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PROJECT STORY

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Merensky Two Rivers Project (TRP)

Exemplifying EPCM Excellence





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In 2021, ProVest took on the Merensky Two Rivers Project (TRP) with a focused mission: to construct a portal adit, which included blasting, loading and hauling, and supporting high walls. Their commitment to quality, expertise in blasting and mining, and adept project and mine management capability led to significant expansion of the project's original scope to encompass a full range of Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management (EPCM) services.

As the project progressed, unforeseen challenges and dynamic shifts began to unfold. ProVest responded adeptly, demonstrating remarkable adaptability, innovative problem-solving, and strategic decision-making. This proactive approach ultimately played a pivotal role in the project's success.



Original Contract Scope: Navigating Complexity

The initial task seemed straightforward - establish an additional adit portal to expand the mine's production capacity. However, the proximity to existing mining infrastructure added complexity. Massive generators - installed to secure the mine's ability to continue operations during loadshedding - were positioned just 80 meters away from the blast site. Meticulous planning and careful execution were crucial to protect this equipment and ensure safety while removing the topsoil, establishing access routes, preparing the area and - ultimately - conducting a controlled blast.



Challenges in the Early Stages: Adapting to Unexpected Hurdles

Unexpected geological features not indicated in the client's initial surveys added further complexity to the portal adit project. ProVest's team had to adapt their approach to manage the impacts of unforeseen faults within the rock, manually breaking down and removing large rocks before putting support structures in place to secure the adit. This adaptability showcased their ability to navigate unexpected hurdles and lead to the expansion of the original project scope.





Expanding Scope and Responsibilities: A Sign of Success

This evolution of the project scope incorporated EPCM elements. The client entrusted ProVest with additional responsibilities, including mining operations, recruiting and training local community members with no mining experience, multi-project management, sourcing, procurement and resource allocation. This was all done following the mutually agreed FIDIC contract to mitigate risk and deliver excellence. In fact, ProVest was awarded 10 additional projects over the course of the project's execution and managed a total of 13 contracts including the porthole, stoping and high wall extension. ProVest's approach gained the client's trust through timely results and proactivity. This phase marked a pivotal point in the project's success.



The Transformation: Mining Expertise in Focus

ProVest's proficiency in blasting for the adit, and the team's willingness and competency in adopting additional EPCM responsibilities, led to another additional responsibility – initiating mining operations in the original area to support extraction while the new portal was under construction. ProVest recruited and trained unskilled personnel from the surrounding community. Though the team faced significant pressure to meet production schedules, these newly trained miners performed so well in the four months that ProVest conducted the mining operations that the client elected to absorb 111 people onto the mine at the end of the contract period.

Conclusion: A Showcase of Adaptability and Innovation

The TRP project stands as a testament to ProVest's purpose to be specialists that are proud to help and support clients through reliability, professionalism and innovation. By embracing change and taking on additional responsibilities whenever the client needed support, the project team navigated unexpected complexities and an evolving project scope with competence and commitment. Their capacity for innovative thinking and problem solving was key to their success. This project underscores the significance of collaboration, open communication, and a proactive approach in the mining industry, illustrating how a project's scope can evolve to deliver exceptional results.





Fact Box: A Snapshot of Success

- Original Scope: To construct a boxcut with a 10-meter portal stub.
- Expanded Scope: Full EPCM services and early-extraction mining operations
- Approximately 30% of the mining team comprised new recruits from the local community with no prior mining experience.
- All ProVest hires (111 miners in total) were absorbed into the mine's workforce after project completion.
- ProVest progressed from ground zero to 285 meters within a span of four months. Exceeded expectations by growing extraction from 7,324 tons in month one to 14,526 tons in month four.
- ProVest achieved over 1 year accident-free on all aspects of the project.
- 10 Additional projects awarded to ProVest



