

Diamond tools cut it in airport apron upgrade

Specialist infrastructure construction company Raubex is working on a R70-million apron upgrade at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg and making use of tools and equipment supplied by Diamond Products to cut through the existing concrete slabs.

Raubex Construction contracts manager Theuns Botha says the company was commissioned in July 2011 to remove and replace large sections of the existing concrete slabs of the airport apron, some of which have been in place for more than 40 years.

"Raubex is using of a range of Diamond Products saw blades, varying between 350mm and 910mm in diameter, to cut the concrete. The cut concrete is then broken up with hydraulic hammers before being removed from the works area, crushed and stockpiled for use elsewhere," Botha explains.

He says the project was divided into 12 phases, as a certain number of stands on the apron have to be kept available at all times for aircraft to park, load or unload passengers, crew and baggage, and refuel. Raubex is currently working on the final phase of the project. Botha says, "To date, we have cut a total of 13 000m³ of concrete without any major



In the upgrading of the airport apron at OR Tambo International, Raubex Construction is using diamond saw blades supplied by Diamond Products to cut through the deep concrete slabs before they can be demolished, removed, and replaced.

setbacks, thanks to the durability of the Diamond Products range."

Raubex Construction site agent Louis Myburgh says, "The high quality and durability of the Diamond Products saw blades has enabled us to stay 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. This feat would not be manageable in such good time with any other brand in the local market."

Diamond Products director Brian Clark says the company provided Raubex Construction with a range of its premium line of equipment, including the LaserPro

RC70D 102mm core bits, which were used for sample cores in the concrete slabs. "We also supplied a range of 300mm, 450mm, 750mm and 900mm LaserPro CC38 segmented blades. The CC38 blade is designed for full depth slab cutting of very hard concrete and has proven to be ideally suited to Raubex Construction's work in this project."

Myburgh says that at present, demolished concrete is being removed from the work areas on the apron. Existing concrete will then be re-dowelled and where slabs have been removed new concrete slabs will be cast.

Diamond Products
T +27 (011) 552 8310

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contact**

Brenda Visser on
Tel +27 (0)11 835 2221
brenda.visser@infixion.co.za