

Civil engineering company wins technical excellence award

CIVIL engineering and construction company Esor Africa, part of the Esorfranki group, has won a South African Institution of Civil Engineering technical excellence award for its work on the Umgeni 61 pipeline pipejack.

The work was for service provider Umgeni Water and included a 1 800-diameter, 72-m pipe-jack underneath six lanes of the N3 highway, in KwaZulu-Natal.

Esor Africa contracts manager **Byron Field** says that it had to jack through an old freeway, which had been left intact when the new road was built. This presented various challenges, including collapsing ground from poorly compacted fill material, abandoned pipes that were full of water and dirt and had flooded the jacking shield, and an old 5-m-thick dry-stack wall, which was the side of the bank used to retain the fill.

In spite of the challenges, the Esor Africa team completed the job successfully without any delays.