme to facilitate ongoing work on the project. “The cement is being supplied in bulk to the batch plants and in addition, AfriSam is supplying bagged cement at various construction points for small works and the sections of the tunnel which are being grouted,” Francis says.

AfriSam will be supplying aggregate to Park Station and Rosebank Station with a supplementary supply to Marlboro. At the Marlboro Portal, the spoils from the tunnelling are being recrushed and used as aggregate wherever possible. “Aggregate from AfriSam is only used at this operation when necessary as a supplement. This differs from Park Station which uses AfriSam

aggregates in the readymix, as the logistics of trucking the crushed spoils to this operation would not be cost effective," Francis explains.

The geographical location of AfriSam's quarries has dictated that aggregate is delivered to Park Station from its Eikenhof Quarry south of Johannesburg.

Francis is responsible for the control of the raw materials for the Marlboro Portal, Rosebank and Park Station batch plants. "We are using APC in all of the readymix batching plants because its mix design was ideal for the gradual setting required."

Readymix is being used for the tunnelling, cut and cover operations and the volume of cubic metres required necessitated that Gautrain has its own batching plant. "On average some 701 m³ per day comes from the Marlboro batch plant. "This is the largest operation with two batch plants, while Park Station and Rosebank both produce approximately 110 m³ each a day.

"Quality control is also important and we take responsibility for our plant," Francis says. "The standard of the readymix being used for the Gautrain project is benchmarked against international standards and quality control on

all batch plants is stringent to ensure that there is no deviation from this design mix.”

For the readymix 9.5 mm stone, 19 mm stone, crusher sand as well as APC cement is used. The spoils are transported from the various Gautrain sites to the internal crushing site situated near Linbro Park where the material is then crushed to specification. It is then transported back to Rosebank and Marlboro. “On average, some 300 t of crushed material is used daily,” Hannah says.

“Aggregates are also supplied from three of our quarries. The 9.5 mm is from Jukskei, and the 19 mm and sand are from our Eikenhof and Oliefantsfontein quarries,” Hannah confirms.

Readymix trucks owned by Bombela CJV are used to transport the readymix from the batch plants to the various sites and, when required, additional trucks are hired in. “A non-stop operation, with four teams working on shifts, ensures continuous operation and our laboratory runs 24/7 because each and every batch is sampled to ensure we adhere to the very stringent specifications and quality control measures,” Francis explains.

“Because of our commitment to the community, the Rosebank batch plant is only in operation from 06h00 to 22h00 six days a week, while both the Marlboro and Park Station plants are in operation 24/7. On average we have about 150 people working on all three of these sites and the batch plants will continue to operate until the concrete work has been completed towards the end of 2009.

“Our adherence to strict quality control, coupled with our promise to customers to ensure continuity of supply underlines our brand promise of allowing customers to build with confidence,” Hannah concludes.

CAPTION FOR AFRISAM: Work underway at Bombela CJV’s Marlboro Portal.

ENDS ... JANUARY 2009

FROM : CORALYNNE & ASSOCIATES
P O BOX 16336
ATLASVILLE 1465
TEL : +27 011 422 1949
FAX : +27 086 634 6991
EMAIL : coralyn@onwe.co.za

FOR : VICTOR BOUGUENON
AFRISAM
P O BOX 6367
WELTEVREDENPARK 1715
TEL : +27 011 670 5520
www.afrisam.com