

DIAMOND

in the rough...

The eMalahleni road rehabilitation project is rapidly approaching completion in line with forecast deadlines, thanks to the high-quality standard of tools supplied to the project by Diamond Products.

APPOINTED AS THE CONTRACTOR for the eMalahleni-bound portion of the N12 concrete highway project, in mid-2012, by South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), KP Projects assumed responsibility for the rehabilitation of a total of 42km of road, which involved more than 220km of concrete cutting and jointing.

Work on this demanding project officially started in December 2012, and KP Projects Site Supervisor, Darin Phillips, says that Diamond Products' range of specialised tools has proven to be a highly effective replacement to standard specification tools that were initially used.

"The tools originally selected for the project were providing a performance considerably lower than expected, which ran the risk of the project falling behind schedule and over budget. Despite a short notice period, Diamond Products successfully provided us with the relevant tools, which have exceeded expectations. As a result, the expected completion date is December 2013," he says.

According to Darin, rehabilitation on the road surface was required as the old silicon joints in the road had lost their watertight properties. "This leads to water ingress under the ground surface, resulting in deterioration of the sub-base and cracked and uneven roads."

He says that the rehabilitation project involved texturing the road surface, by cutting special grooves 4mm deep and 2cm apart, in order to increase the tyre traction of the road surface during wet weather conditions.

Removal of the old silicon joints which are no longer watertight.





Diamond Products Director, Darryl Gray, says that this process was undertaken using a specially designed texturing machine and the company's range of 350mm GC77 cutting blades, along with 600mm RC38 diamond blades, used for removing broken and failing concrete panels.

"The Diamond Products range of GC77 Green Concrete blades is designed for use on low to medium horse power saws in the 13 to 35hp categories. All GC77 blades are fitted with wedge segments for the protection of the steel centre. What's more, they are laser-welded to eliminate the risk of segment loss, additional costs or unexpected down time," he adds.

In addition to texturing the road, a total of 67 KP Projects employees have been involved in cutting, grinding and drilling the road surface. "The diamond blades were used for cutting and grinding the road surface, while RC35 core bits were used for exploratory samples and drilling holes," he explains.

In addition to supplying the highest quality tools, Darryl points out that Diamond Products provided KP Projects with unrivalled after sales and technical support. "The company assisted our team in selecting the blades and core bits that were most appropriately matched to the hardness of the concrete. I have no doubt that this level of customer service excellence added substantial value to the project," he says in conclusion.

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Above left: Checking that the grooves are at least 4mm deep after conducting the texturing process.

Above: Specially designed texturing machine and 350mm GC77 cutting blades.



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