

Armco tunnels and culverts

Designed with client needs in mind

With mining having become specialised, the solutions provided to mining companies need to be bespoke and speak to unique client needs. **Armco's** General Manager of construction products **JUSTIN NAIDOO** tells **BRUCE MONTIEA** how the company achieves this.



↑ Armco can supply bespoke solutions for its clients

As a design, manufacture and supply company, Armco has over 450 structures in its portfolio, with adaptive engineering done to suit each client's specific needs. The company is organised in a way that it has one technically trained person allocated to a project to service a client from the design, manufacture, supply aspects, and up to the successful installation of the structures.

In a recent mining project in Guinea, the client required an alternative solution for culvert structures for its haul road crossing, and needed approximately 4 000 m of a 3 m diameter structure. Naidoo says a design check on the structures was done within five days, with one solution found to meet the various design criteria. "While the standard time is typically more than a year, we were able to manufacture the structures and supply them within six months from order."

He says this dedication to delivering high quality work on time and within budget is what puts Armco's name top-of-mind for clients. "Time constraints are one of the greatest challenges

faced on mining projects. The task of finding a viable solution, considering the practicality of sourcing the material, and then ensuring that the material can be supplied within the allotted timeframe, can be impossible to achieve. But our experience and dedication ensure that we always excel at this."

Superior design

Armco structures are designed taking into consideration their design life, structural integrity based on design loading and the expected peak in cases where water flow is expected. Naidoo says, in many of the company's projects in Africa, its structures are used under significantly high fills and within confined spaces.

"The advantage with the Armco culvert is that it can be installed at a different location and then lifted into its final position with ease. We also consider seasonal rainfall as some African countries have wet and dry seasons, and our structures are designed to meet these expected peak flows."

Naidoo points out that, because clients' needs have always been Armco's priority, the company does not just provide a product, but a service to leave a lasting impression. "We differentiate ourselves by first understanding the client's needs and the challenges they face so we can provide the most optimal solution. Furthermore, we also study industry trends so that we can be proactive in providing viable solutions.

"This is crucial for the company as continuous product development will continue to play a key role within the mining sector," says Naidoo. "We are seeing more innovative products more often in the market in recent times compared to ten years ago. More mining companies are now looking at the product as an integrative part of the construction cycle, and specifically looking at the production lead time, ease of getting it to site and the time it takes to install it." **MRA**

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