



Established:
1983
Acquired:
January 2008

Founding members: Pictured from left: Harry Skelton, Colin Plummer, Francis Sieberhagen (secretary to Harry and Colin), Richard Leitao, Aubrey Michel, Ian Wright and Roy Dukes.

SKELTON & PLUMMER

The Skelton & Plummer Group undertakes mechanical, electrical and instrumentation construction work in the industrial, mining, manufacturing, and petrochemical sectors. Work undertaken in the mechanical construction field includes tanks, piping, structural steelwork and mechanical equipment installations such as pumps, mills, thickeners, stacker reclaimers, kilns and conveyor equipment. The group also has a plant suppliers division.

HISTORY

In 1983 Harry Skelton, Colin Plummer, Richard Leitao, Aubrey Michel, Ian Wright and Roy Dukes left Group Five to set up their own business. The vision shared by the six participants and an unwavering faith in their skills & abilities led to the establishment of a company, which 25 years later is still going strong.

When Skelton & Plummer was formed, a 50% shareholding was held by Peter Bayly, with the other 50% split amongst the six directors.

The company operated out of the Peter Bayly premises in the Midrand Industrial Park in Johannesburg.

In pursuit of their first contract the six competed against their former employer – tendering for the piping and mechanical work for the ERGO CIP Plant in Springs successfully. Despite this coup the first few months of operation were touch and go and many a breath was held in anticipation of clients' cheques arriving at the bank....



The Zondereinde site office - out in the wild.



The Zondereinde headgear.

1983
Foundation of Skelton & Plummer (S&P)

1984
Award of ERGO

1985
Award of Rand Refinery

1988
S&P directors buy out Peter Bayly's interest

1988
Formation of S&P plant suppliers division

1993/4
Building of Midrand Industrial Park offices

1998
Award of small contract for pipeline bases to S&B

2001
Foundation of Eddcor Electrical

2008
25th anniversary

2008
Acquisition by Stefanutti & Bressan



The Skelton & Plummer high-rate clarifier (S&P HRC).

The ERGO job put them on the map and a great deal of work followed, particularly for Goldfields. Before long Skelton & Plummer became established in the mining industry and, in 1985, they were awarded the project management and design of the new Rand Refinery. They established an in-house design division to deal with all the civil, mechanical and electrical design elements of this and future projects.

Skelton & Plummer was left very much to its own devices and, when in the late eighties Wilson & Holmes bought Peter Bayly, the directors acquired the Peter Bayly interest for the bargain price of R1 million. By the end of 1988 all shares were owned by people active within the business.

In the same year the company formed a plant suppliers division and started developing the Skelton & Plummer high-rate clarifier (S&P HRC) used for the clarification of dirty water and aimed particularly at the mining industry for underground and on surface applications. The clarifier proved to be very successful with over 70 installations in place by 2008.

After the management buy-out, the group continued to operate from its original premises until 1994 when, much to the surprise of many and amidst the country's first democratic elections, they started building their own head office and plant yard in the same industrial estate. Around the same time the group acquired the Setpoint R.S.A. agency for their computer software, but disposed of it in the late 1990s as they felt it didn't add value to the company offering.

By the mid to late 90s there was not a mining house in South Africa the company had not done work for. A number of prestigious projects were undertaken, including the construction and installation of a big kiln at Middelburg Steel and Alloys for Krupp and the installation of an 80m long 5m diameter kiln, dust chamber, mill and associated piping and cutting for the Karbochem factory in Newcastle in 1998.

As a newcomer to the Gauteng market, Skelton & Plummer awarded a small contract for pipeline bases to Stefanutti & Bressan.

Turnover is vanity
Profit is sanity
Cash flow is reality

A wisdom imparted to Willie Meyburgh by Aubrey Michel when they met to discuss the pipeline bases.



Middelburg Steel & Alloys.



The Skelton & Plummer offices in Chloorkop.



In 2001 Eddcor Electrical & Instrumentation Projects was formed to grow the group's electrical and instrumentation activities. They quickly secured their first jobs – amongst them the supply, installation and commission of the main electrical & instrumentation installation for the Mozal expansion project in Mozambique and the electrical installation of 1 600m 7.2KV 70mm² XLPE 3 core cable at Heric Ferrochrome.

Apart from having built a reputation for professionalism and a solutions-driven approach, Skelton & Plummer are renowned in the industry for their unwavering commitment to their company policies concerning quality, health and safety, the environment, road safety, employment equity and skills development.

In 2007 negotiations with civil engineering and construction company Stefanutti & Bressan started, resulting in the acquisition of a controlling share by the company in January 2008.

The acquisition is mutually advantageous, giving Stefanutti & Bressan a further foothold in the mechanical and electrical construction field, whilst creating an opportunity for the middle management of Skelton & Plummer and Eddcor to grow and advance. Of the old guard, Harry Skelton, Colin Plummer and Ian Wright retired and Aubrey Michel and Roy Dukes remained.

Skelton & Plummer currently employs approximately 380 salaried and waged staff. They continue to enjoy repeat business from many loyal clients, whilst exploring new opportunities within the mechanical, electrical and instrumentation construction industry across Southern Africa.



Vaal Reefs – supply, erection and corrosion protection of 4x5 Ml membrane roof steel portable water resources.

Western Holdings supply and erection of platework, pipework, structural steel and electrical work for a set of 2 x 3 11m diameter x 22m high leach tanks, including the necessary piling and civil works.



Rustenburg Platinum - supply and installation of No. 1 Shaft underground pump station.



East Driefontein No. 5 Shaft - a turnkey project including all civils, steelwork, piping, tank, electric and instrumentation for automatic gravity sand filter, S&P high-rate clarifier and mud solidification plant.