

PSV Holdings companies join forces

Specialist engineering company PSV Services has moved, vacating its Sebenza factory to join sister company APE Pumps at its upgraded and reorganised Wadeville works.

The two companies, both members of AltX-listed PSV Holdings, will operate as independent entities from the same premises, where renovated offices have been equipped to accommodate separate administrative staffs.

Some R2-million has been spent on the office upgrade, and a further R5million on additional production machinery for the expanded factory, which has already been fitted with the machines from PSV Services' vacated Sebenza factory.

These include computer numerically controlled (CNC) lathes and machining centres, as well as various conventional lathes, drilling machines, slotters and milling machines.

On order are a centre-lathe, a second machining centre and a vertical-boring mill, all of them CNC machines, and a 3,5-ton dynamic balancing machine for contracts secured in Zambia.

The machining capabilities of the two individual companies are now at a new and very high level.

Alan Sternsdorf, engineering director at APE Pumps, explained that the automated machines favour more effective management of large runs of work.

"The rapidly escalating cost of materials in South Africa is forcing companies to more tightly control time, and to use it as a tool to remain competitive," Sternsdorf said.

"The products we make at APE Pumps are engineered products, but where we have a production run of a number of identical units, such as the four vertical turbine pumps currently under manufacture for a local steel mill, we will be able to use the CNC machines to cut time and therefore cost.

"This will help us to stay ahead," Sternsdorf said.

Besides the office renovations and machine shop overhaul, Sternsdorf said that APE's distribution channels, in particular agents working abroad, had been reexamined, personally visited, and incentivised. Key staff would be appointed soon to help with production planning, he said.

"PSV Services is using an external inspector to monitor progress at foundries and subcontracted machine shops. We will soon recruit a production planner to ensure that each job progresses smoothly as a project, and does not get held up because of component delays," he added.

"The combination of the people and machinery of PSV Services and APE Pumps under one roof is going to add to the individual capabilities of both companies," he continued.

"Although PSV Services has interests in the local market, its primary focus is international. APE Pumps, on the other hand, is very strong locally yet trying to expand abroad.

"These are mutually complementary channels for new enquiries and cross-selling, and the end result should be additional orders placed on both companies," Sternsdorf concluded.