

Mott MacDonald press release

For immediate release

Date: 15.02.2010

Merz and McLellan South Africa and Mott MacDonald join forces to strengthen power engineering capability in Africa

Merz and McLellan, the South Africa and Botswana power consultancy, has joined Mott MacDonald as part of both companies' plans for expansion in Africa and to strengthen Merz and McLellan's already prominent position in the African power consultancy market. In particular, this move provides a strong combined local and international resource to meet the region's power infrastructure investment needs over the next 30 years.

Merz and McLellan has 45 staff based in Johannesburg and Durban, South Africa and in Gaborone, Botswana. Its excellent track record in the region dates back to 1910 when it worked on an assignment in South Africa for the Durban Corporation Alice Street Power Station. More significantly in 1920 Charles Merz produced a report which led to the first Electricity Act in South Africa and the formation of Eskom as a national supply utility. The South Africa and Botswana operations stem from a separate local partnership which Charles Merz set up in southern Africa in 1937. The company is currently working on inspection work in Eskom power stations, transmission projects in Botswana and a range of other projects in southern Africa.

Mott MacDonald has 1000 staff engaged in projects in Africa helping provide solutions for government and organisations in some 34 countries across a range of sectors, including transport, education and health, buildings, energy and communication. In South Africa the company is involved in a major capital expansion programme which Transnet embarked on to upgrade all nine of the country's freight terminals and railway freight lines. It also helped design Mbombela Stadium, a 43,500 seat venue that will host first round matches in the 2010 World Cup. Across the region the company is involved in health projects, helping the fight against disease and environmental degradation while in the water sector it is designing sustainable sanitation and water management strategies. In the power sector the company is working on such projects as power systems in Libya, power related telecoms in Botswana and smart grid strategy work in South Africa.

Howard Bate, Mott MacDonald's director responsible for Africa believes that Merz and McLellan will help the Group achieve its growth plans in Africa. "It has long been part of our strategic plan to expand our South African business and bringing Merz and McLellan into the Group will help us achieve this. The company's experience and expertise in the power sector is widely recognised in South Africa and the wider region. We are delighted to welcome Merz and McLellan employees to the Mott MacDonald Group."

Richard Frantz, Merz and McLellan managing director, is equally enthusiastic about the opportunities that joining the Mott MacDonald Group will bring. "Having access to Mott MacDonald's global network and resources enables us to jointly offer our customers a more comprehensive service. Working within Mott MacDonald and alongside the company's international experts will also help us to bring new initiatives and ideas for our clients, while for our staff it offers much wider career opportunities. It will enable us to sustain and build the business and services we offer to our industry, something Merz and McLellan has been doing in southern Africa for the past 73 years."

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About Mott MacDonald

Mott MacDonald is a global management, engineering and development consultancy with more than 14,000 staff, a turnover of ZAR12 billion (US\$1.7 billion) and work in 140 countries for the public and private sectors. The employee-owned company is ranked 5th in the 2009 UK Sunday Times 20 Best Big Companies to Work For survey. Mott MacDonald's core business sectors cover buildings, transport, energy, water, environment, health, education, industry, oil and gas, communications and international development.

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For more information go to www.mottmac.com, www.power.mottmac.com and www.merz.co.za

Or contact:

Howard Bate
Mott MacDonald
howard.bate@mottmac.com
+27 (0)87 310 5000

or

Richard Frantz
Merz and McLellan
frantz@merz.co.za
+27 11 886 6573