



K-Way goes green



Saves 136t of carbon emissions.

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Insourcing



Spitting into the wind?

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Oil and gas to fuel W Coast growth



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Cape property still looking vibrant

THE Western Cape property sector – despite the prevailing dour economic mood – is still looking vibrant with key properties still generating attractive returns, inspirational corporate action and adventurous developments.

Arguably Cape Town's most inspired large property acquisition remains Hyprop's tilt at the Canal Walk shopping centre back in 2003.

Hyprop – along with the Ellerine Brothers – paid Nedbank R1,16 billion for Century City-based Canal Walk, an investment that must now be worth more than five times that initial investment.

Hyprop seems a little bashful, these days, of disclosing too much information around Canal Walk. But in the 2016 annual report the property company indicated that Canal Walk generated R628 million in revenue and R443 million in distributable earnings. This confirms Canal Walk has long since paid for itself in earnings. Although not on the same grand scale or located in such an upmarket locale, CBN noted that local property specialists Fairvest is making a nifty turn in its investment in Gugulethu-based Nyanga Junction.

Readers may remember CBN reporting Fairvest's acquisition of Nyanga Junction from Momentum Property Investments in 2013 for R58 million.

At the time Fairvest argued that the acquisition fitted the growth strategy of focussing on acquiring retail assets with a weighting in favour of "non-metropolitan areas and lower LSM (living standards measure) sectors".

The retail centre is situated at the Nyanga train station and is regarded as a prime example of commuter retail.

At the time of the deal Fairvest believed an upgrade



of Nyanga Junction would attract a greater percentage of national tenants - resulting in an improvement in the tenant profile.

The sprucing up of Nyanga Junction has certainly paid off for Fairvest. The property is now valued at R132 million, and now ranks as the third largest property in Fairvest's portfolio (just behind the R139 million Tokai Junction) or 6% of the total portfolio.

Fairvest's notable success at Nyanga Junction probably means the company's endeavours at the recently acquired Macassar Shoprite centre are worth monitoring closely. The company paid R41.5 million for this centre in September last year.

Fairvest's recently released year to end June results confirm the overall strategy of tilting at non-metropolitan property assets is starting to pay off handsomely.

Fairvest's property income rose 17,5% to R234 million

with distributable income up a hefty 31% to R144m.

Of the R2,4 billion portfolio around 95% was retail property with vacancies at just 4,7%. Arrears was only 2,4% of property income – slightly up on the 1,9% seen in 2016 but still much better than the 5% reported in 2013 and 3,5% in 2014.

Fairvest management – headed by CEO Darren Wilder – also runs a tight ship. The gross cost to income ratio improved to 37,6% (last year: 38,6%) and the net cost ratio was pushed down to a commendable 15,5% (last year: 17,3%).

Wilder said Fairvest hoped to increase distributions to shareholders by between 9% and 10% - but also committed to pursuing yield accretive acquisitions.

He also aimed to contain arrears below 2% of revenue.

In other property developments in Cape Town, the recently listed Spear REIT, which is focussed exclusively

on Western Cape real estate, has acquired MWProp Rental Enterprise which comprises a 2,232 hectare property situated at Fairway Close in Parow for R145 million.

Spear CEO Mike Flax said the deal was in line with Spear's strategy to invest into high quality assets within the Western Cape as well as increase its commercial assets in Cape Town.

The Fairway Close property is expected to generate R25,5 million in revenue and distributable profits of R3,5 million for the year to end February 2019.

The Fairway Close deal follows hard on the heels of Spear acquiring the Tyger Manor Retail Centre in Bellville for almost R60 million.

It seems Spear is determined to ride hard on the acquisition after raising fresh capital of R528 million in June and then another R182 million in July.

Continued on P7

R 1 million raised for UNICEF



L to R: Carine Munting – UNICEF Partnership Manager, Leon Meyer – General Manager The Westin, Marilize van Niekerk – Executive secretary to the General Manager, Sandra Bisin – UNICEF Chief of Communication and Partnerships and Jeremy Harris – radio personality and event MC.

THIS year's Westin-UNICEF Charity Ball hosted by The Westin Cape Town on Saturday, 14 October, was a memorable marriage of beauty, talent, humanitarianism and generosity coming to life in one room. Influentials, media, private philanthropists and socialites came together to celebrate UNICEF's work for children. UNICEF National Ambassador, Jo-Ann Strauss, including business woman and media celebrity Carol Bower were also in attendance.

In 2016, The Westin Charity Ball raised an R1 million (\$75 341,02 USD) which was donated to various educational programmes promoting early childhood development in South Africa. This year, this figure has been matched, and funds will go towards supporting this UNICEF cause and core priority. As part of this amount, on the same night, the Ernest Stempel Foundation handed over a cheque of R 200 000 to UNICEF.

A total of 27 prizes sponsored by various industry partners, including an autographed T-shirt by professional tennis player Roger Federer, were raffled at the event. Further, event sponsor - Toy Kingdom South Africa donated toys to the value of R270 000, which included 1 000 toys for boys and 1 000 toys for girls, the donated toys were valued at R250 000 and an

Continued on P9



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GABS has a ticket to ride

IN a surprise move iconic Cape Town passenger transport company Golden Arrow Bus Company (GABS) will gear up for a listing on the JSE.

GABS is controlled by empowerment giant HCI, which has proposed the listing via a transaction that involves another subsidiary company Niveus Investments.

The rather convoluted proposal involves Niveus mobilising its 58% held subsidiary La Concorde along with a newly created vehicle Newco buying 100% of GABS in a R1.8bn deal.

The price tag bears testimony to the bus company's successes over the last decade – remembering that HCI acquired GABS in 2004 for just R250m.

HCI – through its controlling stake in Niveus – will hold a 60% stake in GABS with La Concorde holding a 40% stake.

La Concorde and Niveus will unbundle

its shares in GABS to its respective shareholders – a precursor to listing the bus company on the JSE.

GABS is the only scheduled passenger transport operator in the Cape Metropole with Road Transport Management System accreditation and the largest bus fleet in South Africa to achieve the accreditation.

The company – formerly a tramways operator – has been providing scheduled passenger services in Cape Town for over 155 years.

Currently GABS operates approximately 1 046 buses during peak hours, serving 1 300 routes and covering a total area of approximately 2 460 square kilometres.

The fleet travels 59,4 million kilometres, conveying 51,8 million passengers annually.

GABS managed to post attributable profits of R228 million in the year to end March. This was built on a 9%

increase in operating profit and 11% increase in after tax profits – driven mainly by an increase in the number of passengers carried within GABS operations and supplemented with a steady revenue flow from joint venture partnerships.

HCI chairman Johnny Copelyn said this exceptional performance from GABS was underpinned by stringent cost containment measures and ongoing operational and technical interventions that were aimed at achieving benchmark efficiencies across the entire operation.

Copelyn pointed out that the entire GABS fleet of more than a thousand buses were renewed over the twelve years – transforming Cape Town's aging bus transport into one of the most modern of any big city on the continent.

He noted that since acquiring GABS in 2004, HCI had given impetus to a number

of strategic focus areas in the company. These included the recapitalisation of the bus fleet, depot expansions and the purchase of a state of the art automated ticketing system.

He highlighted that HCI had introduced an ambitious fleet recapitalisation programme which saw the purchase of approximately 1 000 new buses at a cost of R1,5 billion over a 12-year period. "This has enabled GABS to reduce the average age of its fleet from 18,3 years to 8,9 years, which has markedly reduced overall maintenance and operational costs."

The depot expansion was also a key development with Copelyn pointing out that in 2008 the Southgate depot in Philippi was built at a cost of R42,3 million. "This depot investment accommodates approximately a quarter of the company's bus fleet and is strategically located to serve the sprawling and populous metro's

south-eastern suburbs."

Another potential game changer was the introduction of an Automatic Fare Collection System. Copelyn said that after a thorough procurement process, the tender for the company-wide roll-out of an Automatic Fare Collection ("AFC") system was awarded to internationally-acclaimed urban mobility solutions' provider Parkeon at a cost of R80 million.

He said the AFC system would make provision for the selling and updating of contactless smart cards at various points. It would also control both cash fare validation and smart card validation aboard buses as well as allow for the capturing of invaluable ridership data. "This had previously not been available for analysis and will facilitate better business decisions and ensure that GABS's offerings meet the exact needs of passengers."

AEEI's healthy make-over

CAPE TOWN-based African Equity Empowerment Investments (AEEI) – which has large investments in Premier Fishing and Ayo Technology – is now making its mark in the cosmetics sector.

Last month AEEI acquired a majority stake in cosmetics distribution company Orleans Cosmetics – which is the exclusive Southern African distributor of imported, high-end cosmetic brands such as Gatineau, NUXE, RVB SKINLAB/diegoda palma professional and Sothys.

These products are sold to leading retailers such as Truworths and Woolworths as well as to spas and beauty salons.

AEEI CEO Khalid

Abdulla said the company was delighted with the Orleans deal. The value of the deal was not disclosed.

He said Orleans was acquired to expand AEEI's health and beauty division. "This division is right on track in terms of organic and acquisitive growth and in line with AEEI's Vision 2020 strategy."

Abdulla said AEEI's health division had been growing steadily over the past few years, yielding excellent results. This acquisition is a strategic move to complement AEEI's strong health and beauty division... The acquisition of Orleans also talks to a strong consumer-focused growth path."



Abdulla anticipated that AEEI's investment into Orleans would have a pay-back period of three to four years – excluding the anticipated exponential capital appreciation expected from the investment.

Don Kourie, CEO of Orleans and 10% shareholder, said there were plans to double the size of the business within the next three to four years.

The deal suggests AEEI is determined to resuscitate its low

key health care arm by adding a niche cosmetics angle.

The company's healthcare segment has been cautiously managed over the last few years as more ambitious growth has been pursued in the fishing and technology sectors.

Currently the healthcare segment comprises mainly Wynberg Pharmaceuticals – which supplies ranges of natural and chemical based products.

In the last annual report AEEI reported Wynberg had over the past three years focused on researching and developing products with a core focus on providing the agriculture, food processing and sanitation markets.

This entails marketing biological and natural alternatives to harsh chemicals currently utilised in this sector.

AEEI said this investment opportunity was identified because international markets importing large volumes of South African produce were actively reinforcing regulations through the Reach Accord which banned the use of chlorine and similar harmful chemicals.

During the research and development phase over the last three years, Wynberg has focused on testing products in the Western Cape agriculture market and simultaneously created a regulatory platform through the Department of Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries.

AEEI said this had set up Wynberg's commercial supply chain through two of South Africa's largest distributors on a wholesale model with the platform now set for this business to expand through South Africa and - over time - the global market.

AEEI also has a major interest in biotechnology company Genius, which was established in 1982 and is working to commercialising South Africa's first biosimilar product Repotin.

Repotin is a recombinant human hormone known as erythropoietin (EPO) – mainly used for treatment of the anaemia of chronic renal failure.



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Yokogawa receives SICE Awards

YOKOGAWA Electric Corporation announces that two Yokogawa employees and the subsidiary Yokogawa Solution Service Corporation have received awards from the Society of Instrument and Control Engineers (SICE)*1. These awards are for a scientific paper, contributions toward the establishment of international standards, and the development of a methodology.

Spur tweaks profit recipe

ICONIC family restaurant business Spur Corporation is re-locating its manufacturing plant at a potential cost of R50m to improve efficiencies at a time when consumer spending is under increasing pressure.

Spur manufactures many of branded sauces and other products at a manufacturing facility in Cape Town. Plnas are to move the facility to the nearby Baker Street complex.

The existing plant manufactures more than 400 000 litres of sauce per month -including sauces for external parties under licence. Most notably, Spur also manufactures all its 'Western themed' décor and artefacts that endow the franchised outlets nationally.

At a recent investor presentation Spur

CEO Pierre van Tonder said the company was considering shifting the facility to Baker Street in a bid to increase operating efficiencies and bolster the range of sauces.

In the year to end June Spur reported that its sauce factory turnover and margins were under pressure.

Van Tonder said the manufacturing and distribution division grew revenue by a slender 0,6% to R182 million with business hampered by the lower restaurant foot traffic. What's more, he noted, margins continued to be under pressure from higher input costs as a result of the drought conditions (which contributed to food inflation reaching low double-digit levels) as well as the higher costs of US dollar-linked commodities.

Van Tonder said the full impact of escalating costs had not been passed on to franchisees to ensure Spur's brands - which also include Rocomamas, the Hussaqr Grill, John Dory's and Panarottis - remained competitive in the current tight consumer environment.

Operating profit from the manufacturing and distribution segment dropped 3,3% to R66m with the operating margin squeezed to 36,4% from 38% last year.

Van Tonder expected manufacturing margins to remain under pressure - mainly from high raw material input costs.

Overall the eponymous Spur Steak Ranches brand experienced a lean period in financial 2017 with turnover declining 2,4% as tough times

saw the menu price increase limited to 3,5% in December last year.

But the company invested R77m in new stores, revamps and relocations.

Van Tonder said the strategy for Spur Steak Ranches in the year ahead would encompass a 'back to basics' strategy around product pillars and service excellence as well as the 'kids' experience'.

There would also be a renewed focus on in-house manufacturing of products and in-store efficiencies as well as refurbishments and strategic relocations.

It seems likely that Spur will shun larger shopping malls for new stores with an increasing emphasis on rolling out the Grill & Go concept and smaller Spur outlets.

The news on Hussar

Grill was brighter with the outlets' Cape Town roots now expanded into 14 restaurants - which translated into a 36% gain in turnover (25% on an existing store basis) with a menu price increase of 6% in May this year.

New Hussar Grill outlets are planned for Montecasino in Johannesburg and in Franschhoek for the new financial year.

But Spur's biggest success has been the smash burger specialist Rocomamas, which is now up to 50 outlets. The brand has been focussed on grabbing market share in what Van Tonder deemed a highly competitive environment. This probably explains the only 2,6% menu price increase at Rocomamas in November last year.

Interestingly Van



Tonder notes Rocomamas outlets are mostly located outside of "mall environments"

The total investment in new stores and revamps was R31 million with a keen focus on franchisee profitability and product engineering.

Van Tonder added there was a growing take-out and delivery business -including the increasingly popular UberEATS.

Despite taking strain

during the past financial year, Spur will continue to expand its brand foot print with 34 new store openings. These include 10 Spur Steak Ranches and seven new Rocomamas as well as six more stores under the pizza pasta brands Panarottis and the upmarket Casa Bella brand.

Van Tonder said Spur would also continue to seek out acquisition opportunities.

Strategies to impact African business landscape

THE Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) held recently in Cape Town has resulted in numerous strategies which could have a dramatic impact on the influence of African businesswomen and entrepreneurs in the continent's socio-economic environment. Over 500 delegates, 60 speakers and 40 exhibitors took part.

Irene Ochem, AWIEF Founder and Chief Executive Officer described it as "an awesome convocation of people for a specific purpose. And not just any people, and not an insignificant purpose."

The conference theme was: "Equity, impact and inclusive growth towards Agenda 2030 and a sustainable African future." Stakeholders from the entire entrepreneurship ecosystem from government to business and investors gathered to find means of addressing roadblocks to the development of women-led businesses which are poised to

affect Africa's future. Among these hurdles were gender stereotypes and difficulties in gaining access to finance, education and training, and markets.

Participants included African women entrepreneurs from across the continent, ministers from numerous African governments, ambassadors and diplomats, stakeholders from several prestigious financial institutions, UN Women, multinational corporates, small start-ups and aspiring women entrepreneurs as well as many illustrious guests, such as Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and his wife, and the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Patricia de Lille.

Vanessa Mounzar, Director of gender, women and civil society at the African Development Bank, Côte d'Ivoire, emphasised the need for governments to develop good regulatory frameworks that would create appropriate environments for women entrepreneurs. Zizipho

Nyanga, CEO of Old Mutual's Masisizane Fund added that women entrepreneurs should benefit from both social and financial returns, becoming credible mentors and role models who could inspire and motivate others.

AWIEF's flagship Growth Accelerator Programme was showcased as 10 South African women entrepreneurs who had previously participated in the programme pitched their businesses to the audience of business leaders, investors and governments. The Programme supports women-owned enterprises with business modelling and growth strategy needed to scale up become investment ready and develop entrepreneurship leadership. It will be replicated across several African countries.

A highlight of the 2017 conference was the recognition and celebration of outstanding female entrepreneurs in seven different categories during the inaugural AWIEF Awards.

New Rextru emerges?

FASHION retailing company Rex Trueform Clothing Company has changed its name to Rex Trueform Group.

What's in a (new) name anyway? But perhaps this altered identity actually points to a new direction for Salt River-based Rextru, which is now in the control of a consortium headed by local empowerment pioneer Marcel Golding.

Golding was a co-founder of empowerment investment heavyweight HCI, and headed that group's media segment under e-Media Holdings (which includes e-tv and eNCA).

There has also been a serious re-shuffling of the Rextru board of executives with Golding's consortium co-investor Hugh Roberts as well as LK Sebatane and Kgomoiso Molosiwa nominated for appointment as directors.

This follows the recent retirement of long serving Rextru chairman Michael Krawitz, who was duly replaced by Golding.

What remains to be seen is whether Golding's elevation to a po-

sition of influence as a shareholder and in the boardroom will usher in changes at Rextru (that many observers might feel are long overdue).

Rextru's fashion retailing business Queenspark (which comprises 59 stores) has delivered some tatty performances of late - and questions have been asked around whether the company needs to execute acquisitions to broaden the apparel offering.

There have been cautious efforts at broadening the range and appeal at Rextru - most notably via J Crew (fashion aimed at male customers), Queenspark Plus (targeting 'larger' customers, Aura (cosmetics) and Cath.nic (cutting edge fashion for younger customers).

In her annual review Rextru CEO Catherine Radowsky noted Queenspark was in the process of introducing new categories and new brands into stores. She believed these new products would provide customers with an improved offering and were being introduced using a phased approach.



Radowsky, though, admitted the year ahead was still expected to be challenging due to the tough economic trading conditions. "However, we are excited about the new initiatives, which will likely positively impact the turnover."

Still it is worrying that Queenspark has lately badly lagged its larger peers like Foschini, Truworths and Mr Price. In the last financial year to end June retail revenue dropped to R529 million (previously: R537 million) with an operating loss of R1,9 million being recorded. Trading expenses accounted for a whopping 55% of turnover.

The annual report makes no hint at

possible diversification via acquisition into other fashion retailing concepts. But the conspicuous lack of scale at Queenspark and its various offshoots must be a cause for concern.

There have, of course, also been murmurings that Golding's consortium could look to transform Rextru into a broader investment company. In this regard it's worth remembering the company holds substantial property interests (recently developed and some set for re-development) in the vibrant Salt River node. There is also over R50m of unencumbered cash in the kitty.

Rextru looks poised for change...perhaps big changes.

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K-Way goes green and cuts its carbon footprint

THE K-Way Factory, a proudly South African manufacturer, has installed a solar power plant in a bid to reduce their carbon footprint. In August, the system was installed and will help to save 136 tons of carbon emissions - equivalent to 35 tons of waste, the pollution of 23 cars over a one-year period, or the use of 285 barrels of oil annually. On the day following installation, 200 kg of CO₂ were saved, despite it being a cloudy winter's day!

The 83 kWp solar PV system harnesses the sun's energy to power the factory and produces 125 000 kWh per year



to deliver financial savings whilst reducing the factory's environmental impact.

Over 250 solar panels have been installed to convert light energy from the sun into direct current electricity. This is then converted into alternating current electricity by three inverters and fed into the factory. The inverters utilise

the latest technology to maximise the energy harvested from the sun.

