**PRESS RELEASE**

The nuts and bolts of power plant safety

***13 July, 2015:*** *Component reliability and overall structural safety has been ensured at a large power station in Mpumalanga, following the successful completion of a bolt inspection (torque verification) project on plant equipment by leading rope access specialist Skyriders.*

Torque verification is a process where the tightness of a fastener or bolt assembly on any type of plant is inspected and verified according to a specified standard or value determined by appointed engineers, in order to ensure that structural integrity and safety are in no way compromised.

Insufficiently torqued fasteners and bolt assemblies can come loose as a result of excessive vibration, causing the torque to strip threaded fasteners. As a result, all industrial sites with conveyors and other moving or vibrating plants must undertake torque verification regularly.

“Failure can lead to catastrophic or latent failures and, in projects where height-related access and confined space are a challenge, the use of rope access is the most efficient means, as rope access technicians can swiftly traverse the most challenging obstacles,” says Skyriders marketing manager **Mike Zinn**.

According to Zinn, traditional means of access were deemed too costly by the client and would have taken too long to set up. “This was a classic example of when the cost of access is disproportionate to the scope of work, and Skyriders offers the greatest value through its rope access solutions.”

A five-man Skyriders rope access team successfully completed the project within a week at the end of June 2015. Zinn adds that the most challenging part of the job was access-related, as the team had to work on the underside of a large steel structure.

“Although the scope of work was simple – to inspect and tighten bolts – access by any other means would have cost considerably more, and would have been far more time-consuming. Due to the speed and efficiency of rope access, Skyriders expects to be contracted to a number of torque verification projects at power plants across South Africa,” he concludes.

**Ends**

**Notes to the Editor**To download hi-res images for this release, please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the Skyriders link to view the company’s press office.

**About Skyriders**Skyriders (Pty) Ltd, established in 1988, is a leader in the South African rope access industry, providing cost- and time-saving solutions to clients in the power generation and petrochemical industries who require rope access aided inspection, NDT and maintenance work to be done in difficult to reach, high-up locations.

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