

All original components are supplied through agreements with reputable manufacturers such as the Weichai direct injection, intercooled turbocharged diesel engines (made under licence from STEYR, of Austria) and transmissions from ZF and Eaton Fuller.

SGIP see the range as being particularly suited to local operating conditions as it does not include many of the high-tech components found on many rivals from Europe, America and Japan. They are sold with a two-year/200 000 km warranty.

These trucks make up one product line in the recently-established SGIP, with the other divisions consisting of construction equipment, cranes, forklifts and security scanning systems.

Heading up SGIP is well-known truck man Frans Cloete. He has no illusions as to what is required to bring this mixed truck and heavy equipment and materials handling business up to the level required by the Super Group shareholders. Cloete is by no means new to this type of challenge, having held a number of senior positions in the transport and allied industries.

He confirmed that the truck range will be expanded with the arrival of the Shaanxi truck-tractors before the end of the year. Initially two models will be introduced – the 26-422 6x4 and the 19-362 4x2, both seen as cost effective units. They will also be assembled at the Pietermaritzburg plant that recently underwent a major expansion.

To further consolidate the commitment that SGIP has to the local market and its customers, Cloete explained the PROJECT 1000 programme which the company runs. This is a strategy whereby local modifications are made to any components or systems on the imported trucks that will better suit them for operating in Africa. This initiative includes the plant engineers providing the people and facilities to redesign and modify components such as air cleaners and cooling systems without resorting to the Chinese companies, which of course speeds up the process.

Cloete also gave the assurance that after-sales service is adequately covered. This includes Super Group setting up its own company in China, Super Tianjin China, to source and ship spare parts for the vehicles sold in Southern Africa, ensuring that this responsibility remains in-house. ■

Moolmans put their trust in Powerstar



The Moolmans and one of their Powerstar trucks.

Moolmans, leading supplier of contractual mining services to mining houses across the African continent, has acquired 19 Powerstar 26-28 model trucks from Super Group Industrial Products (SGIP).

Moolmans, which is part of the Anglovaal Engineering Group, has a track record of some 50 years, having started sway back in the Eastern Cape with the construction of farm dams. Today, with an employee complement of over 3 000 people, it operates mines for customers in West Africa, Somalia, Guinea, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.

At these sites they run a fleet in excess of 300 heavy trucks with carrying capacities ranging from 40 to 150 tons, as well as various other heavy equipment required for a particular mining operation.

The fleet of newly acquired Powerstar 26-28's will be deployed at Moolmans' operations in South Africa and Botswana. They are supplied in chassis/cab form and are presently

being fitted with attachments which are designed to support the services of the mining crews.

Brian Wilmot, MD of Moolmans, says the choice of the Powerstar was based on their experience with a previous Mercedes model to which the Powerstar is mechanically very similar.

"These trucks are mechanically based and do not feature all the modern sophisticated computer technology. This makes them eminently suitable for the required application and they are also more serviceable in the territories where we operate.

"In addition, we also need to be sure of on-going and effective servicing support from our suppliers. In this respect SGIP has satisfied us, and especially our technical people, that they are fully capable of handling our business."

SGIP Marketing Manager Erwin Stolze says that the deal took some time to conclude and both parties are satisfied that they are capable of a long-term relationship. ■