

ZEST'S PROJECT MANAGEMENT ENSURES LOGISTICAL FEATS ARE ACHIEVED AT ASA METALS

The level of attention given to logistics can often be the make or break of a project, particularly when multiple vendors are involved. Zest Electric Motors is cognisant of the importance of scheduling deliveries of its products to multiple vendors and site to ensure dovetailing with the project schedule.

"In a recent contract where we supplied low voltage electric motors as well as a 3500 kW ball mill motor and two 500 kVA diesel generator sets to ASA Metals, our project division worked closely with the main contractor, Metix (Pty) Ltd. This was to make certain that each application was engineered correctly to avoid challenges during commissioning and operation, and to ensure timeous delivery," Trevor Naude, business development manager at the Zest Group, says. "Our participation begins at the feasibility stage and extends through the design stage to the successful commissioning."

A total of 57 WEG low voltage motors, ranging from 0.37 to 132 kW capacities, were selected to drive various components of the plant including pumps, conveyors, fans and other ancillary equipment.

This contract follows on the successful completion of a vast number of large projects across Africa by Zest using WEG products. "The ball mill at ASA Metals, driven by a 3500 kW 6 pole 6600 Volt WEG motor ensures that the proportioned mix that feeds the pelletising and sintering furnace has the correct particle-size distribution," Naude says.

To ensure the mill drive motor meets the unique project specifications the unit was FAT tested at WEG's manufacturing facility in Brazil. "This is one of the few facilities in the world capable of carrying out a direct mechanical load test on motors of this size," Naude says.

Established in Brazil in 1961, WEG is now rated among the world's top five electric motor manufacturers with ISO 9001:2000 accredited products ranging from variable speed drives, soft starters and switchgear to transformers.

Zest distributes WEG products to 24 countries on the African continent and has branches in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Middelburg, Richards Bay, Rustenburg, Trichardt, Port Elizabeth and Ghana. Zest also has distributors in Botswana, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Drawing on the expertise and product base of the companies contained within the group, Zest also supplied the 500 kVA 400 Volt generator set to this project. "This set was custom built at Zest Group company, IMS and will be

used for standby power at ASA. The unit is an open set with automatic changeover equipment and is housed in the generator room,” Naude explains.

“We are not only the largest electric motor supplier in Africa, but more importantly, our total projects focus is unusual in the industry and sets us apart from others. An intimate understanding of customer requirements and close cooperation between Zest Electric Motors and OEMs is what makes us so successful,” Naude concludes.