

# New Bell ADTs give ALS Group the edge in coal mining

**The assurance of lower cost per tonne of material moved has prompted a leading South African plant hire company to expand its fleet of proven Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) manufactured, sold and backed by Bell Equipment.**

In anyone's language, placing an order for 10 x Bell B45D and 10 x Bell 40D ADTs, with 2 x Bell B40D 37 000 litre Water Tankers to complete the deal, makes no bones about intent. And this is precisely what ALS Plant Hire is all about – serious intent in support of its Mining Division.

The ALS Group is based in Potchefstroom and has branched out into plant hire, haul road construction and maintenance, loader hire, dozer hire, rentals, mining, roads and construction. Recognised as a modern South African company, it has a strong Broad Based Black

Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) arm. Further business ventures see it at home in beef and grain production as well as milling, property development and aviation.

"We're currently making inroads into coal mining to add to other mining work we've done over the past 10 years," says Erno Janse van Rensburg, Managing Director of ALS Plant Hire. "We're well versed in both hard-rock and strip mining and have worked in the gold, diamond, lime, bentonite, vanadium, chrome and platinum mining industries."

Demands from coal producers for high production from deposits with relatively short lives has seen ALS Mining rise to the challenge to meet these demands. A case in point is their total mining operation in the Mpumalanga area.



(From left): Bell Equipment Sales Representative - Kobus van Niekerk, MD of ALS Plant Hire - Erno Janse van Rensburg and ALS Plant Hire Manager - Pieter Pretorius.

"Such was the demand for high intensity production, requiring equipment to deliver maximum uptime and high mechanical availabilities, we thought it best to replace some of our older equipment with new machines," Erno adds. "Knowing what Bell Equipment's ADTs have meant to us in the past and wanting to keep abreast with technological advancements, we had no hesitation in ordering the 22 new Bell ADTs and Water Tankers."

Most of ALS Plant Hire's new Bell fleet has been delivered to the current coal mining operation with the balance being deployed in the plant hire market.

"With these new Bell B45D and B40D ADTs our Bell ADT fleet on this one coal mining site now numbers 37," says Gert Maritz, ALS Mining Managing Director. "The Bell ADTs are loaded using an 87-tonne and four 70-tonne excavators."

Contracted to offer a complete mining package, from topsoil and sub-soil removal and stockpiling to drill, blast, load and haul of the five coal seams with ongoing rehabilitation, ALS Mining is heavily reliant on its plant hire division taking the correct decisions in its equipment procurement.

"In this current coal mining operation, we have to remove 400 000 cubic metres of

overburden each month to be able to extract 150 000 tonnes of coal for our clients," Gert says. "This we could not do without our fleet of Bell ADTs - consisting of B25D, B40D, B45D and B50D models - delivering their full value of the lowest cost per tonne on the market."

The raw coal is transported to their clients' coal washing plant by road, some 35km away.

When asked why the ALS Group, and more specifically the Plant Hire division, favours ADTs manufactured by Bell Equipment, Erno says: "The relationships that have been built over the past 24 years with the likes of the Bell family, Bokkie Coertze and other loyal Bell employees is a cornerstone of our business relationship with Bell. We've come a long way with Bell Equipment over this time and we feel that with dedicated and trained salesmen like Kobus van Niekerk really looking after us, that they understand our business. With favourable trade-ins on existing equipment and fair pricing on new equipment, these are more than enough reasons to keep us loyal to the brand."

