**PRESS RELEASE**

Challenging power station maintenance successfully completed

***26 August, 2014:*** *Leading rope access specialists Skyriders has successfully completed a maintenance project at the Matimba power station, working at extreme heights on two of the power station’s stacks.*

Matimba is the largest direct dry cooling power station in the world. The coal-fired power station is run by Eskom and is located in Lephalale, Limpopo. It features six 655 MW units with a total installed capacity of 3 990 MW. The power station is fuelled by Grootegeluk open cast coal mine.

Skyriders has been involved with various projects carried out at the power station since 2003. Marketing manager **Mike Zinn** notes that the company’s latest scope of work involved a high pressure wash and the application of acid resistant paint to the top 40 m of the two stacks.

“Working at such a height required having to pump the water up to the top of the two stacks, at a height of 250 m, which was a challenge. Another issue that had to be overcome for this project was the excessive wind, which resulted in approximately 52 days of work being lost,” he explains.

An additional challenge that the Skyriders project team of eight rope access technicians faced was the short pot life of the coating system. For this project This system was supplied by National Urethane Industries (NUI), a South African polyurethane systems house.

Skyriders’ previous project experience at Matimba includes; coal silo maintenance, control bin inspection and maintenance, standby rescue on coal bunkers, and storm water downpipe sealing. Given the company’s proven performance and capabilities, Zinn is optimistic of future contracts.

“Having proven ourselves to be highly skilled and proficient in the power generation sector, Skyriders will continue to carry out coal silo maintenance, control bin inspection and maintenance, as well as standby rescue on coal bunkers for Matimba in the foreseeable future,” he concludes.

***Ends***

**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 1998, 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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