**PRESS RELEASE**

Skyriders ensures that safety standards are not slipping through the net

*Industrial projects can benefit from a range of netting platforms, which are installed, tested and dismantled by Skyriders.*

**17 October, 2011:** Leading rope access specialist, Skyriders is fully equipped to provide a comprehensive range of at-height concrete inspection, maintenance and repair services, in addition to providing temporary safety platforms to a number of industrial operations.

Skyriders marketing manager **Mike Zinn** points out that in addition to scaffolding, hydraulic aerial platforms, suspended platforms and rope access, the company also supplies and installs nets for numerous at-height applications.

“Nets are ideally-suited to construction and maintenance projects requiring different phases of work, such as the undersides of bridges, the undersides of silo roofs and stadium roofs, where access is a limitation. What’s more, nets are quick to install and dismantle and they are the perfect option for training contractors, as they are cost-effective, can support relatively heavy loads and ensure that objects such as tools and debris do not fall to the ground,” he explains.

Zinn highlights the fact that Skyriders makes use of nets manufactured by leading commercial netting expert, Industrial Netting, which has more than 42 years experience in the local market.

Although netting is a safe at-height safety solution for industrial projects, Zinn does admit that a number of people remain wary of this safety platform. “Nets do not look as solid and sturdy as scaffolding and, as a result, people are put off the idea of using it. Contrary to this belief, nets are in fact very safe and easy-to-use. The versatility of nets means that they can be installed almost anywhere, and provide constant access to contractors, without disturbing the project.”

Zinn points out that the only real disadvantage of using netting is the fact that a qualified rope access team is required to install and dismantle the nets. “Contractors cannot install or dismantle the nets themselves, as the process requires skilled rope access technicians to undertake the project, and Skyriders has some of the most experienced and qualified teams in the business.”

Looking ahead, Zinn is confident that Skyriders will obtain a number net installation projects in the future. “Many companies are coming to the realisation that netting is just as safe, but considerably cheaper and more versatile than scaffolding. Due to these distinct advantages, I believe that in the future we will see a trend where nets replace scaffolding for a number of construction projects.”

Having started from humble beginnings in 1988 as a high-rise window cleaning operation, Skyriders is today one of the oldest and most trusted South African rope access companies that provides solutions to numerous above-ground challenges, including; structural installations and inspections, high-pressure cleaning, waterproofing, bird-proofing, welding, concrete repairs and non-destructive testing. With a zero-fatality record spanning more than 22 years, Skyriders is the leading provider of rope access-aided inspection, non-destructive testing (NDT) and maintenance-related services to the South African power generation industry.

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**Notes to the Editor**There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the Skyriders link.

**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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