Welcome to this week’s edition of the Medupi Good News. Efforts this week continued to be geared toward achieving 1st Synchronization of Unit 6 by 24 December 2014 and getting Contractors aligned towards delivery of the next Unit, i.e. Unit 5, to the contractual completion dates. Interventions are being implemented to support this.

1st Gas Burner fired-up, 06 October 2014

The past week has seen Medupi fire-up the 1st Gas Burner on 06 October 2014. Why is this required? The firing-up of the Gas Burner supports the ignition of oil combustion for the first oil fire. This activity follows on from the filling of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tank with Liquefied Petroleum gas and the safety clearance of the distribution piping from the LPG tank to the LPG Burner skids. Medupi is now well on its way to towards the First Oil Fire.

Click on below links to view video clips on Construction progress:
- http://medupiproject.eskom.co.za/videos/06October2014.m2v

Medupi making a Difference

The CSI Team have been collecting children’s clothing for a number of months. This all started as part of last year’s Festive Challenge where a number of Team Medupi staff volunteered to help at the Christmas parties we arranged for the orphans. Shongoane orphanage and the children made a massive impression on our volunteers that introduced the start of an incredible journey. A vast number of clothing has been donated for the children and most of this clothing originated from a school in northern England and was brought to Medupi.
by staff from Spitfire Consulting using their luggage allowance on trips to the United Kingdom. Last month we had sufficient clothing to be able to provide each of the orphans at Shongoane with a new outfit for summer and some warm clothing for next winter.

The clothing has continued to arrive at our offices at Medupi Site and we are now providing clothing to a number of less fortunate families in Lephalale as well as surrounding areas.

The next part of the journey of Shongoane Orphanage includes a commitment from Parsons Brinkerhoff to fund an upgrade and providing the orphanage with a multipurpose room for the children to do their homework and to enjoy mealtimes. The current building is so small that the only space for the children to do such activity is outdoors.

The difference Medupi is making to these children’s lives is part of the massive benefit a project this size brings to the area.

The care and support from all of you in the Team Medupi has been overwhelming in helping us deliver our commitments to the communities surrounding our Power Station.
Medupi’s Successful Innovations (Part 1):

With the realisation of the challenges that would be faced in getting Unit 6 delivered, the Project embarked on several initiatives to achieve a Unit 6 construction plan that is more transparent & robust in order to drive improved delivery of key milestones. Collaboratively, Eskom Senior Managers, Middle Managers as well as Senior Contractor Managers aligned themselves to the key Project deliverables and important milestones for Unit 6.

With assistance from Spitfire Consultancy South Africa, a Visual Management Centre termed the MPIC (Medupi Performance Improvement Centre) was designed and introduced in 2013 to:

- provide day to day business transparency;
- create a central focus for all current live issues;
- form a central point for all meetings; and
- deliver a ‘single source truth’ for all information.

The meetings in the MPIC took on a new direction and they all commenced with a set of key rules, as follows:

- all meetings are ‘short & stand up’ to help the team to maintain focus;
- all mobile phones switched off to ensure no distractions; and
- all attendees have a specific input to each meeting reduce the waste on staff time.

Some of the biggest successes of the new style meetings are:

- transparency & quality of the information available to enable quick decision making;
- every live issue in the MPIC is now associated with a person’s name;
- the accountable for person reports back on that action until closure;
- all meetings are now highly disciplined with all the MPIC rules observed by all; and
- interaction and full contractor engagement.

Following on from this great success, Visual Management Centres have been introduced into other key areas of the plant, with rooms set up for Unit 6 Commissioning, daily meetings for Unit 5 and weekly meetings for Units 4 -1.

These meetings follow the exact same process, transparency of issues, and, the same disciplined meeting structure.
Let’s Make it Happen – Improving Alignment and Enabling Performance in Team Medupi

The Project Director for Medupi Power Station Project was aware that in order to deliver on this challenging task of construction the Medupi Power Station Project; he needed to empower and align his team to Project objectives, resolve issues and improve certain areas of the Project. To this end, Medupi Senior Management crafted a journey of alignment and change across the project, kicked off its alignment journey “Let’s Make it Happen” and we have been on that journey since January 2014. This intervention ranged from how we improve collaboration, how we focus on performance and taking greater accountability and the need to enhance communication and engagement of our people.

We have achieved a great deal. In that time we have migrated from the discipline structure to our unit structure which has dramatically improved collaboration and focus and while we recognise we still have some areas to tighten interfaces between areas, the degree of collaboration across disciplines, between construction, engineering and quality has improved exponentially. There is also greater transparency and rigour in our build schedules and integrated plans both from ourselves and our contractors has made a real difference.

We focused too on refreshing the Medupi Way statement and developing an agreed set of behaviours which we believe will improve collaboration and performance on the project. We are already seeing some positive benefits as the testimony of some of our colleagues who have been actively driving this change will attest to.

There has been a noticeable shift in the way that teams function – an increase in sharing of information; we see each other as people, not just colleagues, decision making has improved. Where teams have focused, pulled together and taken ownership – issues have been resolved and progress made. Significant work has been done to clarify roles and interfaces in key areas (e.g. FIDIC, Commercial, Construction etc.)

Team Medupi is encouraged to strive to role model these behaviours and support their colleagues in doing the same. Participate and support your colleagues that are leading these initiatives and where you see further opportunities for improvement, please take the initiative and drive change.
**Site Visit by Joint Oversight Portfolio Committee**

The Joint Oversight Portfolio Committees on Public Enterprise and Energy visited the Medupi Project on 06 October 2014. The purpose of the visit was for the committee to assess progress that has been made since their last visit.

Positive feedback was received from the Committee and demonstrated appreciation for the progress achieved at Medupi given the magnitude of the Project.
Unit 4 Boiler rear wall ash hopper tube panel has been lifted into position for welding to spiral wall tubes.

Unit 4 Boiler front wall ash hopper tube panel was delivered to site and will be lifted into position for alignment and welding to the spiral wall tubes.

The Unit 4 Condensate extraction pump piping was delivered to site and installation is in progress. Piping installation of the Turbine 4 closed cooling water system (PGM) piping has started.

Unit 3 Roshcon drain in the Air Cooled Condenser area backfill is complete. This now provides access to other contractors.

Unit 3 Turbine House 9m slab is complete and handed over. The Generator Clean Conditions and access control are being established to ensure that no foreign objects are left behind inside the Generator that can cause extensive damage once the generator is in service.

In March 2012 the Medupi Project won a Gold Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York on the Medupi Virtual Design and Construction System which has been implemented to assist the Medupi Project.

Roman Crookes
Project Director: Medupi Power Station Project