

# CAPE Business News

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## Tricky tides for fishing sector

A HIGH COURT decision which lifts an interdict that precluded the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) from awarding hake fishing rights for the inshore trawl fishery is certain to send ominous ripples through the local fishing industry.

The matter dates back to the beginning of the year when large inshore hake fishing enterprise Viking Fishing applied for an interdict to stop a new fishing rights award that would have seen the hake quota spread amongst a multitude of new players. In essence, Viking – which was founded by Nico Bacon way back in 1980 and is now one of the biggest five fishing companies in South Africa – would have lost 60% of its hake catch quota. This development, Viking argued, would render its key hake fishing operation unviable, and ultimately result in massive job losses at its Mossel Bay processing plant.

The DAFF's position stems from a long standing determination to transform the local fishing sector, bringing in more new black participants.

On the surface there has been much transformation in the fishing sector in the last two decades – but perceptions linger that much of the 'catch' is still in the net of white-owned corporations. Currently South Africa's biggest fishing company Oceana is controlled by food brands giant Tiger Brands – which overshadows the significant minority interest of empowerment company Brimstone and a (very rewarding) employee share incentive scheme. Frozen hake specialist I&J is controlled by consumer brands giant AVI, also overshadowing empowerment initiatives. The largest black owned fishing ventures are Premier Fishing – controlled by African Empowerment Equity Investments (AEEI), Sea Harvest (controlled by Brimstone) and the TerraSan Group.

It seems likely that Viking – which does have significant empowerment participation – will appeal the process with the company, in a press release, noting the court's ruling was not unanimous. One of the three presiding judges handed down a dissenting judgement, finding that it did demonstrate a clear right to the interdict originally granted in January.

If the DAFF believes the court decision vindicates its determination to bring new entrants in the hake inshore trawl sector then the billion rand question is whether



the same logic will apply when other fishing rights are awarded in the 2020 catch allocation. This could have serious implications for other industry players – especially those that are not perceived as 'black controlled'.

It's worth remembering that the court ruled that the decision made by the DAFF cannot be said to be "irrational, inexplicable or unreasonable" – which is perhaps understandable considering the importance of increasing the participation of smaller black businesses in the mainstream economy.

Anthony Clark, an analyst at Vunani Securities with a deep understanding of the food and fishing sectors, said the court ruling would have significant upside from 2020 for black-owned and managed fishing companies – both large and small.

He pointed out that the hake inshore trawl and deep water sector was mainly controlled by large companies such as Viking, Oceana, I&J, Lusitania, Mar Pro and Sea Harvest.

He said the 15-year quota allocations announced by DAFF in December 2016 meant the inshore hake quota to be distributed to more entrants and allowed 12 new BEE entrants. This would bring the total number of participants to 27 – and mean existing players would see a reduction in their 15-year quota allocation to allow transformation to start in the fishing sector.

Clark felt that a precedent had been set in the court ruling with DAFF winning an important ruling on transformation. BEE fishing counters are now very well placed to gain better allocation quota in the 2020 process."

What the court ruling does bring into stark relief is a question around the value of empowerment equity participation in companies that are essentially still white controlled.

In press reports Viking CEO Tim Riddell was at pains to stress that the company had scored 92.7% on its BEE scorecard – but that this statistic was disregarded by the DAFF.

This 'overlooking' of a seemingly credible empowerment status was also an issue when Oceana embarked on acquisitions in South Africa – specifically for parts of Lusitania Fishing and for the fishing business of the old FoodCorp group.

Viking, will no doubt, fight on. The company has invested extensively in operations – owning and operating a fleet of 31 fishing vessels as well as sprawling seafood processing facility in Cape Town (with smaller facilities in Mossel Bay and Durban).

While its significant holding in the hake sector is uncertain, the company also holds positions in the small pelagic fishery for sardine and anchovy, west coast rock lobster (see accompanying story) and prawn fishing. In recent years Viking has diversified into fish farming (or aquaculture), holding interests in abalone, finfish, mussel and oyster farms. These operations are, obviously, not subject to government regulated catch allocations.

Interestingly Viking has established a network of factory outlets where fresh and frozen seafood products can be purchased at reasonable prices. Sea Harvest has a similar venture – albeit with a fast food bent – with its fish and chip shop in Sea Point.

If anything, the court ruling in the DAFF's favour suggests the more established Cape Town fishing companies will need to undergo a period of introspection and re-invention.

Oceana has already stressed in its investment presentations that its exposure to DAFF fishing allocation rulings is limited to less than a third of its operations. The Lucky Star canned pilchard business is not dependant on catch allocations, and a large chunk of Oceana's business now lies in Louisiana with the Daybrook fish meal and fish oil operations.

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## New smart park in Atlantis.



THIS is the fifth suburb to benefit from the park design that resulted in the City's Recreation and Parks Department receiving an award for excellence from the Institute for Landscape Architecture two years ago.

Smart parks are about bringing quality, durable and creative facilities to previously underserved communities and providing something for everyone – whether they're after passive or active recreation. The City's Organisational Development and Transformation Plan prioritises safe, integrated communities and excellence in basic service delivery and the smart parks embody all of these priorities.

Built at a cost of just over R12 million, the park in Atlantis boasts a multi-purpose lawn area with large trees that provide shade for picnics and general relaxation. The play area features custom-designed equipment for toddlers as well as an adventure play area for older children. For the lovers of sport and exercise, there is a synthetic pitch and multipurpose court that can accommodate various sporting codes, an outdoor gym for calisthenics, and pathways for a leisurely stroll or jog.

'Our smart parks are essentially about bringing quality facilities to people's doorsteps – facilities that are inclusive because they offer something for everyone. It's an opportunity for communities to come together in ways that they may not have been able to before. More importantly, these parks have raised the bar with their innovative design and construction methods that use materials sensibly and efficiently. We have to think outside the box if we are to adequately address our societal

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# Tricky tides for fishing sector

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Of course, it will be interesting to see if consumer brands conglomerate Tiger Brands and AVI reduce their shareholdings in Oceana and I&J respectively to allow increased empowerment participation.

In the meantime, the moves of the two black owned (and cash flush) fishing companies Sea Harvest and Premier Fishing should be monitored carefully. Both have signalled a willingness to make acquisitions, but neither have executed on deals yet. On the other hand, the smaller TerraFin has acquired the Saldanha Group's

fishing operations in a deal purportedly worth R450m, and is (CBN hears) on the verge of clinching another deal.

### Stumping up for lobster

Recent urgent calls to protect the fast diminishing West Coast red Lobster population have not abated – although, so far, there is no official word from the DAFF.

It has been estimated that overfishing, poaching and poor management of the rock lobster has meant that only 2% of the original fishery stock remains, and a shift of

the popular (if pricey) seafood to the red-list.

It has been widely reported that the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), along with fishers, has submitted an open letter to the Minister of the DAFF to call for urgent intervention to address the critical situation.

Major fishing companies – specifically Premier Fishing and Oceana – could be affected – although the former is far more involved in south coast lobster (which is caught in deeper waters and not hindered by poaching).

While CBN anxiously awaits news of the rock lobster predicament, there was - at the time of going to press - a breaking news story suggesting a huge pay-back for previous reckless fishing escapades.

The PE Herald reported that: Cape Town businessman Arnold Bengis – who in 14 years decimated the rock lobster population – has been ordered by a US court to fork out \$37 million (R483 million) for pillaging thousands of tons of rock lobster.

The court also sentenced Bengis to more than four years' imprisonment, and ordered an immediate arrest warrant for Bengis (who now resides in Israel).

The Herald reported that the DAFF initially wanted \$100 million in restitution.

The newspaper added that although Bengis's activities stopped 17 years ago, the damage to the coastal ecosystem was still depriving fishing communities of access to resources.

The Herald said former DAFF head of fisheries Horst Kleinschmidt showed research that suggested that free-falling rock lobster stocks had "immediately stabilised" after Bengis' operation was stopped.

His fleet of trawlers overfished more than 2 200 tons of west coast rock lobster between 1987 and 2000.

# Golding consortium stitches up Rextru

A Consortium headed by pioneering empowerment personality (and former trade union stalwart) Marcel Golding appears to have sewn up control of iconic Cape Town company Rex Trueform, which owns the Queenspark fashion retailing chain.

A notice issued to RexTru shareholders shows that Golding – a co-founder of Hosken Consolidated Investments (HCI) - and consortium partner Hugh Roberts have acquired large parcel of shares in RexTru and its parent company African & Overseas Enterprises from the Shub family.

The Shub family –

like the Ackermans (Pick n' Pay), Ruperts (Remgro) and Jowells (Trencor) – have controlled Rextru for decades. RexTru was initially founded in the late thirties as Salt River-based clothing manufacturer, which later found a lifeline in retailing after opening a factory shop in the late eighties. The last of the clothing manufacturing operations were close more than 10 years ago.

Catherine Radowsky, the daughter of the late Stewart Shub, currently serves as CEO of RexTru and has managed to cautiously roll-out a chain of Queenspark



stores mainly in South Africa and selected African centres.

But the latest share dealings seem to suggest that the Shub family is capitulating effective control of RexTru in favour of Golding and Roberts.

The Shubs have sold – via the Stewart and Pat Shub family Trust, - Catherine Radowsky, Andrew Shub and Patricia Shub - 726 600 ordinary and 604 045 N-shares in African and Overseas Enterprises shares as well smaller

parcel of RexTru shares for about R65m.

The shares considerably bolster the position of the Golding consortium, which around two years ago bought into RexTru when it acquired a frustrated empowerment group Brimstone's shareholding. Reports in the financial press suggest Brimstone had tried unsuccessfully to convince the Shub family to adopt a more adventurous operational strategy – including adding or acquiring new trading formats to complement the core Queenspark offering.

The sale of the Shub family shares comes at

a difficult junction for Queenspark, the main operating asset owned by Rextru.

A recent trading statement showed December 2016, Rextru indicated that Queenspark remained under severe pressure during the second half of the financial year.

For the full year to end June RexTru's earnings are expected to decrease by at least 65% - a performance that is considerably shabbier than the company's larger rivals like Mr Price, Pepkor, Truworths and The Foschini Group.

The exact nature of the Golding consortium's strategic plans for RexTru have not yet been revealed – although rumours suggest an effort to diversify the current retail offering is almost certainly on the cards.

There has even been talk of reconstituting RexTru and African & Overseas Enterprises as an empowerment investment company with a diverse investment portfolio.

While the trading conditions are tough for RexTru, the company has a strong balance sheet with a sizeable cash balance as well as valuable properties that it has re-developed in the increasingly vibrant Salt River node.

## Call for entries for 2017 Premier's Recognition Entrepreneurship Awards

ENTRIES for the 2017 Premier's Entrepreneurship Recognition Awards have opened.

Business people are invited to enter the competition, which seeks to celebrate entrepreneurs who are making a contribution to growth and jobs in the Western Cape province.

Since the launch of the

competition in 2013, over 1 000 entries have been received. It is an initiative of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

Alan Winde, Minister of Economic Opportunities, encouraged entrepreneurs to enter the competition.

"According to the Global Entrepreneurship

Monitor, people living in Africa report positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship, with three quarters of adults considering entrepreneurship a good career choice. However, here in South Africa we see declining Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity rates, amongst the working age population who are

about to start a business.

"That is why we are investing R37 million into our business development programme in this financial year, to reduce red tape and offer support to entrepreneurs. PERA is one of these initiatives, and I am encouraged by the achievements of past winners."

Premier Helen Zille

called on entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the PERA platform to gain exposure for their businesses. "Creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to succeed is a priority of this government. PERA is our way of recognising the businesses that are playing their part in the economic progress we are making

in the Western Cape."

As part of their prize, last year's winners, from Auto Magneto, will travel to the Shanghai Auto Mechanika National Exhibition in November. The exhibition will include factory site visits in China. Auto Magneto is seeking to learn lessons for the planned expansion of its own range. Business owner, Lamees Ismail and Bonita Dodgen, procurement director, will use the platform to arrange meetings with industry stakeholders in China.

### 2017 PERA categories

- **Emerging Business A** business in its initial growth phase operating for 12 months or longer, but not longer than 36 months with a minimum annual turnover of R500 000;
- **Established Business** Operating for longer than 54 months with a minimum annual turnover of R5m but

not more than R50m;

- **Social Enterprise** Any revenue generating entity operating for 12 months or longer, which aims to address a social challenge or need;
- **Most Innovative Business** This refers to an innovative solution or approach to an existing service or product;
- **Business with Global Reach** An enterprise in business for 54 months or longer with a minimum annual turnover of R5m, but not more than R50m. The business should prove that at least 30% of its turnover is derived from exports.

The closing date for entries is 1 September 2017 at 18:00. Winners will be announced in November. For more information, including detail on the criteria, visit <https://www.wcpremiersawards.co.za/> for more details.



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# Powering water solutions

THERE are increasingly audible murmurings that bold investment company PSG Group is backing

Bellville-based Energy Partners to the hilt.

PSG owns 63% of Energy Partners and has already pumped

considerable capital into the business, which specialises in commercial and residential energy saving solutions.

At a recent AGM in Stellenbosch, PSG CEO Piet Mouton indicated that the group's cash holdings of R1.75bn could be deployed in the next few months with Energy Partners likely to be a large recipient.

There has also been an interesting twist at Energy Partners that was hinted at during the PSG AGM: the desalination of seawater...an offering that would feed into Cape Town's on-going water crisis.

The shift into desalination follows recent diversification deals by Energy Partners – namely markedly increasing its stake in refrigeration specialist Refsols and buying 100% of combustion products and services company Dryden.

CBN presumes the

tilt at desalination is a fairly new development as Energy Partners website does not reflect such an operational division yet. But Mouton told the AGM that PSG believed Energy Partners had the solution that could solve the Western Cape's water crisis through desalination and reverse osmosis technologies.

The success of Energy Partner's 'water business' will, of course, depend on convincing politicians and bureaucrats of the longer term benefits of the desalination process. PSG has not added too much more detail around Energy Partners water en-

deavours, which might mean negotiations have already reached a fairly advanced stage. The nature of the water crisis is of such, that CBN reckons Energy Partners should receive a decision sooner rather later.

In April website News24 reported that power utility Eskom has plans to install a desalination plant at the Koeberg nuclear power station.

In the meantime, the body language from PSG executives around Energy Partners core business is bristling with confidence.

Mouton pointed out that South Africa's installed electricity ca-



capacity was around 45 gigawatts, and that the cost of the Medupi and Kusile power stations was effectively R30bn per gigawatt.

He said this implied an electricity generation market of around

R1.5 trillion, and that adding in energy conversion pushed the market size to well over R2 trillion. "If we obtain a mere 1% market share, we will have R20bn in assets at Energy Partners."

