

ELB

DELIVERS THOR RADIAL STACKERS IN FAST TRACK PROJECT

ELB Engineering Services (ELB), a leading total engineering solutions provider to the minerals and mining industry, has supplied two 2,200 tonne per hour (tph) radial, luffing stackers to African Minerals Limited's flagship Tonkolili project. That project entails the development of the world class iron ore deposit at Tonkolili in central Sierra Leone and its related rail and port infrastructure.

African Minerals Limited (AML) is a minerals exploration and development company with significant interests in Sierra Leone. Its Tonkolili project, which is believed to have one of the largest known iron ore resources in the world, is set to become the largest employer and contributor to the GDP in Sierra Leone. The project is a three phase development, with Phase 1 operations having commenced exports of Direct Shipping Ore from the Sierra Leone port of Pepel in the fourth quarter of 2011. This first iron ore shipment from Tonkolili is also the first such shipment from Sierra Leone since the mid 1980s. The fully integrated mine, rail and port infrastructure was built by AML within just 14 months from the award of the mining licence. The project will ramp up to the full 20 million tonnes per annum (mpta) capacity during 2012.

The two Thor Stacker telescopic, radial, luffing stackers were supplied, in a fast-track contract, by ELB, together with a two-year supply of spares. The contract for the stackers was awarded at the end of April 2011 by Ausenco Limited, the EPCM contractor for Phase 1A of the Tonkolili iron ore project.



Fixed conveyor feeding into the chute of one of the telescopic stackers.



The contract covered manufacture, delivery Free On Board (FOB) to Baltimore, USA, commissioning on site in Sierra Leone (Tonkolili) and onsite training for the mine's operating and maintenance staff.

The stackers were manufactured in Canada and were supplied, at the client's request, within an exceptionally tight deadline. Shipping to Sierra Leone commenced five weeks after placement of the order, as opposed to the initial project timeline of 17 weeks.

The stackers have a fully extended length of 41 m and the ability to stack to 13 m high. They are



Setting up of the telescopic stacker at Pepel Port for dry commissioning.

deployed at Pepel Port to stockpile iron ore for export. The versatile stackers are slewable and luffable and, while they can be operated manually, they also offer fully automated functions that provide increased flexibility, accuracy and efficiency. As mobile machines, they are easily relocated when the need arises. The stacker's robust design, which includes a very strong head undercarriage, makes it ideally suited to withstand the challenging conditions typical of remote and harsh mining sites.

"As potentially one of the largest iron ore projects in the world, ELB is proud to have been selected as one of the suppliers for this major development," Tony Pinto, general manager, Business Development, ELB Engineering Services, says. "The strong working relationship and teamwork between ELB and our technology partner, Thor, as well as ELB's ability to react quickly with an appropriate technical solution, made it possible for us to meet the client's demanding project schedule.

"ELB has pioneered the use of Thor mobile machinery handling solutions in Southern Africa, through numerous projects, and is seeing increasing success in supplying Thor equipment for projects throughout Africa."

ELB Engineering Services is part of the ELB group, which operates predominantly in Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and focuses on the supply of total engineered solutions to the mining, minerals, power, port, construction and industrial sectors. ELB generated innovation, complemented by equipment technology agreements with world-class partners, has made ELB Engineering Services a leader in the field of materials handling, pneumatic conveying and modular beneficiation plants. It provides leading-edge solutions right from the orebody being mined, through the business chain to loading of trucks and trains, port construction and shipping.

More information is available at www.elb.co.za/engineering-services. **MRA**