Currently, K-Way is embarking on a process to feed excess power to the City of Cape Town grid from the electricity generated on weekends.

In addition to diminishing their carbon footprint K-Way has fitted low-energy consumption lighting throughout

the factory and have only purchased machinery following careful examination of their energy use. A borehole system has also been installed to feed the factory's high-use ablution areas, which will save 1,5 million litres of municipal water per annum.

These initiatives complement K-Way's lean

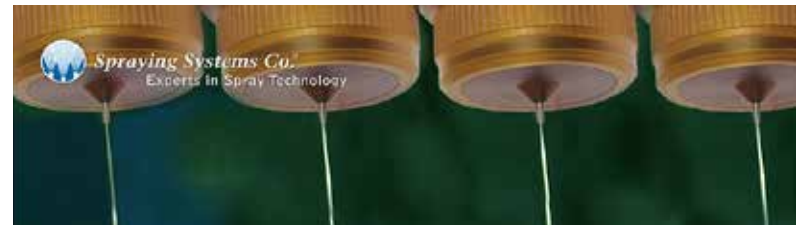
manufacturing model, through which it continually strives to improve the organisation as a whole. For its efforts, the factory has recently won the LEAN Performance Improvement Award from the Department of Trade and Industry and the

Cape Clothing and Textile Cluster.

K-Way Factory General Manager, Bobby Fairlamb, shares: "We are incredibly proud that here, at the tip of Africa, we have a world-class manufacturing unit equal to the best anywhere in the

world. Waste elimination, continuous improvement and building a healthy culture amongst our people, coupled with continuous training and development at all levels and our customer focus, have been key to our success."

Accujet electrostatic lubrication reduces waste and downtime



THE Accujet electrostatic heated spray system from Monitor Engineering applies a heated lubricant with precision, reducing waste and downtime.

The heated system consists of:

1. Nozzle manifold with up to 8 nozzles to meet process requirements
2. Heated tank for process lubricants
3. PLC controller with touch screen interface for ease of operation

Heated lubricant is drawn from the tank by the pumps and delivered to the nozzles. The recirculation system is used to heat the nozzles to a consistent temperature with even heat distribution. The temperature is controlled

in a closed loop system utilizing multiple thermocouple inputs. The lubricant is then recirculated and returned to the tank to be reheated.

The nozzles can be individually actuated depending on the amount of lubrication needed to meet requirements.

Features and benefits

- Less process materials used, precise temperature control from "tank to the target".
- Closed system virtually eliminates product contamination, delivering a superior quality product
- Coatings are accurately applied to target, minimal overspray or misting, saving on maintenance and clean-up

- Automatic spray control system self-adjusts for line speed changes to maximize production time

How does electrostatic spray coating work?

In electrostatic spraying, a negatively charged liquid coating is attracted to a neutral, grounded target. This simple principle has powerful implications for advanced coating technology.

The physical attraction of the liquid to the target pulls the coating to an object's surface, providing very high transfer efficiency, typically over 90%.

Due to the attraction and low flow precision spray, overspray is virtually eliminated, reducing clean-up and improving the work environment.

Hytec appoints Cape Regional Manager

IAAN du Toit has been appointed Regional Manager for Hytec in the Cape.

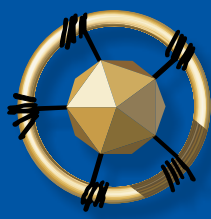
Du Toit, who has over 33 years' experience in the hydraulics industry, joined Hytec in 1984 as a trainee fitter. His first promotion was three years later in 1987, whereafter he rose through the ranks. Returning to Hytec in 1998 as workshop manager after a three-year gap, Du Toit worked his way up various managerial

positions, filling posts such as Works Manager, Offshore Manager Marine, Oil & Gas, Regional Engineering Manager and Branch Manager before his current appointment.

Du Toit's area of responsibility extends across the entire Western and Eastern Cape, the coastline from !Gariiep River at Alexander Bay to East London and the Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Saldana Bay branches.



Iaan du Toit – the recently appointed Regional Manager for Hytec in the Cape.



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

The merSETA is one of 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) established to promote skills development in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1988 (as amended). The 21 SETAs broadly reflect different sectors of the South African economy. The merSETA encompasses Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services.

The various industry sectors are covered by five chambers within the merSETA: Metal and Engineering, Auto Manufacturing, Motor Retail and Components Manufacturing, New Tyre Manufacturing and Plastics Manufacturing.



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Deepening drought highlights fire risks



WITH drought conditions deepening and the Western Cape now facing level 5 water restrictions, fire risks have increased dramatically, demanding more stringent fire risk mitigation and planning. Stringent compliance with fire safety regulations is critical, along with proactive measures to reduce fire risks as far as possible.

This is according to Harold Bond, Aon South Africa, Cape Town Deputy Branch. "With water levels at critically low levels, it's likely that local municipal water supply to fire protection systems and hydrants will be negatively impacted both in terms of flow rate and pressure levels. This has serious implications for sprinkler systems and even the local fire-fighting teams, and could see the outright loss of assets rise exponentially should a fire break out," explains Harold.

Fire is often an underestimated risk despite the fact that it's a common and often devastating peril – the water shortages significantly amplify the likelihood of this risk. It's essential that business operators comply with the fire regulations relevant to their operations, and put measures in place to mitigate the risk as far as possible. Failure to comply with the statutory requirements and codes of practice for fire protection can leave business stakeholders in severe financial crisis and with potential legal implications. "The Business Interruption (BI) aspects of fire also need careful consideration.

Damage to the structure of the building is one thing, but a fire often damages contents such as raw materials, machinery and completed stock awaiting delivery. It disrupts the entire distribution chain and has far reaching consequences for your clients, who may have to source alternative suppliers if you're unable to deliver on time," Bond illustrates.

Engen Driver Wellness

IN celebration of Transport month Engen Driver Wellness, an annual mobile health awareness initiative run by Thubelihle Occupational Health & Wellness offered free health screenings to truck drivers in the Wine-lands and Western Cape region.

Truck drivers visited the Engen Swartland 1 Stop and Engen Wine-lands 1 Stops (North and South) as well as Engen Kempston Truck Stop in Epping Industrial as part of this initiative which impacts positively on the country's bulk truck drivers.

Year on year the initiative has increased driver participation in voluntary screenings and improved health scores.

Over a seven month period the programme will reach 21 sites in five provinces by the end of the year.

Running for its sixth year, Engen Driver

Wellness continues to bring health to the front seat for truck drivers by providing them with free health screenings.

Operated nationwide at Engen Truck Stops and retail service stations, drivers are offered free voluntary screenings in mobile clinics. These are conducted by qualified nurses and councillors where blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, tuberculosis, BMI (Body Mass Index) and HIV/AIDS are tested.

Engen's Corporate Social Investment Manager, Mntu Nduvane says that the main aim of this initiative is to improve health through awareness. "Education helps to remind drivers and our employees why their health is important and how life choices impact on their well-being. Ultimately this increases their health, safety and productivity."

"There has been a marked increase in the



amount of individuals using the services we provide which is a clear indication that this intervention is making a difference to the well-being of drivers and will ultimately lead to a healthier industry," adds Nduvane.

"There has been a marked increase in the amount of individuals using the services..."

As testing is voluntary, the incremental acceptance of health management as a path

to longevity and well-being are important indicators that health empowerment is gaining traction. Given the long and lonely hours long haul drivers spend on the road and the stresses associated with the job, these interventions form a critical pillar of support.

"Our most recent statistics show how cholesterol screening jumped by 63% from 2014 to 2015. Glucose testing went up by 18.5% and 16% more drivers tested their Body Mass Index (BMI), while blood pressure screening also realised an increase of

16% for 2015. HIV and STI testing rose by 16% between 2014 and 2015 and TB Screening saw a 15% upsurge," added Nduvane.

Engen's focus on Health and Safety is aligned to its business. Health and Safety is entrenched in every aspect of the company's operations. World-class standards and guidelines govern all of Engen's practices in this regard and are applied vigorously to ensure operational excellence and best practice.

"Engen's Driver Wellness campaign continues to have a massive all-round impact. This includes both on the drivers and their families, who benefit from reduced exposure to diseases and greater longevity of a breadwinner, and of course on the company itself, in terms of improved worker productivity, skills retention and disease management," says Nduvane.

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New servo cables

AN important feature of servo cables is their low-capacitance and low-attenuation design as this enables them to bridge long distances without any loss of power. The two new cables are exemplary in this regard and were presented by LAPP at the SPS IPC Drives 2017 trade fair in Nuremberg.



ÖLFLEX® SERVO 7TCE: The servo cable is suitable for servo drives from many leading manufacturers and has UL TC-ER and Flexible Motor Supply listings. The internal structure is complex with a core insulation made of XLPE and an outer sheath made of a

special thermoplastic elastomer. This results in a low-capacitance design which enables large distances to be bypassed between the servo controller and the motor. The cable fulfils various requirements for oil resistance, flame retardance and UV resistance, all in accordance with North American standards.

ÖLFLEX® SERVO 728 CY: The shielded encoder cable is suit-

able for most analogue and incremental rotary encoders in servo drives from leading manufacturers. Its core insulation made of polypropylene has low attenuation and also enables large transmission distances. The shielded cable is oil-resistant and is therefore suitable for many mechanical engineering applications with fixed installation. Nevertheless, it is still thin and light.

Distell uses Goscor's Bendi to double warehouse capability

DISTELL, like many large distribution companies do at some time or another, was experiencing a serious warehousing space squeeze. To solve the problem there initially seemed to be two choices: to expand the footprint of the warehouse or raise the roof - both undesirable because of the high costs and significant disruption.

Then along came Goscor Lift Truck's Western Cape regional sales manager, Grant Laight, who proposed a solution: get some Bendi dual purpose, articulated, narrow aisle, forklifts and double

the warehouse capacity by halving the aisle widths from 4m to 2m.

"It seemed too good to be true at first," says Distell's procurement planning and logistics manager Janke Nussey. "We needed reassurance that the Bendis could work in very narrow aisles and less than ideal surface areas and we also wanted to ensure that they were reliable and productive machines. Although Goscor's reputation as a reliable supplier preceded them, we had to experience this for ourselves. It didn't take long for us to be reassured on all counts."



A Bendi articulated forklift at work in the Distell warehouse - the machines work equally well inside - in very narrow aisles - and outside.

She adds that not only have the Bendis enabled Distell's Adam Tas Dry Goods facility to double its warehouse space very economically, but the machines have also performed as expected and the service from Grant Laight and the entire Goscor team has been great. "Also, the promise that the Bendi machines would work equally well inside and outside has been fulfilled. This, in itself, adds to the overall cost-saving as we were able to optimise our existing forklift fleet and reduce double handling," Nussey says.

The ability of the Bendis to work both inside in very narrow aisles

(VNA) and outside is indeed a major advantage. The typical reach truck requires aisles of at least 2.5m to 4m for storage and racking, and typically have small, harder wheels and low ground clearance, making outdoor use impractical. But the Bendi, because of its unique counterbalanced design with large soft tyres and its ability to articulate, is able to operate outside like a common forklift truck and work inside in aisles that are much narrower and space saving.

"The fact is that even in widths of just 1m, the Bendi forklift helps the operator to work faster, safer and more accu-

rately and, in addition, we have seen over the years that racking damage is significantly less," Laight says. Distell acquired three Bendi B420s and the fourth one will be delivered shortly. "We modified the masts to fit into the Adam Tas building and used rear-wheel drive machines so they could work efficiently on the rough paved section outside and easily cope with the ramps into the building," says Laight.

He adds that two batteries were supplied with each Bendi and Goscor installed a full battery bay to guarantee the most productive operation.



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Cape property still looking vibrant

Continued from P1

At the time of going to press rumours were swirling around a possible transaction between Spear and property aligned investment company Trematon Capital.

Both companies issued cautionary notices to shareholders last month, and a possible deal might see Trematon sell part of its Western Cape-based property portfolio to Spearhead.

Then in a most surprising development the Stellenbosch-based PSS Group – best known for its investments in Capitec Bank and private education specialist Curro Holdings – has pitched for a big deal in the specialist property sector.

News last month was that PSG's investment arm PSG Alpha would invest R675 million in retirement villages developer and operator Evergreen Lifestyle in exchange for a commanding 50% share of the business.

Evergreen is part of the Amdec group

– best known in the Western Cape for the The Yacht Club development in Cape Town as well as the Val de Vie and Pearl Valley estates in Paarl.

Evergreen already has four existing retirement villages in operation in Cape Town - Muizenberg (218 units), Bergvliet (65 units), Diep River (57 units) and Lake Michelle (31 units).

New locations have already been found at Noordhoek (Cape Town) and Val die Vie.

Evergreen has set a three year target of nine operating villages with an asset value of around R7bn.

The five year target pencils in more than 20 villages with a gross asset value in excess of R20bn.

PSG Alpha CEO Nico de Waal stressed the company's investment mandate was to invest in and work with businesses that showed high growth potential for the future.

He said with this approach, PSG Alpha fo-

cussed on identifying suitable businesses for a long-term commitment - ones that we are confident will deliver satisfactory returns for shareholders".

"With its competitive advantage, intellectual capital and deep-rooted expertise in the retirement property development sector, Evergreen Lifestyle meets these criteria and is ideally positioned to entrench and grow its position as a leading provider in the retirement landscape in South Africa."

Evergreen Retirement Holdings CEO Arthur Casee pointed out that the company's offering stretched far beyond the stereotypical old-age home with its hospital-like atmosphere. "Ours is a hospitality-based approach, with resort-style facilities and amenities in all our villages, where you'll find vibrant communities of residents enjoying an active, independent retirement lifestyle. And when

the need arises we are able to match lifestyle to life stage with a range of care offerings to respond to the challenges of ageing."

Wilson said the participation of PSG Alpha was of great importance for Evergreen Lifestyle - accelerating the growth of the brand and allowing for the rapid development of the many other retirement villages currently in the planning stages. "The injection of capital means we can rapidly expand our offering from the current 500 homes, to approximately 3 000 homes over the next three years. We want to scale quickly because the numbers of middle- to upper-income retirees in South Africa are growing quickly, so not only does the demand for quality accommodation exist, but it is swiftly outstripping supply."

The property arm of empowerment group Hosken Consolidated Investments (HCI) is

also building up a head of steam. The group's recent annual report showed that the property arm – which was only started in 2013 – kicked in revenue of R470m.

And there's more to come...

HCI chairman Johnny Copelyn said the property division - together with the Berman Brothers Group (BBG) -acquired the 23 000 square metre retail and office complex at the Palms Lifestyle Centre in Woodstock, Cape Town in November last year.

"This strategic development opportunity acquired is positioned in a strong upcoming growth node in Cape Town and bodes well for the HCI/BBG partnership."

There's also been encouraging progress at Shell house, HCI's second inner city housing initiative. The property is now fully operational with 100% of the retail let and 40% of the 528 rental units let in the first

three months following completion.

Copelyn said the Whale Coast Village Mall (WCVM) in Hermanus - in conjunction with Checkers Limited - is under construction with the mall set to open in December. "The letting is satisfactory for the stage of the development. In time, the WCVM should follow similar trends to the Kalahari Village Mall in Kuruman - being the dominant mall in the region for many years to come."

Copelyn added that phase three of Westlake Extension development had broken ground.

"This 13 000 square metre joint venture development with Abland will be ready for beneficial occupation in May 2018."

Copelyn also indicated that ongoing town planning and pre-development processes were in progress for two further, well positioned, mixed-use sites in Sea Point.

R45 000 raised for new seabird hospital

THE South African plastics and packaging industries managed to raise an incredible R45 000 during the Propak Cape Exhibition by inviting companies and individuals to pledge funds for a much needed seabird hospital at SANCCOB's Cape Town centre.

Sincere thanks were offered to Nampak, Pailpac, Polyoak Packaging, Extrupet, Tetrapak, Polyco, Bené Water, SANBWA, PETCO and Gundle Plastics for pledging towards the SANCCOB Saves Seabirds Project. By purchasing a R50 raffle ticket on the stand, individuals could win one of two picnic tables made from recycled plastic, courtesy of Tufflex Plastic Products.

Francois Louw, Fundraising and Marketing Manager for SANCCOB, confirmed that the funds raised will help them take a big step towards reaching their target of R5 million needed for the new facility.

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INSOURCING-

CUTTING OFF YOUR NOSE TO SPITE YOUR FACE?

Universities in the Western Cape continue to face pressure from lobby groups and unions to dispense with the practice of outsourcing in favour of insourcing services. This not only poses a direct risk to companies operating in the Facilities Management arena who have invested millions into their people and the plant and equipment on these sites, but creates a logistical and financial headache for the institution as a result of increased costs.

These lobby groups argue that being employed by the universities means a higher minimum salary scale and in some cases the offer of free education for employee's children. There are no further grounds to support this argument, although opportunists link the movement to broader transformation issues and that of free education under the banner of #feesmustfall.

Counter arguments dictate that institutions have a duty to ensure that service providers operate within the law in terms of regulated salaries and that these service providers meet all Health and Safety requirements as a minimum. These issues can be managed through an effective Service Level Agreement (SLA).

While the demand for free education for the children of such employees appears attractive, it has already been acknowledged by these activists that very few of these children actually qualify for entry to universities. This argument will also become less relevant as the government implement more funding for qualifying students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Spitting into the wind?

Worldwide the trend of outsourcing in both private and public sectors have resulted in improved service levels and cost reductions. This is because these services have become professionalized through the application of technology and the development of staff expertise.

Issues affecting South African institutions are no different to those found internationally. Current challenges for ALL universities include competition for students, increasing tuition costs and aging facilities (source: JLL international report). In South Africa, add the reduction of government subsidies, transformation and student accommodation. Internationally there is a growing trend to turn to the private sector for non-core services as cost and efficiency benefits enable the preservation of resources allowing the university to focus on its students and academic programmes.

Outsourcing's win-win

Outsourcing of services not only improves the quality of the service while reducing the cost, but a further benefit is that it brings private sector expertise into the organization. As a client, you have the opportunity to invite your service providers to present to your internal FM team on a range of subjects such as trends in cleaning, water use, security, air-conditioning, energy management and a host of others. The service providers can then become a dynamic partner to the FM team and a symbiotic relationship develops because large campuses provide an opportunity for service providers to also pilot new ideas and products.

Embracing the outsourcing concept can lead to advantageous Public Private Partnerships (PPP's). An example could be the development of student housing on a design, build, operate and transfer model with no up-front university funding required. The private sector partner derives income from student rentals and possibly a small university subsidy. At the end of the 20 year period ownership of the facility is transferred to the university. These PPP models are well tested internationally and in South Africa within the Public Sector. International research shows this is fast becoming the financial model of choice.

PPP's for maintenance and capex

A case study on Samford University in Alabama, USA showed that partnering with a private sector company in campus wide conservation projects would result in savings of \$51 million over a 20 year period. The private sector invests in the upgrading of technology which sees the reduction in energy costs, water consumption and the overall carbon footprint and manages these initiatives. The costs of the projects are paid for through the energy savings achieved over the contract term. Such projects are available in South Africa and could include the replacement of chiller plants or the installation of power generation PV plants, LED lighting, smart building automation systems, energy efficient windows, rainwater harvesting and other innovative projects. A mindset shift to outsourcing means that university funds can be used on its core business while facilities management projects can be ring fenced through separate funding.