## Sewing up the nanofibre market

PSG Group's adventurous investing style has secured it huge winners like Capitec Bank and private education venture Curro – both businesses that had very humble beginnings. So perhaps it's worth noting that inside PSG's so-called 'investment nursery' – PSG Alpha Investments – is an investment in the Stellenbosch Nanofibre Company (SNC).

This early stage investment has been kept under wraps by PSG. But at the recent AGM the company was a little more forthcoming around SNC, noting that nanofibre technology was applicable in many large industries like healthcare (wound dressings), energy (advanced storage in batteries), filtration and composite materials.

PSG CEO Poet Mouton said SNC's main focus was on healthcare nanofibre market. He said this global market could be worth as much as \$493m by 2020. "We would want a big share of this market."

## Best City in Africa and the Middle East



CAPE Town has been named "Best City in Africa and the Middle East" in the esteemed Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards for 2017. The award underscores the city's consistent favour with world travellers, providing even more exposure to a global audience. Cape Town placed 8th overall on "World's Top 15 Cities" list.

There has been ongoing growth in tourism to the city throughout 2017 following on from a respectable high season, and the forecast for the immediate future is that this trend is set to continue through the latter half

of the year, particularly with the much-anticipated opening of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa.

Earlier in 2017 Cape Town was named number one city in Africa for business tourism events by the International Congress and Convention Association, highlighting the diversity in what's on offer in the city, from business to luxury travel, as well as affordable options for the leisure traveller.

Executive Mayor, City of Cape Town, Patricia de Lille: "We are ecstatic about the award affirming our status as a consistent destination of choice of travellers

from all over the world. The City of Cape Town will continue to do all we can to promote Cape Town as the ideal place to live, work, play and invest in."

Enver Duminy, CEO, Cape Town Tourism: "We applaud the efforts of every tourism professional and every local who has worked tirelessly to make Cape Town a welcoming destination, renowned the world over as providing a fantastic travel experience. Let's continue to add value to excellence, ensuring an ongoing boost to the economy and sustainability in employment in the sector for more Capetonians."



### What is a learnership?

A learnership is a structured learning process for gaining theoretical knowledge through an accredited training provider and practical skills in the workplace leading to a qualification registered on the NQF. A learnership is outcomes-based and not time-based and allows for recognition of prior learning. Learnership duration varies but the average is about 12 months.

### Who is eligible to enter a learnership programme?

Any person, employed or unemployed, may apply to register for a learnership:

- If you are employed, you may register for a learnership programme within the sector where your company or organisation operates; or
- If you are unemployed, you may register for placement in a learnership programme at your local labour centre or with employers in your area.

The Department of Labour refers unemployed individuals, who meet the minimum criteria, to employers looking for learners.

### How does one apply for a learnership programme?

- If you are employed, find out which learnerships are available in the sector in which you work. Upon deciding which learnership programme is appropriate, you will need to enter into an agreement with your employer stating your rights and responsibilities as a learner; or
- If you are unemployed, you must register your profile at the nearest Department of Labour office, after which you may be referred to employers who may be looking for learners to enter learnership programmes.

### What is an apprenticeship?

The apprenticeship system is a well-known technical training system, which covers both practical and theoretical components offered in listed trades. Once you have completed your training, you will need to pass a trade test to qualify as an artisan.

### Who is eligible for an apprenticeship programme?

Any South African citizen, 16 years or older. There are different admission requirements for the various trades. Competence in Maths, Science and English will enhance your chances of selection.

### How does one apply to enter an apprenticeship programme?

- If you are unemployed, you may apply to a company that is offering an apprenticeship programme; or
- If you are employed, consult with your employer as to the requirements and correct procedures to be followed to enter an apprenticeship programme.



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## Building excitement for engineering at school level

ALTair South Africa once again hosted a group of potential engineering students as part of their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) initiative to expose them to the opportunities available in the engineering field.

"The project has grown exponentially since we started three years ago, with over 60 learners joining us this year," explains Gronum Smith, Country Manager of Altair SA.

The invitation was extended to all schools in the area including Malibu High, Oval Engineering School, Paul Roos Gymnasium, Kayamandi High, Cloeteville High and Rhenish Girls High in Stellenbosch, and Parel Vallei, Strand High and Hottentots Holland in the Somerset West area.

"This year we tested their analytical skills with practical sessions, which they seemed to enjoy, along with all the presentations," said Gronum.

The keynote speaker was Christopher Maxwell from Bloodhound



SSC, who spoke about the technology behind building a car to go faster than 1 600km/h (1 000 mph), which resulted in lots of questions from the audience. Other presentations, along with those from Altair, focused on each engineering discipline including aeronautical (SA National Space Agency), industrial (University of Stellenbosch), mechatronics (Green-chain Engineering), civil (By Design), chemical (Veolia) and electrical/software (Alphawave).

Feedback from the

pupils was positive and many of them appreciated the value of such a day. The common thread throughout the day by all the presenters was work hard, be passionate, take risks, be entrepreneurial and realise that learning never ends.

"One pupil's comment at the end of the day of 'I had never considered mechanical engineering but had decided during the mechanical engineering session that it is my chosen career and I just wanted to

say thank you for that' definitely makes a day like this worthwhile", concludes Gronum.

Altair is focused on the development and broad application of simulation technology to synthesize and optimize designs, processes and decisions for improved business performance. Privately held with more than 2 600 employees, Altair is headquartered in Troy, Michigan, USA and operates more than 67 offices throughout 23 countries.

## Steel industry negotiations: Misinformation by NUMSA

THE Metal and Engineering Industry Bargaining Council (MEIBC) currently finds itself in watershed negotiations.

It is common cause that the Industry is in distress. According to the MEIBC the Industry lost 150 000 jobs over the 10 year period from 2006 to 2015. The IDC recently confirmed a further 25 000 job losses and 500 business closures during the last twelve month period. The issue of uncompetitive wages is one of the main causes stifling job creation in the Industry.

The wages in the Steel Industry are currently, on average, double that of other Industries covered by bargaining council agreements. The wage gap is even bigger when it is compared to wages determined by wage determinations.

The wage proposal by NEASA and other employer groupings in this round of negotiations are to address this ever worsening trend in terms of job losses and also to create a position

in which new jobs could be created. One of the employer demands is to establish a new entry level wage for newly appointed employees in this Industry.

In press releases by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), they constantly create the impression that this constituted a downward variation of wages. It is simply not true. It is not the case now, and it has never been the position of employers. In terms of the employers' position in this regard, the wages of existing employees will not be affected. The same applies to the misinformation being circulated to the effect that, apart from employers proposing to reduce the wages of current employees, they also want to increase working hours. Again this is not true. The proposal by employers in this regard is simply to add an additional five hours to the normal working hours before overtime is introduced. In spreading misinformation about the

employers' proposals, knowing perfectly well that it is not true, NUMSA is playing a very dangerous game – probably aimed at inciting employees to strike – for the wrong reasons. This is dangerous, mischievous and irresponsible. Stakeholders at the negotiating table, both employers and trade unions, must remember that they are not only negotiating for their own interests. There is indeed much more at stake. Opening the opportunity of employment to the millions of unemployed people has now become one of South Africa's most strategic objectives. In the Steel Industry, taking the lead in this regard and doing something constructive, is within our power.

*The views of Gerhard Papenfus, Chief Executive of the National Employers' Association of South Africa (NEASA), which is also the largest employer body involved in the current negotiations.*

(See also P31)

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## Reliable detection of objects and fill levels

LEUZE's range of optoelectronic and inductive switches with capacitive proximity switches make it possible to apply a solution for all detection requirements from a single source. Using innovative technology, these sensors are able to reliably detect and monitor fill levels and detect objects through packaging materials.

Available from Countapulse Controls, leading supplier of specialised sensing solutions, the contactless, wear-free switches are resistant to electromagnetic influences, interference and contaminants in the air such as dust.

Facilitating optimum flexibility in applying this technology, the capacitive switches are available in a cylindrical or cubic design, and in embedded or non-embedded versions. This allows for a wide range of



*Leuze's range of optoelectronic and inductive switches with capacitive proximity switches make it possible to apply a solution for all detection requirements from a single source.*

mounting options.

Designed using semiconductor technology, these Leuze switches offer a long life expectancy, regardless of the detection and switching frequency. And the new generation sensors make contactless detection of many different objects and media possible, regardless of the shape.

The Leuze switches are particularly suitable for detecting objects in harsh and dirty environments due to their IP67 housing. Further, the ability to "see through" certain materials allows

these switches to be used in food and beverage and packaging industries where it is possible to detect products in outer packaging and behind container walls. These sensors are also ideal for accurately checking fill levels and monitoring these for completeness.

Johannesburg-based, Countapulse Controls has an in-depth understanding of the application of absolute rotary encoders and is able to assist the market in selection of the best fit solution for a given application.

## New smart park in Atlantis

Continued from P1

challenges and this is but one such example," said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security; and Social Services, Alderman JP Smith.

The City's Recreation and Parks Department has established similar facilities in Gugulethu,

Khayelitsha, Delft and Nomzamo in Strand. A sixth smart park is currently under construction in Mfuleni.

"There's a dire need for quality social and recreational spaces in many of our communities. The City is responding to that need

through developments like the Atlantis Smart Park. I appeal to the community to take ownership of this facility and help ensure that it remains a safe space for all and that it fosters positive youth development in particular," added Alderman Smith.



# Play time for Deneb

EPPING-based industrial holding company Deneb Investments has made a bold play in the local toy market.

Deneb, formerly the Seardel Group, announced the acquisition last month of 100% of toy distributor New Just Fun for R40,5 million.

Deneb already owns well known toy distributor Prima Toys, and the acquisition of New Just Fun means the company now holds a lucrative (possibly dominant) slice of a vibrant economic niche.

New Just Fun's website claims the company is the biggest toy distribution business in South Africa.

Deneb CEO Stuart Queen said the acquisition would improve economies of scale and unlocking efficiencies to the benefit of both the company and its customers.

Prima has traditionally been an important operating cog, dating back to the old Seardel days when toy business offset threadbare trading conditions in what was then the core clothing and textile manufacturing businesses.

The acquisition is expected to become effective by the end of November.

Prima was one of the star performers for Deneb in the financial year to end March.

The Prima Group - which comprises Prima Toys, Prima Interactive and the Empire Group as well as some smaller start-ups - managed to push up operating profit 47%.

Queen noted that the Prima Group businesses continued to deliver very good returns - "which is testament to the efforts of the competent management teams within them".

New Just Fun appears to have performed soundly - with Deneb disclosing that for the 12 month period ending March there was R201 million generated in turnover by New Just Fun. The attributable profit was

close to R12 million.

There seems to be little overlap in the two toy companies' distribution portfolios. Deneb holds the local distribution rights to brands like Bratz, Disney, InnOnex, Marvel, Peppa Pig, Star Wars and The Smurfs... amongst many others.

New Just Fun's best known brands include Barbie, Hello Kitty, Flying Fairies, Air Hogs, Toy Story, Hot Wheels, Trashies and Tonka.

The bigger picture is that New Just Fun confirms a trend at Deneb to balance its 'old economy' industrial assets with a smart assembly brand distribution businesses and light

or niche manufacturing ventures (as seen in recent acquisitions of Premier Rainwater Goods and Port Elizabeth-based catalytic converter Formex).

In this regard, Deneb's Branded Product segment - of which Prima is part of - is becoming an increasingly important hub for profit generation. In the year to end March revenue from this segment was down R21 million (or 1%) to R1,38 billion - but, more importantly, operating profit before finance costs increased to R15 million from the just R2 million recorded in the prior trading period.



Interestingly, Deneb's sporting goods business, Brand ID, had - according to Queen - "a little stutter" on its growth path. "This business sells quite high-value discretionary durable goods and the segment of the market that it serves has undoubtedly been under pressure."

But he noted that towards the end of the year it took a decision to exit some of its lower margin product ranges and consolidate its management structures to reduce its break-even point.

## Western Cape's 2016 tourism arrivals up by 18%

THE Western Cape attracted 1,5 million foreign tourists, who spent in excess of R18 billion in the province, in 2016, according to the latest figures from South African Tourism (SAT).

Alan Winde, Minister of Economic Opportunities, and Wesgro, Cape Town and the Western Cape's tourism, trade and investment promotion agency, provided an update on Project Khulisa's progress to grow the tourism sector.

**Key figures from SAT's report include:**

- In 2016, 1,5 million international tourists travelled to the province, a year-on-year increase of 18,5%
- Foreign tourist spend grew by 21,6%, increasing to R18,1 billion
- Domestic tourism arrivals reached 2,1 million, up 16,9% year-on-year
- Domestic tourists spent R2,5 billion, a 24,3% increase from the previous year

Minister Winde said: "2016 was a phenomenal year for Western Cape tourism, with

substantial increases recorded across the board.

This is a result of amongst others the decision we made to put tourism front

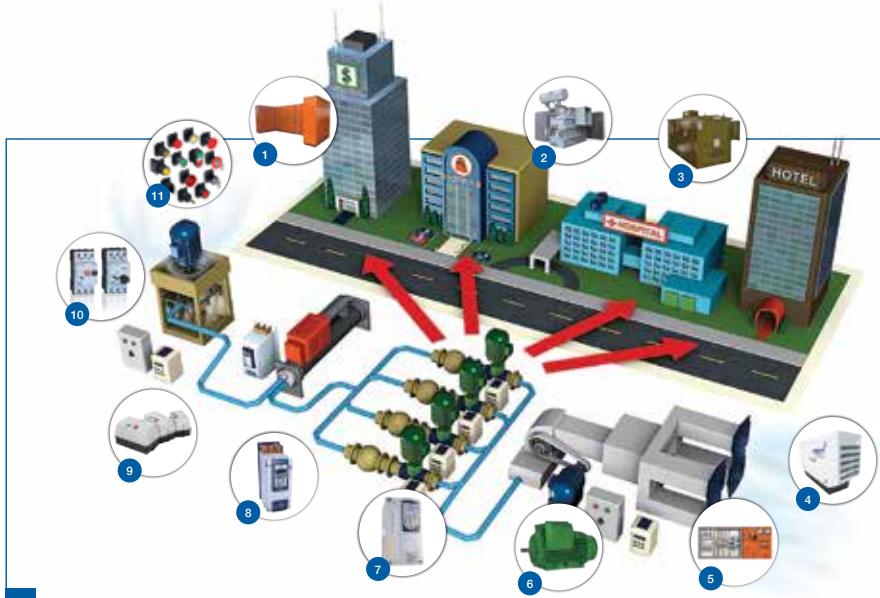
and centre through our Project Khulisa growth strategy. When we put Project Khulisa together, we believed that tourism held huge potential to unlock

accelerated growth and job creation in our province. We put dedicated teams and a dedicated programme of action in place to realise this potential."

