

LERALA SITE COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE

(ASX: KDL) Kimberley Diamonds Ltd (**KDL**) has taken steps to upgrade the IT and communications facilities at its Lerala Diamond Mine in Botswana to provide more appropriate services for the increasing level of activity on site.

The Lerala site is relatively isolated with no access to fixed line telecommunications or internet facilities and limited mobile coverage with very weak signal strength. In order to overcome these challenges, African company Shevon Holdings (Pty) Ltd (**Shevon**) was engaged to develop an appropriate solution to improve access to communications. Shevon, who specialise in remote communication installations throughout Africa, developed a system utilising the Ku Band satellite network as the medium of communication linking Lerala to the outside world.



Ku Band satellite dish installed behind the main office at Lerala

The raw satellite feed is converted into an internet signal and distributed around the offices at Lerala using both a hardwired and WiFi network. The WiFi network is also beamed via point to point wireless transmitters and receivers to other remote facilities on site including workshops, the first aid station, process plant and the camp facilities. In addition, a new VoIP PABX telephone exchange has been installed with VoIP telephone extensions installed in the offices as well as at critical points throughout the site via the WiFi network.



Satellite receiver, network switches, VoIP PABX installed in the Lerala office are the “brains” of the new communications system

The site now has a reliable telephone system providing access to fixed and mobile telephone services in Botswana with direct access back to the Sydney office and anywhere else in the world.



Lerala Security Superintendent Vasco Setete accessing the new telephone system with the WiFi access point in the background

This is an exciting development for the project and will certainly be hugely beneficial as the activity level ramps up to commissioning early in 2016.

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