

The PRASA Rhodesfield Station

The R125-million Rhodesfield Station project was awarded to GIBB by The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) in 2008. The project entailed providing design, project management and construction supervision for the structural, civil, electrical, mechanical and railway engineering of the Rhodesfield Railway Station.

Included in the scope of GIBB's design responsibilities was the design of the rail infrastructure, including track, signalling and overhead electrification, as well as the structural, electrical, mechanical and civil works of the station.

GIBB subcontracted various required services. The services of Martinez Architects

were procured for the architectural design, Davis Langdon Abakali as the quantity surveyors and SSI for the EIA investigation and environmental approvals.

The project is not only revolutionary for the South African transport industry but is also representative of the future of transportation in the Ekurhuleni Municipality. South Africa is set to continue upgrading its transport infrastructure well into the next few decades, and this challenging and successful project will no doubt provide a blueprint for future similar projects of this nature.

This project involved relocating the existing four railway tracks to accommodate two new landing platforms. The construction of the

station, which is built above the railway lines and is accessible from both sides, needed to be specifically designed so as not to cause disruption to the existing operating trains during construction. The project was further complicated and challenging due to the specified timelines for its completion.

The client specified that the completion and handover of the project was required in advance of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which commenced at the beginning of June 2010. With this in mind GIBB co-ordinated timelines effectively, conducting a site handover on 7 May 2009 before the set completion date of 31 May 2010.

Many revolutionary and innovative approaches to various challenges were deployed by GIBB, not least of which was the specific construction methods adopted to ensure minimum disruption to the existing operating trains. Further innovations around roof design as well as station concourse design were also successfully implemented.

The success of this project has not gone unnoticed. Much praise has been bestowed on PRASA as well as all the other involved organisations, by the industry and the media.

GIBB's role in successfully project managing such a complex initiative was challenging and key for its successful timeous completion. The success of a construction project of this nature can only happen through co-operation and effective teamwork. GIBB would like to acknowledge and thank all the organisations who pulled together to work as a team and successfully complete this initiative. ●



Project information

- Name of project: The PRASA Rhodesfield station
- Name of company entering: GIBB
- Project start date: 7 May 2009
- Project end date: 31 May 2010
- Client: Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA)
- Architect: Architects Martinez
- Contractor: Rainbow Construction
- Civil and structural engineer: GIBB
- Project manager: GIBB
- Quantity surveyor: Davis Langdon Abakali
- Consulting engineer: GIBB
- Contract value: R125-million