Insourcing's loose, loose

The downside to insourcing is illustrated in the UCT example, where according to the Vice-Chancellor, Max Price, "...there is no doubt that the insourcing project has added to the university's challenge of financial sustainability. We have budgeted for a once-off capital expenditure of R40m from our reserves and an annual recurrent operational cost of approximately R68m". A further question now that UCT have capitulated to the pressure of insourcing, is whether it will have the appetite to exploit the strategic benefits that outsourcing can provide in the future. Furthermore, the sustainability of university funding is brought into sharp focus...

Data optimization offers further benefits

A recent Frost & Sullivan report highlighted the need for FM data to be integrated into IT systems. By using facility analytics to achieve performance optimization through better networking of physical systems and predictive management, reduces the total cost of ownership. Partnering with technology vendors who take an integrated approach will make the technology experience seamless and supportive to the Facilities Managers. According to Frost & Sullivan the benefits of running an optimized facility far outweigh the perceived technical challenges. Achieving this on a university campus requires that vendors no longer work in silos but come together in a collaborative forum.

In my own experience, development and optimization projects are rolled out without any input from the vendor performing the day to day maintenance and management of the plant and equipment. Working closely with FM's in day-to-day use of dashboards, analytics, advanced diagnostics and trending, industry technology leaders are already demonstrating that the challenge is more notional or perception-oriented than deep-rooted.

Robots to the rescue!

Recently a company in Sweden introduced a cleaning robot at the Uppsala University Hospital in Sweden where it covers a daily routine in this 8 000 m² facility and all the information is stored in its memory. If it is unable to access an area, it will return later to clean the spot. According to the company who developed this product, "the technology is now so mature, that it can fulfill our high standards of cleaning; we are continually developing our cleaning services to make our work ever more ergonomic and economical. We assess how new technologies can contribute to those improvements. And when humans and machines work well together, we're able to raise our services to even higher levels". This is an example where

robotics changes traditional occupations and provides opportunities for staff to be upskilled and trained in this new technology. Institutions can only exploit this type cutting edge technology though collaboration and this means outsourcing.

The trend to reduce energy and therefore energy costs requires the collaboration with the private sector for the implementation of energy management systems and reduced resource consumption. To maintain performance criteria it is necessary to outsource the management and maintenance of these technologies to companies with the right expertise. We are already seeing project failures due to a disconnect between the initial project and the management through its life cycle. Sometimes the implementing department is not the operating department and in other cases the right expertise is not appointed to manage the project. This often happens when you are dependent on people as with an insource model as opposed to a service provider where the outcomes are managed through a SLA.

Institutions that fail to embrace outsourcing as a strategic tool to achieve best practices and cost efficiency risk being left behind in a fast changing facilities management environment. The focus on whether to outsource or not should be based on who can deliver the most effective results on a specific function rather than analyzing whether the function is core to the business. Today outsourcing is not only about reducing costs by reducing the number of permanent employees; it brings flexibility, reduces the need for training and development and gets you the best people in the field.

The politics of education in South Africa cannot be ignored. While the private sector has embraced outsourcing for the past 20 years as a strategic tool for business competitiveness, universities are highly politicized environments. What we need is more private sector engagement with those who advocate insourcing. It needs to be understood that all costs saving are diverted to the core mission of the institution – that of educating students.

Edward Hector has completed an MBA at Stellenbosch University with his research focusing on performance management in FM outsourcing. He also holds an MSc Real Estate from the University of Pretoria. He is a member of various industry bodies including SAFMA, BIFM and SAIRAC.



Share buy-backs and dividend stripping

By Graham Viljoen and Donald Fisher-Jeffes of Webber Wentzel

IN the 2017 Budget, delivered by the Minister of Finance, it was proposed that additional measures will be considered to circumvent transactions where investors choose to realise their share investments by means of having the shares they hold in a company bought back and characterised as a dividend, while being paid for by means of a new investor subscribing for shares in the same company.

This followed on the back of a similar announcement in 2016, where after no 2 specific countermeasures were introduced. The primary concern throughout this period being the structuring in and perceived abuse of the local resident company-to-company dividend exemption to facilitate tax neutral disposals of investments, without incurring either dividends tax or capital gains tax.

Concern has been raised that the local resident company-to-company dividend exemption additionally presents taxpayers with arbitrage opportunities through dividend stripping. The arbitrage is achieved through the declaration of extraordinary pre-sale dividends to a resident shareholder, which are exempt from tax. The effect thereof is to reduce the capital gains proceeds, which would otherwise have

arisen upon disposal of the shares. Section 22B and paragraph 43A of the Eighth Schedule were previously introduced into the ITA to mitigate this behaviour and already deem a pre-sale dividend to be as an amount of income or proceeds. These sections are however subject to a number of limitations, which focus on the manner in which the pre-sale dividends were funded, and in many instances these limitations are ineffective or circumnavigated.

To mitigate the perceived abuse of share buyback schemes as well as the limitations of the dividend stripping rules, the DTLAB proposes that any dividends received within 18 months must be included in income; or included as proceeds for capital gains tax purposes, where a person disposes of shares in another company and that company held a 'qualifying interest' in that other company, with such qualifying interest being defined to mean a direct or indirect interest held by a company in another company, whether alone or together with any connected persons in relation to that company, that constitutes

at least 50% of the equity shares or voting rights in that other company; or 20% of the equity shares or voting rights in that other company if no other person holds the majority of the equity shares or voting rights in that other company.

The amendments are currently very widely drafted and would appear to unintentionally deem a number of ordinary course transactions to be proceeds in the hands of the recipients. For example, the redemption of preference shares held by large shareholders and the distribution of in specie distributions, which would have al-

ready been subject to capital gains tax in the hands of the company. The deeming provisions also currently apply to shares and not only equity shares, as would be anticipated, which stretches its application far beyond the mischief which the legislation is intended to curb. The section is deemed to have come into operation on 19 July 2017, and applies in respect of any disposal on or after that date. While we anticipate the wide ambit of the amendments to be refined and narrow, it is not anticipated that the date of operation will be deferred.

Precision over long distances with Leuze

LEUZE distance sensors have a solid reputation for maximum accuracy over both small and large distances. These sensors are used everywhere geometric parameters such as height or width need to be determined and are characterised by high resolving capacity at high measurement rates.

The Leuze ODSL 30 is capable of measuring distances on black objects up to 30 metres away and on bright objects that are as far as 65 metres away. The sensor resolution of 1 mm facilitates highly accurate measurements with an accuracy ratio of +/-2 mm over the complete measurement range.

By automatic adjustment of the exposure time to the intensity of light, independence from the reflectivity



The Leuze ODSL 30 is capable of measuring distances on black objects up to 30 metres away and on bright objects that are as far as 65 metres away.

properties of an object can be achieved further ensuring the accuracy of the measurement values. The unit also has a referencing function which prevents fluctuations in measurement value.

The unit is equipped with an integrated display which shows the measurement values and this allows the sensor to be easily adapted to the

measurement application at hand.

The Leuze ODSL 30 has an integral key pad with an LCD display and the unit interfaces with analogue outputs, serial RS 232/485 interfaces and teachable switching outputs.

It is available from Countapulse Controls, southern African sensing solutions company.

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R 1 million raised for UNICEF

Continued from P1

additional R20 000 toys were donated on the night.

"We feel honoured to be a part of this extraordinary cause. In the world we live in, the 'your child is my child' approach has become extremely important.

We have a responsibility to protect and nurture our children and place their needs and development at the top of our list – it's absolutely crucial," said Henri van Wijk, managing director, Toy Kingdom South Africa.



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The Zest WEG Group, a subsidiary of leading Brazilian motor and controls manufacturer WEG, started out as a South African company and maintains its strong commitment to contributing to the development of the African region. By leveraging best practice

engineering and manufacturing capabilities, the group is able to offer a range of standard off-the-shelf products as well as end-to-end energy solutions.

An in-depth understanding of the requirements for HVAC applications, access to quality product solutions and years of experience have ensured that the Zest WEG Group service offering is fit-for purpose. From single product installations to individually customised solutions, which are application specific, the latest technology is used to ensure optimum performance and reliability without

compromising on energy efficiency. WEG products are engineered to facilitate a safe and reliable plant environment with operational stability and the highest possible production levels as an objective.

Reduced maintenance and ease of serviceability assist in lowering the total cost of ownership for operations. Supporting customers is key and the Zest WEG Group operates a strategically situated network of branches and distributors across the continent. This ensures the highest levels of technical support as well as easy access to product and parts.

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Rabie awarded SA's 300th green building certification



RABIE Property Group scooped the 300th green building certification at the Green Building Council of South Africa at the organisation's recent 10th annual convention at Century City.

Rabie received the latest award in the As Built category for its mixed use Century City Square development – the first mixed use development in South Africa to

achieve this. The Square was also the first mixed use development in Cape Town and the second country wide to be awarded Green Star accreditation for a mixed use development in the Design category.

Century City Square, which was also named the country's top mixed use development by the South African Property Owners Association for

2017, comprises a 1 900 seat Conference Centre over 20 venues, a 125 room hotel, 51 residential apartments, three office blocks, five restaurants and boutique retail and showrooms set around a public square. It is served by 1 330 parking bays situated in an adjoining structured parking garage and in a super parking basement. Rabie director Colin

Anderson told delegates to the 2017 Green Building Convention that they were very fortunate at Century City, particularly with the current water crisis, to have a dual water supply, namely potable and non-potable water.

He said treated effluent is pumped to Century City from the Potsdam Water Works where it undergoes some

further filtration and is then used for irrigation throughout Century City and for flushing toilets and in the AC cooling towers in many of the green developments that have come on stream in recent years.

"In fact close on 80% of all water consumed at Century City is from treated effluent."

Anderson said another sustainable engineering solution Century City has are its canals.

"All storm water which is collected from hard surfaces is cleaned and discharged into the canal system which then through some filtration dams further cleans and polishes the water. The canals are generally unlined therefore they recharge the water table before any excess storm water is discharged into the municipal storm water system."

He added that to date 296 commercial properties had received Green Star accreditation but only four residential buildings had so far been accredited.

"I certainly believe the industry needs to have a big marketing drive to prove to the residential market the need and benefit of sustainable Green Star accredited residential buildings."

Small target, big range



Easy solutions for difficult applications

IN special applications, the ifm magnetic sensors with these new targets offer long sensing ranges where other technologies reach their limits. In challenging applications, the combination of magnetic sensor and target can maximise performance.

Restricted space

New magnets with a small design offer easier mounting options in a machine, even where space is restricted, due to countersinks or a thread. Due to the new targets it is possible to double the M12 sensors' range while an enlargement of clear space between sensor and magnet provides a more flexible installation as well as an increased process safety.

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Versatile Magni additions to Eazi Access offer significant onsite benefits

WHEN every minute onsite needs to be maximised, it's vital to have the right equipment for the job. For Eazi Access, the material-handling machinery in its fleet not only does the work required but also enables productivity gains and cost savings.

"We are always looking for ways to provide safe and reliable work-at-height & material-handling solutions for our customers," explains John Maddern, Commercial Manager at Eazi Access. "Even though the Western Cape is rich in petrochemical and oil refineries, there are also a large number of registered surface mines, so we aim to find solutions that stretch across all industries."

Maddern says that JLG, Magni and Maeda's ongoing commitment to development and innovation is what makes these manufacturers ideal partners for the kind of solutions Eazi Access offers.

"Magni's range of high-capacity telehandlers has been a valuable addition to sites across South Africa. Now, in addition to conventional tyre clamps, Magni has developed several interchangeable attachments that we are using on our new 30t Magni HTH 30.12 handlers," he explains.

One of these is the new cylinder clamp, which Eazi Access recently demonstrated to customers. "We successfully trialled the cylinder clamps on a few sites earlier this year, and found them to be more cost effective, and safer, than traditional solutions," says Maddern. "Moreover, they have massive time-saving potential for the mining sector." The cylinder clamp has a capacity of 11t, opening measurements of 250 to 620 mm, clamp rotation of 344°, cylinder rotation of ±30°, a tilting angle of 90° and longitudinal safety clamps measuring from 2 760 mm to 5 800 mm.

Previously, using conventional solutions such as scaffolding or cranes to replace cylinders could take up to 48 hours. With a cylinder clamp, the same job can be done in 35 minutes.

"We are passionate about selling and renting machines that are versatile so that we can enable as much cost savings for our customers as possible. This is where the interchangeable attachments come in. It

takes just three minutes to take a handler from tyre rotation or conveyor-belt handling to cylinder handling – meaning you need only one machine to do the job of many."

Safety, Maddern stresses, is always the number-one priority

for any Eazi Access solution. "This is why we partner with the best suppliers in the world. One of our customers in the petrochemical industry has maintained a track record of 10 years of non-recordable cases since using our solutions – a difference

we are proud to have made," he concludes.

A 30t Magni HTH 30.12 telehandler equipped with a cylinder clamp attachment is proving to be a time-saving solution on South African mines.



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Mr Thierry Pimi,
Managing Director of
Cummins Southern
Africa.

Cummins to build state-of-the-art premises at Waterfall Logistics Precinct

CUMMINS Southern Africa is to relocate its Southern Africa Distribution Business to Waterfall Logistics Precinct - Gauteng's new innovative work, live and play destination in Waterfall. The new premises will form part of the Waterfall connected hub which

offers a fully integrated lifestyle that embraces the ultimate work-life balance

"Today we celebrate the start of the journey towards our new offices as we break ground for construction to commence. Our relocation to Waterfall Logistics Precinct is of critical im-

portance to our business as it positions us at the epicentre of Gauteng's most dynamic and strategically located business hub. The Waterfall Logistics Precinct environment aligns with the importance Cummins places on work-life balance that we encourage for our employees,"

said Thierry Pimi, MD of Cummins Southern Africa.

The new premises, developed in line with Waterfall's sustainability approach and principles, will include the Cummins Southern Africa Regional Operations, the Master Rebuild Centre,

the current Cummins Longmeadow Branch and the Technical Training Centre; and will boast spacious premises of approximately 15 355 m². The long-awaited state-of-the-art building is due for completion in October 2018 and the various operations will occupy

the building in stages until full occupancy is achieved in early 2019.

Office space will be designed to accommodate different preferred work styles of employees, aligned to the Cummins Smart Office Standards, whilst ensuring individuals and teams enjoy access to space and tools to ensure maximum productivity. The workshop and warehouse facilities' layouts will accommodate the flexibility required to adjust to market trends and future growth. The equipment will be best in class to ensure professional deliverables.

Waterfall Logistics Precinct's central location in relation to Pretoria, Johannesburg and Sandton, as well as its proximity to major highways, transport nodes, and the Gautrain Station, makes it an ideal location for businesses looking for safe working premises and an appealing working environment.

Cummins Southern Africa is headquartered in Johannesburg, with wholly owned branches in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The company also enjoys a wide range of dealer networks in support of its widespread Southern Africa footprint.

Sister station for Koeberg?

THE Department of Environmental Affairs has granted Eskom environmental authorisation for the construction and operation of a nuclear power station at Duynefontein in the Western Cape.

The Environmental Authorisation was granted earlier this month based on the fact that the Duynefontein site generally has less overall environmental impacts associated with it relative to impacts associated with the development of a "greenfields" site.

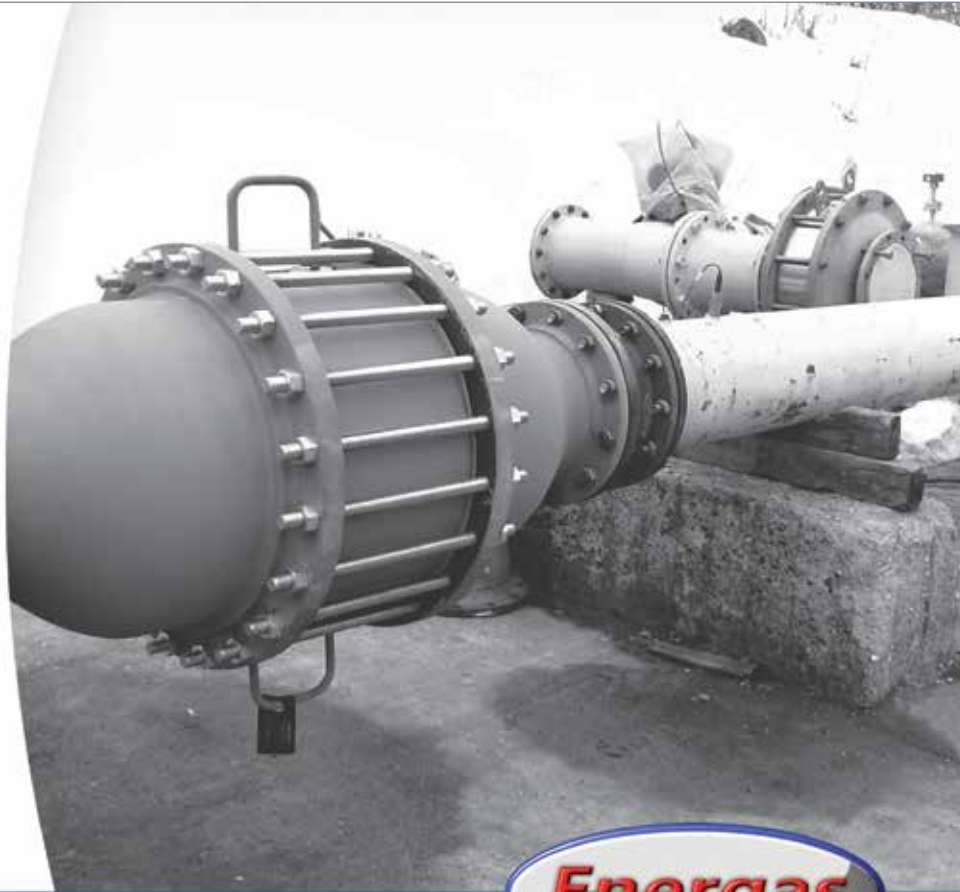
The Department said the Duynefontein site was also adjacent to the existing Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, allowing for a suite of logistical and operational synergies.

Eskom lodged an application for environmental authorisation in 2007 and commissioned independent environmental consultancy, Gibb, to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the project.

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How industry benefits from digital mobile solutions

THE networking of people, processes, machines, and systems will not just shape the markets of the future — it is the biggest challenge and opportunity of today's world. Companies that make use of the possibilities of digitalization will benefit from more effective production, work, and maintenance processes, as well as streamlined decision-making processes and higher margins. However, to exploit the productivity and profitability made possible by Industry 4.0, no single component is crucial; rather, an integrated, compatible portfolio of solutions based around the networked "mobile worker." At the Hannover Messe in hall 9, stand D76, ecom, a manufacturer of explosion-protected mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, handhelds, and peripherals—and a part of the Pepperl+Fuchs Group since 2017—will be presenting its comprehensive Mobile Worker Concept alongside a large selection of hardware and partner-software products for industrial companies.

The newest devices for use in Zone 1/21, the world's first and only explosion-protected 4G/LTE Android tablet Tab-Ex® 01, the first and only 4G/LTE Android smartphone Smart Ex® 01, plus the Windows Tablet PC and Desktop expansion Pad-Ex® 01, connect mobile users with the control center and back-end systems. These devices mean that a variety of powerful applications can be used anywhere on-site as well as in explosion-hazardous areas. Professional software solutions for data acquisition such as the ecom CamScan Keyboard app allow users to increase the quality of data acquisition. Designed especially for frequent scans and for scans from a distance, ecom offers various hardware-based solutions from the barcode/RFID reader Ident-Ex® 01 to the intrinsically safe PDA i.roc® Ci70 -Ex. ecom has also taken advantage of new fields of innovation through beacon technology. The Loc-Ex® 01 BLE Beacons, which were developed especially for explosion-hazardous areas, are used together with mobile devices, resulting in an innovative business-intelligence and localization solution.

