

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Apron rehabilitation at ORT nears end

An airport apron is the area outside the terminal where aircraft are parked for loading or unloading, refuelling and passenger boarding. Raubex Construction contracts manager Theuns Botha points out that the company was commissioned in July 2011 to remove and replace large sections of the existing concrete slabs, some of which have been in place for more than 40 years at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg.

"Raubex is responsible for cutting the concrete slabs by making use of a range of Diamond Products saw blades varying between 350 mm and 910 mm in diameter. After the concrete is cut and sawed, it is demolished with hydraulic hammers before being removed from the works area, crushed and stockpiled for use elsewhere," he says.

The project has been divided into 12 phases, as a certain number of stands have to be kept available at all times to minimise any potential disruption.

"To date, we have cut a total of 13 000 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete without any major setbacks, thanks to the durability of the Diamond Products range."

Raubex Construction site agent Louis Myburgh notes that Raubex Construction is working on the final phase of the project. "The high quality and durability of the Diamond Products range of saw blades has ensured that we have remained on time and within budget, having cut a total length of 8 800m of full depth concrete, in addition to a total of 18 175m of concrete joints, a feat that would not be manageable in such good time with any other brand in the local market."

According to Diamond Products director Brian Clark, the company provided Raubex Construction with a range of its premium line of equipment, including the LaserPro RC70D 102 mm core bits, which were used for sample cores in the concrete slabs. "We also supplied a range of 300mm, 450 mm, 750mm and 900mm



Specialist infrastructure development construction company Raubex is undertaking a R70-million (about US\$8-million) apron upgrade at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, by making use of equipment supplied by Diamond Products.

LaserPro CC38 segmented blades. The CC38 blade is designed for specialised contractors for full depth slab cutting of very hard concrete, and has proven to be ideally-suited to Raubex Construction in the application of this project."

Myburgh says that most of the challenges on the project have been related to security access. "Modern airport security is very strict, and it has proven to be a challenge in getting new machines on and off site. We are using two excavators for removing the demolished concrete, before re-dowelling the existing concrete, and eventually

replacing the removed concrete with new concrete."

The Raubex Group was established in Bloemfontein in 1974, and is today listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, employing more than 6 800 staff members. Raubex Group is divided into two main divisions, namely roads and materials. In the mid 1990s, the Raubex Group began developing its SADC footprint and secured various projects in Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Raubex now generates an estimated 11% of its revenue outside of South Africa.