Judy Lain, Chief Marketing Officer, Wesgro, said: "The latest South African Tourism data underlines the strength of the tourism sector as

an economic driver for the Western Cape. Wesgro will continue driving their leisure and Convention Bureau plans to keep the momentum going.

Tourism can help create jobs during tough economic times, so we must all double-down on our efforts to grow these numbers even further."



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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.

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# Atlas Copco sponsorship empowers informal mechanics

ATLAS Copco South Africa (Pty) Ltd has for the past five years been a proud supporter of the Filpro enterprise development programme, an inspirational initiative that empowers and upskills informal mechanics to become active participants in the country's formal mainstream economy.

There are countless unskilled as well as skilled mechanics, who have worked within the formal automotive sector, operating informal service centres with little or no infrastructure and limited access to tools and equipment. Automotive component

manufacturers, G.U.D. Holdings and NGK Spark Plugs established Filpro in January 2012 with the objectives of empowering and developing disadvantaged mechanics so that they are able to transform their informal businesses into formal enterprises and in so doing, also create much needed employment opportunities.

The Filpro programme, headed by Managing Director, Bonnie, supports a five-element model - identification and assessment; training; monitoring and coaching; access to market and compliancy.

"We put the Filpro



*Atlas Copco mechanics who were empowered by the Filpro enterprise development programme receiving their certificates.*

programme into action by driving through Gauteng's townships, identifying and assessing

disadvantaged mechanics and informal workshops that we believe would benefit from the

programme," explains Bonnie. "One of the biggest hurdles faced by mechanics is the registration of a business, an expensive and time consuming exercise that can take up to three months.

Filpro is registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) so we are able to register the businesses on behalf of the mechanics that are required to provide four business names and pay the registration fee to ensure their buy-in."

Filpro is an accredited training provider with services SETA and employees are qualified as facilitators, assessors and moderators. Technical and product training are key elements in the Filpro programme model, combining the mechanics' informal experience with formal training and qualifications. The programme offers training on the correct use of tooling as well as the proper fitment of quality automotive parts to

ensure good service and repeat business. The programme beneficiaries receive training on various automotive parts such as filters, brake pads, lubricants and spark plugs. Mechanics are also given soft skills training on how to run a business (basic business management, finance, bookkeeping, Consumer Protection Act, etc.). Compliancy matters such as the submission of annual tax returns and environmental issues including the responsible disposal of motor oil are also addressed.

During this financial year approximately 80 mechanics were given an opportunity to participate in technical training at the AA Academy; 60 completed their trade tests and are now qualified motor mechanics. Armed with this qualification, the mechanics are now able to move into the mainstream with confidence and establishes customer trust.

Patrick Modisane, a non-executive director of Atlas Copco, has been involved with the programme from the get-go and in 2015 Atlas Copco Industrial Technique and Compressor Technique embraced the Filpro programme through the sponsorships. Industrial Technique has donated a wide range of tools including sockets, torque and impact wrenches, drills, sanders jacks, and engine lifts. Compressor Technique sponsored forty-five Automan 2,2kW compressors and the two busi-

ness areas support the products with training as well as product repair or replacement.

Bonnie expresses her sincere appreciation of long-standing partners like Atlas Copco. "Thanks to this type of support, over 100 mechanics in Gauteng and KZN have received workshops tools worth over R2 million since the inception of the programme."

Currently some 1 000 mechanics are active in the programme across Gauteng, the Kwa-Zulu Natal eThekweni Municipality, Northern Cape, Free State, Western Cape, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth) and Limpopo with plans to widen the footprint to Richards Bay. With approximately 1 600 businesses registered since 2012, the programme is a game changer, producing many success stories: The programme assisted Kenneth Ramonisi and his partner Trevor Ntse-nya to obtain their Trade Certificates in Motor Mechanics and move their motor mechanic business from a backyard operation in Kagiso Township on Johannesburg's West Rand to a registered workshop, Kagiso Autotec, in Chamdor.

"Since joining the programme in 2013, we have employed two more people, increased our customer base and grown our monthly business income six fold!" comment Kenneth and Trevor.

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The Cape Construction Expo is the Western Cape's biggest gathering of qualified buyers

and sellers for the entire value chain. This is an unrivalled networking opportunity for exhibitors to raise their company profiles, increase awareness of their products and services and use the exhibition as a platform to launch new products and services.

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- An overview of infrastructure and investment taking place across the province
- What's in store for the construction sector for 2017/18?

Market trends and investment opportunities to watch out for in the Western Cape marketplace will be highlighted

- New business opportunities and initiatives for construction, infrastructure development, spatial transformation and inner city refurbishment in the Western Cape
- An update on developmental milestones for the province and progress made towards current developmental goals



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# Why are so many of South Africa's youth unemployed?

**Statement by Andre Venter, spokesperson of the trade union UASA:**

THE reasons for the high level of youth unemployment have been discussed ad nauseam, and, of course, the downgrade of South Africa's sovereign credit rating by the three most important ratings agencies, Moody's, Fitch and S&P, come into play, as does the country's nosedive towards a full-blown recession. There is, however, an additional reason why so many youngsters sit at home, frustrated and at the end of their wits.

Older South Africans grew up in a world where they and their parents worked for huge parastatals like the railways, Iscor and Armscor.

It was quite normal for employees to stay at one company for 35, 40 years or even longer, while taking advantage of great medical aid and pension benefits.

After the worldwide recession in 2008, the picture changed considerably. Young people no longer found permanent employment as a matter of fact, and the benefits were greatly reduced.

In South Africa the situation is no better, and even worse than elsewhere. Some figures peg youth unemployment for job-seekers between 18 and 24 years old at as high as 48%. This means almost one out of two is unemployed.

In reality there is a surplus of entry-level jobs at any given time, but there are not enough strategic resources dedicated to ensuring job longevity, according to research done by entry-level employment recruiters Lulaway.

The research shows that younger employees have the poorest job longevity, and as they have minimal financial responsibilities, they lack the resilience to push through the initial challenges of entry-level employment, which tends to be menial and physically gruelling and offers little return.

They complete their tertiary studies with the expectation of a well-paid job and don't understand that you must start at the bottom and work your way up. Hard work and talent are quickly noticed, but you need that work experience, no matter how menial and low-paying the job is initially. In the short

term, young people don't see the benefit of working so hard for so little money. They don't see the necessity of work experience in creating long-term success. As a result they tend to resign too soon to look for something "better".

Certain initiatives have been rolled out to mentor young people in entry-level employ-

ment and to encourage them to persist.

To ensure employment in the future, say over the next decade, school leavers must give their chosen careers some serious thought.

The world of work is changing and the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolution has already started. A quick internet

search shows predictions are that by 2020, the Fourth Industrial Revolution will have brought us advanced robotics and autonomous transport, artificial intelligence and machine learning, advanced materials, biotechnology and genomics that will transform the way we live, and the way we work. Some jobs will

disappear, others will grow and jobs that don't even exist today will become commonplace.

South Africa's future workforce will need to align its skillset to keep pace with these developments.

Lastly, the overwhelming evidence of the political and related shenanigans of Pres. Jacob Zuma and his cro-

nies show that our leaders are playing political marbles while Rome is burning.

Instead of developing policies to create an environment for investment and economic growth that will create jobs, they are embroiled in corrupt activities of state capture and shamelessly defend their actions.

The blame for the

poor state of our economy and for rising youth unemployment can therefore also be laid squarely at the feet of poor Government leadership.

The youth unemployment question can only be solved when South Africa has a decent leadership corps in place and we, as citizens, learn to work together.

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# Facing retrenchment?

Here’s what you need to know, explains Madge Gibson

FACING retrenchment can be a frightening experience.

Its uncharted territory for most people, who end up feeling vulnerable because they’re unfamiliar with the legal processes and options.

So what should you

know, and do, when faced with this harrowing situation?

**Keep a cool head**

It’s important to remain cool, calm and collected, especially when you’re on the verge of panic. This is a time to listen carefully,

take notes and reflect.

Becoming emotional or confrontational will only cloud your judgement.

**Assess the situation**

Understand the broader picture -

- Are you the only person impacted, or

is this part of a bigger exercise?

- What are the reasons for the termination?
- What was the criterion used to make the selections?
- Is there an option for an alternative role

within the company or group?

- Is there a possibility of re-employment at a later stage?
- What assistance is being offered to the retrenched employees?

Gaining clarity will help you contextualise what’s happening and formulate helpful questions.

- Don’t sign anything straight away
- Don’t feel pressurized into signing documentation straight away. Retrenchment processes allow employees a reasonable period of time to review documentation first.

The documentation is also lengthy and complicated, so take a day or two to read and absorb the content. If there are points that confuse or concern you, consult with the relevant HR executive within your organisation, or seek guidance from an external professional to help clarify terminology and options.

Once signed, the document becomes a legally binding agreement, which sets out the full terms of the settlement between the employer and employee.

Not all offers are bad. Most companies go to great lengths to create decent retrenchment packages for their impacted employees. So don’t be quick to jump to negative assumptions.

If you do have doubts, consult an external professional for their opinion.

**What are the minimum requirements?**

Circumstances will vary from company to company regarding the discretionary content of retrenchment packages, which are hugely dependent on available funds and HR policies. But financial limitations aside, retrenchment calculations are underpinned by the employee’s length of service as well as the circumstances of the employee’s termination (fault or no fault).

In South Africa, the minimum severance pay-out is one week’s salary for each completed year of employment with the company. You will also be paid out for any accrued leave days and your formal notice period (as per your con-

tract). As well as the balance of your Pension or Provident Fund.

**Severance packages can be negotiated**

Employees are legally entitled to negotiate a better package. They can do this by themselves, through their trade union or with a labour lawyer. This doesn’t guarantee that they’ll be successful, but employees are entitled to negotiate for a fair package, which minimises financial hardship.

Most people take the path of least resistance during this difficult time, wishing to put the episode behind them as quickly as possible. But don’t underestimate the value of a carefully thought-out and professionally handled final negotiation.

**What could be included in the package?**

This varies from company to company, but here are a few examples of package inclusions -

- 1,5 to 2 week’s pay for every full year worked with the company
- Immediate departure without having to work out the notice period (at no financial loss to the employee)
- An extended notice period with full pay e.g. 3 months notice instead of 1 month
- An extension of benefit coverage for a set period of time
- An Outplacement contract, to assist the employee in securing a new job.

**Seek guidance from a professional**

There are many other areas that can be negotiated, which may significantly ease the burden of a sudden lay off. So if in doubt, seek professional advice and let them guide you through the possibilities.

For the brave, as they say ‘nothing ventured nothing gained’. The initial offer, once made, cannot be withdrawn – so you can always fall back on that if negotiations fail. This is another reason to treat the whole process, and everyone involved, nicely.



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# Hospitality and tourism's relevance to African markets



THE hospitality and tourism is an important sector for many developing countries, since it is one of the main foreign exchange earners and key exports component. In 2016, foreign visitors to Africa reached 58 million with a spending of USD 40,7 billion approximately 36,3%, and projected to reach 42,9bn by end of 2017. These statistics by Jumia Travel's Hospitality Report Africa, reflect the sector's extensive significance both in terms of social and economic growth.

The ripple effect tourism's advancement has created is largely notice-

able, especially in its contribution to the continent's economy. 2016 saw a 7,8% (USD 165,6bn) contribution to the GDP, with an expected rise to 7,9% (USD 170,5bn) in 2017. With it comes the aspect of alleviating unemployment, as the industry now indirectly employs 1 out of 20 people.

Besides, UNCTAD's Economic Development in Africa Report 2017: Tourism for Transformative and Inclusive Growth, identifies the scale of involvement of women in African tourism as significant in line with global trends. In the report, "Global figures

suggest that women make up approximately half of all jobs in the hotels and restaurants sector (UNWTO and UN Women, 2011). This trend is replicated in Africa as about 47 per cent of hotel and restaurant employees are women, with Mali reporting the highest female participation of all 172 countries surveyed by UNWTO, as women account for 82 per cent of all hotel and restaurant employment".

The growing uptake of internet has also enabled the rise of tech startups aimed at working to overcome the challenges of e-commerce in Africa.

Currently, there are approximately 345 million internet users in Africa, representing 9,3% of the total population and penetration rate of 27,7%. In the same line, mobile technologies and services generated 6,7% of GDP in Africa in 2015 (around USD 150 billion of economic value), and is expected increase to more than USD 210 billion (7,6% of GDP) by 2020. However, more impressive performance can be achieved if more players in the tourism and hospitality sector embrace and encourage the adoption of mobile technologies in their businesses. For instance, only 6% of Jumia Travel customers pay for their bookings through mobile payment in Africa, evidence of a highly untapped potential. Yet, countries such as Kenya where a higher population is mobile, payments through MPesa stand at approximately 32%.

All factors considered, one can hardly dispute the relevance of the hospitality and tourism sector to the African

market. Its especially resilient nature is incontestable in the face of challenges including slow infrastructural advance-

ment, terrorism threats and political instability in some African countries leading to travel bans, increasing competition

from emerging global tourist destinations, as well as Visa restrictions between African countries among others.

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## Inflation wipes out wage rises

THE latest data has shown that average real term wage increases for 2017 are as flat as they were in 2016.

If you're hoping that your Rand will go just a little bit further as we move fast through 2017, the latest research shows you should probably think again. Unless you receive a promotion that's accompanied by a healthy pay increase or are able to increase the amount of overtime you work, then in real terms, South Africa's workers can expect to see their spending power remain the same or even fall over the remaining months as during the first half of the year.

Reflecting the South African Economy as a whole, the latest data showed that average real term wage increases for 2017 were expected to be as flat as in 2016.

Although wages are expected to increase, the high level of inflation will mean most workers' wages will not go as far as they did last year.

### What do the figures say?

ECA International has recently published its annual Salary Trends Survey, which analy-

ses current and projected salary increases for employees around the world. According to the group, South Africa will see an average wage increase of between 0 percent and 1,5 percent in real terms this year, which is around the same as in 2016 but down from 2,2 percent in 2015.

Although average salary increases over the next year are relatively high, at around 6,0 to 7,5 percent, the impact of inflation, which is the rise in the price of key goods and services, will negate this wage growth. Inflation in South Africa is currently sitting at around 6 percent, which means the spending power of the average South African worker will remain the same.

### Salary rises around the world

Although the latest news is not particularly positive for South African workers, the information collected from 260 multinational companies across 72 countries around the world found that the predicted real term salary increase of 0 to 1,5 percent is on par with the global average.