Oil and gas to fuel West Coast growth

THE oil and gas sector is the fastest growing in South Africa, and a slew of recent announcements show that the vision for the Saldanha Bay is already bearing fruit.

A month ago, it was announced that Royal Bafokeng Holdings is involved in two oil and gas projects in Saldanha Bay that could total an outlay of more than R4 billion.

Phase 1 of the Sunrise Energy liquid petroleum gas import facility terminal, costing R1 billion, was officially launched in August this year. According to CEO Pieter Coetzee the next two phases would cost R200 million each, while a road-to-rail facility would be around R50 million. Royal Bafokeng CEO Albertinah Kekana said Sunrise Energy's LPG import and storage terminal was the largest in Africa.

Royal Bafokeng's second Saldanha project is a R2,6 billion oil tanking venture, already under construction and due for completion by 2019. Kekana said: "When completed, it will be the only dedicated oil facility in Africa."

Wesgro recently announced that the oil and gas sector of the Western Cape economy had sustained 7 120 direct jobs, and 6 120 indirect jobs in the province as of 2015

and added R1,5 billion to the provincial economy in 2015.

MEC for Economic Opportunities Alan Winde noted that Saldanha Bay was at the heart of this success and is currently servicing 82% of the market in South Africa, its proximity to the Angolan and other oil fields being a factor in its favour.

Mozambique's oil fields provide further potential. Laura Peinke, Executive: Business Development and Saldanha Bay Special Development Zone noted that "A recent report by Wood Mackenzie reported that more than 15 major upstream projects have reached final investment decision stage in 2017 to date, one of which is the Coral FLNG project by ENI in Mozambique."

Niall Kramer, Chief Executive Director of the South African Oil and Gas Alliance (SAOGA) said, they were meeting with at least two international investors on a monthly basis while Winde confirmed that SAOGA and the Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) were hosting more than four interested delegations a quarter. "Most recently, a French delegation of maritime companies met with local companies to explore partnership opportunities and areas

of growth in projects such as port infrastructure and specialist fabrication," he said.

Saldanha has of course long attracted a variety of businesses, with the oil and gas players the latest to take advantage of being located in a port larger than those of Durban, Cape Town, Richard's Bay and Port Elizabeth combined.

Leading compressor and generator hire company, Rand-Air recently opened a branch in the IDZ, and with Saldanha Bay the only dedicated iron ore export facility in South Africa, the Sishen/Kolomela-Saldanha iron ore export channel sees trains pulling 342 wagons of iron ore arriving every nine hours. The ore is loaded onto ships waiting at the ore quay or stockpiled at ArcelorMittal.

Wesgro estimates that the Saldanha Bay IDZ has the potential to contribute 86% to the gross geographic product (GGP) of the Western Cape, creating around 12 000 new jobs.

Last year, Standing Committee Chairperson on Econ Development, Tourism & Agriculture Beverley Schäfer said, "The development of the SB IDZ forecasts R53,4bn cumulative contribution to the WC GGP by the end of 2020, with an approx. R8,2bn in cumulative taxes back



to the national fiscus."

The impact on the area is already being felt, with property prices and rental demand in the area soaring. According to Lew Gefen Sotheby's International Realty, house sales between 2013 and 2016 "showed an increase of nearly 300% (291,92%) in Saldanha alone". And positive effects are expected to be experienced in neighbouring towns too, for example the popular holiday town of Langebaan, 20 km from Saldanha.

Says Dries Venter, Langebaan Ward Councillor: "The development of the IDZ in Saldanha will have a direct impact on Langebaan by inter alia stimulating housing demand and posi-

tively impacting on the tourism and leisure sectors. Increases in possibly higher guest-house occupancies and support for restaurants and retail will result in balancing out economic activity all year round. Businesses will no longer be reliant on the festive season, Easter and school holidays. This will all have a positive multiplier effect on job creation and the growth of Langebaan, which will hopefully attract further services to support the growing population."

Langebaan is well equipped to serve the expected boom, with facilities such as the 18-Hole Gary Player Design's Black Knight golf course and a host of other facilities offered at the Langebaan

Country Estate.

"The IDZ in Saldanha has already impacted businesses in Langebaan – we've seen a definite increase in accommodation, conferencing and leisure interest from businesses there, and are enjoying introducing our new neighbours to our beautiful corner of the West Coast," says Kate Richardson, Langebaan Country Estate Marketing Manager. "It's not surprising really, we have a great offering here and we're just half an hour from Saldanha. Once the IDZ is at full capacity, the spin offs for Langebaan will provide even more business and thus job opportunities for the whole area. It's a very exciting time."

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18 m-high cold storage installation

APC Storage Solutions SA recently completed a mobile storage system installation in a Greenfield multi-temperature, multi-chamber cold storage facility for Durban-based company, Idube Cold Storage. The internal height of the cold storage facility required some planned ingenuity from APC Storage Solutions SA, which resulted in elevating a casting wiring harness to conduct the roof installation. It is the first time in South Africa that a storage system has been installed this way.

Situated in the Dube Trade Port at King Shaka International Airport in KwaZulu-Natal, Idube provides

cold storage facilities for importers and exporters of perishable goods. To ensure adequate storage capacity across varying temperatures in the 4 700 m² cold store, the facility was divided into three cold chambers, in which the storage solution would be installed.

The contract included the complete design, supply and installation of storage systems for the three cold chambers and all associated electronics that facilitate mobile operations. APC Storage Solutions SA installed Mecalux Movirack® mobile storage solution, designed to enable increased storage by eliminating aisle space. The cold



One of the chambers inside Idube's 4 700 m² cold store. The installation of the storage system from APC Storage Solutions SA enables Idube to store 12 000 tons of frozen product across all three chambers.

storage facility is approximately 50% deeper than other similar facilities in South Africa, which means the number of

bays usually used is almost doubled. The result is an 8 500 hi-cubed capacity mobile storage system across three chambers certified to carry 1.4 tons per pallet space. This means the cold storage facility is now capable of storing 12 000 tons of frozen product.

The 18 metre-high roof installation necessitated drilling from the bottom. Using specialised equipment, like scissor jacks for example, APC Storage Solutions SA elevated a casting wiring harness which enabled them to conduct the installation from the roof down. "This is the first

time in South Africa that a storage system installation has been conducted in this way," says Fred Albrecht, managing director of APC Storage Solutions SA. Although using equipment for rigging in lieu of manual handling is one of APC Storage Solution SA's hallmarks, and the only storage solutions company in South Africa to do so. "This is because the Mecalux brand we distribute and install, among other reasons, means we adhere to European safety regulations which necessitates minimal manual handling procedures," Albrecht explains.

One of the cold chambers is used specifically to handle drums for export and designed so that drum temperatures can be reduced in short times, similarly to that of a blast freezer. To ensure the storage system could accommodate the export drums it was specifically designed to contain 1,2 X 1,2 metre type M pallets.

"APC Storage Solutions SA carried out their scope of work among some trying working conditions," says Idube's Chief Operating Officer HOFFIE Rautenbach. "In addition to Idube being one of the highest storage facilities accommodating uniquely massive loads, other contractors were onsite restricting the movement usually required for an installation of this nature. Additionally, APC Storage Solutions SA began their scope of work in advance of the electrical lighting installations and still managed to complete the project in time and to spec."

APC Storage Solutions SA concluded the installation within the allocated two month period, completing its scope of work well in

advance of other contractors. To achieve this, the company's personnel worked throughout the December holiday period, closing only for the four religious holidays over the year-end break.

"We selected APC Storage Solutions SA after a rigorous tender process," Rautenbach concludes, "with selection based on reputation, international experience, pricing and their high quality storage solutions. As the purpose of our facility is to provide a world class service to importers, exporters and local producers of perishable products, which can only be achieved with world class facilities, we are now certain we made the correct choice in selecting APC Storage Solutions SA for our storage system requirements."

Training on the operations of systems for semi-automated storage solutions as well as maintenance training, incorporating the EU Harmonised Standards, was conducted for Idube personnel and APC Storage Solutions SA provides customer support throughout the year, 24 hours a day.

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don't compete, supply chains do. This course explains what supply chain design is and provides insights on how to design supply chains to give them competitive advantages over competing supply chains.

This course will also examine the Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) process used to reduce supply chain vulnerability by identifying and managing risks within the supply chain and external to it.

This free online Diploma course will be of great interest to all professionals who work in the areas of operations management, logistics, procurement and information technology, and to all learners who are interested in developing a career in the area of supply chain management.

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Switchgear solution at DRC mine



The fully withdrawable circuit breakers and voltage transformers (VTs) make the design ideal for a container, while also improving the ease of maintenance of the circuit breakers and VTs.

LEVERAGING the advantages of a containerised solution, Zest WEG Group company Shaw Controls has provided an optimal medium voltage switchgear solution for the supply of power at a copper mining project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“Our engineers provided an innovative design solution...”

The WEG MTW05 MV switchgear, the first to be supplied by Shaw Controls into a mining project in Africa, was installed at the Kamoakakula project in the DRC's Katanga province, located 25 km west of Kolwezi and 270 km west of the provincial capital of Lubumbashi.

“Our engineers provided an innovative design solution to incorporate the switchgear into a standard 12 metre container, which is more cost effective than fabricating an E-house from scratch,” says Kirk Moss, medium voltage manager at Shaw Controls. “The dimensions of a container make it far easier to transport and to install on site, giving the customer a convenient ‘plug and play’ solution.”

The design was able to fit a 31,5 KA withdrawable metal-clad board into a containerised solution, with innovations that allow back access without compromising on the available space.

“The fully withdrawable circuit breakers and voltage transformers (VTs) make the design ideal for a container, while also improving the ease of maintenance of the circuit breakers and VTs,” says Moss.

The WEG switch-

gear offers a number of features that are particularly advantageous. For instance, the panel has an arc resistant design with internal arc classification (IAC) of BF ALR 31,5 kA for one second. This is a major safety related feature which not only ensures safer working conditions for personnel but reduces the amount of personal protective equipment they require when working on the system. “Safety is always paramount in the engineering of solutions by Shaw Controls, and this one is no different,” he says. “In the case of an arc explosion, the gases are vented through an internal tunnel running the length of the board. This way, the gases can be ducted out of the sub-station, further enhancing safety. It also means that little clear-

ance is required above the panel, which saves space.”

The panel also boasts a short-time withstand rating of up to 31,5 kA for three seconds, a considerably high fault level for a panel of this size. The range of WEG MTW05 panels is available in voltages of up to 17,5 kV and currents of up to 2 500 Amps.

The full containerised solution was manufactured at Shaw Controls' 12 000 square metre facility at Robertsham in Johannesburg, which is manned by a team of skilled technical personnel. A full factory acceptance test was conducted at the company's premises prior to its dispatch to the mine; with its ‘plug and play’ design, the installation was able to be easily conducted by the mine itself.

Maintain your generator for optimum ROI

SMITH Power Equipment (SPE), distributors of the well-known range of Kipor generators, says that one of the problems in the industry is that because of the intermittent nature of loadshedding owners are not servicing their generators properly.

“This can have a serious effect on the longevity of the product,” says Tom Bloom, General Manager Construction Equipment division of SPE. “Even if you are only using your generator a few times a year, you should execute according to the prescribed maintenance plan in order to get the best return on your investment. We also find that unfortunately a generator is often out of sight and out of mind and when its needed there is often a problem due to lack of maintenance.” he says.

Firstly, part of the maintenance plan is to ensure that your generator is in the right location and the following should be taken into account:

- Generators produce poisonous gases which need to be expelled outdoors, hence they should be installed outdoors, under a roof, or in a room with good ventilation.
- A generator needs to have a good airflow to ensure it



does not overheat, hence the roof should not be too low and the area should be well ventilated, making sure all gases are extracted.

- To be able to get at the generator for maintenance purposes, it needs at least 1 meter on each side for easy access.
- The generator should be positioned close to the

distribution board to cut installation costs, with relation to cable costs.

Secondly, remember always that servicing and maintenance is not time consuming and expensive - on the contrary! They save you time and money significantly in the long run. Remember the following:

- A generator like a motor vehicle needs to be serviced regularly to prolong

its life. The first service should take place after 50 hours and at least once annually or every 250 hours. Please read the operators manual for service intervals or ask your local Kipor dealer for advice.

- Only a qualified technician should perform services to ensure the integrity and life-span of your investment.
- Before you purchase a generator, find out whether it comes with an effective warranty that will be honoured should you have a problem
- Also make sure that spares for your generator are readily available, and that the company has qualified technicians available to fit the respective parts.

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A LICENCE TO PRINT MONEY?

While 50 may not be old for a tree or even a human for that matter, it is a huge milestone for a business. Most businesses fail to reach 10 years old, let alone 50 and changes in ownership are not always conducive to better results. And then there's selecting the time to pull out, sell out or hand over to a successor.

BEING PART OF THE REVOLUTION

It's a fact that many well-known printing works have gone to the wall or are up for sale, but the number of magazines and newspapers has actually increased rather than decreased in the face of the IT revolution. But it's the nature of the business has changed and being ahead of the curve has meant the companies such as RSA Litho, who celebrate their 51st year in business in 2017, have not only survived but prospered handsomely.

But it takes foresight and acumen to predict the curve and future directions and that requires a special breed of entrepreneur – enter Ryno Kotze and Nigel Schuller, a partnership that acquired RSA Litho 10 years ago after the original owner retired.

PASSION AND TECHNOLOGY

Driven by their passion for printing, having the latest technology and knowing their customers caused the pair to get rid of the four year old machine – something that raised eyebrows amongst competitors – and invest R10-million in the latest (then) Manroland 500 5-colour machine with coater. Simultaneously an upgraded MIS and JDF (Job Definition Format) workflow was implemented, which coupled with the 18 000 sheets / hour press, dramatically increased the firms productivity, cutting set A licence to print money? While 50 may not be old for a tree or even a human for that matter, it is a huge milestone for a business.

Most businesses fail to reach 10 years old, let alone 50 and changes in ownership are not always conducive to better results. And then there's selecting the time to pull out, sell out or hand over to a successor.



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ANOTHER MULTI-MILLION RAND INVESTMENT

Fast forward to today and Ryno and Nigel have just made a R30-million investment in the latest Manroland 700 Evolution Direct Drive which will be fully operational by the beginning of November. This machine is even faster cutting traditional set up times by 80% and handling A1 sheets at an astonishing rate of 5 per second!, Wastage and water consumption is down also and far from reducing staff, the expansion of the business has led to a tenfold increase in personnel. From just a 400 m2 operation in 2006 RSA Litho now has more than 3000 m2 under roof.

“The Manroland machines have revolutionised the business” said Ryno. “Being able to provide customers with their jobs in super quick time with outstanding quality is the key. “Coupled to that is the ability to do short runs profitably with the flexibility to handle virtually any and all types of printing, from hardback books to election posters to product packaging” explained Ryno.

“These features appeal to customers – more magazines then ever appear on the shelves catering for special interest, that was never the case before, but the difference is that the print runs are shorter. Book publishers can now order just a few hundred copies of the latest novel and test the market appetite without committing to printing

thousands of copies at risk. It’s changed the world of publishing and encouraged the authors to, who have less commercial obstacles to overcome as risks have been reduced.

Staying ahead of the curve is the way forward and not getting locked in to redundant technology is paramount. Its easy and comfortable to stay with systems you know but unless you continually invest in technology, by being able to offer the customer a better product, you are bound to fail in this business” he concluded.



From left. Nigel Schuller Director and Ryno Kotze Managing Director at RSA Litho.

“The Manroland machines have revolutionised the business” said Ryno. “Being able to provide customers with their jobs in super quick time with outstanding quality is the key...”

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The new application packages for food and beverage

ENDRESS+Hauser application packages, made up of process photometers and Memosens sensors on the Liquiline CM44P, provide simple recipes for success when conducting familiar measuring tasks in the food and beverage industry.

The Liquiline CM44P finally makes it possible to use Endress+Hauser process photometers in conjunction with Memosens sensors on a single transmitter. This reduces costs and saves space. It also makes installing and operating the process photometer easier thanks to the familiar simplicity of Liquiline operation.

Moreover, these application packages offer a full spectrum of digital communication, such as fieldbus and Ethernet IP. All of the sensors are CIP resistant and hold the required certificates. This makes them ideal for use in the food and beverage industry. CPA875 Varivent couplings and retractable assemblies allow for hygienic installation in industrial systems. This



means that all of the requirements are met in order to offer customers maximum reliability for their processes and in doing so contributes to flawless product quality for milk, beer and similar products.

CIP control / phase separation

Optimisation of the CIP-process: Monitoring both suspended solids and conductivity serves to have full insights in the CIP-process, improving both cost and time. Is product, water or cleaning medium actually flowing through the pipes? OUSAF11 and CLS54D helps to detect the phase separation in many products:

milk, cream and yeast for example.

Benefits include:

- Less costs: Avoiding product losses
- Fast and early detection of product overload in the cleaning medium
- Product safety: Fast detection of incidents, Glass-free sensor
- Less wastewater contamination, less damage to the environment

Filtration /separation control

Quality comes first: The control of turbidity and dissolved oxygen in filtration processes makes sure no filter

breakthrough or oxidation takes place.

Customers can expect:

- Cost savings: Early leakage detection to avoid downtime
- Process optimisation: ensure maximum service life of the filter
- Quality control of product and process through precise measurement of low particle concentration and oxygen content

Quality check before filling of beverages

Accurate distinction between different drinks: Have all quality relevant measured values available at a glance: color, dissolved oxygen and pH.

- Enhanced product quality: detect any intrusion of O₂ to avoid oxidation in order to ensure shelf life and product taste
- Enhanced safety: no product loss due to wrong bottling.

Is SA's most precious fruit export slowing down?

THE devastating drought, characterised by the lowest rainfall since 1904 and a sharp fall in dam levels during the 2015/16 production season has caused a 21% drop in the production of South Africa's most precious fruit export – oranges. There is however a lot more that is impacting this fruit than just the recent drought.

Oranges are by far the most precious of the important fruit industry in South Africa. In the 2016/17 season in a year in which the drought was at its peak saw the total gross producer value for oranges reach R9,29 billion with earnings from exports accounting for 91% of the total production, at R8,47 billion.

“Diseases are the real challenge for the industry. South Africa's main export destination, the European Union where the Citrus Black Spot (CBS) is considered a quarantine pest, has caused consternation between the two trading partners. Another disease is Navel splitting; it has affected the Western Cape so much so that exports there have reportedly dropped by about 17% to 20%. This raised demand for navels from other regions of South Africa particularly at the time when the export market was particularly strong in the EU, the Far East, Russia, and the Middle East,” says



Paul Makube, Senior Agricultural Economist at FNB.

The European market is the leading destination for South African oranges, accounting for about 36% of total orange exports, followed by the Middle East with a share of 25% and the South-East Asian market at 12%. It therefore goes without saying that a decrease in this sector carries far reaching consequences.

“Producers have started to switch to soft citrus, which in the longer term may eventually lower the status of oranges as the leading fruit in terms of production and being the export leader in terms of fruit in South Africa,” says Makube. At the moment, the

weather has turned positive, during the rainfall season of 2016/17 and the outlook so far indicates that we are likely to have a normal to above normal rainfall during the 2017/18 crop season.

“This does not suggest that orange production is at its death bed, it is still a long way as it currently accounts for 63% of the total hectares under citrus.

