

JET DEMOLITION TAKES STRUCTURE APART

It was not so much the size of the operation, but the time constraints that made the demolition of the old Allandale bridge in Midrand so remarkable: contracted by Grinaker LTA and using massive equipment supplied by High Power Equipment Africa (HPE), leading South African demolition specialists Jet Demolition had just 16 hours to get the job done.

The old bridge could not accommodate the N1 widening that was required underneath the structure, and on Friday 7 November 2009, a section of the main route between Johannesburg and Pretoria on the N1 was closed at 21h00 until Saturday at 13h00. During this brief period, 22 major items of demolition plant - including 15 Hyundai Excavators and Front End Loaders - were used to demolish the old bridge and clean up the area before reopening the interchange to traffic.





Jet Demolition managing director Joe Brinkmann says: "This sort of work gets the adrenalin pumping, but there is a vast amount of planning that takes place first. We plan step-by-step in fine detail, and have a clear understanding of exactly how we will take the bridge apart. The equipment we use is obviously vital to the success of the operation and, in this case, so much was needed that we brought in plant from five other sites across Gauteng, Free State and Mpumalanga."