According to the research, workers in

Argentina will see the largest increase with a 6,5 percent real term growth in wages. That's despite inflation which is currently running at 20,5 percent. That means, as a nominal value, wages are set to rise by an astonishing 27 percent. On the other side of the coin is the situation in Egypt, where staff can expect to be 8,2 percent worse off in real terms than they were in 2017.

### What can you do to boost your spending power?

With prices increasing at the same rate as wages, then, without working more hours or being promoted, the only thing South Africans can do to boost their spending power is to find ways to reduce their costs. By spending money more wisely rather than wasting it on unnecessary energy usage, or by spending it on products or services you can live equally well without, it is possible to make your income go further. Without many alternative options, many South Africans may have to make this kind of sacrifice over the next year to make ends meet.

Contributed by  
Stephen Davies

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# SAB / HeePD partner to assist disabled find jobs

THE SAB Foundation has formed a partnership with HeePD (Hub Employment Ecosystem for People with Disabilities), with a contribution of R2 100 000.

Launched in February 2017, HeePD seeks to benefit people with disabilities by creating a Hub ecosystem that provides employment, enterprise and innovation, including job prospects and placements for corporate partners.

“HeePD came in to being based on my own experience as a person with a disability, as well as from my observations as someone who’s worked in, and recruited for the corporate world. HeePD is a way of equalizing the playing field for people with disabilities on a meaningful level, by addressing the main issues facing people with disabilities in getting jobs – creating permanent jobs in convenient locations

and providing transport”, explains Founder of HeePD, Riad Masoet.

“The government target is to have 7,5% of people with disabilities employed in corporate South Africa. The actual employment figure is closer to 1%”, says Masoet. “Our goal, with the help of the SAB Foundation, is to create 100 jobs over the next two years with this pilot project. Naturally those 100 jobs will have an exponen-

tial positive effect in the community”.

The partnership came about as part of the SAB Foundation’s focus on building opportunities for some of the most vulnerable of South Africa’s society, particularly people with disabilities. “The SAB Foundation is committed to supporting projects aimed at uplifting people with disabilities and HeePD is absolutely groundbreaking. It’s the first project

of its kind – and we are delighted to contribute to its success with funding. It is our hope that this pilot will prove the beginning of a successful model that can be replicated elsewhere”, says Bridget Evans, Director of the SAB Foundation.

This working pilot project with HeePD focuses on three distinct areas; the establishment of contact centers and help desks, urban farming and recycling. “We’ve

started upgrading the infrastructure to create the ecosystem at our pilot site - the Cape Town Association for the Physically Disabled in Bridgetown, Athlone. We’ll be offering skills development and training, bridging courses for students and jobs for people with disabilities here”, explains Masoet. “Eventually companies will be able to support their services with our contact centers and help desks.

## Karoo to Coast - a step towards repairing Knysna damage

THE impact of fires on the Knysna economy could put 2 500 jobs are at risk as tourists cancel bookings. Western Cape Economic Opportunities MEC, Alan Winde said that the majority of Knysna’s tourist offering, some 4 000 beds, remain intact. The just completed July Knysna Oyster Festival, a major attraction on the Knysna tourist calendar, benefitted from an injection by Wesgro - the tourism and trade promotion agency for the Western Cape - who allocated R100, 000 to the promotion.

Another calendar fixture, the Karoo to Coast race which takes MTB riders the 100km off-road from Uniondale to Knysna via the Prince Alfred’s Pass is also set to continue, this year on Sunday, September 24.

Tru-Cape Fruit Marketing is one of the sponsors of the race which raises funds for the local Lions clubs that supports Sight-first, the South African Guide Dog Association and other urgent community needs, exacerbated by the devastating fires that gutted more than 600 structures in Knysna and Plettenberg Bay.

Conrad Fick, Marketing Director for Tru-Cape Fruit Marketing, the largest exporter of South African apples and pears into 104 countries, some of which are grown in the Langkloof region, near Knysna, says their decision to continue their sponsorship of the Karoo to Coast was an especially easy one this year: “The best thing we can do now is to encourage a full recovery of the economies and communities impacted by the fires and to support established races such as this one which is also an Official Premier Seeding Event of the 2018 Cape Town Cycle Tour. We must do what we can to promote that people enter the race and stay over in the region,” he says. “As we did in previous years we will also be rewarding cyclists with massages in the Tru-Cape tent.”

Fick says that Tru-Cape was pleased to be able to support the initial fire-fighting effort with a gift of over 8 000 Tru-Cape apples and trusts that the Garden Route will prove as resilient as it is beautiful.



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## CoG analysis optimizes container locations

A centre of gravity analysis performed by multinational Arup, has plotted the optimized use of containers in Gauteng. Speaking at the Southern African Transport Conference on 10 July 2017, logistics expert, Gerard de Villiers, elaborated on how the Centre of Gravity analysis can help to indicate where terminals should be.

Key to its analysis was establishing where inland terminals should be developed to ensure last mile transport costs - the most expensive part of any supply chain - are as cheap and efficient as possible. The importance of this is evidenced by the fact that it costs more to move a shipping container from City Deep in Johannesburg to Pretoria than it does to move the same container from Durban to Johannesburg.

Transport makes up 57% of South Africa's logistics costs, while the global average is 40%. Part of the reason for this is the long distances between Durban and Johannesburg; and Cape Town

and Johannesburg.

"We also have too much rail-friendly cargo on road," says logistics expert, Gerard de Villiers, who presented 'Improving Competitiveness of Companies in South Africa through Logistics and Supply Chain Management', during the 36th annual Southern African Transport Conference.

"One glaring example of this is the copper transported 2 500km from the Democratic Republic of Congo by road, to Durban." De Villiers believes the real challenge in the Durban port has to do with the port precinct. "If we want to solve the congestion challenges at the Durban port, we need to move and extend the gate to places like Cato Ridge - or further away - where a shuttle could take containers in and out of the port," he said.

He said the country must be careful as to how it plans the Natal Corridor (Natcor) to accommodate future freight volumes. "I believe we need to look at Coega, and Walvis Bay which could service Gauteng.

# Is SA to blame for its lack of access to e-waste?

ELECTRONIC waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams worldwide.

At least 90% of printed circuit boards and 80% of plastic recovered from electronic waste (e-waste) in South Africa is exported for reprocessing, a recent study showed.

The study, which was carried out by Mintek, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), indicated that South Africa loses its access to valuable metals and the opportunity to create jobs. The research is one of the deliverables of South Africa's 10-year Waste Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) Roadmap - a DST programme hosted by the CSIR.

### Study objectives

"The aim of the study was to assess the technology currently used in the dismantling, pre-processing and processing of e-waste in South Africa," says

Linda Godfrey, manager of the Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit at the CSIR.

"By knowing what technology is currently in use and where the gaps are, we are able to identify new areas for research and innovation, both technological and social innovation," she adds.

However, Godfrey explains that this study was always going to be about more than just identifying research needs.

"To identify new opportunities for research and innovation, the project team needed to generate a picture of the e-waste recycling landscape in South Africa, the various role players and the flows of e-waste within and beyond the borders of the country," says Makhapa Makhafola, general manager of research and development at Mintek.

Determining the material flows for various e-waste fractions (such as metal, glass, and plastic) was important in identifying opportunities for South

Africa's e-waste recycling economy.

"The question we face is: How do we retain our secondary resources, such as e-waste, for as long as possible in our local value chain before they move into the global economy?" Godfrey says.

### SA's e-waste challenges and employment

However, a startling finding of the study was that the growth of South Africa's e-waste recycling sector is not actually determined by technology or skills. The biggest constraint to growing South Africa's e-waste recycling economy is access to the waste.

The last official statistics for South Africa (2011) showed that only 11% of the e-waste generated in the country was recycled.

"This doesn't mean that 89% of our end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment ends up in landfills, although there certainly is leakage," Godfrey says. "Instead, much of

our e-waste is locked up in offices, homes, storerooms and so forth."

She explains that by increasing the collection, sorting and recycling of waste in South Africa, we create more opportunities to recover valuable resources that can feed into downstream manufacturing, and as a result, more opportunities for jobs and enterprise development.

The research showed that currently, the sector generates around 25 jobs per 1 000 tons of handled e-waste.

"If we can unlock this uncollected e-waste into the local value chain, we can create opportunities to grow South Africa's e-waste recycling economy, as well as opportunities to increase investment in appropriate technologies and in innovative new technologies," Godfrey says.

### E-waste currently not profitable on its own

"But, it is not only about recycling," says Henry Roman, director for Environmental

Services and Technologies at the DST.

He says as this research shows, e-waste dismantling is currently not profitable as a standalone activity for small businesses. Up to 60% of the revenue of small e-waste recycling businesses is generated through refurbishment, with more than half of small businesses considering recycling a secondary activity.

"This is encouraging since refurbishment and reuse allows us to keep limited resources in circulation for longer, in line with the principles of a circular economy," he says. "We also know that refurbishment and reuse typically create more jobs than recycling, and certainly more jobs than disposal."

In addition to mapping the status quo, the study also provides key findings from the technology assessment, as well as recommendations to address these challenges.

*Reprinted from Infrastructure news and service delivery.*

# A walk in the Park Square

THE BIM Institute spoke to Candice Thorne from Arup on the use of BIM in the delivery of the Park Square development located in Umhlanga New Town Centre, North of Durban.

The 85,000m<sup>2</sup> development, comprising of commercial office space, a retail component at street level and basement parking, is being developed by Nedport Developments (Pty) Ltd., a fully owned subsidiary of Nedbank Ltd. Around half of the commercial space will accommodate Nedbank Ltd. as the anchor tenant with the remainder of the space still out to market.

The development is targeting a 4-star Green Star As-Built Rating and Nedbank as the anchor tenant, will also be targeting a 4-star Green Star Interiors Rating for their space.

Arup's appointment on the project encompasses consulting services for civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, public health, fire, façades and sustainability consulting. It has also been appointed by Nedbank Ltd. to provide sustainability consulting services for its Green Star Interiors rating.

An integrated multidisciplinary offering such as this allows Arup to realise the

many benefits of working in a BIM-centric environment. These benefits have also extended to the client and principle contractor.

### Software

Autodesk Revit 2016 was the chosen software platform for the project. Architecture, structure and building services were all modelled on this, making integration seamless.

Internally within Arup, the structural model was separate to the services model due to different template set-up requirements and to keep the size of the models reasonable.

Both models, (structural and services) were always linked to ensure the model was kept live.

Revit models from the architect were received twice a week to ensure that changes were being incorporated.

### The BIM Execution Plan

The BIM Execution Plan (BEP) is integral to the successful delivery of a project using BIM. It sets out the various principles and protocols to be adopted on the project. Arup were responsible for developing the BEP for the project and advising the design team on its contents and implications on their workflows.

Delivery of the project using BIM was not a client requirement, but rather a de-

sign team decision hence no Employer Information Requirements (EIR) were available.

The decision was taken that this project will develop building information in a collaborative 3D environment with data attached, but created in separate discipline models.

The project team went a step further to ensure that the successful principal contractor would develop his construction programme using the available 3D models, in essence 4D BIM.

### Structural Analysis

On this project, the structural analytical models were created within Revit and exported to Robot structural analysis (RSA) using the available plug-ins.

All load cases and boundary conditions were included in the Revit model in order to minimise the modelling work required within RSA. The analysis software was used purely as an analytical engine with all modelling taking place within the Revit ecosystem.

The creation of the analytical model happens as the physical model is being developed hence the modeller needs to develop an appreciation for the way elements are modelled physically to have the correct analytical representation.

If the physical model is done in isolation then there will be significant effort required to 'clean up' the analytical model before you can export to the analysis package.

An example of how physical modelling needed to change in order to assist the analytical model was the modelling of steps in slabs.

Typically, along the step line, the two slabs at the different levels will overlap to create the soffit step. In the analytical model, this results in the meshes of the two slabs overlapping. The solution was to model the slabs such that they shared the same boundary and created the soffit step using a model in place element or a beam element which was analytically disabled.

### 3D Reinforcement Detailing

All the rebar for foundations and vertical structure (columns, retaining walls and core walls) were modelled within Revit. All floors were post-tensioned and detailing of these slabs were done under a design-supply contract and not within Revit.

Revit extensions for reinforcement were used to automate the detailing of simple elements such as the core walls.

Scheduling was also done within Revit using the built-in



schedule functions.

### Clash Detection

Clash detection was a big driver for the design team when deciding to adopt BIM on this project. Clashing of services with each other or the structure is a constant source of frustration on construction projects and results in abortive work and programme implications. On a fast-track programme such as this, it was essential to adopt a protocol to minimise clashes on site.

Navisworks Manage 2016 was used to run automatic clash detection tests. Virtual design co-ordination (VDC) meetings were held regularly to run through the model and resolve clashes as they arose.

Arup created custom clash sets to cover the various types of clashes. The BIM coordinator for the project was responsible

for linking in the various models and running the clash tests prior to the VDC meeting.

During the VDC session, the clashes will be run through and the particular clash assigned to the appropriate discipline to resolve. Once the clashes were resolved, the test were run again in order to close out the clashes.

### Client and Contractor Benefits

Another benefit of working in a 3D virtual environment is that design decisions can be communicated to other non-technical members of the team. Virtual walk-throughs of the model are done on a periodic basis with the client to gain a better understanding of the building they will be inheriting. Walking through the building in this manner has also allowed the client to make recommendations to the design

team around facilities management issues etc.

The adoption of BIM on the Park Square development has allowed Arup and the rest of the design team to deliver a technically challenging building on a tight construction schedule in an efficient and coordinated manner.

This integrated workflow has streamlined our internal processes and assisted in reducing errors internally and on site. The site teams access to the 3d models has also assisted in identifying potential problems and pinch points beforehand thereby mitigating risk to all parties involved on the project.





## Empowerment farm celebrates first harvest

MOOI Uitsig Boerdery, an empowerment farm near Swellendam in the Overberg, owned jointly by the Klipbult Workers' Trust and Suiderland Plase since 2011, celebrated their first harvest in July.

The Mooi Uitsig team farm citrus fruit and the first harvest will be 32 ha of Nadorcott and Orri mandarins, planted in 2013. This harvest is aimed at European retailers such as Tesco, Sainsbury and Edeka. There are also 10 ha of Bella Late satsumas that will bear fruit in 2019 and the farmers plan to plant 10 ha of Marisol naartjies this year.

The empowerment of farmers is very important to Dr André Neethling, managing director of Suiderland Plase. Mooi Uitsig Boerdery follows in the steps of Suiderland Plase's first empowerment project, Zandberg Citrus Estate near Clanwilliam. Neethling jokingly said that he likes to win and he loves it when a plan comes together. "Today, a plan came together. With this project, we are helping the government to achieve their land reform and transformation objectives. And we're doing it because our people are important to us – this project makes people grow." He thanked the Department of Water Affairs and the Department of Agriculture for the big role they played in the

success of this project, relating to water rights and funding.

