

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ITT FLYGT KEEPS PUMPING IN BALLITO

The ravages of the major storm on the KZN coast earlier this year will be felt for years to come and in Ballito, where ITT Flygt has supplied pumps to Siza Water for the past six years, these pumps have helped clear sand from the sumps without any problem.

However, there were a number of pump stations which were destroyed by the high seas and all equipment submerged. Gravity mains leading to the sea were washed away and sand and rocks were dumped in the system. The Flygt pumps fared well and only one cable showed water contamination, while two impellers had to be replaced after the units had pumped rocks.

Siza Water won the concession to run the water and sanitation on the then Dolphin Coast in 1999. At that stage, equipment was in poor condition and had been used in the wrong applications. The concession incorporated the upgrade and refurbishment of the infrastructure in the area including the pump stations.

Initially there were a number of different pumps installed, but in 2000 Siza Water made the decision to standardise on ITT Flygt pumps to streamline the

management. In particular, ITT Flygt's Flush Valve has proved to be very successful in these installations.

"On investigation, we realised that the flush valve attachment on Flygt pumps saves considerable costs because it automatically removes sand from the sump, which is then pumped to the treatment works. Health and safety is improved overall using these pumps and operational costs are lower," Kobus Fourie, pump station supervisor, Siza Water, explains.

There are now 19 Flygt pumps along the 12 km stretch of coast with an average of two pumps per sewer station. Twelve of these are located on very sensitive beaches with coastal rock and the remainder are inland. The pumps have gone a long way to minimising pump station failures in this popular holiday destination. The net result has been substantially reduced pump station overflows, a reduction in maintenance costs and improved sediment removal.

Apart from the flush valve, Siza Water also found that at one pump station, two submersible pumps were installed with a head of 35 metres. Tests later revealed that the head was in fact 9 metres yet the Flygt pumps simply kept on performing. "When we inspected the Flygt's windings, they showed no trace of overheating due to high amperage, which was surprising since it was overloaded and running out of the anticipated curve," comments Fourie.

Support is provided for the Flygt pump by the ITT Flygt KZN distributor, Samco Pumps.

CAPTION FOR SIZA 01: Flood water at Chakas Cove.

CAPTION FOR SIZA 02: The KZN coastline services were destroyed by the major storm earlier this year.

CAPTION FOR SIZA 03: The Martinique pump station destroyed.

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