



products and services

At the core of tolling gantries

Purple Moss is on the road to expansion after successfully completing a number of complex concrete coring and drilling tasks at the toll structures on Gauteng's freeways, by making use of an exclusive range of Diamond Products core barrels.

RAPIDLY DEVELOPING PLUMBING and concrete coring expert, Purple Moss, has successfully completed a number of high profile drilling tasks along the Gauteng freeway toll routes, using custom-designed equipment supplied by Diamond Products – a leading specialist in the manufacture, assembly and sale of diamond tools and equipment for industrial applications.

Purple Moss has been contracted to drill holes in the concrete toll gate structures along the highway, known as gantries, in order to create provisions for the necessary internal infrastructure such as drainage and electrical conduit sleeves. Purple Moss managing director Martin Marks points out that the company requires state-of-the-art diamond core barrels in order to successfully complete the challenging task on all 45 gantries in the province.

"Drilling through the concrete structures within a set timeframe requires the highest quality and most reliable equipment and, after being awarded the contract in November 2010, I did not hesitate to contact Diamond Products – a company which has developed a reputation for providing the best equipment and service in the industry," he explains.

Diamond Products director Brian Clark notes that the company has provided Purple Moss with a wide variety of coring barrels, ranging from 22 mm to 300 mm, which were attached to a Shibuya coring machine, available exclusively through Diamond Products. He points out that Diamond Products also custom-designed 1.5 m extension barrels for Purple Moss, in order to enable the company to complete deeper drills of up to 1.8 m.

"Diamond Products' wealth of expertise and state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities ensures that the company's clients are provided with the highest quality custom built equipment, which are manufactured and delivered with unrivalled turnaround times," he adds.

Martin notes that the value of Purple Moss' scope of the project stands at approximately R300 000 to date, with coring and drilling being undertaken on all gantries along the N1, N3, N12 and R21 routes between Pretoria and Johannesburg. "The project is currently ongoing, and a completion date for the work has not been set, as our scope of the project entirely depends on the progress of various other contractors," he continues. "We are, however, available on demand as and when our services are required. The after sales service and technical support provided by Diamond Products has ensured that we have not experienced any major setbacks to date."

Despite the overall success of the project to date, Martin admits that Purple Moss has faced a number of challenges in undertaking the work along the side of one of the busiest motorway networks in the southern hemisphere. "Drilling through large concrete structures is a challenging task from the

outset. However, this challenge is further compounded when undertaking the drilling just centimetres away from oncoming traffic, as concentration and awareness of the surrounding environment is essential at all times."

Martin initially opened Purple Moss as a one man plumbing business in Durban in 2007. Today the company has 11 employees, and is expanding its footprint across KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, after entering into the concrete core drilling market in 2009. "After undertaking projects for large contractors in Durban, I realised that there was a shortage of reliable concrete coring suppliers, and decided that Purple Moss would take on the challenge itself."

He points out that this decision has proven to be highly beneficial for Purple Moss and its clients. "By identifying this gap in the market, Purple Moss has been able to provide a cost effective and comprehensive all-in-one solutions offering for its clients. In addition, we have been able to branch out into new areas of expertise, thanks to professional and knowledgeable support provided by Diamond Products."

Looking to the future, Martin is confident that Purple Moss can continue to sustain its steady growth in both the plumbing and core drilling sectors of the market. "The South African economy has potential for significant growth, and that is already evident with the vast amounts of investment being put into infrastructural development. Purple Moss has developed a strong reputation for providing high quality services over the years, and I believe that as investment continues to pour into local infrastructure, the company has potential for significant growth," he concludes. ■

Purple Moss managing director, Martin Marks (left) and Blessing Bere, concrete core drilling.

