

Speedy turnaround for mine bridge reclaimer revamp project

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By **Staff Writer** 11th Nov 2021

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Thyssenkrupp ensured that the Bridge Reclaimer was back in production with minimum delay for Sasol's Twistdraai Export Plant

THYSSENKRUPP Industrial Solutions South Africa's Service Centre recently completed a ROM (run of mine) bridge reclaimer revamp project for Sasol's Twistdraai Export Plant.

The order was secured in January 2021 and Thyssenkrupp started work on the project in mid-June 2021. The reclaimer was back in operation on time in September 2021. Costa Hormovas, Account Manager Mpumalanga attributed the quick turnaround time to the company's experience, capabilities, and planning skills, as well as its understanding of mitigating downtime for a production plant.

Thyssenkrupp shares a longstanding relationship with Sasol, dating back to 1979 when the first Stackers and Drum Reclaimers were supplied. The bridge reclaimer was first commissioned at Sasol's Twistdraai Export Plant during the mid-nineties in response to a growing export demand for high quality thermal coal.

The Thyssenkrupp Service Centre based in Chloorkop, Johannesburg, specializes in the servicing of coal handling equipment including two Thyssenkrupp reclaimers and stackers at Twistdraai Export Plant. The company is also a key service provider to Sasol Coal Supply East and West as well as the Ash Handling Plant.

"The scope of work was initially determined by our project engineers with the assistance of our Field service technicians and finalised in collaboration with the customer. We supplied new parts including chain guides and liners, chain link assembly, scraper blades and guide rollers," Hormovas said.



"We also refurbished the travel guide bogies, chain drive, take-up assembly, rakes and towers. Once the parts were installed, the equipment was commissioned and the machine was put back into operation on time."

Lisema Monare, Project Engineer at Sasol Mining, Twistdraai Export Plant, said Thyssenkrupp, as the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of their stacking and reclaiming equipment, had always enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with Sasol Mining.

"Armed with an in-depth understanding of the technology, thyssenkrupp is able to provide sound engineering solutions during problem solving," Monare said.

"Equally important, the Thyssenkrupp team also understands that in an operations environment time is money; ensuring equipment readiness for production is therefore paramount in keeping downtime to an absolute minimum," he said, lauding the Thyssenkrupp field service technicians for their "vast knowledge which goes a long way in minimising equipment downtime".

Monare also worked on another major overhaul project completed by Thyssenkrupp on their product portal reclaimer. "Major overhauls such as these take an enormous amount of planning before spanner time," he said. "The Thyssenkrupp team managed both major overhauls with flexibility, extending working hours, working over weekends, etc., to ensure that our equipment is back in production as soon as possible. This can only be achieved through meticulous planning and sheer dedication from the project team."

According to Monare, after sales support and ongoing consultations are also vital due to the complex and often times unique nature of mining projects.

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