

Vanguard Delivers Turnkey Heavy-Lift Solution for VSL Manufacturing, Bolstering South Africa's Automotive Sector

July 29, 2025



Vanguard, a leading heavy-lift and logistics specialist, today announced the successful completion of a comprehensive project for VSL Manufacturing in Port Elizabeth. The engagement involved the full-scope logistics and installation of a new Yadon tandem press line, a critical investment aimed at supporting local ISUZU vehicle production.

The complex project spanned over two months, from the initial arrival of equipment to final commissioning. Vanguard managed the door-to-door handling of four presses, six robots, and associated components shipped from China to South Africa's Port of Port Elizabeth. This intricate process included meticulous port handling, specialized overland transport to VSL Manufacturing's site, and complete mechanical installation and commissioning, executed in close collaboration with original equipment manufacturer (OEM) Yadon.

A significant challenge involved the precise handling of a 200-ton press crown, which necessitated intricate

coordination and the deployment of advanced lifting systems. The installation was further complicated by active construction on-site and the reliance on temporary power, requiring meticulous planning and adaptable execution.

Vanguard's ability to leverage its in-house heavy-lift equipment proved instrumental in maintaining project timelines. In the absence of overhead cranes or a hydraulic gantry system at the site, Vanguard's independent lifting capabilities ensured uninterrupted progress.

"The swift completion of mechanical installation and commissioning by July 11, following a May 5 start, underscores the critical advantage of internal control over lifting and transport capabilities," stated Marius Tembo, Vanguard Project Engineer. "The seamless integration across transport, installation, and automation was key to achieving this efficient turnaround."

This new press line in Port Elizabeth is set to play a pivotal role in supporting stamping operations for ISUZU vehicles assembled in the Eastern Cape, directly contributing to the broader initiative of strengthening South Africa's domestic automotive value chain. Vanguard's successful execution of this project highlights its expertise in bridging the gap between OEM machinery exports and local production capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa, a rapidly expanding hub for vehicle assembly.

The ISUZU-supporting press line represents a strategic investment by VSL Manufacturing, one of several component suppliers actively contributing to South Africa's automotive industry localization targets. The project's successful delivery exemplifies the vital role of turnkey project logistics capabilities in facilitating industrial investment programs within emerging markets.