

Dcd's Mine Detectors Drive R10,3 Billion Forex Inflow

The South Africa-based DCD group has recently concluded delivery to the US Army of its flagship defence product, the Husky Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector (“Husky”), in a dedicated build programme that has brought in R10,3 billion in foreign exchange to the South African economy and created 1 320 new local jobs. The Husky is the US military’s only mandated mine-clearing truck for use in warzones.

DCD managing director, Rob King, says the group’s Protected Mobility operation is at the forefront of protective defence vehicle manufacture internationally, and the Husky specifically has the distinction of being the only South African armoured vehicle to achieve full approval for use by the US Army and Marine Corps. He says: “The Husky epitomises DCD’s strategic objectives of global competitiveness, leading R&D, local content capability and job creation.”

The Husky has been deployed around the world since the 1980s, constantly evolving in line with new technologies and dynamic client requirements. King explains that the US Army first expressed interest when the Husky was being used in Southern Africa and Bosnia by NATO countries including the UK and France.

“The US Army initiated a Foreign Comparative Testing programme in the mid-1990s, which saw the Husky approved for route clearance activities and subsequent deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq,” says King. Despite the Husky having taken over 7 000 strikes in theatre to date, only single digit casualties have been recorded.

The US Army’s formal verification process was initiated in 2008 and confirmed in September 2011, when DCD started production on the current supply. The programme will now move on to the sustainment phase extending over the Husky’s 20 year lifespan.

General manager of DCD Protected Mobility, Andrew Mears, explains that the sustainment phase of the programme offers potential for continually enhancing the Husky. He adds that ongoing engagement with US government provides the further benefit of considerable leverage to “expand our presence in the G7 markets”.

Mears says although DCD Protected Mobility has focused almost exclusively on export, this is set to change going forward. Locally the company is also well positioned to take advantage of demand from the SANDF’s Vehicle Replacement Programmes. “Our new R100 million manufacturing facility, which was commissioned in June 2013, has established DCD’s local supply chain.”

King is passionate about meeting government’s local content demands. “Boosting the capability of the local manufacturing sector to meet localisation requirements will continue to stimulate the local economy and create jobs,” he says.

A recent DCD initiative in this regard is the newly formed manufacturing partnership between group subsidiary, DCD Venco, and international Southwest Group, called Gravico. Southwest designs surface mining equipment, which is manufactured by DCD Venco. In terms of the Gavico partnership, Southwest has now commissioned

DCD Venco to also manufacture the draglines and attachments for the equipment at its Newcastle KwaZulu-Natal facility.

Kings says the Gavico partnership provides an attractive alternative to imported, standard OEM parts, as not only are the products now set to be made in South Africa but can also be customised according to different client specs.

DCD group provides heavy engineering products and services globally through four clusters – Rail, Mining & Energy, Defence and Marine - and is a partner to the South African government in developing appropriate local content parameters for manufacturing.

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DCD Group:

DCD MINING & ENERGY

Produces products and components for the global mining market and power generation industry

DCD RAIL

Provides manufactured products to rail industry

DCD MARINE

Provides turnkey ship repair solutions to the marine and oil & gas sectors with shipyard facilities in Cape Town, Walvis Bay, Saldanha Nqura, East London and Durban.

DCD Heavy Engineering

Niche supplier of bespoke engineered heavy mechanical equipment to the mining, steel, petrochemical and energy sectors

DCD Rolling Stock

Design ,manufactures, services and refurbishes a complete range of rolling stock products

DCD Marine Cape Town

The largest ship repair yard in Africa, providing repairs and upgrades to semi-submersible drilling rigs and drill ships, jack-up rigs, pipe laying barges and seismic vessels.

DCD Venco

A specialist provider of medium to heavy

DCD Ringrollers

Manufactures seamless

DCD Marine Services

Provides scaffolding, hydraulic and electric

fabrication, refurbishment and engineered solutions to a broad spectrum of industries

forged products

services to the marine sector.

DCD DEFENCE

Provides innovative and sustainable niche products to the defence sector

DCD Metpro

Designs, develops and manufactures on-tread composite brake blocks and composite disc pads for railway rolling stock and selected automotive applications

EBH South Africa

A ship repair & marine engineering company with over 140 years of experience which provides the local and international shipping industry including the Oil & Gas sector with a full in-house service in all aspects of ships repair through its operations in Durban, Cape Town and East London.

DCD Protected Mobility

OEM of the Husky Vehicle Mounted Mine Detection (VMMD) System, Mountain Lion and Springbuck Armoured Personnel Carriers

EBH Namibia

Operates three privately-owned floating docks in Walvis Bay Namibia with a combined capacity of 30 000 ton including a panama size dock.