

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR
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SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mozambique

Tete beckons

In early December 2010, Andre Bosch, chief operations officer, and Dewald Potgieter, associate, Ekurhuleni office, of Gibb, concluded a progressive rail, geotechnical and water-management agreement with Australian-based Talbot Group Investments in Mozambique.

Talbot, in conjunction with Nippon Steel and Posco, which hold an exploration and prospecting licence with the Mozambican government, intend constructing a world-class opencast coal mine, Minas de Revuboe, in the coal-fields of Tete province, in the north-west of Mozambique. Talbot's goal is to eventually export up to 10 Mtpa of coal over the 25-year lifespan of the mine.

"Mozambique is a flourishing African nation with GDP growth in excess of 6% in the past financial year. This project will have a direct positive impact on

Mozambique, and has the potential to increase growth and sustainability, and foster necessary investment opportunities needed to further develop the country and its people," says Potgieter. A team of consultants has been commissioned to work on the project with Gibb appointed for the following packages:

- **Demining:** landmine clearance was required as part of Talbot's safety requirements before the site could be accessed.
- **Survey:** an aerial LIDAR survey was conducted, as well as a traditional ground survey.
- **Geotechnical investigation**
- **Water management:** water-resource hydrology study; flood hydrology study; sedimentation and geohydrology study; groundwater and surface-water quality study; water-storage dam

design; sedimentation-dam design; bulkwater conveyance-system design; floodwater-diversion canal design; mine camp water-infrastructure design; and mine complex water-infrastructure design.

- **Railway infrastructure (20 km):** train-operations study; rolling-stock study; bridges-and-culverts design; geometric alignment design; earth works design (cuttings and embankments); retaining structures; railway superstructure; balloon and yard-lighting design; railway-drainage design; services-relocation design; and signalling as well as telecommunications design.

A number of participants in the industry have already established a permanent presence in the region due to coal-mining and related electricity prospects.

