**PRESS RELEASE**

CrC-lined chutes improve productivity and efficiency at power plant

***20 January, 2016:*** *Chromium Carbide (CrC) liner plate expert Rio-Carb has ensured a saving of more than R100 000 for a power plant in Secunda, after successfully refurbishing three chutes and fitting them with CrC liner plates.*

Rio-Carb director **Martin Maine** explains that the project, which has been ongoing for five years, was extended due to the impressive performance of the R-C 700 liner plates. “Rio-Carb had already installed liner plates, in the three 60 m2 chutes at the plant. We have also been tasked with supplying the utility with R-C 700 pipes, which outlast the current pipes ten-fold.”

The chutes at the plant were previously fitted with ceramic 2 m bolted liners, which were not suitable for the project’s specific wear rate, thereby resulting in erosion and blockages in the chutes. Rio-Carb replaced the ceramic liners with 500 mm x 500 mm R-C 700 liner plates, which are manufactured to the chute specifications. The refurbishment included; sandblasting, welding and re-fitting. Rio-Carb repaired the holes in the chutes, and then standardised the liner sizes to an easy-to-handle weight.

According to Maine, the average chute lasts for at least three years. “Standard refurbishments cost at least R2-million every three months, while with Rio-Carb’s R-C 700, it is around R1-million every three years. Using MaxCS technology, Rio-Carb is able to take the properties of CrC and cast it via a welding process onto a mild steel backing plate, which gives it an optimum hardness of 58 RC, and additional flexibility for moulding and shaping.”

The liner plates are also marked with a unique identification number and recorded in the company’s database. This enables the customer to get the correct liner plate sizes immediately, and eliminates the need for onsite measurements. “Rio-Carb also provides an obligation-free wear survey consultation by sending a wear specialist onsite to measure the thickness of the liner plate using ultra-sonic technology to determine when they need to be replaced. This not only saves costs, it helps to accurately prepare for downtime too,” Maine concludes.

***Ends***

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

**About Rio-Carb**Rio-Carb manufactures wear-resistant Chromium Carbide (CrC) clad liner plates for heavy materials-handling applications in the mining and allied resources industries. With more than 30 years of experience, the company’s long-life CrC liners have 8 to 10 times the wear life of industry-standard 400 and 500 BHN steel materials, which dramatically reduces operational costs as a result of less downtime and change-outs. Rio-Carb has a deep-rooted history in mining, and is able to swiftly respond to customers' needs in providing cost-effective solutions.

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