



# SPECIAL REPORT

# DIAMOND

# MINING

**Adding extra sparkle to  
the diamond sector**

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# Consulmet

## Adding extra sparkle to the diamond sector

Angola remains one of the most lucrative hotspots for diamond miners, with reserves estimated to be around 180 million carats. President João Lourenço, appointed in 2017, has implemented investment-friendly changes to the country's mining regime which has quickly seen a significant rise in new diamond developments and a new influx of business for diamond processing expert **Consulmet**, CEO **DEREK LAHEE** tells **LAURA CORNISH**.

Consulmet's kimberlite drill chip sampling plant in Botswana

Consulmet is no stranger to Angola as the company has delivered twelve processing plants for diamond operators over its history, the most recent being for Lucapa Diamond Company's Lulo alluvial operation.

Consulmet has a number of diamond projects currently under fabrication and a strong project pipeline in Angola expected to run over the next 12 months. An example of this is the recently completed 200tph DMS plant for an Angolan kimberlite operation. "We received the order in June this

year and thanks to our typical modular construction approach will be ready to commission the first section of this plant towards year-end, with the remainder of the plant scheduled to follow in February of 2020," Lahee outlines.

Consulmet's diamond expertise is seeing it cement a solid track record both in Angola and across the larger central African region – which also includes the diamond-wealthy Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The CEO confirms that the company has a number of modular process plant projects in the country – a few smaller-scale projects in the Tshikapa regions

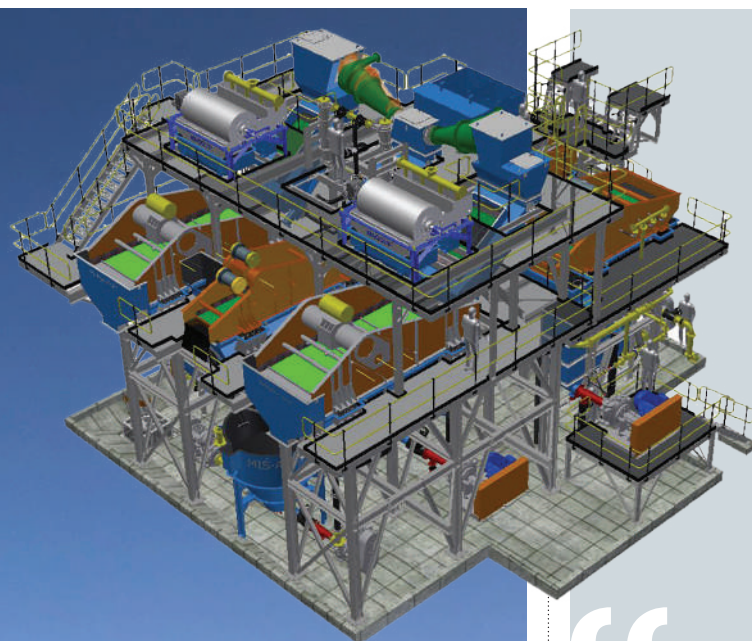
and some large-scale kimberlite work in the north of the country.

Consulmet also continues to expand its operations in Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

### Closer to home

Consulmet's footprint across the southern African region is no less impressive. The incorporation of XRT technology within its modular and mobile processing plants has seen the company become a strategic player in reigniting the Northern Cape's Middle Orange region, having installed several XRTs in the area (read *Mining Review*





↑ Drawing of the 200 tph DMS currently being constructed in Angola



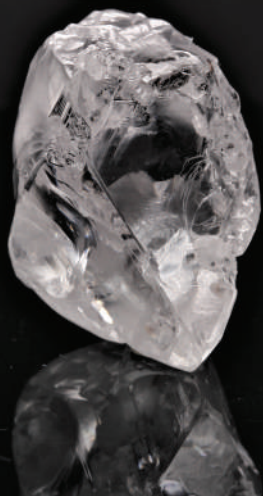
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We are proud to have secured the job to deliver a diamond sampling plant for the Saskatchewan, Canada-based Orion South Diamond kimberlite project,

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**DEREK LAHEE**

64 carat diamond recovered from Mothae



A 28 carat diamond recovered from the Middle Orange River operations

*Africa; Issue 5 2019 p 38: Modular and moveable processing unlocks alluvial potential, for more details).* These units have produced phenomenal quality diamonds in recent months.

Lucapa Diamond Company's Mothae operation in Lesotho – which has been operating since the start of 2019 – has had an excellent year, having recovered a variety of high value stones, including a 126 carat diamond in May. Mothae's last quarter results showed 39 +10.8 carat stones were recovered, the large majority of which were recovered by XRT. "The Consulmet-built plant incorporating XRTs has contributed towards this success," Lahee highlights.

Innovation has always been one of the company's keys to success and remains one of its top value propositions – demonstrated most recently by the kimberlite sampling plant the company is currently commissioning for a private diamond investor in Botswana.

### Further afield

Consulmet's strategy is by no means focused only on the African market. "We are proud to have secured the job to deliver a diamond sampling plant for a large kimberlite project in Saskatchewan, Canada," Lahee enthuses.

On the back of the company's innovative approach, quick turnaround time and bespoke sampling design, Consulmet was awarded the job (as seen in the Special Report cover image). The design caters for extreme weather conditions. The plant, with regard to sampling integrity together with new technology were key focus areas.

With such a significant array of diamond projects underway and in the pipeline, Consulmet is easily maintaining its position as the go-to diamond processing expert, capable of delivering work like a major while offering the benefits (flexibility, cost competitiveness and skills) of a mid-tier firm. **MRA**