

## Vibrating equipment supplier seals empowerment deal

A significant, strategic move has resulted in local vibrating equipment manufacturer Joest entering into an agreement with black-owned consortium Vhatsila Holdings to form Joest Kwatani. The agreement sees Vhatsila Holdings acquiring a 30% stakeholding in the company.

As a result of this move and the concerted effort to continue with its programme of preferential procurement and skills development, Joest Kwatani has now achieved a Level 3 BBBEE certification. Two shareholders from Vhatsila Holdings have been appointed to Joest Kwatani's board as non-executive directors.

Under Gunter Vogel's guidance, Joest Kwatani has grown over the past 26 years into a major supplier of high quality vibrating equipment suitable for the harsh African mining environment. According to Kim Schoepflin, MD of the company, Joest Kwatani has a heritage that is proudly African and it is therefore fitting that the company has changed its name to one which embodies this credo.

"Interestingly, Kwa Tani is Swahili for 'For Tonnage'. This is appropriate, given the fact that Joest Kwatani has a 39-year track record of designing and supplying high quality customised vibrating equipment, characterised by robust construction and emphasis on continuous tonnage," she says.

Part of the company's heritage is its ongoing commitment to overall transformation and it will leverage this operating strategy to continue to empower and uplift South Africans.

"We have a philosophy of identifying talent from within the organisation and have a programme whereby individuals' skills are developed in their area of potential, allowing them to better their position in the company. This includes the ongoing training of artisans, both at learnership level and above," says Schoepflin.

Showing care for the communities in which it operates is one of Joest Kwatani's core values and education remains the key focus of the company's Social Upliftment Programme. Joest Kwatani facilitates business and administrative skills development for a number of disabled, previously disadvantaged individuals who would otherwise not have access to this type of education. ■



Derrick Alston (left), CEO of Joest Kwatani, with Kim Schoepflin (centre), MD of Joest Kwatani, and Masego Mokitimi of Vhatsila Holdings.

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