



Part of Renico Plant Hire's extensive fleet of equipment

Gauteng's most impressive plant hire fleet

South African Builder interviews Iain Consterdine, plant coordinator for Renico Plant Hire.

Renico Plant Hire, founded in 1998 by the legendary Nico Louw of Renico Construction, has established itself as one of the leading plant hire companies in the North West area of Johannesburg.

The company operates an extensive range of over 311 pieces of equipment, comprising tractor loader backhoes (TLBs), crushers, excavators, loaders, tippers and more. "Effectively we operate anything with wheels and tracks for the construction industry," says Consterdine.

TLBs are the most sought after piece of equipment by the construction industry. As such Renico Plant Hire in January procured an additional 16 brand new Case 570T TLBs, bringing the total TLB fleet to well over 40 – one of the biggest in South Africa.



Iain Consterdine, plant coordinator for Renico Plant Hire, pictured with the company's new Mercedes tipper trucks. Photo: John Thomé

Renico's plant procurement officer Louis Nel points out that 10 new Mercedes 10 cm³ tipper trucks have also just been delivered to supplement their fleet of 20 Mercedes tippers. The company now operates more than 60 tipper trucks including horses and tippers of 20 cm³ capacity.

Equipment is deployed on various sites on the Reef and, more recently, in at least four other provinces around the country at any given time. Sites include large-scale shopping centres and office developments, casino developments, highway upgrades, mining, and various other building projects. Plant hire co-ordinators, site managers and supervisors attend to any problems or needs that may arise in the field. Equipment brands favoured include CASE and MAN, although the majority are Mercedes.

Regarding the market, Consterdine explains that Renico Plant Hire supplies a wide range of clients, from large construction companies to small, even catering for "the-man-in-the-street." "Although we support our sister company Renico Construction with their operational equipment needs, our paying customers will always have first priority," says Consterdine.

The company continues to achieve steady growth, realising turnover of R64,7 million in 2012; R80 million in 2013; and R89,3 million in 2014. "We are confident about maintaining our growth pattern through 2015 and beyond," said Consterdine.

Renico Plant Hire has its own fully equipped and well staffed workshop and carries out all its own maintenance and repairs. Every machine is run through a comprehensive checking process before being sent out to customers or used on site for contract work, thus ensuring a minimum of downtime to any hirer or project. ■

UD anticipates modest growth in construction vehicle sales in 2015

At a media briefing held in Johannesburg in January, UD Trucks, part of the Volvo Group SA, forecast a 2% growth in its sales of extra heavy commercial vehicle (EHCV) in 2015.

The company experienced a good run in this segment in 2014 with its Quon extra heavy range, which grew by a significant 24,9% compared to 7,68% for the total EHCV market. In the heavy commercial vehicle (HCV) arena UD Trucks was once again the top-performer with a 23,94% market share. The company's medium commercial vehicles (MCVS) performance, however, declined by 4,86% to 11 021 units. This is against the backdrop of the overall South African truck market which delivered modest growth of 2,04% (31 554 unit sales) over 2013's results.

UD Trucks, in fourth position overall, managed to increase its market share from 9,96% in 2013 to 10,66% last year.



UD Trucks' Quon extra heavy range grew by a significant 24,9% in 2014

Trailing Mercedes, Isuzu and Hino, UD Trucks increased overall sales by 9,29%, outperforming the 2,04% industry average. Looking to 2015, newly appointed managing director of UD Trucks Southern Africa, Rory Schulz, said: "The forecast for the truck market remains positive for 2015, as some macroeconomic factors are beginning to show signs of improvement."

UD Trucks will launch its new Quester range in March this year – the first of a new generation specifically developed for the world of extra heavy transport. The Quester range will not replace the company's current Quon range, but is expected to enhance its current product offering to the market.

"The new range will cut fuel costs and maximise uptime, giving fleet owners quick dependable payback that will help them succeed in their business," said Schulz. The Group will also open a new multi-million rand parts distribution centre in Johannesburg during the first quarter of the year. ■

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