

# Xstrata FFE notches up a notable success

FFS Refiners has installed one of its most successful designs at the African Fine Carbons (AFC) char plant owned by the Xstrata group. The forced feed evaporator (FFE), one of 15 installed so far by FFS in plants around the country and abroad, has reached a new level of operating efficiency after more than 15 years of continuous development.

The new plant at AFC will ensure de-watered tar for FFS Refiners' wood preservative operation at Evander.

The Xstrata FFE was integrated with the old plant which it replaced, re-using the storage tanks, boiler and circulating pumps. The unit is capable of removing 4 000 litres of water an hour. It is controlled by a custom-made fourth-generation process control system that has since been applied in two other new installations.

Steve Nomico, FFS engineering manager, says the FFE is producing

dry tar for the FFS Evander plant. "Phillip Vermaak, the FFS construction workshop manager, was tasked with producing the unit and then personally supervising its erection. The FFE was up and running successfully within a week of dispatch from Durban. Then Phillip, no stranger to FFEs, had to repeat the exercise in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates a few weeks later," said Steve. ■