

Mozambique-SA joint venture now operative

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ONE of the first private sector joint ventures between South Africa and Mozambique has just been concluded by Transport and Engineering Equipment (TEE) of South Africa.

The announcement by International Transport Consultants (Intrancon) says that in terms of the agreement negotiated over the past five months, TEE is to collaborate with Mozambique's Cometal-Mometal in road trailer assembly.

Transport is one of the four industry sectors earmarked as priority in Mozambique's internationally-supervised reconstruction programme.

The Cometal operation with a staff of 800 has produced railway freight rolling stock for the past 25 years for a number of African markets.

These markets included South Africa's Spoornet, but declining markets have depressed demand from the original 600 units a year to about 300.

The road trailer move is a diversification for the Mozambique concern

which will be assembling a range of TEE-designed units on a royalty basis

"The 9 000m² plant has more than sufficient spare capacity for the road trailer assembly. Labour skills are high level and mutually interchangeable. The three-year projection is for a production run of 200 units a year."

Intracon says the South African partner will be providing all the necessary technical back-up. The component suppliers include Wabco for brake systems, Go Axles for trailer axles and suspensions and TTS for chevrons, mudguards, mudflaps and twist-locks.

As part of the agreement TEE road transport products will be marketed through Cometals infrastructure in its main market countries. The Mozambique partner will act as local agent for the component suppliers.

It says sales of the trailers will initially be aimed at markets in Mozambique, South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania.

Feasibility studies are being done in Namibia, Angola, Uganda, and as far north as Sudan.