

# Level 3 BBBEE certified Joest Kwatani is invested in the coal sector



A Joest Kwatani coal plant primary feed sizing screen

Coal remains the backbone of the world energy system, providing more than 40% of the world's electricity, and it is predicted that coal will soon overtake oil as the largest source of primary energy. With this emphasis there is a demand from the coal industry for more sustainable modern mining practices. Locally owned and operated **JOEST KWATANI** continues to partner with customers to provide solutions that are engineered for tonnage.

"We acted on client feedback by assessing the failure modes of existing 4.3 m wide screens and used this information as the basis for the design of our screen, with a focus on reduced downtime and ease of maintenance. Maintenance was, in fact, a critical consideration since it is necessary to consider the sheer size of the components involved and the issue of access when screen components need replacement through normal wear and tear," Schoepflin explains.

"There are approximately 60 screens of this size in the coal processing sector currently, many of which are approaching the point in their lifecycle where they will need to be replaced. Our 4.3 m wide screen, which incorporates the latest technology and refinements, is therefore ideally positioned to fill this gap in the market," she continues.

Schoepflin says that the company focused on critical issues such as lifespan and structural integrity. "A screen may be sufficiently strong but can still wear at certain points. We ensured that the mass of the screen was distributed correctly and this will provide customers with reduced downtime. The screen can be designed for specific applications and can accommodate any existing footprint."

### On-going reliability

Joest Kwatani has a large number of successful installations which include various vibrating feeders as well as de-sliming and magnetite recovery screening

**W**ith 30% black ownership and a Level 3 BBBEE accreditation, Joest Kwatani was the first company in its class to exceed the mining charter requirement.

The company has driven the development of custom-built vibrating screens, grizzlies and feeders in the South African and African mining industry for almost 40 years. Kim Schoepflin, MD of Joest Kwatani, explains that the company's 'Engineered for tonnage' motto clearly outlines an emphasis on durable equipment designed to withstand the harshest operating conditions existing in the African mining sector.

### New banana screen

Joest Kwatani is able to provide banana screens ranging in size from 2.1 m to

4.3 m wide for classification, feed preparation, de-sliming and dense media recovery. The company recently designed and developed a 4.3 m wide banana screen to cater for the on-going trend in the coal processing sector to opt for larger equipment that will increase throughput and boost efficiencies.



A large banana screen in Joest Kwatani's facility in Spartan

machines in a coal preparation plant close to Lephalale in Limpopo. This coal mine has become the largest of its kind in the world and on one of the plants the screening equipment comprises a number of single deck screens, 3.6 m in width.

"Our installed equipment continues to be the preferred equipment in the existing plant. Longevity is a characteristic of Joest Kwatani equipment, a fact that is evidenced by the on-going operation of a single deck vibrating screen that was installed in 2005. This 3 m (wide) x 9.8 m (long) screen continues to provide high throughputs of 1 500 tph of coal," says Schoepflin.

Joest Kwatani's banana screening machines have also proven popular and an impressive application can be seen at a colliery in Secunda where the company installed two of the longest single deck banana screens used in coal sizing. Measuring 3.66 m (wide) x 10 m (long), the screens are used to size the coarse drum feed from the finer cyclone plant unwashed coal. In spite of the very arduous conditions, these screens operate reliably and efficiently in a 24 hour production cycle.

Another recent installation at a colliery in Delmas in Mpumalanga involved Joest

Kwatani replacing ageing competitors' screens with two 650 tph double deck exciter driven ROM sizing screens. "The customer is very pleased with the performance of the new screens, which were commissioned over December. The fast turnaround time of less than six weeks from the date of order contributed to maximised uptime and productivity," says Schoepflin.

A number of the larger coal mines in the eMalahleni and Middelburg region use Joest Kwatani's large brute force grizzlies and feeders in ROM coal applications, feeding the coal preparation plants from the shaft storage bins.

Schoepflin says that availability of spares, combined with regular visits by Joest Kwatani sales and service personnel, is a critical success factor. A 24/7 customer service is provided by the company's service centres and branch network located in all the major mining areas and supported by the skills and resources residing at its headquarters in Spartan.

"The company has shown a steady double digit growth over the past 20 years. This can be attributed to a progressive attitude. In line with this philosophy, we recently expanded our operations and have



Kim Schoepflin, MD, Joest Kwatani

purchased another factory to increase our capacity. This move has resulted in Joest Kwatani's presence in Spartan now extending over an area of almost 17 000 m<sup>2</sup>," Schoepflin comments.

"We have made significant investments in our 'engineered excellence' capabilities in order to offer our customers this kind of intensive value-added benefit. While not ignoring the current weakness in coal markets, we remain confident that coal has a growing role to play in the world's future energy requirements and we intend to provide on-going support and innovation for our customers," Schoepflin concludes. **MRA**



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