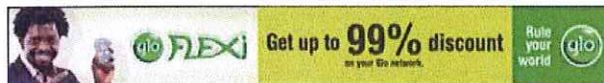




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# How we made water available at impossible places –Dando Drilling

Our Reporter December 11, 2013 No Comments »



**Dando Drilling is reputed to be one of the oldest manufacturers of drilling machines in the world. It was established in 1867 and reputed to have drilled some of the deepest boreholes in West Africa. One of such boreholes located in Borno State is over 800 metres deep. They have repeated similar feats in Yobe and Edo states.**

**Abuja Metro** had a brief chat with Adrian Scot, the company’s Vice President in charge of export sales at the Water Africa and West Africa Building & Construction – Nigeria 2013 three-day exhibition held at the Abuja International Conference Centre.

The event was organised to ensure that exhibitors reached the key decision-makers from the Ministry of Water Resources, Works, Housing and Urban Development, as well as engineers, architects, contractors and consultants, NGOs, investors and developers involved in either or both sectors.

### Many Nigerians know little or nothing about Dando Drilling.

The roots of Dando Drilling go back to 1876 when the company sank the first tube-well to ensure clean water supply in Littlehampton, England following a cholera outbreak. Dando has since become one of the foremost drilling contractors and drilling rig manufacturers in the world. We are active on every continent, with the working lives of many rigs stretching into four decades. Beyond drilling of boreholes, our equipment are efficient in mineral exploration, water drilling, geotechnical investigation and seismic exploration. Our machines are not very expensive compared to the kind of tasks they handle.

We first became involved in drilling in the United Kingdom, and have since diversified and stretched our reach to North Africa. We have been supplying drilling equipment to Nigeria since the early 1950s. But in the last few years, we have supplied these drilling machines to state governments in Nigeria. Edo and Borno states are among the major states we have made supply to.

**You explained at the exhibition that your machines drill the deepest water boreholes in West Africa. How did you achieve this feat?**

One of the boreholes we drilled in Borno State is 800 metres deep. To our knowledge, this is

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machines were used in achieving this feat. The name of the machine used in the Borno drill and also in Ekpoma, Edo State is Dando Watertec 40. The machine is a huge success in large water well drilling rig, designed for drilling large diameter water wells to great depths in some of the world's most challenging environments. With a pullback capacity of 40,000kgf, the machine is favoured by large aid agencies, government departments and private contractors for deep borehole drilling projects worldwide.

**Apart from Nigeria, are there other countries where you do business?**

Dando Drilling has been actively marketing, designing, selling and shipping water well drilling rigs into the developing world for longer than any other manufacturer. Over this time, Dando has developed experience second to none in supplying drilling rigs to access this precious resource. Our rigs are built to last for decades and work in extreme climates that would see the failure of anything, but the toughest of machines. We do businesses in other African countries as well as in Asia.

**Do you provide training for the locals on how to operate these machines?**

To realise the full potential of any drilling equipment, the training of personnel is of the utmost importance. Dando's team of drillers provide on-site training and familiarisation with all aspects of any new rig. We train indigenous people on rig and tooling maintenance, borehole planning and design, bit selection, working practices, equipment selection and mobilisation, consumables use and logistics and drilling theory and geological factors.

**What are the challenges of doing business in Nigeria?**

We have done businesses in far harder places than Nigeria. The reception in Nigeria here is always friendly. Since we came, we have had a lot of patronage. Contrary to what a lot of people say, the business climate here is friendly. I am not saying it is perfect, but it's a good place to do business. Nigeria might have its own reputation, but we have not come across that. In the last eight years, we have supplied machines to state governments. The first supply was to Yobe State government, and later Borno and Edo.

**They said Ekpoma natives in Edo didn't believe water could be scooped from their earth until your machines were deployed. Can you share the experience?**

One very interesting feature about Dando Drilling machines is that they don't involve a lot of electronics. The geology of every place varies. Like in Fika, Yobe State, there were no boreholes before our machines arrived. But we have been able to do something and now they have water. We have dug three boreholes in that place that is about 560 metres deep. In the case of Edo, when we first took our machines to Ekpoma, the locals thought we were wasting our time since nobody had been able to get water there before. We started and drilled for almost a month to a depth of 420 metres before we got water. The borehole is very productive right now. That was how we also came to Iruokpen.

**Are there plans to establish an assembling plant in Nigeria anytime soon?**

We have been in Nigeria in the past 50 years. Dando is a friendly company known all over the world. We are already training people in Nigeria by digging the deepest water rig in West Africa. We have a long term plan to open an assembling plant in Nigeria. That is a long term plan. In the meantime, we are training Nigerians on how to operate our machines.

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