Outside the concerns, the current weather augurs well for the recovery in orange production with a rebound in volumes for the export market. When that is offset by the relatively weaker rand exchange rate, it is most likely to boost export revenue,” concludes Paul.

Maiden Cabernet Franc named Red Wine Discovery of the Year

GABRIËLSKLOOF Estate is rapidly gaining international recognition for its Landscape Series, a collection of superlative wines that shows the very essence of its vineyards and diversity of the Overberg terroir, with the latest nod of approval com-

ing from respected UK Master of Wine Tim Atkin. In the 2017 Tim Atkin South Africa Special Report the maiden Gabriëlskloof Landscape Series Cabernet Franc 2015 not only scored an impressive 96/100 points, but was also

named Red Wine Discovery of the Year.

Made from a single vineyard, the maiden Gabriëlskloof Landscape Series Cabernet Franc 2015 is supple and beautifully integrated with hints of plums, black cherries and just a light pepperness.

named Red Wine Discovery of the Year.

Made from a single vineyard, the maiden Gabriëlskloof Landscape Series Cabernet Franc 2015 is supple and beautifully integrated with hints of plums, black cherries and just a light pepperness.

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Bird flu hits chicken layer flock; import of eggs considered

THE outbreak of bird flu has already wiped out more than 15% of South Africa's layer hens with the prospect of hefty price increases due to the resultant shortage in table eggs.

According to Dr Charlotte Nkuna, interim CEO of the South African Poultry Association (SAPA), the estimate is that more than 4 million chickens have been or are in the process of being culled. "This includes almost 4 million layers, 360 000 broiler breeders and just over 31 000 layer breeders," she said. The layer flock stood at about 24 million before the outbreak of the bird flu. Nkuna added that more than 23 commercial farms have already been affected.

Agricultural economist, Prof Johan Willemse said that the shortage of table eggs could lift prices by 15% to 20%. "Furthermore, as things stand, it can take anything from one to two years for the layer flock to return to levels they were before the bird flu outbreak, which means a prolonged shortage of eggs," Willemse said.

Nkuna said the recovery depends on how quickly the chicken farmers are willing to risk repopulating. "We anticipate that it will take an average of six months

for the farms to be repopulated, some maybe sooner and others preferring to wait a bit longer. This also depends on the available funds to be able to buy the replacement stocks," she added.

According to Nkuna, there are some that are considering importing table eggs. However, the cost of air transport makes it somewhat uneconomical. "And, if the cheaper option of sea freight is considered, the time it takes to transport by sea will make it very difficult to get the eggs to South Africa within the prescribed shelf life." Willemse said imports are problematic because of eggs being such fragile produce.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8 in chickens was detected in South Africa for the first time in late June in Mpumalanga, but has since spread to other provinces including the Western Cape, Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, the Free State and the Eastern Cape.

Liana Steenkamp from agricultural group Laeveld Agrochem said the H5N8 strain, which is usually spread by wild birds, does not pose a direct threat to humans.

Steenkamp added that the producers of chicken and eggs have had a torrid time in recent years. "First we had higher feed prices the



last two seasons because of the drought, followed by the increased import of chicken. And now the devastating impact of the highly contagious H5N8 bird flu."

According to Steenkamp, the virus will also have a negative impact on the animal feed sector. Based on figures from the Animal Feed Manufacturers Association, almost 65% of last year's animal feed sales went to the poultry industry. The mass culling of laying hens will also affect South Africa's export of table eggs to neighbouring countries like Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Direct job losses due to the bird flu have already risen above 1 000, with further losses expected in secondary sectors.

The Western Cape Government said last week that the outbreak in the province has already led to the culling of 2,4 million layers and 73 000 breeder birds.

and 27,5% of all animal products. Approximately 76% of the birds in the South African poultry industry are used for meat production, while the remaining 24% are used in the egg industry.

Data from SAPA shows that more poultry products are consumed every year than all the other animal protein sources combined. The South African poultry industry last year provided 63,1% of animal protein (excluding milk) consumed in the country.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' data shows that the per capita consumption of poultry meat and eggs in 2016 stood at 39,04 kg and 7,89 kg respectively, with a combined per capita consumption of 46,93 kg. Per capita consumption of beef, pork, and mutton and goat were 19,47 kg, 4,69 kg, and 3,40 kg respectively.

Alan Winde, the Western Cape's Minister of Economic Opportunities, said the disease was spreading rapidly despite increased control measures.

According to SAPA, South Africa's broiler and egg producers, in rand terms, make up the largest segment of South Africa's agricultural sector, contributing 18% of all agricultural production and 39% of all animal products in 2016. The beef sector is the nearest competitor, contributing 12,7% to the turnover of all agricultural production

Eikendal Vineyards scores big with Tim Atkin

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed wine critic, Tim Atkin, British Master of Wine (MW), has released his annual 2017 South Africa Special Report, awarding Medals of Excellence to the best South African wines as rated according to international standards. Eikendal Vineyards' wines received top honours again with the yet to be released and much anticipated Cabernet Franc 2015 and the flagship Bordeaux-style blend, Classeque 2015, excelling with 95/100 points.

The popular Chardonnay 2015 – a unique Shiraz, Petit Verdot and Sangiovese blend – was awarded 94/100, followed by the Cabernet Sauvignon 2015, Chardonnay 2015, Merlot 2015 and Pinotage 2016 all clinching 93/100 points. The Sauvignon Blanc 2016



scored 91/100, bringing Eikendal's tally to an astounding eight wines scoring more than 90/100 – by all accounts a phenomenal achievement.

"It is the result of hard work, a dedicated team and a total commitment to excellence in our vineyards, our cellar and ultimately our wines that speak of the freshness and finesse we consistently strive for," says Eikendal Cellarmaster Nico Grobler.

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Atlas Copco liquid ring vacuum pumps - plug-and play solutions

THE tough construction and proven operating principle of AWS, AWD & AWL liquid ring vacuum pumps from Atlas Copco make them suitable for use in the most demanding of environments across all sectors, from food processing and petrochemical to construction. Pre-engineered and fully assembled plug-and-play solutions, with one or two stages, in three different standard configurations, these pumps deliver resource-conserving plug-and-play solutions that save costs and improve productivity for end-users.

Liquid ring pumps are equipped with a fixed blade impeller located eccentrically within a cylindrical casing. As the impeller rotates, liquid (usually water) is thrown out by centrifugal force to form a liquid ring around the circumference of the casing, sealing the tips of the impeller and creating separate enclosed gas chambers between each blade. As a result of the eccentric position of the impeller, these chambers vary in volume as the shaft ro-

tates, having the effect of drawing in and compressing process gas.

The AWS and AWD vacuum pump series are offered in three pre-engineered modular configurations designed for once-through, partial recirculation or total recovery of the service water. Atlas Copco offers all three configurations as pre-fabricated plug-and-play modules, including pump, motor and water recirculation system mounted on a compact skid. In most cases all wetted system components are manufactured from stainless steel.

The module with the simplest design is the once-through pump which consists of a pump with electric motor, drive system and skid. It is ideal for installations with an adequate supply of site water available which can then be continuously drained from the pump for re-use. The pumping system adds no contaminants to the service water other than those coming from the process.

In the case of partial recovery, the discharge liquid-process gas mixture is collected in a vessel where it is mixed with

fresh sealing liquid to ensure a constant temperature in the pump. Excess liquid is released from the system via an overflow. Compared with once-through operation, this mode of operation typically saves 50% of the fresh water required.

With total recovery, liquid savings of up to 95% are possible. The recovered liquid is cooled via a high efficiency heat exchanger before being returned to the pump chamber. This configuration works with a closed liquid cycle and is recommended because it physically separates the cooling water circuit from possible process contaminants.

Capacities range from 170 to 37,500 m³/h. Lower capacity (below 5500m³/h) units are available as single-stage AWS models or two-stage AWD models preconfigured with direct-drive options in 50 and 60Hz speeds. Single stage AWS pumps have outstanding efficiency above 200mbar, making them ideal for general process applications such as filtration and dewatering, and pump down or evacuation duties.

Focus on food waste

SCIENTIFIC studies about food wastage conducted over the past few years in South Africa, reveal a startling series of facts. The total cost to the fiscus amounts to a staggering R60,5 billion. Leading the way are fruit and vegetables, followed by cereals, breads, cakes and pastries, then comes dairy products and finally, meat, poultry and fish.

Food wastage isn't only about what we throw away in our refuse bins. It's more about what is wasted during and after agricultural production, storage; manufacturing, packaging, distribution and consumption. The largest wastage occurs in food distribution, around R25 billion per annum. Processing and packaging account for over R18,6 billion and actual agricultural production in the region of R15,5 billion. Therefore to meet the challenge of food wastage and to ensure food security in this region massive reductions across the food supply chain are urgently required.

Major retailers spend much effort on optimising shelf life thereby cutting down on wast-

age. But are they doing enough and are they concentrating their efforts on educating both suppliers and consumers? Perhaps not!

Here are some suggestions worth considering. During distribution the use of thermally insulated pallet covers or rolltainer covers for perishable items from the distribution centre to the store is of great assistance. They ensure that the temperature of the goods is maintained even if the doors of the vehicle are opened regularly. The trucks used for such transport can have an air cleaning device such as a Bluezone™ unit fitted. This radically reduces contaminants such as mould spores, ethylene, carbon monoxide and much more. Such contaminants are

all pollutants which adversely affect the shelf life of fresh produce.

Maintaining temperature right across the cold chain is paramount. Use thermally insulated shopping bags, especially when purchasing perishable items. Don't leave them in the boot of your vehicle longer than necessary. Get them into the fridge at home as soon as is possible.

If you want fruit, vegetables and eggs to have a better shelf life store them in the fridge prior to consumption. Make sure when buying prepacked fruit and veg that the produce is in good condition. One bad apple can contaminate the whole bag – and that goes for most other fruit and veg too.

Chicken naturally carries both the salmo-

nella and campylobacter bacteria, both dangerous to humans. It is pointless washing it as all this does is to spread the bacteria across the carcass. So keep poultry at the right temperature and cook it through thoroughly. This ensures it is completely safe for consumption.

Storage, handling and hygiene are three very important factors when working with any fresh produce, meat, fish or poultry.

When it comes to the handling of all perishable foods at Bamic Enterprises we are passionate about the supply chain and especially the cold chain. If you would like to discuss any aspect with us or find out more we can be contacted at bamic@mwebbiz.co.za.

Let's work together to reduce food wastage.

Cream cheese plant benefits from new Certa pump's gentle handling and CIP capability

GERMAN dairy product manufacturer Goldsteig has put its trust in the recently-launched MasoSine Certa Sine™ pump from Watson-Marlow Fluid Technology Group (WMFTG) for the production of cream cheese. Here, the gentle handling of the Certa pump is ideal for transferring the sensitive cream used to manufacture mascarpone and delicate whey for ricotta, while its ease of cleaning makes for lower maintenance requirements.

Goldsteig Käseerei Bayerwald GmbH is one of Germany's foremost cheese producers. Operating across three plants, the Bavaria-based company employs 620 staff and produces almost 100 000 tons of cheese per year from 860 million kilograms of milk. In the town of Tittling near Passau, the Goldsteig plant focusses on the production of Italian specialty cream cheese, such as ricotta and mascarpone.

Pumping operations affect final product quality

"Pumping is an important stage of production, where due care and gentle handling matter most," explains Operations Manager Günter Schlattl. "If the shearing forces are too high, then the binding – and thus the structure of the mixture – can be damaged. Ultimately, the final quality of the cream cheese will suffer, and for ricotta and mascarpone, the texture of the end product is essential."

Since November 2015, Goldsteig has been using

a new Certa sine pump for these delicate tasks.

"We have used MasoSine pumps for several years as part of our butter production, so we were already convinced about their low pulse, gentle handling capabilities," says Mr Schlattl.

Certa is a completely new design of pump based on the proven sinusoidal positive displacement principle. It has been designed specifically for use in the food and beverage industry, conveying the product more gently than other pump types. Indeed, compared with rotary lobe pumps, for example, Certa delivers up to 50% more gentle handling. As a result, the pump is especially well suited to shear-sensitive fluids such as cream at Goldsteig, or media containing large or delicate particles, with no loss to product integrity. Changing to a higher viscosity product has negligible impact on power required. For example, increasing viscosity from 20 000 cP to 200 000 cP nominally increases the required power by around 0,22 kW.

Comprehensive certification

Among the major considerations of pumps destined for use in the food industry is hygiene and, in particular, CIP (clean-in-place) capability.

"The appropriate certification was crucial for the application in Tittling since we perform a daily CIP clean with caustic," says Mr Schlattl. "After one of our first CIP

operations following installation, we opened the pump to check the results and found that it was totally clean – simply outstanding."

In Certa pumps, the number of components in contact with the product has been minimised in order ensure ease of cleaning. As a result, the pump is also SIP (steam-in-place) capable. Furthermore the pump is also SIP capable with its standard configuration.

Due to its CIP and SIP capability, Certa is certified to 3A and EHEDG EL Class I. Furthermore, all components in contact with the product meet the requirements for food contact as per EC 1935/2004 and the FDA. Certa is available with flows of up to almost 42 000 l/h.

Low maintenance and energy-efficient

The team at Goldsteig is particularly satisfied with the reliability of the new Certa pump.

"Since installation, our Certa pump has been running without a single hitch," says Mr Schlattl. "To date, we have not had to replace any parts, even though it is running a double shift daily for up to 12 hours."

There is less need for maintenance with Certa pumps as the number of consumables has been reduced in comparison with previous generation models. Furthermore, total cost of ownership is also low as sine pumps consume up to 50% less energy than that of lobe or circumferential pumps, particularly at higher viscosities.

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Research projects to focus on barley, cassava and sorghum



Together at a meeting to discuss the partnership were (from left) Francois Smit (manager of the South African Barley Breeding Institute, SABBI), Dr Stefan Hayward and Prof Pieter Gouws (of Stellenbosch University's Department of Food Science), dr Nikki Else (AB InBev) and Prof Nick Kotze (AB InBev Research Chair in Agronomy and chair of the Department of Agronomy at Stellenbosch University). Photo: Engela Duvenage.

AGRONOMISTS and food scientists of Stellenbosch University have partnered with the multinational beverage and brewing company Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV (AB InBev). The R6 million funding that is being received allows them to tackle specific issues over the next three years related to the production of barley. It will also include crops such as cassava and sorghum that is often used in beer making in many African countries.

Their endeavours are being funded through the new AB InBev Research Chair in Agronomy held by Prof Nick Kotze of the SU Department of Agronomy.

According to Prof Kotze, bursaries worth R1 million will be provided to six undergraduate and four postgraduate MSc students at SU. A further R1 million is being set aside to fund various research projects.

According to Dr Nikki Else, Research and Development Manager: Agriculture Africa at AB InBev, it is the biggest investment yet in a South African university by AB InBev Research, or by SAB Miller Ltd, with which it merged in October 2016. Beers such as Budweiser, Stella Artois and Corona, as well as local brands such as Castle Lager, Castle Lite, Carling

Black Label, Lion Lager and Hansa Pilsener count among the popular AB InBev brands.

"We are excited about the partnership, and believe that the research will mitigate potential risks within the supply chain, demonstrating our commitment to South Africa whilst ensuring the required quality that meets the needs of our brewers and our customers," says Dr Else.

Much of the work will focus on barley, used in malt production, which is a core ingredient in many a beer brewed worldwide.

Different analytical tests will be developed to detect pre-germination in barley seeds as well as some identified barley defects. These parameters all have an influence on the eventual quality of the barley to be used to produce malt, and which influences the supply of barley within the supply chain.

"From the research, we hope to put forward recommendations to predict the storage potential of pre-germinated grains, to ensure that crops are not lost completely," says Prof Kotze.

Cassava and Sorghum research will also be conducted where several varieties will be evaluated against agronomic and quality criteria. Various trial sites in Africa for selected varieties

will be identified in order to determine different climatic and soil conditions on production.

According to Dr Else, projects related to cassava and sorghum will help AB InBev increase its reach in Africa's local beer market.

"Through this project we hope to provide guidelines to producers in these countries on the production techniques that work best to grow quality sorghum," says Prof Kotze.

Another project involves food scientists at Stellenbosch University which will focus on the detection of a quality compound issue found in the cassava plant. The project consists of Prof Kotze, Dr Stefan Hayward and Prof Pieter Gouws of the Department of Food Science at Stellenbosch University, as well as Dr Else of AB InBev.

"Laboratory facilities to do such tests are not always available in the remote areas where cassava is typically produced," explains Prof Gouws. "Therefore, we'd like to develop a kit that is easy and quick to use in the field."

The SU researchers will therefore be looking into ways to adapt the available corrin-based chemosensor technique that can currently only be performed in a laboratory.

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Sustainable farming practices non-negotiable when facing environmental challenges

South Africa's commercial farmers have to start planning for the increased possibility of less-than-ideal climatic conditions by embracing sustainable farming practices, says Nedbank Western Cape Divisional Manager: Agriculture Daneel Rossouw.



The effect of the country's worst drought in three decades, ongoing water challenges in the Western Cape and the impact of environmental challenges, particularly climate change, on the South African agriculture industry has been most evident in the maize sector.

In the past, when the country enjoyed more predictable weather patterns, farmers might have been able to get away with investing large sums of capital into planting and then simply hoping that the 'weather gods' would be kind to them. But such an 'invest-and-hope' approach now is almost certainly a fast-track to bankruptcy," Rossouw noted.

He stressed that a detailed scientific and calculated approach was essential, not only to increase yields, and limit losses. This would allow farmers to maintain good working relationships with the country's financial institutions, which continued to be vital partners in the success of any commercial farming enterprise.

While there were many sustainable practices modern South African farmers could adopt to mitigate climate and other risks, there are a few non-negotiable components of lasting farming success. For starters, **it is time that every commercial farmer in South Africa accepts the responsibility to embrace technology fully, adopt scientific farming practices** and understand optimal price-hedging structures and varying opportunities in a dynamic environment," Rossouw said.

A more scientific approach was especially important for farmers who recognised the imperative to mitigate against the potential for sustained lower rainfall in the future. **Linear steering technology – where a tractor effectively steered itself using satellite tracking and soil profiling to reduce tilling and improve planting efficiencies** – was a prime example of such investment for the highest possible long-term yield, commented Rossouw.

"Of course, this is expensive technology, but forward-thinking banks are becoming increasingly open to financing it, provided farmers are able to demonstrate the levels of sustainable planning that can increase its effectiveness and returns over time."

Nedbank also offers SA farmers financial incentive to convert to solar and alternative energy. The green bank, well-known for



Daneel Rossouw
Divisional Head: Agriculture, Western Cape

funding sustainable ventures in renewable energy, infrastructure and agriculture, has **introduced an innovative funding model designed to help farmers nationwide implement solar and renewable energy systems in their agri-businesses**. Escalating electricity costs are eating into farming profit margins, threatening the survival of some sectors of the agri-industry. In comparison with other types of energy, solar power provides calculable, 25-year maintenance-free yields.

Nedbank's Off-Grid Commercial Energy Financing Product, already being aggressively driven in a prototype phase with existing clients, is tailored for existing and new clients who wish to green their operations, and, reduce the cost of 12-14% annual energy increases to their bottom line.

"By forming strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in the agricultural sector, we have gained a deep understanding of the challenges farmers face in implementing more sustainable practices on their running farms," says Daneel Rossouw, Nedbank Western Cape Divisional Head: Agriculture. "So far, clients walking this exciting journey with us include agri-businesses installing renewable energy solutions to reduce their carbon footprint," says Rossouw.

