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ALE COMPLETES AMAKHALA WIND PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA

ALE has finished the delivery of 560 wind turbine generator components for the eight-month long Amakhala Project in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

ALE was contracted to provide the handling of 560 wind turbine generator components, made up of 10 components each, namely three blades, one nacelle, one rotor hub, one drivetrain and four tower sections. The components ranged in weight and dimensions, and involved the longest blades transported to date by ALE at 57.5m.

ALE were the first company in South Africa to make use of a new laydown outside the Port of Ngqura and the components arrived by means of eight geared vessels.

ALE were responsible for receiving the components at the Port of Ngqura, transporting them to temporary storage and then to site, located 250km away in Amakhala, Bedford, before finally offloading the components on site. A team of 50 ALE employees were involved in the operations. In order to handle the components, ALE supplied two mobile cranes and one telehandler for the port operations and the components travelled together in convoy consisting of 10 special abnormal load trailers, 20 ALE light vehicle escorts as well as the presence of the police escort to site.

Once on site, ALE offloaded the components using two mobile cranes and one telehandler with a rigging crew and site manager to oversee and coordinate the offloading operations.

The feed rate was to deliver two complete turbines per week, consisting of 20 components in total.

Zayno Myburgh, ALE's Project Manager who co-ordinated the project, said: "It was great to be involved in such a milestone project for the local area, with the creation of up to 750MW of wind energy over the multiple phases and the many jobs and creation of local jobs.

“During the project we faced the challenge of negotiating the Olifantskop pass. As the lanes were too narrow for traffic in both directions, the traffic police had to close the pass for oncoming traffic for two hours in the morning. This meant that we had to overcome any potential delays.

“We have invested in specialist and advanced wind equipment which has enabled us to carry out projects like these within set timescales and to the highest quality and safety standards. We are delighted to deliver all 560 components on schedule and the successful completion signifies our strengths in utilising our specialist personnel and equipment for our clients in the wind energy sector.”

ENDS

Image 1: ALE transport the last blade for the Amakhala Wind Project.

ABOUT ALE

Founded in 1983 by Roger Harries, ALE delivers a highly tailored, end-to-end service covering every aspect of the handling, transportation and installation of heavy, indivisible loads, including lifting, transporting, installing, ballasting, jacking and weighing.

ALE delivers strategic heavy-lift services to a wide range of sectors, including civil, oil and gas, energy, nuclear, offshore, renewables, petrochemical, ports, marine, minerals and metals and mining.

ALE has more than 30 offices across Europe, the Far East, Africa, America, South America, the Middle East and Australia. It is fully compliant with international standards of safety and excellence, including Quality standard ISO 9001:2008, Environmental standard ISO 14001:2004, and Health and Safety Standard OHSAS 18001:2007. ALE is also registered and qualified in the Achilles Norway and Link-up systems, and is a member of both the British Safety Council and the British Standards Institution. Further information can be found on the ALE website at www.ale-heavylift.com