

ALS teams up with Caltex

Constantly improving its infrastructure and support services, the ALS Group has teamed up with Caltex and the AFS Group to implement a turnkey fuel and lubes management system on all its vehicles and sites.

This includes all plant, equipment and support vehicles from ALS Plant Hire, ALS Agri Hire, ALS Manufacturing, ALS Mining, ALS Roads, ALS BEE Projects, ALS Grain and ALS Beef.

The central operations hub of the ALS Group is located in its new head office in Potchefstroom, which boasts a centralised operations

room or technology hub where real-time data from all vehicles and operations within the group is analysed and managed.

"Our aim from the onset was to implement a system which will ensure that we dispense a high-quality product on-site, with a centralised real-time control system to manage stock levels and each refuelling event. The challenge was to merge different technologies into a single system to cater for all plant, equipment and support vehicles within the different business units in the group," comments Andre Pretorius of the ALS Group.

"ALS Mining has very robust applications in various opencast mines, while ALS Logistics and ALS Milling

make use of interlinks to transport products throughout South Africa and have a need for on-road refuelling. ALS Beef makes use of 4 x 4 Unimogs and LDVs to run its operation in the mountainous Northern KwaZulu-Natal, while ALS Plant Hire has a need for mobile fuel and lube units on various locations within South Africa," explains Pretorius.

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ALS Mining

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fuelling point, data is sent to our central hub in Potchefstroom for processing. The system enables us to have tight control over each refuelling transaction nationwide and all product stock levels."

Pretorius says this system forms part of the huge capital expenditure the ALS Group has implemented recently. "We are committing to a huge capex in order to ensure that this and other systems are in place to ensure a more efficient service. We employ the best technology on the market to always improve the excellent back-up, support and service that the ALS Group is known for. Our investment in IT infrastructure has been equally huge, with the main aim of generating high-quality, real-time operational information."

Caltex's Fingerprint Business Solutions is a partnership initiative that goes the extra mile to understand the needs of the ALS Group, and offers the group the full value of the former's fuels and lubricants management experience.

"With a team of experienced professionals, Caltex offers innovative business solutions that go beyond quality fuels to ensure that we add identifiable value to your business," comments Caltex business consultant Alistair Meyer.

"The ALS Group had some unique operating conditions whereby solutions were tailor-made to meet their required key performance indicators. On-site inspections, gap analysis and proactive team work between the ALS Group and Caltex Oil were required to adequately address challenges and solutions.

Meyer explains that the fuel-management solution ultimately

derived at had to comply with both VIU45 and VIU3 technology to allow dual-purpose fuelling in both robust conditions (opencast mining) as well as on-road access fuelling.

"Service units and mobile fuel units were custom-designed to meet the requirements of the

ALS Group, and this involved fitting waste-oil tanks to the undercarriage of mobile lube units, as well as designing fit-for-purpose hose reels and drum-replacement techniques," says Meyer.

In addition, fuel facilities management had to be implemented to ensure adequate rate of diesel flow throughput in order to address the unique refuelling process of the ALS Group.

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