"In this way, the agricultural specialists in our regional Business Banking teams have been able to make it easier for clients to do business with us, by supporting clients with future-friendly funding that takes into account their cyclical finance requirements, climate's effect on crop yield and commodity price fluctuations."

For more information send an email agriculture@nedbank.co.za.

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Advanced technology for water and nutrient management

ADVANCED hydrogel technology for water and nutrient management is available from I-CAT Agri-Forestry Solutions for a range of applications, from commercial agriculture to landscaping, sod and grass seeding, plant transportation and storage, nurseries, reforestation, soil rehabilitation, and bare-root dipping. Known as EXLGel, this is a cross-linked, water-insoluble anionic polymer partially neutralised with potassium. Essentially it swells rapidly and forms gel particles when water is added, I-CAT Marketing Director Lourens Jansen van Rensburg explains. The product is available as a dry, white, solid granulate with different particle sizes for different soil types and excellent absorption power. The latter, in addition to its quick rewetting, even after complete dehydration, and long-term performance characteristics, are determined by the water quality and soil type. The water-holding capacity of a soil or soil substrate varies from 70 to 120 times its weight. Even higher absorption rates are

possible when distilled water is used. Another major advantage is that EXLGel maintains its ability to continuously absorb and release water over several years. In one particular demonstration, a sandy soil sample retained a litre of water after 40 days without irrigation, whereas the sample treated with EXLGel still retained a litre of water after double that period. This means that the soil moisture potential is sustained for a period twice as long, and at a higher level, translating into reduced drought stress for plants. Therefore the irrigation frequency can be effectively halved. The soil benefits of EXLGel are increased water-holding capacity, increased filtration rate, decreased water runoff, and reduced soil erosion and leaching of fertiliser. The major plant benefits are improved survival rates, rapid development and uniform growth. Reduced labour, maintenance, and irrigation costs are the main environmental benefits. The product is also safe for humans, and does not pollute the soil or surface and ground water.

Fanie Brink - Independent Agricultural Economist



"THE agricultural industry in the world displays specific characteristics and realities that seriously endanger the sustainability of agricultural production and food security," says Fanie Brink, an independent agricultural economist.

Brink delivered a paper on the economic rules for the production of food at the TAU SA's annual congress, which took place recently at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria.

He said climate change that causes global warming is one of the biggest treats, while the interference of governments in agriculture with their political and economic policies which in many cases causes negative consequences for the industry' including various taxes, increases in electricity tariffs and minimum wages.

Brink said that the government formulates the political and economic policy of the

country and does not always acknowledge the importance of the commercial agriculture as the actual creator of food security. The government has offered virtually no support for the sustainability of food production, even during the very severe drought experienced last year, while it also does not have a long term plan for the future of commercial agriculture as seen against the background of its threatening and unsuccessful land reform policy.

The fact that agricultural producers are price takers and not price makers and who in many cases have to absorb price increases on the input side, which are determined on the basis of production cost plus a profit margin by input suppliers, while the prices of agricultural production are determined by supply and demand.

Food manufacturers and traders also base their prices on their production cost plus a profit margin and are very well placed to pass all their cost increases on to consumers which have a direct impact on the demand for food.

"A greater disturbing trend is the fact that food manufacturers and traders are normally ready to quickly raise their prices when agricultural prices are trading higher, but they are not always willing to lower their prices just as quickly for consumers when the prices of agricul-

tural products decline again. This trend is also detrimental to the consumption of food. For example, the maize prices for producers are at least 60% lower than last year, but the latest figures show that the price of maize meal in June was only 8% lower than a year ago."

These two factors are directly responsible for the fact that the prices of agricultural inputs and consumer prices of food have always increased faster than the producer prices of agricultural products.

There could be no doubt today that agricultural production and food security can only be sustainable if the production of food is profitable. It largely refers to the characteristics and utilisation of inputs used to produce outputs and the application of the basic economic and business principles to generate profits, exactly as it is done in all the other industries in the economy.

This process is the basis of economic growth, which in reality is created by two specific and very important drivers in all the industries and sectors.

The first driver is the extremely important input/output price ratio. This means that the profitability of any enterprise is, in the first place, mainly determined by the prices that producers pay

for their inputs, such as seed, fertiliser and fuel, against the prices that they receive for their products.

The second important driver that has a major impact on the profitability of any business, and which should not be underestimated, is the efficiency with which the inputs used in the production or manufacturing process can be converted into outputs.

It is, therefore, very important that the efficiency of a production or a manufacturing process continuously be increased by ongoing research on new technological developments. This technology must enable producers and processors to produce more outputs with the same amount of inputs or the same amount of outputs with fewer inputs. New technology is extremely important and in fact the only way to increase the efficiency of production.

These two drivers are together the most important principle in agriculture because it determines the optimum and maximum profit level of production and includes all agricultural disciplines. It also plays the same important role in all the other different industries in the economy and therefore determines the combined growth and prosper-

ity that can be created in the economy as a whole.

"One thing that should not be overlooked is the fact that food consumers make a huge contribution to the sustainability of agricultural production. The Bureau of Economic Research at Stellenbosch University has found that consumers contribute as much as 60% to the creation of economic growth and this fact should not be underestimated by the agriculture," Brink said.

If the government wants to stimulate economic growth it should rather be prepared to improve the profitability levels of all the different industries in the three main sectors of the economy by identifying and seriously addressing the problems that prevent them from making a more sustainable contribution to the overall economic growth of the country.

"The government should also acknowledge the fact that the producers, manufacturers, traders and service providers on the supply side, and the consumers on the demand side, are actually the largest and most important role players in the economy, as the creators of economic growth, prosperity and progress in any country in the world," Brink said.

ABSA Agri Trends

Growth for the Avocado industry?

SOUTH Africa is currently planting an estimated +16 000 ha of avocado and there is room for growth. Renowned to produce the best quality fruit of avocado, the new plantings result in roughly 1 000 newly planted hectares annually, according to tree sales statistics averaged over the past three years. The Avocado industry can be regarded as profitable, as it has been enjoying price increases annually. This trend is projected to continue in the next few years. The increases in prices are driven by the demand of the fruit. More and more people are starting to live a healthy life-style and include the fruit in their diet and some use it as a beauty product.

On the international front, an increase in

demand is growing faster than the rate in production, hence the price support.

Livestock & Fibre

Due to higher livestock prices, additional investment in the livestock industry may be expected, which should improve livestock productivity and production within the next two years. This should increase supply, which could see consumer prices of protein foods eventually decline. The current lower maize price during 2017 suggests that the cost of feed has declined from the high levels seen during the past season, which may boost production.

Locally, lamb and mutton prices continued with their strong gains over the past

week, as the herd rebuilding process continues to be underway. The latest prices show that the average national lamb prices continued to reach record levels this week, with lamb prices reaching an average price of R78,05.

Following the recent bird flu outbreak, poultry destined for exports have to be absorbed in the South African market. This may weigh on prices. However, poultry continues to be the cheapest meat and therefore remains popular in terms of consumption.

Grains, Oilseeds & Vegetables

Soybean prices have been trading lower than the sunflower seed prices for the September 2017 and December 2017 con-

tracts, underpinned by the lower international soybean prices and the large domestic soybean supplies expected.

Growing global wheat stockpiles surprised the markets, as the USDA increased its production forecasts for Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in comparison to the previous month. Ample global stocks supported a bearish trend in the domestic wheat market.

US maize production is forecast at 14,2 billion bushels, yields are expected to average 169,5 bushels per acre, down 5,1 bushels from 2016. If it realizes, this will be the third highest yield and production on record for the US. With the local maize industry's own large production, competition for the export markets will intensify.

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SASFA's training courses attract international participation

THE Southern African Light Steel Frame Building Association's (SASFA) latest 6-day training course for light steel frame building (LSFB) contractors, held recently at the Building Centre in Cape Town, attracted students from as far afield as Dubai as well as from all over South Africa. This was the 25th time SASFA has presented this course since it was first presented in 2009 and brings the total number of students who have successfully completed the course to 373.

According to SASFA director, John Barnard, most of the participants, who included own-business owners, CEO's, carpenters, QS's, architects and engineers, had some prior building industry experience.

He adds that as part of the course, the students had to write two

tests to assess their understanding of the subject matter. All of the students on this course passed, and received SASFA certificates of successful completion.

"Successful completion of the course is a pre-requisite for applying for SASFA Builder Membership," he says.

The course, which will be presented again in February 2018 in Gauteng, is split into two sections:

Steel frame materials, components, and erection (4 days), covering introduction to LSFB, the steel making process and properties of coated steel sheet, followed by sections on foundations, manufacturing of light steel frames and trusses, construction tools, wall-frame set-out, handling, loads, floor framing, wall framing, roof structures, planning and the installation of services, and

Internal lining, external cladding and insulation (1½ days), covering the properties, manufacturing and benefits of glasswool insulation, acoustics, energy efficiency, environmental issues, storage and handling of glasswool and tools and installation methodology.

This is followed by a section on gypsum plasterboard, covering material properties, storage and handling, cutting, tools and application for walls, ceilings and finishing.

Finally, fibre cement board for external cladding is addressed, including the installation of the vapour permeable membrane, sizes and availability of fibre cement - boards and planks, fixing accessories, installation guidelines, and door and window frame installation detail is presented.



Werner Botha, Regional Manager of Bosch South Africa, explaining the wide range of power tools suitable for use in the LSFB industry.

To ensure that the theoretical concepts are well understood, the course includes a practical component, consisting of setting out of wall frames, squaring, levelling, and erection of wall panels, erection of roof trusses, installation of plumbing, external cladding (FC boards, OSB and FC planks), insulation and internal lining (gypsum board),

and internal joint finishing.

The SASFA members who supported the course, making it possible, were Pholaco, Marley Building Systems, Saint-Gobain, Marshall Hinds, Kare and Simpson Strongtie. As part of the practical work, Bosch Power Tools illustrated their wide range of equipment suitable for use in the LSFB industry.



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WSP picks up two Greenstar Leadership Awards

WSP has received a Leading Company Award and one of the company's sustainability consultants has received the Rising Green Star Award, during the Greenstar Leadership Awards ceremony hosted at the recent Green Building Convention in Cape Town.

WSP in Africa, one of the largest multi-disciplinary engineering consultancies that has been operating on the continent for over fifty years, has been consulting in the green building space for over ten-years and, to date, has been a key driver in 44 Green Star rating certifications for 30 buildings in South Africa, and Africa. Added to this, the company's senior consultants, who are also Green Star Accredited Professional, have been working closely with the Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) since its inception and been involved in the development of a number of the Green Star rating tools that are used to rate buildings in the South African context. These consultants have also worked with the GBCSA on undertaking local context studies of a number of other regions within Africa that the necessary rating tools can be appropriately adjusted to fit within the local context conditions.

HULAMIN

Think future. Think aluminium.

Creating jobs with economic Rubble Masonry Concrete construction

By John Roxburgh, Lecturer: The Concrete Institute's School of Concrete Technology

RUBBLE Masonry Concrete (RMC) is a building material has been used throughout the world for thousands of years – as far back as AD 122 when Hadrian's Wall was built in Britain, and 1679 when Cape Town's Castle of Good Hope was constructed.

Although RMC has been used extensively over the centuries very little was known about the properties of the material. Pioneering in-depth research work by Dr. Rod Rankine, when employed by TCI's forerunner, the Portland Cement Institute, and released in his doctoral thesis in 2000 has led to a much greater understanding of the mechanical properties of

RMC. Pretoria consulting engineering firm, ARQ, has been involved in the design of several RMC dams in southern Africa and has reported that the performance of these dams during several significant floods bears testimony to the durability and effectiveness of RMC for the construction of major dams.

RMC is a composite material, derived from placing uncut stone randomly in a bed of mortar. It is often used in mass gravity and arch buttress dam construction. The recent completion of the 30m high multiple-arch buttress Mndwaka Dam in the Eastern Cape is a typical and noteworthy example. The impressive dam, which won an Infrastructure Commendation in the Concrete Society of Southern Africa (CSSA) 2017 Fulton Awards for excellence in

the use of concrete, was built to supply the basic water needs of about 40 000 people living in 63 villages on the Eastern Cape's Wild Coast.

Situated in a particularly remote location close to Hole in the Wall, between Elliotdale and Coffee Bay, construction of the 30 000 cubic metres dam - the largest of its kind yet built in southern Africa – called for careful planning in terms of design, construction and materials procurement. In their submission for the Fulton Awards, the contractors, Zana Manzi Joint Venture, stated that the construction of the dam provided abundant employment for residents of the villages surrounding the dam.

Back in 1995, a multiple arch RMC dam near the Bakubung Gate of the Pilanesberg National Park in North West

Province was also very labour intensive, calling for 9 000 person-days of employment for its construction. The dam is now known as Lengau Dam.

Another important advantage of RMC is costs. Financially, savings of between 30% and 60% can be realised when compared to other dam building techniques. A lesser known, but very useful application for RMC, is the construction of culverts and small arch bridges.

The typical construction method for RMC would involve spreading a layer of mortar between 100 mm and

200 mm thick. Rocks are then pushed into the mortar until bedded against underlying rocks. The largest possible rocks - ranging in size from 10 kg to 40 kg - are placed first and packed as closely together as possible to reduce the amount of mortar required. Smaller stones ("spalls") are then pushed into the larger gaps between the large stones to reduce the mortar volumes even further. When this is complete, the next layer of mortar is placed.

The construction material is self-supporting so there is no need for pressure-resisting shut-

ters. Formwork is sometimes used to shape the structure, but the outer leaves of masonry are generally built by more skilled masons, using stiffer mortar. These leaves contain the layer of more workable mortar laid by less skilled labourers who can be employed to build the inner section.

The cost savings are due to locally-sourced sand and rock: either naturally occurring boulders or quarried rock. Without a need for formwork, cement is the only imported material and, with careful construction, the cement content can be

reduced to well below 300kg/m³. In more rural areas, this cost saving would be even higher.

The massive advantage offered by RMC is the use of unskilled labour. Any municipality looking to increase the labour content on civic infrastructural development should consider using RMC where possible. Experience has shown that for a given structure the person-days for construction using RMC are between five to nine times higher compared to using alternative construction methods and materials.

Concrete hydrodemolition technology used in Joburg bridge rehab

MAJOR structural repairs to the M1 North highway bridges over Oxford and Federation Roads in Johannesburg were recently completed. The removal of superfluous concrete in preparation was made possible through hydrodemolition, which was successfully undertaken by Total Blasting.

Commissioned by WBHO Construction (Pty) Ltd, in partnership with the South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited, the wider project included the complete rehabilitation of the bridges in Rosebank, involving major structural repairs. Hydrodemolition technology was employed to remove deteriorated concrete from the structures without any damage to existing steel reinforcement.

Total Blasting Director, Bradley Storer says, "Hydrodemolition comprises the use of high pressure pumps, water and robotics to break down and remove cement-based materials in situ. It is a special demolition technique that employs high volume. It can target the specific demolition area with relative precision, which supports a cleaner demolition site. Unlike conventional demolition methods like jackhammering, hydrodemolition does not damage the rebar or surrounding structure."

Challenges to the hydrodemolition aspect of

the project included site access, which was limited due to the nature of the roadworks and construction as well as channeling sufficient water to site in order to feed the pumps, which was managed by using multiple road tankers to carry the water.

Technology supplied by Total Blasting for this project was spe-

cifically developed for concrete demolition and was imported from Europe and the USA. The bridge rehabilitation project was completed within deadline and a total of three Total Blasting employees, with specialized skills in water jetting and hydrodemolition, were deployed to this project for its duration.



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New temperature-controlled packaging



FEDEX Express has introduced new temperature controlled solution, FedEx Cold Shipping, which will further improve the handling of temperature-sensitive shipments.

The FedEx Cold Shipping Solution includes cold shipping packaging for goods which require a refrigerated environment and can maintain constant 2-8°C environment inside the package for up to 48 hours for the standard duration box and up to 96 hours for the extended duration box. This cold-shipping packaging is designed to be easy to use, reliable, cost effective and en-

vironmentally friendly. The solution can be used by the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, as well as any shipper requiring low-temperature options for their goods. The packaging is smaller, lighter and more compact than most gel-pack systems, leading to lower shipping costs for the customer.

Through its temperature-controlled packaging solution, FedEx Express provides customers with safe and reliable options for transporting biogenetics, biomaterials and any other sensitive shipments to more than 220 countries and territories worldwide.

SA packaging industry welcomes MetPac-SA

THE South African packaging industry has welcomed the news that a new industry body has recently been formed to represent the interests of the metal packaging industry.

Bringing Together the Metal Packaging Value Chain

MetPac-SA is the new Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) tasked specifically with looking after the interests and recycling of steel, tin plate and aluminium packaging. Members of this non-profit association include raw material suppliers ArcelorMittal and Hulamin, and brand owners Nampak, ABInBEV, Distell, Heineken, PacSolve, Tin Can Man, WYDA Packaging, Coca-Cola and Nestlé.

“MetPac-SA brings together the entire metal packaging value chain in South Africa. We give the metal packaging industry a unified voice and present the industry’s

views, make recommendations and voice opinions,” explains Delanie Bezuidenhout, who has recently been appointed as CEO of MetPac-SA1.

Mission and objectives

MetPac-SA’s mission and objectives will be focused on establishing the metals packaging industry as a valuable and recognised contributor to sustainability throughout the supply chain and beyond.

“We will support and represent members on industry matters related to operational, regulatory and environmental issues. In addition, we will focus much of our resources on promoting the benefits of metal packaging and the sustainable attributes of steel and aluminium,” Bezuidenhout explains.

The key focus areas for MetPac-SA will be:

- Developing sustainability thinking,



including positions statements and commitments, including the drafting of an Industry Waste Management Plan for the Metals Packaging Sector in response to the Department of Environmental Affairs’ Section 28 Call for Industry Waste Management Plans, which will form a key part of Packaging SA’s umbrella plan;

- Bringing together manufacturers and

- suppliers to promote the benefits of metal packaging;
- Preparing common messages and creating communication programmes on behalf of our members for a wider audience;
- Monitoring local and international legislation that could have an impact on our industry;
- Conducting statistical surveys of the industry;
- Liaising with other

- role-players, stakeholders, government departments and industry associations to work towards better and more balanced legislation;
- Managing issues and threats affecting the metals and canning industry;
- Working with the industry to ensure that they support the greater packaging industry’s vision of “Zero Waste to the Environment”.

Yoghurt packaging made 30% faster thanks to anti-sloshing solution

“WE were totally surprised. Although we didn’t ask for it, Omron’s Field Application Engineer pro-actively made our machine a lot faster and a lot more valuable – overnight.” Jean-Philippe Varenne, CEO PACKINOV

The French packaging machine manufac-

turer, PACKINOV, asked their local Omron service department to collaborate with them on developing a new machine. They especially wanted high levels of compactness and cost-efficiency. PACKINOV not only got the expertise it expected, but also a mini-revolution in

machine performance: an increase in packaging speed of more than 30%.