Ms Florina Samson, chair of the Klipbult Workers' Trust and assistant production manager of the neighbouring Klipbult Boerdery (one of Suiderland Plase's farms), thanked Suiderland Plase on behalf of the workers' trust for the opportunity to be a part of the empowerment farm and "that we got the opportunity to implement our knowledge and leadership on our own farm and better utilise our farming experience."

Samson also thanked everyone who helped with grants, like 70 hectares water from the irrigation board, and help by Mr Rashid Kahn of the Department of Water Affairs and financial assistance by the Department of Agriculture. "Without such assistance, we would not have come this far. The project gives us a lot of advantages, because it helps us to give better training to our children and helps us improve our lives by being able to buy a house when we retire."

Another trustee, Ms Antoinette Jack, an administrative assistant at Suiderland Plase's packing plant Suider Pak, echoed her gratitude to the company and added: "It took us many years to get here. When everybody works hard, we can go a long way."

## SA must invest in cyber security or risk being crippled by cyber attacks

RANSOMWARE essentially takes over a user's computer, infecting it when the user opens an attachment. This results in documents on the PC being 'locked'. The user receives a demand for a ransom, usually requested in Bitcoin, in exchange for a decryption key to unlock the data. Newer waves of ransomware like Petya, however, don't stop at a single user's device, spreading rapidly into the systems of entire organisations with damaging – and costly – consequences.

Vikas Kapoor, Practice Head of Cyber Security and GRC at In2IT, says, "Ransomware is unique among cybercrime because in order for the attack to be successful, it requires the victim to become a willing accomplice after the fact. This can be avoided if people practice safer browsing and computing habits."

Kapoor cautions South African businesses and government to start working in their own capacity to protect themselves, and collectively to protect their industry. Implementing basic IT security and safety practices starts at a grassroots level, which often gets ignored due to focus on "blindly following the trends in security".

In South Africa, Internet safety for individuals is not typically a high priority. Many users of computers, tablets, and smart phones do not even have basic anti-virus software on their devices. With Shadow IT invading companies and employees using their own devices at the office, having an unprotected device connected to an organisational network can pose a significant threat, opening the door for hackers.

Educating the masses requires a large cultural shift and a top down implementation.

Governments can get involved by launching "Cyber Security focused" - start up community and school programmes with mobile accessible online education portals. These assist to teach people from an early age about the dangers of accessing the Internet and opening unknown attachments. Armed with proper knowledge of password protocols, safe IT and computer habits, and how to use anti-virus software, security can slowly become top of mind on an individual user basis.

According to Vishal Barapatre, Global CTO for In2IT, organisations can benefit from a co-sourcing model. "A co-sourcing model effectively spreads the risk of Cyber security between both the business and a cyber-security partner. What makes this so effective is that, while an organisation can implement all the tools required to protect itself, cyber security service



providers remain at the forefront of knowledge. They understand what is occurring in the cyber security spheres and can take on the responsibility of ensuring systems remain current and protected against emerging threats. Co-sourcing, rather than outsourcing or insourcing, encourages threats to be responded to that much faster, mitigating the risk of infection at any given time."

South African organisations need to have multiple security systems, software and devices across their

network for full protection. This includes firewalls, intrusion detection systems, end point protection systems, breach detections systems, and a host of others. They should be immediately updated at every instance of a new threat, such as Petya and Wannacry. Third parties offer the resources, skills, services and real-time industry insights which can lift this responsibility from the organisation and help protect it in accordance with its security strategy, in line with its budgeted investment.

## Mobile money improves lives of migrant farm workers

SENDING money from Bloemfontein to Harare takes 22 hours on a bus trip or ten seconds using a mobile money solution. Low cost mobile money solutions offer a fast, reliable way to transfer money and is changing the lives of agricultural migrant workers.

Before mobile money solutions, migrant workers had a few options to get their hard-earned money home to loved ones. They could either send remittances home by taking it home themselves – at considerable time away from work, or to send money home

with a third party who may well be unregulated and charge a high fee for this service. This is also a risky option especially if it was a large sum of money.

Bank accounts offer a potential solution but are unsuited to low income earners working

in rural areas. Banks operate in towns and cities, in working hours and charge high fees.

Mobile money transfers are a better way to transfer remittances and bring low income earners into the regulated financial services sector.

Both the International

Labour Organisation and the World Bank have recognised the need for greater financial inclusion in rural areas. World Bank statistics show that 70% of the world's poor live in rural areas, where agriculture is the predominant occupation, and 42% of the world's farmers are unbanked.

Financial inclusion is an imperative in the National Development Plan, and in this case it starts with a migrant worker being offered a solution that can improve his quality of life by catering to an immediate financial need. It starts with how to send money home safely and quickly at as low a cost as possible.

Mobile money solutions like Hello Paisa offered by the Hello Group allows workers to transfer money across borders at any time on any day. Unlike mobile banking apps, mobile money transfers don't require a smart device – they can be done on any mobile phone.

These solutions benefit workers, their families and employers. Workers don't have to take time off to travel or go to a bank. They don't have to hand over cash in the hope that all of it will be delivered and they have a record of their transfers.

Mobile money transfers are cheaper than banks. Hello Paisa transfer costs an average of 5% versus the 15-20% fee charged by traditional channels.

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# Government’s newest office building on track for 5-Star Green Star SA

DESIGNED to achieve the illustrious 5-Star Green Star SA rating for its sustainability, the Green Building in Bellville, has been constructed using many effective design techniques.

“Our natural clay face brick product has a number of ecologically sound properties that make it an excellent choice for environmentally sustainable projects,” said Christie van Niekerk, Manager of Corobrik Western Cape. “The brick offers superior thermal efficiency which requires less artificial temperature regulation and the inert qualities assure low-environmental impacts. Added to this is the brick’s incredible durability meaning it requires no future maintenance, making it the perfect solution for a project such as this.”

Commissioned by the Western Cape Government, Department of Transport and Public Works, the 6 615 m<sup>2</sup> office building will be occupied by administrative components of the Department of Health. Aveng Grinaker-LTA were the main contractors on this project with AGAMA Energy on site as the sustainability consultants.

“The building is designed to achieve a 5-Star Green Star rating, making it among the first government-owned buildings to achieve this status,” explained Faizel Jacobs, one of two directors of Jacobs Parker Architects, along with Waheed Parker. “This was achieved through a number of passive design principles such as optimised orientation, appropriately proportioned glazing, filtering of natural daylight, and well-considered acoustic design. The building also recycles all storm and waste water in a fully organic recycling plant, and uses this recycled water at least twice.”

“The Karl Bremer Hospital site comprises several buildings, all of which are built using red face brick. The decision was taken to continue with this aesthetic, as the Green Building was meant to tie in to the existing context,” continued Jacobs.

All materials were sourced from local suppliers which reduced the ‘embodied energy’ of the project, and provided support for the local economy. With face brick being a labour-intensive construction method, the brick allowed for increased employment and skills’ training opportunities,

facilitated through a mentorship programme. This holistic construction strategy led to this being the first building in Africa to achieve a socio-economic impact certification as part of its overall 5-Star Green Star SA Office v1 rating. Jacobs said that this demonstrated, that the design, construction and operations of the office block move beyond simple environmental sustainability, addressing socio-economic sustainability which was also imperative.

The Green Building includes office accommodation, a 90-seater auditorium, conference facilities, library, support and service spaces. Creative design has allowed for flexible buildings so that rooms can be created and adapted as user requirements change.



The Karl Bremer Hospital administration building aimed at achieving the illustrious 5-Star Green Star SA rating for its sustainability.



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# Rain delay for Calgro

THE last thing the fragile local economy needs is for important construction work to dry up – especially in the sphere of low cost housing.

But the critical water shortages in the Western Cape has already forced Calgro M3, the R2.4bn JSE-listed property developer, to scale back significantly on “wet work” construction activities at its sprawling Belhar and Scottsdene developments in Cape Town.

Scottsdene is a 2 897 unit development near Kraaifontein, undertaken in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the City of Cape Town. Calgro's annual report said 902 units were currently under construction with a further 317 remaining to the completion of the project.

The Belhar development – near the Cape Town International airport – currently has 998 units under construction as well as 627

Social Housing Units underway. Most of the development is aimed at student and rental housing.

Calgro said it had already avoided the use of municipal water supply at the Scottsdene and Belhar developments by sourcing borehole water for the past six months.

But the further water reduction proposals by the City of Cape Town, prompted Calgro to scale down further on water usage in the area.

Wikus Lategan, CEO of Calgro M3, stressed no jobs would be lost during the scaling down period. “The people we have working on our sites are important to the company, and cannot be penalised because the Cape is in the grips of a severe drought.” The company employs 1 600 people in the Western Cape.

Lategan added that Calgro M3 was passionate about water conservation and harvesting as well as solar power

and alternative forms of electricity to power the residential units it develops and constructs. “It is a moral responsibility on our part, to use water sparingly and this is what has informed our decision.”

Lategan said Calgro's business model was to only commence construction of top structures once the units are sold.

He disclosed there were more than 1 750 residential units already sold on which construction had been delayed to conserve water since January 2017. Lategan said commencement of construction would be delayed on any new units sold.

He noted the 1 750 units represented a quarter of the total units under construction across the company.

Lategan stressed Calgro's Cape Town projects would not grind to a halt.

Certain dry works are still being carried out

to ensure that the projects still move forward – albeit at a slower rate.

“Our estimation is that there will be a three to four-month delay. Extreme measures will be taken to minimize time already lost should the Western Cape receive sufficient rainfall and water restrictions be lifted.”

In terms of drought-restricted development in the Western Cape, it is perhaps fortunate that in August last year Calgro formed a joint announcement with Century City-based SA Corporate Real Estate to form a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) to service the residential rental market in key areas in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Calgro reckons the partnership has the potential of growing into the largest residential REIT over the next five to six years – translating into a portfolio of between R10 billion to R15 billion.

The first phase of

this new initiative, Afhco Calgro M3 (51% owned by SA Corporate and 49% by Calgro) acquired new units developed by Calgro M3 in Johannesburg and Cape Town for a R1,6 billion. The venture should provide Calgro with consistent annuity income which reduces the overall cash flow risk due to the developments' business' traditional “lumpy” cash flows.

In the meantime Calgro has had the foresight to look ahead responsibly in terms of designing developments. Lategan said rainwater harvesting systems were included as standard in the final build in Calgro Western Cape developments. “This is to enable residents to capture and harvest rain water in the future. Given that South Africa is a water-scarce country, in my opinion, every house in the country should have some form of water harvesting system.”

## Attractive, durable concrete parking areas hold many civic benefits

CONCRETE offers several major advantages when it comes to the construction of parking areas, says The Concrete Institute managing director, Bryan Perrie, a global authority on concrete pavements.

Perrie says, in the first place, maintenance costs of concrete parking areas are minimal with only some joint sealing and cleaning usually required annually.

“Asphalt parking surfaces, on the other hand, need to be coated with liquid asphalt every few years and totally resurfaced at least every 10 years. Such maintenance work can be very disruptive to the operations of any office block or commercial shopping complex,” he states.

Studies in the USA have shown that over a typical 20-year life of a

parking area, concrete required very little maintenance expense while maintenance for an asphalt lot ended up as much as 80% of the initial construction cost. On a Florida, USA, project, an asphalt parking lot, in fact, ended up costing twice as much after 20 years than a similar concrete facility.

Lighting of the parking areas also can be reduced through the use of the much lighter coloured concrete surfaces. It has been estimated that three of 10 light fixtures can be eliminated without losing the level of lighting in a parking lot when using light concrete surfaces. “With crime a constant problem in our country, the lighter concrete parking lots create safer storage of cars while reducing energy costs,” Perrie explains.



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## Run 5 essential lighting tests in 30 seconds

BUILDING maintenance technicians for commercial, retail, or institutional facilities with fluorescent lighting, have hundreds, if not thousands of fluorescent tubes that have to be routinely checked and maintained. Even though those tubes last for tens of thousands of hours, they do ultimately fail, some prematurely, and some stop working because of other problems with the installation ballast.

In the past, this type of maintenance has usually meant lots of trial and error. And if a light was found to be out, the technician would have had to climb a ladder, open up the cover, remove the bad tube and replace it. If the new tube didn't light, the technician either tried again or had to call an electrician or bring out a voltage tester.

### Addressing the needs of users in the field

Fluke has now developed a tool that takes the trial and error - and a significant amount of time - out of maintaining fluorescent lighting. The result is the Fluke 1000FLT Fluorescent Light Tester, specifically designed for building maintenance professionals. It is an all-in-one fluorescent lamp tester, ballast tester, non-contact voltage tester, pin continuity tester, and ballast-type discriminator.

Some fluorescent lighting testers on the market may have one or two testing features. Fluke wanted to develop a device that takes care of all the essential lighting tests - saving time, tool bag space, and trips up and down ladders. So, instead of having to carry two or three testing tools, the 1000FLT is able to make all of the following measurements:

- **Lamp test:** Allows testing without removing the tube from the ballast. The tester sends a pulse of energy that lights up the tube if there is gas in it. The 1000FLT is compatible with T5, T8, and T12 fluorescent tubes.
- **Ballast test:** Determines whether the ballast is working.
- **Non-contact voltage test:** Checks for the presence of voltage without touching the source.
- **Pin continuity test:** Tests whether filaments in the tube have continuity.
- **Ballast-type discriminator:** The 1000FLT is the first multi-function tester to include this feature, allowing technicians to easily identify whether the ballast is electronic or magnetic without

taking the fixture apart or even climbing a ladder. The tester is aimed at the ballast from the ground and it immediately identifies if the tube is the old-style, power hungry magnetic ballast, for maintenance or replacement.

The 1000FLT's user interface was designed to be as simple as possible, with all tests delivering instant results. The ballast, voltage, and pin continuity tests indicate results with either a "Go" or "No Go" indicator lights. The ballast-type discriminator lights up either the "magnetic" or "electronic" LED on the face of the tester, while the lamp test result is determined by the user if the tube lights up or not.

Users can run all five tests on the 1000FLT in about 30 seconds, so if one has hundreds of



Testing a ceiling light without a ladder.

fluorescent lights to maintain, it can save hours of testing time every week. One customer has reported a saving 40 to 60 minutes by testing roughly 50 light fixtures per day using the 1000FLT.

## Sixty-four years in the steel business

SINCE 1953 Schipper Steel has been supplying a wide range of enclosures, fabrication, sheet metal work and through its service center also offer non-structural, bespoke architectural steel solutions for the commercial, estate, residential and industrial construction and for upgrading projects.

Its accomplished design and manufacturing team turn a concept and design into a superbly, meticulously manufactured and engineered product produced to the highest quality standards.

