



Armco Superlite offers a range of cost-effective CMS solutions to the African mining sector

# Armco Superlite

## Providing proven solutions to African mining

**Armco Superlite** manufactures a wide range of corrugated metal structures (CMS) products, ideally suited to provide economical solutions in mining. The company's product range has been used extensively by mining houses, contractors and consulting engineers due to the numerous advantages they offer.

**A**rmco Superlite was founded as a subsidiary of the American Roller Mill Corporation in the early 1930s. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of O-Line Support Systems, acquired by OBO Bettermann of Germany in 2012. Justin Naidoo, General Manager of Construction Products, explains, "Our products are broadly categorised into three separate business units: Construction Products, Road Safety Products, and Galvanising.

"Our Construction Products division specialises in corrugated steel culverts and bridge structures for various applications in the construction and mining sector. Our Road Safety division was launched in 2005 and supplies a variety of products ranging from guardrails, wire rope systems,

crash cushions and steel barriers. Our Galvanising division involves the treatment of steel to prevent corrosion.

Armco has over 450 structures in its Construction Products portfolio, including various profiles and sizes, ranging from as small as 300mm in diameter to over 7m in diameter and superspan structures spanning over 12m. These structures extend across a multitude of applications ranging from haul road overpass/underpass, decline tunnels, and stockpile reclaim tunnels with escape tunnels. We offer our expertise to the client so that the right size, shape, and steel thickness are selected for their application. In doing this, we ensure the most optimal solution is provided to the client. On the client's request, we can also design and manufacture the feeder

openings for the reclaim tunnels so that the client is provided with a full solution," Naidoo adds.

The benefits to mining clients include:

- **Wide range of structures** - Due to the various sizes within our two specifications, and that each structure can be supplied in a range of steel thicknesses, Armco's structures can be adapted to suit the client's requirements while providing the most optimal solution.
- **Ease of logistics** - Structures are supplied Completely Knocked Down (CKD) so they can be easily loaded in 20ft G.P. containers or trucks and supplied to remote areas anywhere in Africa. This alleviates the logistics burden where large quantities are required, and transport costs can be exorbitant.

- **Ease of installation** – Lightweight plate sections are installed using bolts and nuts, which reduces the project installation time. A 6m diameter x 40m long can be installed within 5 days. The structures also benefit from being installed at a different location and lifted into their final position.
- **Long service life** – Armco structures have previously been designed for projects up to 200 years. The required service life of the structure can be checked prior to designing and supplying the structure.

### A focus on ongoing innovation

With new technology and products being introduced in the mining industry, it is important for Armco to stay abreast of the industry trends. "R&D is one of our highest priorities as we continuously strive to provide the most innovative solution and meet the client's design criteria, project timeline, and budget. We always strive to improve our product, integrating it with other products like an arch beam concrete over our structure when our structures alone cannot meet the client's design requirement. This is also an option to the client," explains Naidoo.

In the last 18 months, the company has supplied mining projects in Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In most of these projects, a viable solution, a quick construction timeline, and a service life of more than 100 years were required. In all these projects, the company designed, manufactured, and supplied and the contractor installed it within a year. The alternative solution would have taken more than 18 months to complete.

Naidoo states that mining is a focal point for Armco because the company understands the construction challenges faced by many mines. "A sound solution in a quick turnaround time has always been our goal, so we are proactive in our design solutions to ensure that when we are approached to provide a solution, we will have this already in place.

"Our manufacturing lead times of 25 – 35 days on large-scale mining structures have always been an acceptable timeline by our clients. However, we are always working to increase our manufacturing efficiency to reduce the timeline for our client," he concludes. **MBA**



## STOCKPILE TUNNEL SPECIALISTS

We strive to be the leading specialists in the supply and manufacture of corrugated steel pipes used mainly as stockpile tunnels and culverts for roads.

Our extensive knowledge gained over multiple decades of operation has allowed us to market and sell our products with the utmost confidence ensuring that the required design parameters are adhered to with the necessary factors of safety.

Our product range has been used extensively by mining houses, contractors and consulting engineers globally due to the numerous advantages offered by the product. The cost savings are extremely attractive when comparing Armco structures against conventional designs and the ease of installation ensures a quicker completion time.

Your professional partner in steel tunnels and culverts.



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