

# Smoking-hot projects for consultancy

**W**SP Structures announced it has been awarded contracts for structural and civil engineering-related work on two diverse projects in southern Africa. The global design, engineering and management consultancy specialises in projects for the property, transport and environmental sectors and was recently awarded a challenging structural and civil engineering design project for a tobacco storage facility in Mozambique.

Closer to home the company was awarded a structural and civil engineering consultancy for a multi-level office building in Johannesburg.

The Mozambique project requires full management of the work and some careful planning was needed to ensure availability of supplies from sources mainly across the border.

WSP Structures' Tommy Gravett says the ability to source materials in Mozambique is always a challenge and the cost of both materials and labour is prohibitive.

"Availability can also be problematic. We import materials from either Maputo or South Africa, which can cause time delays and push out our completion dates.

We take these logistical challenges into account at the initial planning stage, however, and make allowance for such contingencies."

The facility will encompass approximately 50 000 m<sup>2</sup> of undercover distribution facility with a further 50 000 m<sup>2</sup> of hard stand container stacking area. The existing offices are also being revamped. Beira Tobacco's operating company is Transcom-Sharaf, a South African/Middle East company that deals in

tobacco. The company buys, stores, fumigates and sells the tobacco to customers in Europe. This tobacco is then shipped around the world from Beira Port in Mozambique. WSP has extensive involvement in Mozambique and has been appointed for several other projects under development in Beira and Maputo.

Transcom-Sharaf has facilities in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the tobacco from these facilities is channelled to Beira before being shipped to Europe. New facilities are planned for Johannesburg and Durban in the near future.

The architects on this project are Stauch Vorster Architects in Maputo in conjunction with Clear Blue Consulting from Cape

Town. Construction is being carried out by MCL, a Maputo construction company.

Meanwhile, the new Tiber office development under construction in Rosebank is a eight level office block spanning some 6500m<sup>2</sup> with three levels of parking, one below ground, providing 250 bays in total.

WSP Structures' Greg Leon says the façade features huge concrete boxes which are

cantilevered off the main building, while the exterior of the building is fully tiled with a glazed façade to the east of the building. Located as it is on the corner of Oxford and Jellico roads in Rosebank, this building is ideally situated to benefit from the nearby Gautrain station. WSP Structures was appointed by the developer and client, Tiber Projects. The architects on the project are Paragon Architects, the main contractor is Tiber Construction. Both projects are scheduled for completion in early 2010. ■



*An artists' impression of the Tiber office development in Rosebank.*