A passion for quality and approach to

unique assignments is what sets Schipper apart. In the ABC (Activity Based Costing) sector, it offers:

### Balustrades

The perfect finishing touch and statement on any staircase is the Balustrading. Not only offering the comfort of a safe and sturdy design, Balustrading needs to be precisely fitted to ensure the exact aesthetic requirements of the building. Schipper Steel provides a range of different profiles and shapes of staircases and in common grades of stainless steel and epoxy

powder coated mild steel. Schipper Steel manufactures custom balustrades complete with handrails and accessories to suit every design concept.

### Escalator Panels and Cladding

Escalators and Elevators have become a part of our daily lives in shopping centers, business parks, airports and virtually any high-rise building. Not only do they provide the convenience of quick and hassle-free movement, the safety requirements are imperative to the escalator design brief. Many of these elevators

and escalators that go up and down in buildings in Cape Town bear the Schipper Steel signature of high quality workmanship. Its steelwork, panels and cladding have safely and reliably been around for decades. Schipper Steel is well known for manufacturing and supplying most commonly stainless-steel grades, panels, doors, sides, trims and cladding to escalator and elevator contractors and maintenance companies.

### Floor cast-in Boxes

Current design trends dictate that electrical plugging boxes are re-

quired to be functionally reliable, but are also aesthetically acceptable in that they need to blend in with the high-quality floors in the commercial and residential buildings. Schipper Steel provides both design assistance and manufactures these cast-in floor electrical boxes.

The firm prides itself as being the difference between an off the shelf and a totally custom-made finished product. For 64 years sound advice, creative ideas and a fresh approach to building requirements, they turn designs and concepts into reality!

## Refurbishment sealant for Cape Town's historic mutual building

A renowned structural sealant supplied by a.b.e. Construction Chemicals was used for the refurbishment of one of Cape Town's architectural treasures: the CBD Heritage landmark building, Mutual Heights.

Dow Corning 813C silicone was applied as weather sealant of the joints of the approximately 10 000 grey granite cladding panels of the towering 77-year-old building in Darling Street by leading rope access group, Skyriders Rope Access.

Dow Corning sealants - internationally regarded as the top

quality standard for structural glazing - are imported from Belgium by a.b.e., which is the sole South African technical distributor for Dow Corning. a.b.e. is part of the Chryso Southern Africa Group.

Glenn Bouwer, Regional Manager: Western and Eastern Cape for a.b.e. praised the level of workmanship undertaken by Skyriders.

"It was exceptional with the CEO of the company, David Evans, personally getting onto a rope and conducting quality control tests at dizzying heights on the façade," he states.

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**Floor cast in boxes**

**Balustrades**

**Escalator panels**

**Elevator panels**

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## Communication is key in E Cape road rehabilitation projects



*Asphalt paving near the Jeffreys Bay interchange on the N2.*

MUCH Asphalt has supplied almost 50 000 t of asphalt from its Port Elizabeth plant for the rehabilitation and resurfacing of a 32 km section of the N2 freeway between the Kromrivier Bridge and Jeffreys Bay.

The project, awarded to Concor Infrastructure (formerly Murray and Roberts infrastructure) by SANRAL (the South African National Roads Agency Limited), was completed within schedule in April 2017 with a minimum of disruption despite heavy traffic loads on the N2.

Much provided bitumen treated base (BTB) asphalt for patching, as well as 49 000t of Semi-Gap A-E2 asphalt with rolled in chips for the surface paving.

"Constant communication between the contractor, consultant (WorleyParsons), and

all suppliers ensured the success of this project. Everyone worked together towards the common goal, from the bitumen and aggregate suppliers to the paving crew," says Much Asphalt's Port Elizabeth branch manager, Nathan Jacobs.

Joe Nell, contracts director at Concor Infrastructure, adds that good communication and planning were essential due to the distance between the asphalt plant and the site, coupled with unpredictable weather. "The asphalt received from Much was consistent and excellent quality, which is key on such a high production contract."

### R75 Uitenhage

Also in the Eastern Cape, Much is currently supplying another SANRAL project for the re-

habilitation of 16.5 km of the R75 route from Despatch to Uitenhage and 15 km of the R336 between Kirkwood and the R75.

Roadmac Surfacing Cape is the contractor, with engineering services provided by SNA. Much will supply BTB and wearing course patching, as well as 50 000t of Semi-Gap A-E2 with rolled in chips. Completion is expected in November 2017.

On the back of these successful projects, Much has also been awarded the supply of 60 000t BTB A-E2 and 37 000t Semi-Gap A-E2 with rolled in chips for rehabilitation of another 13 km of the R75 between Port Elizabeth and Despatch. Concor Infrastructure is also the main contractor on this project, which begins in August 2017.

## Cementing partnerships in the E Cape

WORKING with CIDB CE9-rated contractor Tau Pele Construction, AfriSam is supplying the cement solutions for an extensive special maintenance project on 126 km of the R56 national road from Indwe to Maclear in the Eastern Cape.

The R635 million contract, awarded to Tau Pele Construction by the South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd (SANRAL), kicked off in February 2016. The scope is for the special maintenance of Sections 6 and 7 of the road as well as improvements to the drainage and safety aspects along the route.

According to Tau Pele contract manager Mark Meredith, about 87 km of the road requires repair and resealing, while the other 39 km of the contract will be rehabilitated and 7 km of the roadway improvements in the towns.

"We are also improving concrete side drains and subsoil drains as well as installing gabions, replacing fencing and guardrails, repairing bridge parapets and installing bridge expansion joints," says Meredith.

Meredith states that much of the damage currently being repaired is as a result of insufficient subsoil drainage along the road, hence

the particular focus on installing extra drainage solutions in many areas. Depending on the results from testing the competence of the road layers, this will determine how the road will be repaired, such as in-situ stabilising and a seal.

"Depending on the condition of the existing layers, we can stabilise the road with lime, cement and bitumen," says Meredith. "In other sections, we've had to remove the existing pavement layers, undercut the poor substrate and replace with a new rock layer before bringing the existing layers back and stabilising the layers or replace the existing layers with newly crushed material then stabilise it and complete with a double seal."

Part of AfriSam's contribution to the project is the supply of 12 000 tons of its Roadstab product, a specially formulated composite cement to stabilise road materials. Roadstab improves the engineering properties of soil by reducing plasticity and enhancing strength, allowing for improved durability.

Tau Pele is committing substantial resources to the project, which will run through until March 2019. There are over 160 items of plant at work – about half of these from Tau Pele's own fleet – and



*AfriSam's Roadstab is a specially formulated composite cement and is being used by Tau Pele on its R56 contract in the Eastern Cape.*

the numbers employed include about 140 persons from the local community, 40 from the company and over 200 sub-contractors' staff. The company also has its own asphalt plant near Indwe, an emulsion plant at Ugie and purchases crushed material from Blue Crane, a local quarry near Indwe.

Installation of new concrete V-drains and kerbs is contributing to better water management by ensuring that water run-off can safely and efficiently exit from the road surface and shoulders. Retaining walls and gabions are being built in the road cuttings to prevent material eroding from the cuttings and spilling into the road.

AfriSam is also supplying 6 000 tons of its 42.5N All Purpose Cement (APC) for side drains, kerbs and other concrete works. Side

drains are being constructed to enhance surface water run-off, and kerb drains will channel rain water through drop inlets away from the road. For these applications, AfriSam's APC is a popular specially blended high quality cement.

The concrete mix designs for this project, using the AfriSam APC CEM 11 B-M(L), were conducted at the AfriSam Centre for Product Excellence in their SANAS accredited laboratories based in Roodepoort.

To enhance the economic spin-off of the project, Tau Pele is making use of over 60 local small enterprises at CIDB Level 1-5. This is creating much needed work by facilitating the employment of a local workforce. Just four of the sub-contractors – supplying more specialised services – come from outside the area.



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# Yokogawa to release ProSafe®-RS SIL2 wireless gas detection system



YOKOGAWA Electric Corporation will release the ProSafe-RS® SIL2\*1 wireless gas detection system in September. It will consist of a newly enhanced version of the Yokogawa ProSafe-RS SIL3 safety instrumented system (R4.03.10), Yokogawa field wireless network devices, annunciator panels, and GasSecure\*2 GS01 or GS01-EA\*3 wireless gas detectors.

For this system, Yokogawa will establish a total solution that will include both consulting and engineering.

In energy and basic materials industries such as oil, gas, petrochemicals, and chemicals, a safety instrumented system is employed to safely initiate an emergency plant shutdown when a critical failure is detected, and to initiate the operation of facilities that can extinguish or prevent the spread of a fire.

A field wireless system consists of field devices that are able to communicate wirelessly with a monitoring and control system. Wireless devices have a number of advantages such as allowing installation in difficult-to-access locations and the reduction of installation costs, and they are increasingly seen as essential elements in plant safety solutions. This is a particularly important consideration with gas detection systems, whose operation can be easily impacted by factors such as installation location and ambient conditions. And even

after system installation, ongoing efforts to optimize its overall configuration may necessitate occasional changes in the location and number of detection devices. The use of wireless technology eliminates the need to worry about wiring and thus greatly facilitates the process of moving and/or installing additional detection devices.

To achieve SIL2 level risk reduction when using wireless gas detectors with a safety instrumented system, communication protocols that comply with the functional safety requirements specified in the IEC 61508 international standard\*4 are required. To meet this need, Yokogawa will provide a SIL2 wireless gas detection system based on a new version of the ProSafe-RS safety instrumented system that will link to field devices using an IEC 61508 compliant communication protocol.

**Features of the System**

The ProSafe-RS SIL2 wireless gas detection system will consist of a new version of the ProSafe-RS safety instrumented system, R4.03.10, that will be enhanced to add support for an IEC 61508 compliant safety communication technology used in distributed automation; annunciator panels; ISA100 Wireless\*5 compliant field wireless devices; and GasSecure GS01 or GS01-EA wireless gas detectors, which are the only devices of this type in the industry that achieve SIL2 risk reduction.

# Electrostatic conveyor system delivers fine, uniform spray at low flow rates

MONITOR Engineering introduce the patented AccuJet electrostatic conveyor system, designed to deliver a very fine, uniform spray at low flow rates to improve product quality, eliminate misting and over spray, save lubricant, and reduce maintenance and clean-up.

The nozzle uses electrostatic technology with flow rates ranging from 0.01 - 5 cc/min to evenly apply droplets

for consistent coating. This accuracy reduces product contamination and over spray creating a safer, cleaner, work environment.

**Features & Benefits**

- Improves product quality with uniform pan coating
- High transfer efficiency saves on costly oils and coatings
- Greatly reduces misting and over-

- spray, creating a cleaner and safer work environment
- Minimizes nozzle clogging sometimes present in conventional spray systems
- Easy to maintain

**How does it work?**

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

vanced coating technology. The physical attraction of the liquid to the target pulls the coating to the surface, providing very high transfer efficiency (typi-

cally over 90%). due to the attraction and low flow precision spray, overspray is virtually eliminated, reducing clean-up and improving the work environment.



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**HY-OPTIMA™  
MODEL 2700**



# Accurate, reliable hydrogen monitoring solution

MOST people never give a thought to what goes into the tanks of their cars when they fill up at service stations. However, when refineries produce petrol, the product is a very specific blend of hydrocarbons. When refining petroleum products from crude oil, a key element – hydrogen – plays a key role as a feed-stock used in the

various processes.

RTS Africa Engineering, based in Tshwane, specialises in innovative technologies which provide solutions to industrial challenges. Among other things, the company has been involved in supplying hydrogen production and analysis equipment for many years.

"Importantly, we also offer an inline hydrogen

monitoring instrument – the Hy-Optima 2700 from our international California-based principal H2Scan – for use specifically in the oil and gas refining industry," explains Managing Director of RTS Africa Engineering, Ian Fraser. Common applications of the Hy-Optima 2700 are in refinery reforming, cracking, recycling, tail gas, fuel gas, flare gas

and other multi-component process streams.

The challenge for process engineers working in oil refineries is to monitor and control the levels of hydrogen in refining processes – particularly the monitoring of hydrogen used in catalytic 'cracking', and also in the recycle gas stream. "Too much hydrogen is not good because you have too much energy and it starts to damage the catalyst; and too little hydrogen is bad because it slows

down the process," explains Fraser.

Currently, the traditional methods used by refineries to measure hydrogen involve the use of gas chromatographs, thermal conductivity meters and density analysers. However, traditional hydrogen analysers are costly to install and maintain. With these analysers the sampling times are long; which, in turn, bars process engineers from making decisions based on real-time information.



RTS Africa offers a purpose-designed solution to this challenge in the Hy-Optima 2700 process analyser. These explosion-proof instruments can be installed at strategic points in a refinery's process streams, to provide analogue and serial outputs

to communicate with an existing SCADA-type control system.

"The Hy-Optima 2700 is the only instrument that can withstand the hydrocarbon background typically found in refineries; where gases such as hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide, chlorides and other corrosive gases damage most other measuring instruments," continues Fraser.

The Hy-Optima 2700 uses a solid-state, non-consumable sensor that is configured to operate in process gas streams. "Importantly, the Hy-Optima 2700's thin film technology makes for an instrument that is not in any way affected or cross-sensitive to other gases in the process stream. The 2700 has been designed to continuously measure only hydrogen – which it does with great and reliable accuracy," he adds.

The Hy-Optima 2700 is rated 'Zone 2' explosion-proof. Should hydrogen get into the instrument and ignite, the 2700's robust, cast-iron casing will safely contain the event.

With Hy-Optima 2700, the need for calibration is greatly reduced. "In most cases, an annual calibration using standard calibration gases is all that is needed," Fraser explains.

Fraser points out that hydrogen is the only gas for which RTS Africa's principal H2Scan makes analysers. The company's industry-leading hydrogen analysers and leak detectors are based on patented, solid-state core hydrogen sensor technology exclusively licensed from the U.S. Department of Energy; and are supported by 15 years of research and development, and field verification work. For the past ten years, RTS Africa has been the sole agent in Africa for H2Scan.

The Hy-Optima 2700 is ideal for applications where real-time, hydrogen-specific measurements can enhance process plant efficiencies, diagnostics and maintenance management.

"Ultimately, with the improved measurement capability provided by this solution, refineries and other process industries will be able to produce a safer and better product, more time-and-cost-effectively," concludes Fraser.

