

US machines heading for Australia

CRUSHING and screening equipment from Kolberg-Pioneer and Johnson Crushers International is turning a US housing development's project cost into cash flow – and the equipment will soon be available here through Astec Australia.

MacDonald Highlands is a high-end housing development being built in the hills southeast of Las Vegas. The terrain – which is rough, rocky and extremely arid – makes it very difficult to build the roads and level the blocks. “The streets are going up a pretty steep hillside and it's all solid



After screening, anything larger than the desired 19mm minus material goes back to this JCI FT300 track-mounted cone crusher.

rock,” Heavy Duty Construction owner Jeff Fegert said.

“We're doing a lot of drilling and blasting to shape the streets and individual lots. Then we have to process the material so it can be used to meet processed rock requirements on this project or other projects in the vicinity.”

Fegert realised early on that the waste aggregate could be sold into other local projects, removing a cost while adding cash flow into the project. “We started on this project with a closed-circuit jaw and screening unit,” he said. “Our goal was to get a Type 2 or 19mm minus material that we could use elsewhere.

“The original units worked fairly well, but we were not getting into our 19mm minus material quickly enough. We knew we had to use a secondary system, so we brought in an impactor and screen – but we were still not getting the product we wanted.”

After several more trials, Heavy Duty Construction ended up using integrated crushing and screening equipment from Kolberg-Pioneer and Johnson Crushers International.

The raw aggregate is fed into a KPI FT2650 track-mounted jaw crusher. After being reduced to 152mm minus, it moves to a JCI FT6203 track-mounted 1.8m by 6.1m screening unit to be separated into two sizes: the 19mm minus material is stockpiled until it can be transported to the jobsite for use, while the larger material goes back to a JCI FT300 track-mounted cone crusher.

Heavy Duty Construction says the system puts out about 320 tonnes per hour.

“If we don't crush to the Type 2 size and sell the material, our only alternative is to haul it 3.2km just to get rid of it,” Fegert said. “As it is, we are able to market our crushed and screened-to-size aggregate to customers down here on the south side of the valley.”

Astec Australia's Craig Batten recently toured both the Kolberg-Pioneer and Johnson Crushers International factories and visited several sites where the equipment purchased by Heavy Duty Construction was being used in a range of applications.

Batten says he was so impressed that on his return to Australia he ordered three units, which will land in Brisbane shortly.

Crusher buckets cut out the middle man

TWO new MB crusher buckets have allowed Western Australian earthmoving contractor GMF Contractors to make more of its own construction materials, according to managing director Albert Biagioni.

“Before we were taking [the material] to a landfill or a recycling yard and disposing of it there, and then we were buying it back as a processed material,” he said. “Now we are doing it ourselves and reusing the material.”

Biagioni said he first learned about the MB buckets in *Contractor* and decided to give them a try. GMF has two MB machines in its fleet, a BF90.3 and a BF120.4, which are used to crush concrete, bricks, limestone and granite. The full MB range also includes two smaller buckets, the BF60.1 and BF70.2.

GMF has set up a new subsidiary, Australian Crusher Buckets and Attachments, to sell MB crusher buckets.

Biagioni said the company had been set up to keep the MB dealership separate from GMF's core business in earthmoving, material supply, clearing and demolition.

He said he expected the crusher buckets would sell well. “Everyone that's seen it has been really impressed with it.”

MB showed a new version of the BF90.3 at Intermat 2009. A larger jaw size is claimed to have increased the bucket's capacity by 30%.



GMF Contractors' MB BF90.3 crusher bucket in action.