**PRESS RELEASE**

Loftus roofing project completed using rope access

***22 October, 2014:*** *The roof cladding on the iconic Loftus rugby stadium in Pretoria has been successfully repaired during a routine maintenance project undertaken by leading rope access specialists Skyriders.*

The maintenance was carried out from 8 to 11 September 2014, using a five man team with solid rope access skills as well as general maintenance and roofing skills. According to Skyriders marketing manager **Mike Zinn**, the project team encountered several challenges related to time constraints.

“When Skyriders was awarded the contract for the roof maintenance at Loftus, we were asked to align our schedule to the main contractors who had been working on site. They were already in the process of de-establishing, which left us with very little time to complete the repairs,” he explains.

In addition, previous maintenance on the roof structure had been carried out using scaffolding. Rope access had not been planned for, and to design a new system for the stadium was going to be costly. To overcome this challenge, Zinn points out that a temporary rope access system was installed, which also reduced the contract duration time.

“We also supported and suspended the falling heavy cladding canopy using rope access techniques throughout the repair period to prevent it from collapsing. Other challenges included weather conditions such as strong winds and the heat from the sun, as well as access restrictions. However, these challenges were successfully overcome, thanks to the team’s expertise and experience,” states Zinn.

Skyriders made use of a variety of tools and materials during the course of this project. These included a Bosch baby grinder with cup brushes to clean and remove corrosion on the cladding, as well as a Bosch drill for drilling through the steel structure for bolting and riveting. The team also made use of cavity wall fixing screws, a cavity wall fixing screw gun, and cobalt drill bits.

“The unlimited versatility and dynamics of rope access helped in solving inaccessible height related challenges. This ultimately assisted the client in reducing contractual costs by cutting down on the access costs,” concludes Zinn.

***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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