

W206 Paintshop Extension



Mercedes-Benz
South Africa Ltd
A Daimler Company

Any colour, as long as It Is ...

When you buy a car, you select a colour you like. You expect the paint to last a lifetime – right? This is possibly more true when you buy a Mercedes Benz. The vehicle owner knows little of the technology involved in protecting his car and even less about the infrastructure required to apply this protection.



In 2018 a project commenced to expand and revolutionise the capacity of the Mercedes Benz South Africa (MBSA) plant in East London to paint their legendary C class. The project (known simply as the “Paintshop”) is part of a much larger programme which will change the face and the capacity of MBSA’s manufacturing capability in South Africa forever. The building portion of the project was targeted for completion by the end of 2019, followed by equipment installation and commissioning in the first part of 2020. By the middle of 2019 all appeared to be on track. However, as with all projects, smooth sailing is a pipe dream and the turnkey project supplier commenced with insolvency proceedings in July. By October 2019 all activities had come to a grinding halt, with the building infrastructure having reached approximately 90% completion. Following months of replanning and accelerated procurement activities, construction recommenced in February 2020. The original infrastructure expansion was customised to suite the turnkey suppliers’s equipment. The newly appointed equipment supplier required changes to the infrastructure to accommodate his equipment and needless to say this posed (and continue to pose) significant challenges to a previously 90% complete building. With a view to limit (if possible avoid) delays, the project will challenge both the building and equipment teams to synchronise activities and share work space over the coming months. Although this is not what we wished for the project at inception, the trust of our client and the excitement of a “crazy” environment appeals to us and our adaptability. ProjectWay revels in the challenge and plan to report on successes and post exiting sunlit pictures in due course!

The ProjectWay Team