“I had been assigned to work with PACKINOV Engineers on-site to see where we could help with reducing the machine’s size and cost,” says Omron Field Application Engineer, Régis

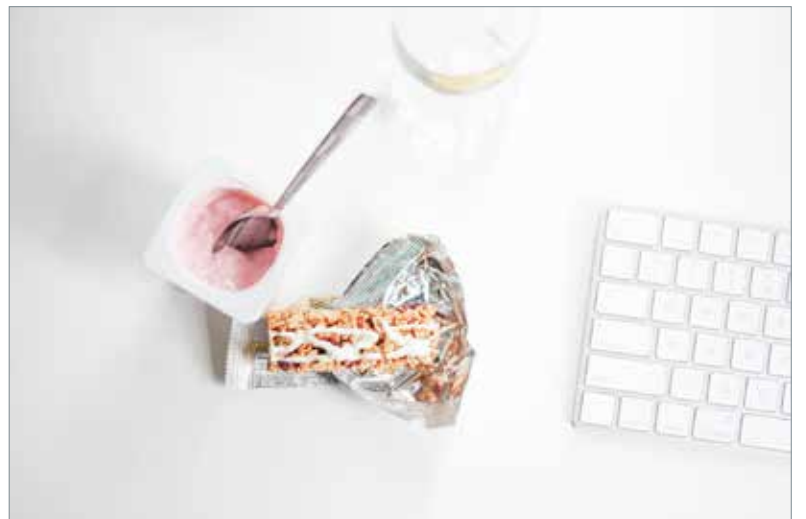
Couchoud, “so naturally we looked at the components and materials and identified possible gains. Then it occurred to me that Omron’s vibration suppression technology could also reduce the machine’s cost of ownership – by making it more productive.”

Avoiding spillage is essential in food and beverage

Minimising sloshing in liquid-filling activities is highly desirable in the packaging industry, the more you can minimise sloshing, the faster you can move unsealed products without spilling the liquid. In fact, avoiding spillages is essential in terms of hygiene factors in food and beverage packaging industry.

Off-the-shelf solution for multiple recipes

Although anti-sloshing is highly desirable, deploying vibration suppression demands experience in software and control technology. Even when successful, the acceleration profile is good for just one recipe or liquid type. That is not the case with the solution implemented for PACK-



INOV. Our Engineer downloaded the free Function Block and input some of the liquid’s parameters. The result was optimised anti-sloshing. What’s more, he also uploaded several recipes and liquid types. With a NA HMI, end-user operators could change recipes with the touch of a few on-screen buttons, enabling one machine to package several different liquid products.

Smaller, faster, more economical – with Sysmac

The vibration control technology is made via our Sysmac integrated platform, which uses one connection, one software and one ma-

chine controller. This means that only one network is necessary for all machine functions including motion, safety, vision, robotics and sensing. Even better, since all the components and sub-systems are automatically recognised by the single software environment, no addressing is necessary, and all parameters can be easily shared to reduce development time to an absolute minimum.

Award-winning innovation

PACKINOV’s new yoghurt packaging machine, RMD Nano, was optimised in terms of size and cost-efficiency – as per to the

original request. But the increased speed of packaging made possible by the Omron anti-sloshing technique, was one of the reasons why it won the “Most innovative packaging machine” category at the 2016 CFIA Show in Rennes, France.

“Omron has extensive experience in the food and beverage industry globally. As the food and beverage industry has similar applications and challenges across the globe, local OEM’s in South Africa will benefit from the expertise available in the Omron Group and duplicate success stories for their customers”, Laetitia de Jager, Omron SA Marketing Manager explained.

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Goscor earns its stripes at Zebra Hub of Excellence in Gaborone

WITH the delivery of Botswana's first ever Crown TSP VNA (very narrow aisle) turret truck to Zebra Hub of Excellence (ZHE), Goscor Lift Truck Company (GLTC), distributors of Crown in South Africa, has cemented itself as one of the fastest growing material handling equipment (MEH) suppliers in the sub-Saharan region.

"This is an important milestone for us," says GLTC MD Darryl Shafto. "ZHE is one of the most respected companies in the warehousing and logistics industry in this region and to get our first VNA turret truck in Botswana into their operation is something we can be proud of."

He adds that in these challenging economic times with warehousing space at a premium, VNA warehousing equipment is becoming more and more important with respect to



Goscor Lift Truck Company has delivered Botswana's first ever Crown TSP VNA (very narrow aisle) turret truck to Zebra Hub of Excellence.

bottom line saving and the Crown TSP 6000 Turret Truck, the model which ZHE bought, is the best of its kind.

The Crown TSP 6000 Turret Truck has a lifting capacity of 1 000-1 250 kg and a lift height of 11,7 m. Its 48-Volt AC motor allows for faster

handling and control. Innovative features like its Monolift Mast, excellent visibility and easy serviceability ensure the highest performance in the VNA applications. "This machine - and all our turret trucks - has the unique ability to cope with some of the most

demanding tasks in material handling, tasks that set the pace for every other process in the warehouse," Shafto says.

ZHE, a 100% Botswana citizen owned private company has its head office in the country's capital Gaborone with additional hubs in Francistown, Maun, Palapye and Jwaneng. The company's main services include freight forwarding, customs clearance, couriership and 3PL. Its warehousing facilities stand at over 8 500m² with complete technology-driven automation capabilities.

Brenda Gerber, director of Coastal Hire in Gaborone who did the deal with ZHE, says that this has been a most exciting exercise. "The machine is state of the art and is performing beyond all expectations. The installation went very smoothly and the Goscor team's training

was very professional," Gerber says.

She adds that the efficiency of the Crown TSP 6000 Turret Truck, especially in the important VNA warehousing environment, augurs well for more of these to be placed in Botswana warehouses in the near future.

Meantime the successes in Botswana are indicative of GLTC's successful drive into Africa, especially the sub-Saharan and Indian Ocean Islands regions, which, according to Haripersad, are directly benefiting from the rollercoaster cycle of investor confidence in South Africa.

"We are already represented in Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, East Africa and Mauritius and, so far, our 'Africa footprint' initiative looks good but there's still much work to be done and we will not be resting on our laurels," Shafto says.

Warehousing trends to watch

ALTHOUGH the fundamental goals of logistics have not changed, to get the right products into the right place, at the right time and at a competitive cost, logistics is more complex than ever before. The evolution of global networks of interrelated and interdependent systems, processes and actions is behind the shifting landscape on which logistics buildings and networks are built.

Logistics service providers should expect further pressure for productivity, utilisation and other efficiency gains. Most large companies operate many different IT systems and technologies throughout their supply chain, as a result of legacy purchases in different areas. This patchwork approach is currently the norm, particularly given that companies have only recently begun to adopt cloud based systems.

Incorporating consolidated intelligent digital systems: IT systems are well suited for applications within the supply chain, where accurate and reliable data holds the potential to dramatically cut costs. In this mix there is huge potential for the adoption of smart devices although at this point wide usage throughout industry is seen as a security risk.

Warehousing in emerging markets: both warehousing and logistics networks are very much in the pro-

cess of formalising in emerging markets, some from an extremely low base, whereas they are already highly formalised in developed markets. Key to building capacity in emerging markets will be a firm understanding and acknowledgment of the constraints and challenges particular to the local environment, given that a one-size-fits-all approach will not succeed in these jurisdictions.

The growth of e-commerce: this has

"IT systems are well suited for applications in the supply chain."

prompted a fundamental change in the operations that take place within facilities, driving the need for both operational and cost-efficiency across logistics networks. Internationally, DACHSER warehouses are a core component of integral supply chain solutions and are used above all in the context of DACHSER contract logistics.

Tailor-made solutions: leading logistics companies are becoming an extension of their clients, by offering a customized warehouse and process design that takes picking techniques and disbursement strategies into consideration that are unique to each customer.

Heat is no match for Apex's solutions



Apex General Strip Curtains are an inexpensive way to cover a door opening to prevent the ingress of hot air yet still allow easy passage.

IN engineering and manufacturing, warehouses and workshops often become heat chambers in a hot summer as is currently being experienced in most parts of the country. Doors left open to allow access for people and equipment also let in hot air, which is trapped in the building and reheated by the greenhouse effect, causing excessive heat build-up.

"It's a proven fact that a comfortable worker is a productive worker, yet many industrial managers in both large and small operations do not realise they can improve working conditions immeasurably in hot buildings by simply controlling air

movement," says Wim Dessing, managing director of Apex Strip Curtains.

Dessing's company offers a range of products that make it easy to control the working environment. Locally manufactured Apex SR 900 high impact traffic doors are insulated impact resistant swing doors, designed for efficient long life use in high traffic, impact-opening applications.

Built to withstand traffic from both pedestrians and forklifts, the Apex SR 900 door is a fully gasketed heavy duty impact swing door which opens easily and closes under its own weight. Insulated with polyurethane, this ro-

bust impact door is ideal for application where temperature control is vital, or where ingress of dust, insects or noise must be prevented.

The door retains its physical properties in both high and low temperature environments and is impervious to moisture, acid, animal fats, insects, salt solutions and petroleum products. Besides being durable and robust, this door provides excellent sound attenuation.

Another popular option, Dessing says, is the range of high speed roll-up or fold-up doors which includes the Traffic and Sector units. All offer rapid automated opening and closing, as well as efficient thermal insulation

and a highly effective wind barrier.

The doors are aesthetically pleasing in a range of colours and are made from durable, flexible polyesters and PVCs. The electronic componentry is modern, compact and self-contained to allow quick and easy installation in doorways and passages.

A variety of activation options, from floor mats to beepers, is available and all doors have a back-up emergency opening capability. Unless otherwise required, doors have a transparent panel for through-vision.

The company is also well-known for its patented, ballgedged strip curtains, which have proved itself in innumerable applications in South Africa and abroad.

"Strip curtains are a very inexpensive way to cover a door opening to prevent the ingress of hot air yet still allow easy passage. Strips are made from specially formulated PVC that doesn't become brittle with use and stays transparent for through-viewing and added safety. The ballgedge on the strips don't snag or catch on people or goods passing through, strengthening the strips for a long service life as well," Dessing explains.

"All our products are modular in design, providing flexibility for either retrofitting or greenfields installation. Specifications and advice are readily available, and Apex's philosophy is to provide the best solution for long-term, cost-effective environment-control," Dessing concludes.

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Air Products and Unique Welding Alloys – the strength is in the weld

INDUSTRIAL gas manufacturer Air Products and supplier of welding products, Unique Welding Alloys, not only provides the means for welders to fabricate a perfect weld, but they have also formed a solid base for a successful partnership. In March this year, they celebrated a relationship that has grown and strengthened over the last ten years.

As one of the few companies in South Africa offering a complete range of equipment and associated products, safety equipment and consumables, Unique Welding Alloys joined hands with Air Products to supply industrial gases required for MIG/MAG, FCAW, TIG welding and plasma cutting. This relationship has grown to its current strength, largely due to the service culture and drive to continuously improve processes, products as well as the innovative culture of both companies.

Air Products has been able to supply product via cylinders or CryoEase, depending on the volumes required. With the national footprint, Air Products is in a position to meet the demands of Unique Welding Alloys' branches nationwide.

Through the use of



innovative gas mixing technology and different modes of supply, Unique Welding Alloys is able to blend gases and offer customers the products suited for their specific requirements. This ultimately enables them to confidently market a complete offering to their end customers.

According to Joshua Le Roux, General Manager of Central Support Services at Air Products, this relationship is a key example of how Air Products complements their channel partners. "We value the relationship with Unique Welding Alloys and the trust they have placed in us as a key enabler in their drive to provide a total solution to their customers. We strive to support them in such a way that they are able to achieve their business objectives. At Air Products, we believe in fostering long-term

relationships with our distributors as well as our direct customers".

Unique Welding Alloys CEO and Executive Director, Nazmi Adams comments on the relationship with Air Products: "Our offering combined with the Air Products' flexible CryoEase gas delivery and mixing systems provides the customer access to leading edge global technology in Mig/Tig welding that can adapt and grow with the customer's needs. The gas mixture can be configured precisely at the customer premises to supply a constant gas mix to match the welding wire."

Whether a secure supply of cutting or welding gas is required Air Products and Unique Welding Alloys continues to provide innovative solutions through 'Service that Delivers the Difference'.

Afrox presents Harvey Shacklock Gold Medal Award in honour of founding CEO

IN celebration of 90 years in the gases and welding industry and in honour of Afrox's founding CEO, Afrox presented the prestigious Harvey Shacklock Gold Medal Award at the 69th annual SAIW dinner held on 20 October at Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg.

The award is significant to Afrox as it was introduced in 1949 in memory of Harvey Shacklock, the first CEO of Afrox, who was also a founding member of the SAIW. The award was presented by Afrox's 11th Managing Director Schalk Venter to Angel Krustev for his presentation entitled 'Modified GTAW orbital tube to tubesheet welding technique and the effect of a copper weld retainer during the welding of alloy 825'.

The award is the highest accolade bestowed

in the South African welding industry in acknowledgement of exceptional contribution to the industry in terms of research and innovation, and is granted to recipients who have presented technical papers of a very high standard, either on a local or international level.

Established by Shacklock in 1948, the Southern African Institute of Welding (SAIW) is a non-profit, technical organisation dedicated to furthering standards in welding-fabrication and related technologies, and is a founder member of the International Institute of Welding (IIW).

Johann Pieterse, Business Manager for Manufacturing Industries at Afrox, says that the SAIW dinner is the biggest annual event on the southern African welding calendar

and that the Harvey Shacklock Gold Medal Award is still highly significant to Afrox as it embodies their ongoing commitment to promoting welding in the industry.

This award is one of many accolades, training programmes, welding schools and skills development programmes that Afrox sponsors and actively supports each year in order to promote the growth and expansion of welding skills and employment opportunities in southern Africa.

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AR Controls acquires Inco

VALVE and actuator technology manufacturer and supplier AR Controls of Vanderbijlpark has announced that it has acquired IncoValve and Controls. IncoValve and Controls has worked closely with AR Controls to combine the latest design and manufacturing technologies with decades of field experience, comments AR Controls Director Julien van Niekerk. "The philosophy behind the acquisition is to offer the industry highly-engineered premium products at affordable prices."



valves, and metal-seated, trunnion-mounted, and severe service ball valves, available in pressure classes up to Class 2500 in various material, trim, and connection configurations.

This means products that are rugged, affordable, practical, and reliable. "AR Controls, already well-established in the marketplace, will use its global leverage to position IncoValve and Controls on an international platform," van Niekerk explains. Initially we will expand into the African market and thereafter into South America, North America, Europe and Australia.

Industries to be targeted initially by IncoValve and Controls are mining, minerals processing, power generation, petrochemical, oil and gas, water and wastewater, pulp and paper, food and beverage, sugar, and ethanol.

Products include butterfly valves, available in concentric, high-performance double-offset, and triple-offset severe-service valve designs in various material, trim, and connection configurations, from PN10 to PN100.

Ball valves include one-, two-, and three-piece flanged and screwed floating ball

actuators on offer include stainless steel and aluminium alloy rack and pinion actuators, high-performance, high-torque output scotch yoke actuators, and stainless steel and standard linear actuators. All actuators are available in either double-acting or fail-safe, with the latter being achieved through spring return or air failsafe reservoir designs.

Finally, a range of accessories will complement the product range, including valve lockouts, solenoid valves, switchboxes, feedback sensors, positioners, and air-filter regulators available to any customer specification.

"AR Controls is actively seeking to introduce new and innovative products, adopting the latest technologies and manufacturing methods available to industry. This is complemented further by new product offerings through its long-term valve manufacturing supplier and US-based valve giant DeZurik APCO Hilton," van Niekerk concludes.

Hytec's largest sea vessel project ever

IN its biggest sea vessel project ever undertaken, Hytec successfully designed, manufactured, installed and commissioned all hydraulics for three systems on board the most technologically advanced marine diamond sampling and exploration vessel in the world for its client De Beers Marine. Hytec, part of the Hytec Group, was responsible for all hydraulic related aspects of the heave compensation system, the launch and recovery system (LARS) and a world-first advanced sub-sea sampling system called Seabed Tool (SBT) for the brand new Debeers Marine Namibia-owned sampling vessel, the mv SS Nujoma.

Contracted by De Beers Marine South Africa in Cape Town, Hytec Cape Town was brought into the project as far back as 2012 for the pre-feasibility and feasibility studies. These were completed during the first half of 2015 and Hytec received the hydraulic orders for the SBT in July 2015 and for the LARS in September of the same year. Design, manufacture, assembly and successful testing of the SBT were completed in July 2016, while the manufacture and assembly of the LARS system modules, carried out in Johannesburg, was completed and delivered to De Beers Marine in Cape Town, in August 2016.

Scope of work

Hytec's scope of work included the hydraulic installation and testing of the heave compensation system and the design, manufacture and installation of the LARS and the SBT hydraulic systems. The LARS and the SBT hydraulic systems were both designed and manufactured by Hytec and the passive heave compensation system was designed and manufactured by Bosch Rexroth in Box-

tel, Netherlands. All systems were designed using high quality Bosch Rexroth equipment. The passive heave compensation system comprises cylinders connected to a hydraulic power unit and accumulator banks.

The hydraulic ring main for the LARS comprised a central hydraulic power pack. The power pack supplies oil through the ring main to the equipment used to launch and recover the SBT and consists of multiple winches and handling systems.

The SBT hydraulic system has power units with a combination of Bosch Rexroth open and closed loop pumps to power the subsea mining equipment. "The hydraulic system is designed for subsea use of up to 200 m," explains Herman van Rensburg, Regional Technical Manager, Hytec Cape Town.

Installation, commissioning and hand-over

The vessel arrived in Cape Town harbour in mid-August 2016, where De Beers Marine commenced the installation of the Mission Equipment, into the vessel. The Mission Equipment included the sampling system, and a high tech batching diamond treatment plant constructed in modules on the quay for rapid installation onto the vessel. The sampling system on-board pipe installation was conducted during September and October 2016 with Hytec staff working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. In-harbour commissioning began at the end of October with maiden sea trials conducted just outside of Cape Town in November 2016. Subsequent to a short in-port stay, the mv SS Nujoma began additional sea trials and final commissioning on the West coast of South Africa during December 2016. The vessel was delivered to Debeers Marine Namibia in March 2017 and is currently in full sampling

operations. The sampling system modules, with the heaviest weighing more than 220 tonnes, were lifted onto the vessel using the second largest super-lift crane in southern Africa.

The US\$157 million mining exploration vessel is 113 m long, 22 m wide with a displacement of 12 000 tons. It accommodates a crew of 80 and will carry out sampling for a three-year exploration operation before returning to port for maintenance.

Hytec Cape Town has been providing hydraulic services to De Beers Marine for over 30 years, and the last time a project of this magnitude was undertaken was in 2006 when DeBeers Marine converted a second-hand vessel to a crawler mining vessel.



A front view of the launch and recovery system (LARS) and SBT during installation. The hydraulic ring main for the LARS comprised a central hydraulic power pack, which supplies oil through the ring main to the equipment used to launch and recover the SBT.

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The Bosch GWS18V-45C 18V EC Brushless Connected-Ready 4-1/2 in. Angle Grinder delivers the convenience of cordless operation with advanced user control. The grinder features an EC brushless motor that offers maximum efficiency and low maintenance, plus connected-ready capability that delivers next-generation control like maintenance review and performance notifications.

The Bosch GWS18V-45C grinder delivers outstanding performance, including metal cutting, thanks to the powerful EC Brushless motor design. This Bosch-exclusive design provides greater runtime and more power than similar cordless grinders with brushed

motors. That means professionals can rely on a cordless grinder that delivers 10 000 no-load r/min, but doesn't forego power in favour of manoeuvrability.

The grinder offers plug-in connected-ready capability by supplying an interface that works with the optional Bosch GCY30-4 Bluetooth® connectivity module. It provides next-generation user control by interfacing with the free Bosch Toolbox app on a mobile phone. Users can customize the grinder, changing the speed of the soft-start function, setting the brightness of the LED and receiving battery charge and KickBack Control status updates.

