

Precision plasma cutting — fastest growing cutting technology

The Kulungile Metals Group (KMG) Richards Bay has taken delivery of an ESAB Falcon CXL-P 3500 high definition plasma cutting machine with an oxyfuel combination. KMG Richards Bay branch manager Neeraj Singh says he is more than satisfied with both the performance of the machine and the quality of Goscor's service. "The quality of the ESAB Falcon's cut is outstanding and one of its major advantages over competing products is that one can mark and cut at the same time," says Singh. 'Cutting-edge' is no exaggeration when it comes to the ESAB Falcon CXL-P 3500. It is world-leading technology able to cut carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminium. It has a cut area of 3,0 m by 13 m and, with its m³™ mechanised plasma cutting system power supply, it can cut thicknesses from 1,0 mm to 30 mm. "Moreover, with the oxyfuel attachment it will handle mild steel up to 200 mm thick," says Goscor Arc's cutting manager Sean Moriarty.

In yet another important deal, struc-

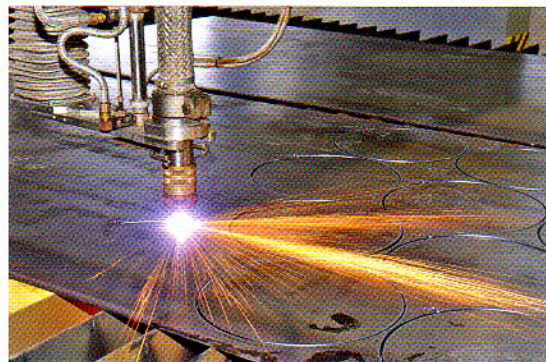
tural steel contractor MM&G Mining and Engineering Services has taken delivery of two Esab A2100 sub arc systems, two Esab rail track welding systems for vertical up welding, eight Esab 500TW MIG welding systems and the new Esab PC1600 plasma cutting and gouging unit, all for its workshop at Medupi where it will be building the chimney stacks.

"Precision plasma and plasma cutting technology is the fastest growing cutting technology in the world with many previous users of laser technology having changed to this technology. And South Africa is no different," says Pirie. "Apart from contractors like MM&G, many of the leading cutting specialists like Sentinel Steel, NSSC (National Stainless Steel Centre) and TW Profiles have bought Esab machines because of the obvious advantages of the technology."

According to Pirie, Esab plasma machines significantly reduce costs while maintaining, or even improving,

the quality of the cut. "In many areas of cutting, where previously only laser technology was used, plasma and precision plasma technology is achieving better results. But crucially these results are being attained at significantly reduced cost," says Pirie. "It is generally accepted that there is a 60% reduction in up-front costs as well as a 60% reduction in the ongoing operation cost of the plasma and precision plasma machines."

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Kulungile Metals Group's new ESAB Falcon CXL-P 3500 high definition plasma cutting machine.