

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR

BULLETIN

Nigerian city from scratch

A new city, which will house over 280 000 people, is about to mushroom in Rivers State, Nigeria, Jason Boswell of *Civil Engineering Contractor* has learned. The site of the new city is approximately 25 km north of the Port Harcourt old city at the epicentre of Nigeria's Niger Delta – a world hub for oil trade. This Nigerian powerhouse is about to embark on a monumental project to alleviate congestion in the city and raise Nigerian infrastructure to standards which would not be out of place in the world's metropolitan cities. In 2008, a new master plan was finalised by Gibb for what the governor for Rivers State, Chibuike Amaechi, called a new "world-class city".

Due to its strategic location, Port Harcourt is the primary source of funds for Nigeria's wealthiest state but its infrastructure is stretched to capacity. A 2006 census put its population at just under 1,4-million people. The latest estimates put this figure closer to 2-million. The city's aging infrastructure and size limitations can no longer contain this growing population.

Ryno van Wyk, technical coordinator for Arcus Gibb in Port Harcourt, says that the new city and adjacent Port Harcourt International Airport form one of three "anchors" underpinning the upliftment of Port Harcourt. "The development of the new city is the first anchor and it will be linked to the redevelopment of the old city as well as Onne Port," says Van Wyk. The anchors will be linked by two separate freeways and public-transportation systems.

