Press Release from Atlas Copco Mining and Rock Excavation Technique

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Atlas Copco Surface Drill Rig used by BMI Drilling on PV Solar Projects

Atlas Copco Mining and Rock Excavation Technique is preferred supplier of surface drill rig equipment to BMI Drilling (previously UKUGRUMBA MINING) for various drilling applications, including drilling of holes for PV Solar Projects in South Africa.

BMI Drilling, part of the BMI Group, specialises in blast hole, exploration and borehole drilling as well, load and haul. The company is located in Lesotho, Northern Cape, Free State and Gauteng and has the ability to service the surrounding areas.

“We are proud to be part of the first PV Solar Projects in South Africa and have successfully completed projects across the country as well as in Lesotho,” says BMI Drilling’s Managing Director, David Ireland. “We first ordered a ROC L6 (now a FlexiRoc D50) a DTH (Down-The-Hole Hammer) machine from Atlas Copco for drilling holes for the first PV Solar projects which is in fact still being used on these projects.”

Ireland confirms the successfully completion, ahead of schedule, by BMI of the required drilling of holes ranging from 102mm to 300mm on two PV Solar projects. “We hope to receive a contract for another PV Solar project in the Northern Cape where we will use the five FlexiROC D60s that we recently ordered from Atlas Copco.”

According to Ireland, the success of a big contract in Lesotho, where Atlas Copco was preferred supplier, is one of the reasons why BMI Drilling only use Atlas Copco equipment. “We only use Atlas Copco drill rigs fitted with Atlas compressors because the BMI partners’ experience with Atlas Copco over the past five years has proven that the equipment is safe, efficient and delivers good performance.”

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“In addition, we enjoy using the latest technology for drilling and compressed air from Atlas Copco to show what can be achieved using good technology. Many people have tried to do what they deem to be a simple task using smaller drills from the east, but the Atlas Copco ROC L6 has shown many main contractors that not only is the productivity better, but so are all associated costs and safety,” stresses Ireland.

“Increased productivity delivered by the ROC L6 drill rig is largely due to the DTH hammer (available in 3", 4", and 5"),” notes Atlas Copco Mining Area Sales Manager - Surface & Exploration Drilling Division, Kevin Govender. “The hammer capacity is used efficiently thanks to a unique hydraulic cylinder-operated feed system which has a maximum feed rate of 0.9 m/s. The drill is ideal for aggregate and limestone quarrying but is equally at home in mining operations including coal overburden excavation.

The main components of the rig includes a Caterpillar turbo charged diesel engine (up to 440 HP), Atlas Copco two stage screw type high pressure compressor (up to 30 bar), single section boom system and a ROPS and FOPS approved operator’s cabin.

The cost of ownership of the Atlas Copco L6 as well as the company’s service ethics have impressed Ireland. “While the cost of maintenance and ease of maintenance is not easy in the type of equipment that we use, the backup from Atlas Copco assists us in keeping these costs down. This is in line with our company’s mission ‘through successful partnerships and sustainable projects to create wealth and experience for all our stakeholders, including skills transfer to our employees’.” Ireland adds that BMI finds Atlas Copco’s after-sales service “to be of a very good standard” and concludes. “With the support of suppliers like Atlas Copco, I believe that BMI Drilling will realise its vision ‘to become the leading drilling company of choice throughout Southern Africa’.”

The BMI Group was established in 2012 when a small drilling operation was needed on a diamond mine in a Southern African country. BMI Compressed Air and BMI Industrial Supplies also form part of the Group which has a client base spanning industries including diamond, coal and iron ore mining, PV Solar Projects and drilling companies.
Atlas Copco is a world-leading provider of sustainable productivity solutions. The Group serves customers with innovative compressors, vacuum solutions and air treatment systems, construction and mining equipment, power tools and assembly systems. Atlas Copco develops products and service focused on productivity, energy efficiency, safety and ergonomics. The company was founded in 1873, is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and has a global reach spanning more than 180 countries. In 2013, Atlas Copco had revenues of BSEK 84 (BEUR 9.7) and more than 40 000 employees. Learn more at [www.atlascopco.com](http://www.atlascopco.com).

Atlas Copco Surface Drilling Equipment is a division within Atlas Copco’s Mining and Rock Excavation Technique business area. It develops, manufactures, and markets rock drilling equipment and mobile crushers and screeners for various applications in civil engineering, quarries and open pit mines worldwide. The division focuses strongly on innovative product design and aftermarket support systems, which give added customer value. The divisional headquarters and main production center is in Örebro, Sweden.