

PLATINUM GIANT WIELDS TEREX POWER



Rustenburg Platinum Mine's Limited (Mogalakwena Section), the single biggest opencast platinum mine in the world – operates the largest fleet of Terex equipment on the African continent.

Situated in South Africa's Limpopo Province, the operation forms part of Anglo American's Platinum Division, and mines platinum group metals from the Platreef in the northern-limb of the Bushveld Complex. The Bushveld Complex is the most significant known layered igneous complex of its type in the world, and contains some of the richest chrome and Platinum Group Metal deposits on Earth.

Four Terex O&K RH 200 and seven RH 340 hydraulic excavators currently operate on the massive three-pit site, which has a strike distance of 21 kilometres. These machines have an operating

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mass in excess of 500 tons and are a proven prime profitability factor for the mine, which has enjoyed a close association with Terex since 1992.

"The availability of our shovels is really world class and averages 90% on machines that have worked between zero and 70,000 hours," says the Production Manager, Hendrik van Niekerk.

The arrival of the operation's Terex RH 400 in January 2009 – the biggest excavator ever to land on African soil – is expected to boost output still further, and will be used for bulk waste removal.

"We wanted a machine that would shift massive volumes, and expect it to move in excess of 17 million tonnes per annum," says van Niekerk.

In addition, Mogalakwena operates a fleet of 16 Terex MT 4400AC and MT 3700AC diesel electric haulers, as well as six TA 30 service vehicles.

Van Niekerk attributes the high usage of Terex equipment at the mine to the exceptional service levels rendered by field service teams. A crew comprising 38 full-time Terex employees is permanently on hand, including highly trained technical staff with years of experience gained working on these units in real mining conditions.

Terex has an on-site satellite store where a large inventory of spare parts is kept, which is especially advantageous in a productivity-driven environment situated some distance from major centres.

In 2008 the mine forecast to mine 108 million tonnes.