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# Customised service kits for heavy-duty equipment

HYTEC Fluid Technology (HFT) has introduced customised service kits tailored for use with heavy-duty equipment and vehicles. These service kits provide clients with a choice of OEM or customer-specific consumables for equipment or vehicles in their range. Customised service kits are tailored specifically to its individual clients' requirements and the kits' traceability, a standard feature, allows HFT to monitor the

## Ingredients for automatic tin spraying system

TECTRA Automation recently designed and supplied the Tectra 650™ automatic tin spraying system for Bakesure Ingredient Suppliers – Africa's leading baking ingredients and solutions provider. After a tenuous search for an automation supplier that could fulfil its requirements, Bakesure turned to Tectra Automation as the only company that was able to supply all components for the system, including its unique Bosch Rexroth Variable Speed Drive (VSD) with specialised sequencing specifications.

Bakesure required an automatic tin spraying system for its baking plant in Johannesburg. The Tectra 650™ is a stationed system that sprays 650 of the company's baking trays per hour with its new Cake-lease spray releasing agent, as the manual application process was costing the company valuable time. Tectra Automation, with its sole distributorship of Bosch Rexroth in southern Africa, was able to design and supply the unique Tectra 650™ system in just six months.

The supplied solution included all components, including: frames, Bosch Rexroth VSD, DC motor, control panel and the actual spraying equipment. "All the components on the Tectra 650™ work towards a common goal: the easy and quick application of cake-releasing agent on the baking trays," comments Joseph Ngungu, Mechatronics Technician, Tectra Automation.

The motor rotates the tin while the timers measure and monitor the number of tin rotations. After this, the actual spraying starts. Each tin is sprayed for one second and after that the machine automatically stops.

kits' locations and the date it was used. This enables HFT to notify clients when their equipment or vehicle requires a service or service kit replacement.

The service kit contents allow for extended service intervals and vastly reduced filter and oil changes, helping fleet and equipment owners to reduce their cost of ownership. Using extended service interval (ESI) filters from Fleetguard® and engine oil with extended life means the lifespan of all service kit components are suitable to extend service life (in some cases 1 000 hours service intervals have already been achieved). "Essentially, this means that operators use half the air filters and one quarter of the oil and fuel filters compared to most OEM recommendations," points out Sandor

Bottyan, General Manager, HFT.

### Service kit contents

The consumables contained in the customised service kits vary per customer. They can include basic filters for every component of the machine or vehicle, such as air, fuel, oil and hydraulic filters. More specific and specialised filters such as cabin air filters, crank case ventilators and air oil separators for compressors are included on request. Other OEM-recommended components that can be included are belt ranges like alternator V-belts and aircon belts, etc. Fleetguard's organic acid technology (OAT) coolant - a life-long coolant that, technically, is not required to be drained from the engine or refilled - can also be included.

"The contents of our customised service kits are kept to a minimum

for costing reasons," explains Bottyan, "and are determined by the type of service the machine is scheduled to undergo."

### Kit traceability

Each kit has a unique tracking code associated with a data set that identifies the specific machine for which the kit is intended. The tracking system monitors exactly where the kit is at any time and alerts operators and HFT as soon as it is used. "This gives us the ability to notify our customised service kit clients as to when their next service is due," Bottyan points out. "We develop kits and the data sets in co-operation with clients' in order to minimise the risk of human error during servicing. This niche offering allows us to meet supply and logistics demands more accurately."

The customised ser-

vice kits offering follows on from HFT's complete engine protection mobile offering, which involved a partnership with Cummins Filtration and its Fleetguard® brand in 2015. This partnership resulted in such a positive client take-up that larger premises were needed by HFT. To accommodate this expansion, HFT moved to a new 2 800 m² premises in Spartan, Gauteng in 2017, coinciding with the launch of its customised service kits. The facility chosen also has the capacity that allows HFT to manufacture customised and specific transfer and bulk filtration systems, all of which are available for sale or for onsite hire.

"We are not the only company offering service kits for mobile equipment," Bottyan concludes, "but we believe we now have one of the best service



*Kit contents' varies per customer and can include basic filters for every component, although more specific and specialised filters are included on request. OEM-recommended belt ranges can be also be included, as can Fleetguard's organic acid technology (OAT) coolant.*

offerings in this space. We have a thorough understanding of hydraulics and our partners, Cummins Filtration, have more than 50 years' experience in designing and manufacturing diesel engine filtration products. This partnership allows HFT to provide the best customised servicing and on-board vehicle contamination protection

offering possible."

HFT offers total fluid management solutions for industrial and mobile markets with a comprehensive understanding of hydraulic filtration solutions including oil analysis and contamination monitoring as well as testing and recertifying of hydraulic accumulators with a unique automated accumulator test bench.

## Secure operational pressure with the IL220 lock-up valve

AS an industry rule and to ensure efficiencies, downtime on all production lines should be kept a complete minimum. Brian Abbott, Product Manager at SMC Pneumatics elaborates, saying: "SMC supports our customers in this regard by constantly developing products that help contribute towards avoiding downtime, as

well as ensuring the critical safe integrity of a system."

Adding to its offering is SMC's IL220 lock-up valve of the IL200 series.

"This valve helps to maintain the operational pressure, even when supply pressure is lost by switching to a second supply of pressure as a 3/2 way valve".

### Ensuring the shift position

The maintenance of the operational pressure and/or switching to a second pressure supply ensures the shift position of the valve further down the production line.

"The advantage here is that the system retains a defined valve position should this fault occur," says Abbott.

### Areas of use

The IL220 lock-up valve has many talents. It is suitable for use in all industrial applications where the operational pressure has to be ensured even in the case of a loss of the main pressure supply. Highly sensitive instrumentation for process control would benefit where a safe or

last position needs to be maintained either via a secondary supply line or a backup tank. Here the IL220 does the switch automatically when the set critical pressure is reached. As it is completely mechanical even a loss in electrical system monitoring does not affect the safe switching of the valve says Abbott.



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# Imperative hose criteria

"EXTREME care must be taken in the correct selection, installation and maintenance of matched, quality components in any hydraulic system because hose assemblies can be highly dangerous if misapplied and if inadequate attention is given to maintenance of the hose and related equipment," says Joanne Tarr, BMG's national product manager - hose and fittings.

"When selecting a hose, it is important that the working pressure of the hose is higher than the maximum operating pressure of the system. Fluid temperature, either in motion or with the equipment at a halt,

should never exceed the maximum working temperature recommended for each hose. It is also critical to consider the surrounding temperature, especially from resulting heat sources in the proximity of the hose assembly.

"BMG recommends that hydraulic hose assemblies are always inspected and pressure tested against leakage and malfunction before installation. Installations that do not comply with the adequate geometry of the hose assembly, or where the application of the system exceeds hose specifications, can lead to premature failure of the hose assembly.

"Factors to be prevented include high velocity and high temperature projections of hydraulic fluid."

Fluid compatibility with the hose and coupling should also be verified. Fluids can chemically attack the hose, which results in contamination and the obstruction of the hydraulic system. This leads to premature failure of the hose and the system.

Environmental compatibility demands consideration of factors that include temperature, fire hazard, UV light, ozone, chemicals and electrical charges.

Accelerated external

abrasion, as result of contact in motion, or exposure to projected particles, reduces hose life and leads to early failure of the system. BMG stocks hoses with special abrasion resistant rubber compounds, or recommends protection through adequate sleeves.

Couplings are an important component of hydraulic hose assemblies. Compatibility of sealing and correct attachment of couplings to the system ports is critical for efficient operation, enhanced safety and extended service life.

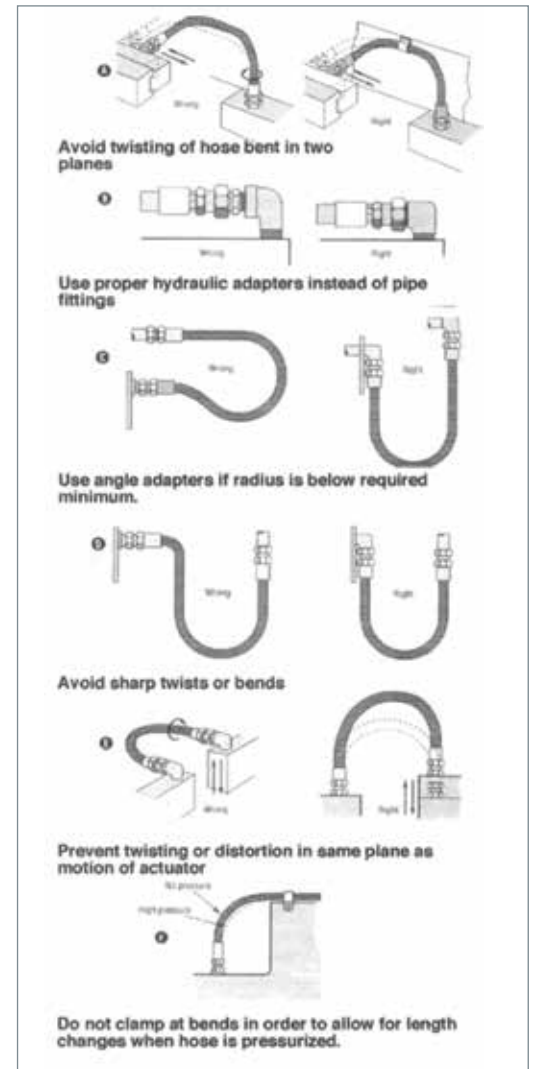
BMG's comprehensive catalogue of

hydraulics hoses and fittings includes an easy to follow reference fluid compatibility and resistance chart, technical information on BMG's extensive range of hoses, fittings and adapters, as well as critical information on correct product selection, installation and safety guidelines.

BMG's portfolio of components for fluid power systems and general industrial applications also include Eaton Winner braided hydraulic hose and fittings. These perfectly matched hydraulic hoses and fittings ensure safe and reliable conveying of petroleum and water based hydraulic fluids at high pressure, even in the most demanding environments.

Currently, Eaton Winner hose EN853 1SN (EC110) and 2SN (EC210) and a wide selection of two piece, non-skive fittings are available nationally from BMG's extensive network. This range, which is complimented by adaptors, steel tube fittings and high pressure hoses, will be extended to include other hoses in the Eaton range, according to market demand.

Winner hose EN853 1SN (EC110), with a synthetic rubber tube and cover, as well as single wire braid reinforcement and a white ink transfer layline, is designed for petroleum and water based fluids, at operating temperatures be-



Hydraulic hose and fittings – correct installation.

tween -40°C and +100°C. This range has a maximum working pressure of 225 bar and a minimum bend radius of 100 mm.

Winner hose EN853 1SN (EC210) has a double wire braid reinforcement, with a synthetic rubber tube and cover and a green ink transfer layline. This hose has a maximum working pressure of 400 bar and a bend radius up to 630 mm.

Other products

available from BMG's fluid technology division include valves, accumulators, cylinders, heat exchangers, hydraulic motors and hydraulic plumbing, pumps and reservoir accessories.

The company's fluid technology services encompass project engineering and consulting, cylinder design and manufacture, hydraulic training, repair and testing and onsite container services.

## Inline rubber sleeve changing without needing lifting equipment

AFRIVALVE, a division of eDART Slurry Valves, now offers a simple patented design of the Red Roc Hi-Lift pinch valve allows for inline changing of the rubber sleeve, without the use of lifting equipment and has been granted a patent number 2017/02223.

This unique and innovative feature offers a drastic reduction in downtime and manpower to replace worn sleeves, eliminates the need for lifting and rigging equipment in remote areas as well as removing the pipework

and re-alignment requirement

The Red Roc Pinch valves, which are manufactured at eDART Slurry Valve's facilities in Jet Park, Gauteng, range in sizes from DN150-DN600 with larger sizes on request, with pressures ranging from PN10 to PN40 depending on the size.

Afrivalve's Group Marketing Manager, Gregor Hopton said "The fact that we are a 100% local manufacturer allows us to tailor our valves to exact customer requirements and we can offer the

Red Roc Hi-Lift Pinch Valve in higher pressures and sizes than the DN600 to meet specific requirements. Although predominantly used in the mining industry, Red Roc Pinch Valves are suited for use in various other industrial applications such as in the power generation, sewage and effluent and fertilizer industries".

This unique valve complements the range of slurry isolation knife gate valves and various slurry control valves that eDART manufacture locally in Jet Park, Gauteng.

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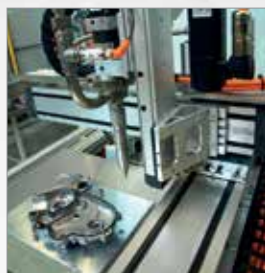


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# Altitec partners with Nordex for EOW blade inspections

BLADE inspection and maintenance specialist, Altitec, has completed end of warranty (EOW) blade inspections at the Amakhala Wind Farm in South Africa's Eastern Cape.

The inspections, which look for production failures, or other sources of damage, including lightning damages, was performed in partnership with Nordex Energy South Africa.

Anne Henschel, Managing Director of Nordex Energy South Africa: at Nordex said: "We know that turbine blades that are regularly inspected and maintained to a high standard remain cost-efficient."

"By partnering with Altitec to deliver MWS services, our clients

can be assured that their turbines will perform at optimal levels for as long as possible, reducing costs and improving overall wind farm performance in the process."

## End of warranty agreement

Under the terms of the contract, Altitec carried out EOW inspections on 54 turbines, each with a height of 91m, the UK-based maintenance specialist said in a statement.

Inspection work began on the first turbine blades in December 2016, and was completed this summer.

Tom Dyffort, managing director, Altitec Group explained that the lack of local technicians posed a big challenge.

"For our South African work we are currently flying in technicians from overseas, but whenever possible we look to invest in training local rotor blade technicians," Dyffort said.

With the EOW period, responsibility for assessing turbines moves from the original manufacturer to the project owner.

By carrying out maintenance at this point, Nordex is helping to avoid any project downtime or financial losses later in the wind farm's lifecycle.

## Partner benefits

Altitec also benefits from the range of technological equipment and expertise at its disposal; use of the

Actsafte powered rope ascender, for instance, boosts the efficiency of Altitec's technicians, allowing them to carry out up to 35% more work when compared with traditional rope access techniques.

Dyffort said: "EOW inspections are not only necessary, but a great opportunity for turbine manufacturers to add value and optimise performance into the future. We were delighted to continue developing our global footprint by carrying out this work at Amakhala on behalf of Nordex."

## Innovative tech

According to Dyffort: "Carrying out blade inspections and maintenance on 54 turbines is a



significant undertaking, but the skills and experience of our technicians allowed us to complete this work as quickly as possible, while adhering to the high standards Altitec's customers have come to expect."

Dyffort explained that a typical inspection can be done in 4 to 6 hours using drones, or in roughly 4 hours by rotor blade technicians carrying out hands-on EOW inspections. He added

that drones are useful for monitoring turbine inspections but are less useful for EOW inspections themselves, as you need to be very close to the blades to make a detailed assessment of their condition.

# Inga 3 hydroelectric project to double in size

THE Democratic Republic of Congo has announced plans to double the size of its planned Inga 3 hydroelectric plant.

