

## Steaming ahead

Kumba Iron Ore's R8.5-billion Sishen South project, recently renamed Kolomela, meaning "perseverance", is well under way.

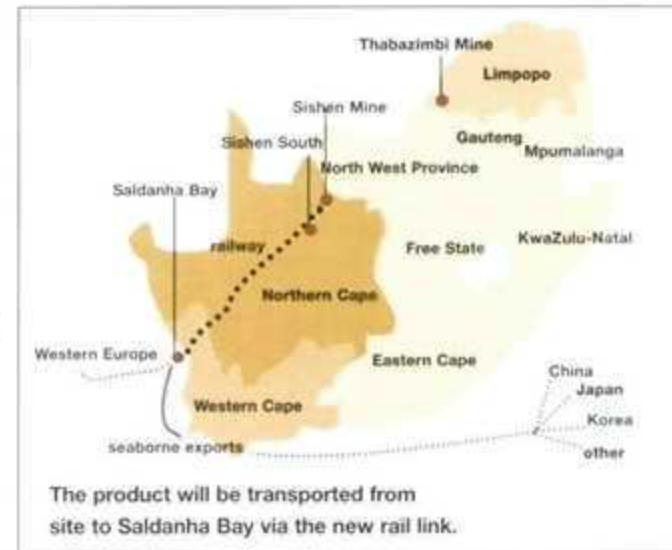
All major earthworks have been concluded with civil work about 50% concluded and structural steel in process with site establishment. Long-lead equipment has been manufactured and is ready for delivery, writes Darren Parker of *Civil Engineering Contractor*.

The Sishen Iron Ore Company (SIOC) growth-project prioritisation and the expected ramp-up of the iron-ore export-channel expansion capacity, led to the concept of a 9 Mtpa project, aimed at the export market.

The drivers for this project are to enable SIOC to increase its iron-ore production capacity and, thereby, capitalise on the current significant demand for iron ore, and to fill the capacity gap on the Sishen-Saldanha railway line that will arise during 2012.

The product will be railed from site to Saldanha Bay via the new direct rail link, which is a Transnet-operated rail line of 861 km, with a 22-hour one-way trip.

Kumba has secured 44 Mtpa rail capacity of the 60 Mtpa, which includes the 9 Mtpa for Kolomela. Main offices and general infrastructure will be established on the mine site. Access to the mine will be facilitated by a new surface road running south from Beeshoek Mine up to the site-office area. The mine will be supplied by a 132 kV supply from the Eskom Postmasburg substation through overhead lines. SIOC will also fund the development of a new township expansion. A temporary construction camp, where all construction workers will be housed, was established near the plant.



Main contractors	
Hatch – plant and rail	<b>Construction</b> Concor – earthworks and roads Grinaker LTA – civils Group Five – buildings TTC – SMPP
BVi – infrastructure	
Jeffares & Green – roads	
Ninham Shand – export pipeline	