



Putco retreading plant curtails costs for bus company

Putco's unprecedented move to establish its own in-house retreading plant is already reaping dividends for the company since its inception on 1 July 2007. This joint initiative between Putco and Bandag Southern Africa rates as the first of its kind in South Africa but could well inspire other operations to follow suit in the quest to curtail mounting running costs.

Says Allan Cox, Executive Engineer for Putco: "The new retreading plant located west of Johannesburg has enabled us to take control of our own

destiny with respect to generating and maintaining quality casings in our fleet. All plant equipment was purchased by Bandag who was instrumental in setting up the plant and training our staff to operate it from scratch as part of an empowerment exercise.

"The factory has only been operational for a few months and already we're seeing a marked reduction in our scrap tyres (about 12%) courtesy of the new plant, improved tyre maintenance and the use of the Bandag BDV tread rubber which in itself, over the last 12 months, has translated into a 20% improvement on our costs and overall c.p.k. when compared to competitor products," continues Cox.

In association with Putco, Bandag SA selected the BDV tread design as it is the ideal design for stop-start operation and delivers exceptional mileage and traction with even wear for bus applications.

Allegedly, the new plant which is run and managed by Putco with assistance from Bandag has been a huge success and has served as a good springboard for the bus operator to also expand its service offering further in the form of rim maintenance. Added to that, as a consequence of this initiative, Putco Johannesburg is now a turn-key tyre fitment and maintenance operation for the remaining five Putco depots scattered across Gauteng.



Putco established an in-house retreading plant in 2007.



Bandag BDV tread.

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