The grinder's advanced electronics provide features including drop control, which shuts the tool off if dropped, and KickBack Control that



shuts down the grinder's motor should the tool become jammed. The grinder also has restart protection to prevent accidental start-up during battery insertion. Soft-start technology reduces start-up torque to ease into cuts.

"The Bosch GWS18V-45C grinder offers users the power they demand with additional safety and connectivity capabilities," said Mike Iezzi, product manager, Robert Bosch Tool Corporation. "In the grinder market, it's not enough to have just great pow-

er or outstanding manoeuvrability alone. A great tool brings both to the table and that's what the GWS18V-45C does."

The grinder features a two-position Vibration Control side handle, which provides greater control than previous generation Bosch cordless grinders. It also makes operation of the grinder less fatiguing for the user. The side handle can switch from left to right for additional control and a slim soft-grip design provides additional user comfort.

BMG's Fenner PowerTwist Drive V-belts for tough conditions

BMG's portfolio of Fenner power transmission components includes a range of high strength friction transmission belts that offers longer service life, higher drive efficiency and reduced downtime compared with conventional V-belts.

Fenner PowerTwist Drive V-belts, which are manufactured from a high strength polyurethane elastomer, reinforced with multiple plies of polyester fabric, offer excellence resistance to abrasion, oils and greases, water and steam, as well as industrial solvents and chemicals. "These flexible PowerTwist Drive V-belts are the ideal solution for permanent replacement and fitment into inaccessible locations. These friction transmission belts can be custom-sized for each sheave groove, reducing wear and providing a perfect matched set of belts when mounted on a drive," says Carlo Beukes, general manager, power transmission, BMG. "PowerTwist Drive belts combine extremely high strength with low stretch and have the same power ratings as conventional V-belts. The elasticity of woven polyurethane fabric enables these belts to be stretched over a pulley drive without any damage.

"Once the required length of belt is determined, the V-belt is sim-



Fenner PowerTwist Drive V-belts and Quatro Plus TW heavy duty drive belts offer high performance, maximum drive efficiency and extended service life in tough conditions.

ply twisted and the end links are interlocked by hand, without the need for tools.

"An important advantage is that these durable belts operate efficiently at elevated temperatures to 110°C in harsh environments, for up to 15 times longer than standard rubber and other link V-belts. These flexible belts are also designed for easy installation as a permanent replacement, with minimal downtime. No dismantling of equipment is necessary."

For user convenience and inventory reduction, the PowerTwist Drive range is available in different speciality profiles and constructions for efficient power transmission and material handling applications.

Also in Fenner's range of transmission belts are Fenner Power Plus heavy duty drive belts, which meet stringent

international quality specifications, as well as the highest standards for static conductivity (ISO 1813 standards).

These belts, with an asymmetric weave double jacket for increased durability in harsh conditions, are heat and oil resistant. Their high length stability ensures minimal stretch and elongation.

Important features of these robust belts include high performance, maximum drive efficiency and extended service life. They also offer up to 96% energy efficiency at optimum performance.

Other Fenner products available from BMG include synchronous transmission belts, pulleys and accessories, as well as shaft fixings, chain drives and couplings. BMG also supplies Fenner shaft mounted speed reducers (SMSRs).

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New Hilti Combihammer TE 50-AVR

HILTI is expanding its SDS-max rotary hammer portfolio with the introduction of the Hilti TE 50-AVR SDS-max rotary hammer with chiseling. Designed to be powerful and lightweight, the Hilti TE 50-AVR delivers superior performance in multiple applications, including hammer drilling in concrete, masonry and stone. It can also make quick work of light- and medium-duty chiseling in masonry and concrete.

This new SDS-max rotary hammer features Active Vibration Reduction (AVR) that reduces vibrations by up to 2/3rd that of competitor models. This helps keep users comfortable and productive all day long. The TE 50-AVR also has a detachable cord, which helps to reduce cord damage and wear. This cord simply snaps out if too much tension is applied, and it can easily be reconnected for



quick field replacement of damaged cords.

Weighing in at just 6 kg, the Hilti TE 50-AVR is the lightest SDS-max rotary hammer in Hilti's TE-Y class. While hammer drilling, the combihammer has an optimal hole diameter range of 12 mm up to 32 mm but can drill holes up to 40 mm in diameter. The TE 50-AVR can also handle percussion coring applications up to 86 mm diameter.

When the TE 50-AVR is outfitted with a Hilti TE-YD hollow drill bit and attached to the Hilti VC 20/40

vacuum, the user can virtually eliminate dust created during the drilling process and remove the need for subsequent hole cleaning when used with Hilti HIT-HY 200 or HIT-RE 500 V3 adhesive anchors. Without the Hilti SafeSet system, a vacuum with a HEPA filter would be required to collect airborne dust during hole cleaning in order to be compliant with Table 1 of the OSHA 1926.1153 silica standard. This Hilti SafeSet™ system (Hilti drill, hollow drill bit and Hilti vacuum) is Table 1 compliant with the OSHA 1926 standard.

Britain beginning fracking for oil on land

Continued from back page

“With the decline of North Sea gas and ... ever increasing reliance on gas imports, including shale gas imported from the United States, developing an indigenous source of natural gas is critical for U.K. energy security, our economy, jobs and the environment.”

The British Government has estimated that shale basins have more than 1.3 quadrillion cubic feet of natural gas. That is something no economy anywhere can ignore.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid underlined the British Government's approach to fracking by saying, “Shale gas has the potential to power economic growth, support 64 000 jobs, and provide a new domestic energy source, making us less reliant on imports.

“We will take the big decisions that matter to the future of our country as we build an economy that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.”

The same arguments should apply to South Africa.

Unlike the United States, British law also reserves below ground mineral wealth as belonging to the State, as we in South Africa do.

But what Theresa May the British Prime Minister has done is reversing the previous policy that allocated ownership to local municipalities at ground level. Instead she proposes that each citizen above the find will directly benefit—some estimate by as much as 20 000 pounds sterling (R360,000).

This money would come

from “shale wealth fund” that would collect 10% of the tax proceeds from fracking.

“It's about making sure people personally benefit from economic decisions that are taken and putting them back in control over their own lives,” May said.

This seems a brilliant idea which, if applied to South Africa would directly benefit families instead of the municipalities which in the Karoo at least are not noted for their efficiency. Any windfall from fracking would most probably be splurged on mayoral vehicles.

Another oil and gas bonanza from fracking (but in the south of the country) is being called the Gatwick Gusher. Hyperbole matching hyper-

bole, one could say.

Accounting firm Ernst & Young estimates the find could add billions of value to the British economy, putting the reserves of oil at 100 billion barrels. That would supply almost a quarter of the country's needs.

With figures like these it is any wonder that the British Government has given permission for fracking wells in Lancashire? No really. Rational decisions of this nature will always trump hysterical poser waving, and Green propaganda however loudly yelled in front of television cameras.

Unless, of course, in Britain's case, Jeremy Corbyn ever makes it into Number 10 Downing Street to become Prime Minister.

Empowering communities, one turtle at a time

SOLARTURTLE, a social entrepreneurship initiative that aims to uplift rural communities by providing secure and sustainable solar solutions, are tackling poverty with renewed vigour after winning R10 000 at the Inventors Garage at the 2017 SABC Education SA Innovation Summit.

By winning the Inventors Garage, SolarTurtle is recognised for its originality, financial viability, and innovative approach to solving the short supply of electricity in rural communities. SolarTurtle converts shipping containers into solar stations that can power up to 400 homes in low-income communities. SolarTurtle are aiming to reach 100 rural villages by 2024, which would reach ap-



proximately 720 000 people and save 7 000 tons of CO₂. The SolarTurtle container charges solar batteries of various sizes that can be used on site to charge phones or other

electronic devices. The batteries can also be unplugged and taken home to power LED lights and other devices. During the evenings, when the risk of vandalism and theft is high-

er, the solar panels fold away for safekeeping, just as the SolarTurtle's namesake would hide in its shell for self-preservation. SolarTurtle is continually innovating, with the latest model's panels folding away automatically with the touch of a button. Each SolarTurtle is an entrepreneurship opportunity for franchisees who can sell the electricity and use the container to power a spaza-shop, ICT lab, office or even a bank branch.

“SolarTurtle is driven by the goal to give the power of tomorrow to those who are powerless today,” enthuses James van der Walt, CEO of SolarTurtle. “We will be deploying our next generation solar container in at a community centre in Philippi, Cape Town later this year.”

Producers combine to combat booze ills

BY forming innovative partnerships with hundreds of organizations, the 11 companies behind some of the world's most popular beer, wine and spirits brands have:

- Reached more than 100 million people with educational messages focused on preventing underage drinking
- Established campaigns to prevent drinking and driving in 80% of markets where they are active
- Demonstrated that companies can be effective partners in tackling harmful drinking, accelerating progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As detailed in the 2016 Producers' Commitments progress report published recently, the world's leading producers have continued their efforts to tackle the harmful use of alcohol by forging new partnerships across sectors, from governments and small retailers, to not-for-profits and others in the private sector.

Drawing on case studies from nine countries around the world, the report highlights key lessons and insights for future action and recognizes that while progress has been made there is still much more to do.

Highlights from the report's case studies include:

- **A diverse range of highly effective social media campaigns, for example:**
 - Australia: multi-sectorial work led to the internationally acclaimed ‘How to drink properly’ [<https://drinkwise.org.au/our-work/drinking-do-it-properly/#>] campaign which tackled binge drinking and reached two million young people;
 - South Africa: our #bethementor [<http://www.bethementor.sab.co.za/>] Facebook campaign which was accompanied by face-to-face communications was associated with a 91% reduction in underage drinking by

youth participants; and

- Brazil: the ABRABE-run program Sem Excesso (“No Excess”) drew in 159 460 unique website visitors, gained more than 400 000 YouTube views, more than 808 000 Facebook likes; and more than 50 000 twitter followers.

- **Significant progress in reducing drinking and driving, for example:**
 - Poland: The majority of states now have police officers trained to conduct roadside alcohol breath tests. In one focus state, a 44% decrease in alcohol-related road traffic crashes was reported between 2013 and 2016;
 - Mexico: most states now have police officers trained to conduct roadside breathalyzer tests; and
 - Spain: its multi-media campaign to reduce drunk driving was recognized as an example

of best practice by the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) and was honored with an award from the Spanish Ministry of Industry.

- The first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Ministry of Health and Welfare and drinks producers
 - Dominican Republic: The MOU established a comprehensive work plan to: reduce underage drinking; strengthen and expand marketing codes of practice; reduce drinking and driving; and enlist the support of retailers in efforts to reduce harmful drinking. An “Alcohol Cluster” has also been established, consisting of a broad range of stakeholders which now meet monthly to discuss action plans in support of these commitments.

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Newsmaker of the Year

THE erudite congress of conversationalists in the local Pub & Grill were all thinking thoughts of a personal kind while slowly sipping the relaxant of their choice. Except for Big Ben, of course, who was gulping down his like a camel. But not fast enough to disturb the peace. This was disturbed, no surprise here, by Luke the Dude's pathological aversion to silence.

"Well, well well," said he by way of taking the floor, "isn't it crazy how time flies? It feels like only yesterday when we were staggering in here for regmakers after the New Year jollifications and here we are again, putting off our Christmas shopping until the last scrummaging day."

Most of the assembled cogitators deemed this comment undeserving of a response; we watch that movie every year, but The Prof decided to share his insights with Luke the Dude and everyone else within earshot.

"My dear Lucas," deigned he, "as a matter of fact, it is not crazy at all. The perceived flight of time is a perfectly logical phenomenon."

"Say what?" wondered Big Ben, temporarily distracted from the brew master's efforts.

"Useless!" exploded Jon the Joker. "Let The Prof Speak!" The assembly nodded in agreement.

"That would indeed be kind, thank you Jonathan," continued The Prof, feigning indignation at the rudeness to which he had certainly become accustomed. "Let me explain it in laymen's terms for the sake of those not familiar with multi-syllable words. Not that I mean to be derogatory in any form, heaven forbid, that company includes all our masters in government and the leader of the Free World, Dirty Old Man Trump himself. No less."

"That one," agreed Jean-Jay, "he has no culture. His, how you say in English, his horniness no? Well his is exceeded only by his crudeness. He is not a lover; he is a groper. Monsieur President Groper Trump."

"Hmmm," pondered Stevie the Poet, "he and our own president, the father of a nation by the next generation or so, should get together for a tête-à-tête. They have a lot in common."

"In more ways than one," added Irene the Queen.

"Order!" repeated Jon the Joker. "Let The Prof Speak." So we ordered, Sweet Angela served, eagerly assisted by The Governor, and The Prof waited.

"Okay Prof, what are you waiting for?" enquired Big Ben in his usual tactful manner.

The Prof decided that the question was rhetorical, grimaced and resumed: "Think about it like this. When you are five years old, a year feels like a lifetime. In fact, it takes up 20% of your life. When you are ten, a year is down to 10%, but still, summer holidays are really long. By the time you hit 35, a year takes up less than 3% of your life and you notice how time flies.

"And as some of us know, when you reach 60, it does feel like New Year was yesterday.

As Einstein said, my dear Lucas, it is all relative. In this case the appearance of time is relative to the time you have lived – measured by how many times you have experienced a full set of seasons."

Big Ben applauded. The others nodded sagely.

"Right!" Bob the Book rubbed his hands. "Before 2017 flies all the way out of the window, who do you think should be our Newsmaker of the Year? Nominations please!"

"What do you mean?" asked Big Ben suspiciously. "Are you scheming to deliver another lecture? Because if you are, I want to tell you now that I don't like it."

"Now, now, my dear hot-headed friend, don't be so unreasonable. How can you judge a case before hearing it? What would become of the courts of law in our country?"

"Don't think it never happens," counselled Stevie the Poet, who has seen more of the courts of law in action than he cares to remember.

"I am not prejudging Prof," insisted Big Ben, looking insulted. "I know I won't like it because I never like what that Bob the Bloody Book has to say. It's based on experience."

"Whoa!" called Bob the Book, seeing his argument disappearing into the eager jaws of anarchy. "That is a topic for another year. Too little of this one is left for pride and prejudice. The covers of this book are too far apart, as Ambrose Bierce said."

"Pierre who?" asked Big Ben.

"Never mind," placated Bob the Book, desperately. "Let me put your mind at rest, big boy, and you can sit down now please. I am asking for nominations, plain and simple. You may nominate anyone you want, no scheming. It could be Cyril Ramaphosa or Chris van Zyl of Western Province or tennis champion Caroline Wozniacki or David Miller of the Proteas. Anyone, as long as that person was in the news."

While Big Ben was chewing on this, The Prof came to The Book's assistance: "Ah well, in that case I nominate Nobel Prize winner Richard Thaler." This inspired Stevie the Poet to nominate Kazuo Ishiguro.

"Really, I don't know how you are going to prove that any of those dudes were in the newspaper," accused Luke the Dude, "I nominate Lewis Hamilton." By this time Big Ben had recovered sufficiently to nominate Conor McGregor "even though he lost".

"Okay Bob," demanded Irene the Queen, "obviously you led us into this conversation because you have your own nominee in mind. Out with it."

"I thought you would never ask," replied Bob the Book coyly. "But seeing that you have, I am going to be more patriotic and nominate a true South African: Minister of Social Services Bathabile 'Absent' Dlamini."

"Useless!" opined Jon the Joker.

"You can't be serious!" shouted Luke the Dude in his best John McEnroe imitation. "That old fraudster!"

"Steady now," cautioned Stevie the Poetic Lawyer. "You cannot go calling people fraudsters just because you don't like them. She has to be found guilty by a court or you may end up being in trouble with the law yourself."

"Stick to poetry, Steven," challenged Luke the Dude, still in combative mode. "Ever hear of the Travelgate scandal? When 14 members of our parliament abused their travel vouchers to pay for accommodation, rental cars and whatever? She was convicted of fraud all right."

"It didn't seem to do her political career any harm?" asked Stevie the Poet, bowing to Luke's superior knowledge.

"Of course not! She is a minister isn't she? With all the pay and the million-rand car and all the other perks from the ANC lucky packet."

"Well, yes and no," corrected Bob the Book. "In 2006 she was kicked out of parliament. In 2007 she was elected to the ANC's national executive. She was soon back in parliament, appointed deputy minister in 2009, Minister of Social Development in 2010 and elected Leader of the ANC Women's League in 2015. Convicted fraudster? No problem in the ANC."

"I do not agree," said big Ben. "It will be better when Zuma is gone. He covers for her."

"Indeed he does," agreed Bob the Book. "She grew up in Nkandla and is a member of the Dlamini-Zuma inner circle. She is campaigning hard to get Nkosazana 'Sarafina' Dlamini-Zuma elected ANC leader and president."

"So why do you nominate her?" growled Jon the Joker.

"Remember the crisis with welfare payments earlier this year?" explained Bob the Book. "When there was serious concern that the 17 million South Africans who depend on welfare payments to stay alive would not

OPINION

ON THE CONTRARY



Pieter Schoombee

receive their grants on April 1? As you have seen in the papers, that crisis is back. And while others are frantically searching for solutions, Minister Absent Dlamini has a habit of failing to turn up at meetings. Even when she had chosen the date and time.

"The contract with Cash Paymaster Services, CPS for short, to handle the payouts at vast expense to us taxpayers, ended on 31 March. Absent Dlamini had failed to set up a replacement for CPS. So to end the crisis, the CPS contract had to be extended at further vast expense. The Constitutional Court held her responsible and Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng said her incompetence could not be explained.

"Meanwhile Sassa, the agency for social security, paid a million rand for her children's VIP protection.

"The Post Office was appointed to set up a system to take over from CPS, but Sassa is, like Absent Dlamini, delaying the process. Hence the new crisis."

"Useless!" declared Jon the Joker. "So why do you nominate her?"

"As I've just told you," smiled Bob the Book, "who personifies our government better?"

"Indeed," concurred The Prof. "The ANC in motion. Or lack of it."

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Britain beginning fracking for oil on land

Reason has at last triumphed over millenarian madness in Britain – at least with regards to fracking for oil and gas. The first rig is on site in Lancashire getting ready to tap into a natural gas basin that will ease the transition from North Sea oil.

By the end of this year the first of two wells will reveal whether or not there is oil and gas in commercial quantities.

It has been six long and wasted years while opponents of fracking technology have pulled out all the stops to prevent it being used on shore in Britain, accusing it of creating earthquakes, poisoning drinking water, causing asthma, cancer, and generally marshalling their usual wild propaganda they are experts in spreading.

Their last attempt at scaremongering was the responsibility of Friends of the Earth which flooded Lancashire with pamphlets containing such outrageously spurious claims that the British Advertising Standards Authority demanded they recall them, apologise, and promise never to repeat them. Which they did. It was a world first.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN



Keith Bryer

Paul Younger, a professor of energy engineering at the University of Glasgow, told The Times that the claims were ridiculous. "Sand is silica; it's exactly the same stuff that's on every sandy beach in the country.

"What are they proposing? That we treat all beaches as contaminated land and pave them over? The debate about fracking should be on the basis of reason, not wild, unsubstantiated allegations."

Amen to that.

Clive Mitchell, an industrial minerals specialist at the British Geological Survey, whose work was cited by Friends of the Earth to support its allegation that fracking caused cancer said: "It's tantamount to scaremongering. It's inaccurate and misleading," he said.

The rational argument for fracking in Britain was summed up by the company doing the drilling:

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