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**B&E INTERNATIONAL SUPPLIES AGGREGATES TO
MAJOR POWER STATION PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The ability to understand customer requirements in challenging conditions, coupled with years of experience in a variety of crushing and screening applications, set B&E International in good stead for supplying aggregates to major power station projects in South Africa, Dewald Janse van Rensburg, Managing Director, says.

B&E International has been supplying aggregates to Eskom's Kusile power station in Mpumalanga since 2011, with about 1.7 million tons crushed to date. "Our current quarry at Kusile will be operational until early 2016, whereafter we will commence with a new quarry closer to the planned New Largo coal mine," Janse van Rensburg says.

He points out that B&E International's involvement in such power station projects is not as simple as transporting equipment to site and then just commencing with crushing and screening operations. "It is much more about understanding the specific requirements of the customer, as well as the particular conditions on the project, and then determining the appropriate solution that will produce the required tonnages and quality required. This means that the equipment selection is critical, combined with the in-house expertise and experience of B&E International."

In the case of Kusile, B&E International established a crushing and screening operation on site in 2011. What was particularly challenging in terms of this contract was the fact that the entire operation is driven by standby power. This means that a tight control needs to be kept on operational costs, while at the same time ensuring that the aggregate specification and quantities are met.

Added to the power supply issues at Kusile power station is the fact that the crushing and screening operation is located in an environmentally sensitive area. Janse van Rensburg says that B&E International has put stringent measures in place to ensure that all work carried out is in line with all the environmental requirements of the project, such as reducing dust and noise emissions and minimising water use so as to conserve scarce natural resources.

While Eskom is B&E International's major customer it is supplying from the crushing and screening operation at Kusile, it is also providing aggregate for associated infrastructure development in the area, such as roadworks. "We anticipate a fair quantity of construction spin-off, with the power station as the hub of the development," Janse van Rensburg says.

B&E International established its credentials in the power generation sector by crushing 3.5 million tons of aggregates at the Medupi power station in Limpopo. "That was a significant operation, and stands us in good stead for securing work in future when additional power stations are built," Janse van Rensburg says.

Commenting on B&E International's success at Medupi power station, Janse van Rensburg says the large equipment fleet at its disposal was a critical factor. "Our major advantage at Medupi, which gave us the competitive edge in the market, was that we had three complete crusher fleets at our disposal. This meant we were able to produce the volumes required and meet all the production targets."

B&E International was established in 1972 in the Eastern Cape. It soon established its own mobile and static crushing division, followed by further diversification into mining services and bulk mining and minerals processing and beneficiation. B&E International was acquired by the Raubex Group in 2009, completing its transformation as a total solutions provider in the mining and construction industries.

"There was a time in the infrastructure sector when a lot of contractors opted for in-house crushing, but this has changed significantly over the years. There are very few contractors that choose this option, as it is now correctly perceived as a specialist skill set. With this follows the recognition that it requires the knowledge and applications experience of a seasoned operator," Janse van Rensburg says. "B&E International is that operator."

B&E International's largest crushing contract to date was at Eskom's Ingula pumped storage scheme near Ladysmith in the Free State. Janse van Rensburg confirms that the power generation sector offers major opportunities in Africa, with major hydro-electric projects being mooted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example.

AGGREGATE SUPPLY TO KUSILE PIC 01 : A bird's eye view of the B&E International crushing site at Kusile.

AGGREGATE SUPPLY TO KUSILE PIC 02 : A bird's eye view of the B&E International crushing site at Kusile.

AGGREGATE SUPPLY TO KUSILE PIC 03 : A view of the secondary crushing plant at the B&E International operation at Kusile.

AGGREGATE SUPPLY TO KUSILE PIC 04 : A bird's eye view of the B&E International crushing site at Kusile.

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