

PROJECT SHEET

PORT NGQURA / COEGA PORT
COEGA, SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

The Coega port project - on Algoa Bay at the mouth of Coega River - is designed to act as a catalyst for regional economic development.

The new port and its adjacent Industrial Development Zone, 20 km east of Port Elizabeth, are described as South Africa's largest infrastructural development scheme for a decade.

The new port is due to open for operations in 2005. It will serve Panamax bulk carriers and large container ships and will consist of two main breakwaters and five berths: two for containers, two for drybulk/ breakbulk and one for bulk liquid cargoes. One of the spurs for this project is the need for more container berths, as the container facilities at Port Elizabeth, Durban and Cape Town approach capacity. Future plans for Coega include major facilities for the metals industry, including a large aluminium smelter.

WORKING METHOD

A subcontract for cutter suction dredging works was awarded to Boskalis International in late 2003. One of the world's most powerful cutter suction dredgers, Ursa, was deployed for the Coega project. This dredger has an unusually

FEATURES

Location	Coega, Algoa Bay, South Africa
Period	January - December 2004
Ultimate employer	National Port Authority



A Location map
B May 2004



wide weather envelope and the project timeline required Autumn and Winter working. Given Algoa Bay's well-deserved reputation for hostile weather and big swells, Ursa was the solution which minimised weather downtime.

The new port's location, at the mouth of a small river, offered a wide variety of soils, including sand, gravel, gravel in clay and some pockets of hard material - mainly cemented sands. The material was around 90 per cent sand, with

the balance consisting of around 600,000 m³ of harder materials, such as gravels and cobbles.

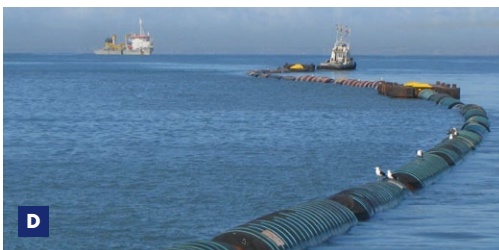
Boskalis' big cutter dredger dredged into the existing beach, to form the main harbour basin from the land side. Ursa also dredged through the bund when the quay walls were completed.

The total volume dredged by the Ursa for Coega Port amounted to 6.5 mln cu m. The work was performed within a comprehensive set of environmental parameters controlling factors such as turbidity. Ursa's dredging assignment spanned 26 weeks.



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- C** November 2004
- D** Floating pipelines
- E** Cutter suction dredger Ursa in action



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