Reuters reported that this move is to make it more economical "after the \$14 billion project was hit by financing problems."

## Inga 3 hydroelectric project

According to Bruno Kapandji, director of the Agency for the Development and Promotion of the Grand Inga Project, the plant would be built to produce between 10 000 and 12 000 megawatts of power, more than double the originally planned capacity of 4,800 MW, Reuters reported.

"Inga 3 is part of a \$50 billion-\$80 billion project to expand hydroelectric dams along the Congo River, but the project has repeatedly been delayed by red tape and disagreements between Congo and its partners on the project," Reuters reported.

According to the project's director, the consortium led by China Three Gorges Corporation and another consortium that includes Spain's ACS (Actividades de Construcción y Servicios SA), will submit a joint bid on the expanded project in September.

Reuters further noted: "Increased capacity would help meet rising power demand and bring down costs, he said, although he did not say how much the expanded project would cost."

"The original \$14 bn project struggled to attract financing and

the World Bank last year suspended funding after the president's office took control of the project, raising transparency concerns at the bank."

## South Africa to procure generated power

In 2014, South Africa signed a power purchase agreement with the DRC for the supply of 2 500MW of power generated from The Grand Inga Dam – Inga Project 3.

This was a mere formality following the authorisation of the

Grand Inga Treaty by government and will allow SA officials to begin providing support to Congo before the commencement of the tender process.

## DRC: Inga 3 to proceed without EIA, says International Rivers

In Central Africa, government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) wants construction works on the delayed Inga 3 dam to begin regardless of not conducting thorough environmental impact assessments (EIA).

This is according to commentary provided by non-profit organisation (NGO) International Rivers, which states that the hydro-power project has now escalated to involve political devices, completely disregarding the people and the environment that will be affected by the development.

## Government won't conduct the EIA

During a meeting with the NGO, Bruno Kapandji, the director of the Inga project agency, said govern-

ment intends to begin construction of the dam even without conducting the EIA, and with the World Bank disapproving of the move.

Kapandji said: "Inga 3 is here to meet a need... Inga is a Congolese project located in Congo, you have to think as a Congolese, as a Congolese we have no choice but to build Inga 3. And for the cities in Kinshasa, Bas-Congo and Katanga, Inga 3 is the only solution."

"Our [energy] industry cannot develop because of lack of en-

ergy, this is a concern for us. Inga 3 will produce almost 3 000MW; 1 000MW in the region and a 1 000MW in the south for the mines," he added.

When asked about the World Bank refusing to support the DRC's government non-compliant to environmental impact studies, Kapandji instead posed a question to NGOs, "why can't you commission or finance these studies?"

In response, Peter Bosshard, the Interim Executive Director at International Rivers,

said: "International Rivers and other NGOs will certainly not lend a hand to rescue a project that violates basic international norms and externalises its environmental costs."

In efforts to move forward with the project, Kapandji disclosed his hopes of awarding the Inga 3 contract to a Chinese consortium, and to build the project with Chinese funding.

"DRC is unfortunate, we are always a leader in finding solutions, but implementation on the ground is always slow," he noted.

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# Solar PV market forecast and major trends



A floating ABB PV panel platform in Singapore.  
Source: greentechmedia.com, technology.ihs.com

By Marzio Zambetti

LEADING solar photovoltaic (PV) market researchers are predicting a growth in global PV demand in the next 4 years along with rapid technological change

After a 7% slow down predicted in 2017 in global PV demand, market researchers forecast that solar power will be back on a path of growth in the following 4 years. A cumulative forecast 2016 – 2021 of 506

GW with a 9% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) leaves space for optimism in the industry's future.

Global PV demand registered a 20% growth in 2015 and a 34% growth in 2016, with the global utility-scale market being the primary driver in the last year, with residential growth mainly concentrated in Japan, US, Germany, Australia and the UK.

In 2016 China, US and Japan made up 66% of the 66GW market, with China being the number one market in the world, the US number two and India looking set to become one of the more interesting markets in the future, forecast to overtake Japan to become the third biggest market by 2018.

### So what are the market trends?

Forecasts predict that solutions, systems and products associated with the “Balance of System” part of a PV plant, where ABB has one of the widest portfolio in the market, will experience a 37% cost reduction over the next 5 years and during the same time 1 500V DC will become the new standard for systems producing more than 1MW with integrated energy storage systems (ESS) also becoming a fast growing trend.

These points are relevant for ABB, as we already offer 1 500V DC dedicated products and a specific range of solutions, systems and products for ESS applications. Furthermore, with project types in 2016 shaking out at 56% utility-scale systems of over 5MW and 15% large indus-

trial systems of between 1 and 5MW, ABB is poised to become one of the major players in the market. For completeness also note that in 2016, 16% of project types were commercial PV systems between 20kW and 1MW and 14% share were residential PV systems (<20kW), two additional areas in which ABB shines.

Talking specifically about the 1 500V DC trend, the overall 1 500V DC PV market is expected to grow from 14MW in 2014 to 96GW in 2020, where 92.7% of all projects over 1MW will be at 1 500V. Leaders of this changing trend will be the US, followed by India and the Middle East and the transition will be quick, since the value proposition is proven and the supply chain is well established. Confirmation of this trend is illustrated by the fact that as of December 2015 all 1,500V PV system components were commercially available in the marketplace. The main driver for this change is that the number of components needed to produce the same power at 1 500V versus 1 000V is significantly reduced:

- Combiners: – reduced by 33%
- PV Inverters: – reduced by 40%
- Cables, Conduit: – reduced by 40 to 45%

Furthermore, it is expected that all introduced or newly announced utility inverter products will be suitable for 1 500V.

Another relevant trend in PV applications is the shift away from central inverters

towards high-power string inverters. The power rating of string inverters is predicted to increase steadily in the coming years for systems of 20MW and below. String inverters will need to be developed for 1 500V DC to increase power output and to justify the slight price premium for string inverters versus central inverter solutions. The final effect will be an increased power rating, with fewer required inverters for a given installation, faster installation times and reduced total costs.

### What this means to ABB?

The bad news is that the use of string inverters reduces the need for DC Combiners because the inverters are coupled on the AC-side of the plant. The good news is that, depending on the plant size, multiple levels of AC combining could be required and they would be similar to panelboards, switchboards and switchgear that are commonly used today in standard distribution systems. In addition, traditional panel builders will have more access to solar opportunities for the low-voltage side of the transformer, making it more beneficial to package the LV and MV equipment together, taking advantage of the strategic reorganization in ABB at the start of 2016, which brought LV and MV products and solutions together into ABB's Electrification Products division. This is a move that brings one of the industry's most complete ranges of LV and MV products and services to a broader customer base.



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# High speed doors can reduce energy costs

EFFICIENCY of the supply chain combined with employee well-being are primary contributors to a productive workplace environment within manufacturing and storage facilities.

High speed roll up doors allow for rapid opening and closing and together with their longer operating life and high safety standards, provide these operations with an excellent return on investment as a result of faster turnaround times.

This is according to Apex Strip Curtains & Doors managing director, Wim Dessing who says that high speed doors facilitate a more controlled ambient temperature inside a manufacturing or warehousing facility, thereby contributing significantly to reducing energy costs and ensuring employee comfort.

“Temperature and humidity control is enhanced through the elimination of excessive through flow of warm or cold exterior air into the workspace. As an added benefit, due to their speed of operation, high speed doors reduce the influx of insects and other airborne contaminants that negatively impact on product quality,” Dessing says.

Unhindered traffic flow remains a primary concern for businesses.

The Apex range of high speed doors incorporates a counterweighted balancing system that not only ensures high standards of performance and safety but also provides fast, semi-automatic reopening.

These high speed doors offer both functionality and performance. They are unobtrusive, yet able to cope with the intensive demands of heavy and continuous traffic. The design features the integration of the actuator, controls, safety devices and balancing systems in one unit for cost efficiency and a reduced footprint.

Doors are available for medium and large entrances, and Dessing says that it is important to consider the size of opening, frequency of opening and closing and the volume of vehicular traffic when selecting a high speed door.

“Our competent team works closely with customers to find a solution that will provide a good cost to performance ratio, and ensure that the most appropriate high speed door is selected for the application,” Dessing concludes.

High speed doors reduce the influx of insects and other airborne contaminants that negatively impact on product quality.

# Goscor Crowns new PUMA warehouse

“PUMA is one of the leading sports brands in the world with a reputation for innovation and quality which conducts its business in the most professional manner,” says Gregg Tarr, Goscor Lift Truck Company (GLTC) Western Cape sales manager. “The fact they have decided to standardise its materials handling equipment (MHE) with our Crown range is something of which we are extremely proud.”

PUMA South Africa recently acquired six units - 4 X Crown ESR 5260-2.0 Reach Trucks and 2 X Crown WT 3040-2.0 Powered Pallet Trucks for its new state of the art warehouse in Contermanskloof, Cape Town.

PUMA warehouse manager, Adi Munter, says that until recently he was using different brands of MHE but decided to standardise with Crown to optimise efficiency. “It is best to work with one supplier in terms of streamlining operation, service and spare parts availability. We decided on Crown because of the quality of the product and GLTC’s ability to provide the requisite level of service,” Munter says.

He adds that an example of the added value that GLTC provided PUMA is a state-of-the art battery bay, which is crucial to the efficient operation

of the machines.

Crown Pallet Trucks have developed an enviable reputation for being exceptionally manoeuvrable and for being able to fit into the tightest of spaces. “Moreover, they are able to carry the heaviest loads and withstand tough impact,” says Tarr.

The Crown WT 3040-2.0 Pallet Trucks come with advanced features that suit PUMA’s specific warehousing needs. With a load capacity of 2 tons, shock reducing suspension systems, completely programmable performance systems, and electronic steering, these machines are designed for efficient, easy and comfortable operation.

Crown ESR 5260 Reach Trucks are especially designed to provide a solution for even the toughest material handling situations. Tarr says of that their low running costs, advanced operator comfort and excellent




In PUMA’s new new state of the art warehouse in Contermanskloof, Cape Town: Adi Munter PUMA warehouse manager with Goscor Lift Trucks’ Gregg Tarr (3rd and 4th from left) and from l to r, Prins Koopman, Reynold Mouton, Nigel October, Bradley Sass, and Fabian Lottering with Damion Persence and David Khang standing in front.

visibility are a few of the advanced features that encouraged PUMA to make the decision to purchase.

“Each model is endowed with superior ergonomics, visibility and durability. With Intelligent optimized cornering speed, 360 degree steering systems, this machine has become one of the most popular pieces of materials handling equipment in the world,” Tarr says.



“Working with PUMA is a privilege and we look forward to being of service to Adolf and his team for years to come,” concluded Tarr.



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# Improving the bottom line – strip by strip

FLEXIBLE PVC strip curtains from door and loading dock specialist, Maxiflex, are economical, practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective partition solutions. The strip curtains present a flexible barrier across internal and external apertures providing seamless traffic flow, protecting goods and personnel, reducing energy costs and creating a safe, comfortable and more productive work environment.

Strip curtains, also known as PVC strip doors, are installed to create doorways and partitions within commercial and industrial buildings providing fast, easy, unlimited access to personnel, vehicles, forklifts, carts, and machinery and are ideal for areas with low, medium or high traffic flow.

Each transparent strip is fabricated from a PVC compound with an outstanding degree of flexibility specially designed to combine high clarity with mechanical strength to deliver visibility, durability, and resistance to force.

The strip curtains are available in a variety of widths and thicknesses (200 x 2 mm, 300 x 3 mm and 400 x 4 mm) and specialist PVC grades such as welding bay PVC and anti-static PVC. This versatility enables Maxiflex to tailor a custom-made strip solution to warehousing, food services, refrigeration, materials handling and manufac-



*Maxiflex durable PVC strip curtains from for sealing doorways and creating partitions in industrial and commercial buildings.*

turing businesses meeting a wide range of applications including cold room and freezer room doors, personnel doors, storage area enclosures, factory and warehouse entrances and partitionings, conveyor and overhead crane openings, spray booths, ventilation brattices.

For large exterior enclosures and high traffic areas, Maxiflex recommends a thicker PVC grade as well as wider strips for more overlap to provide protection from outside elements. A lighter internal grade material and narrower strips are best suited for areas with light foot traffic. Maxiflex custom-fabricates strip curtains for difficult-to-cordon-off areas.

The strip curtains deliver numerous advantages to end-users:

- **Reduced business operating costs:** The strip curtain provides an environmental separation from weather conditions; by reducing the

loss of hot or cold air within the work space the strip curtains maintain the ambient temperatures and conserve energy with subsequent decreased energy costs. The strip curtains are effective in +60°C temperatures and the polar grade PVC remains flexible in temperatures of up to -32°C.

- **Low cost, easy to install and maintain:** Mounted to specially-designed mounting brackets, the strip curtains are quick and easy to install. Each PVC strip is pre-cut and pre-punched to specific lengths for easy repair or replacement on a strip by strip basis.
- **Improved working environment ensures greater worker safety and comfort for improved productivity and uptime:** The strip curtains provide effective protection against sparks and splashes, eliminate draughts, reduce the

movement of airborne particles (dust or odours), reduce or isolate noise. The clear strips admit light and protect the workplace from pests and rodents.

Maxiflex also manufactures and supplies an anti-insect PVC for the efficient repelling of insects. Available in strips and rolls, Stop-Insect is specially designed to bring anti-insect properties to PVC strip curtains and efficiently repels 80% of all flying insects as well as spiders and ticks; it kills 100% of mosquitoes that come into contact with the vinyl over a period of twelve months. The repulsive agent used in Stop-Insect is recommended by the World Health Organisation in helping to prevent mosquito-borne diseases like dengue fever and malaria. Stop-Insect is perfectly safe for humans and is ideal for schools, hospitals, health centres, factories, industrial workshops, commercial shops, public buildings and private residences.

# Straddling the load

MOBICON mini straddle carriers from BLT SA, which are designed for lifting containers onto and off trucks and for moving loads around sites, significantly reduce on-site congestion while making the yard a safer workplace.

"The Mobicon TF2 and 2T series increase operational efficiency and reduce demurrage costs for trucks waiting to be loaded and unloaded. These mobile container handlers efficiently move loads around sites, through warehouse doors, effectively taking the container to the stack or the receiving point," says Charity Gumede, marketing director, BLT SA, specialists in materials handling equipment. "One of the biggest problems associated with using conventional equipment to load and unload containers is damage caused to yards and pavements that are not suitable for carrying heavy weights."

"Mobicon container handlers have a 4 axle, single tyre design, with eight separate load centres, which enables them to utilise all parts of the yard and to operate on pavements and in restrictive areas where a forklift or heavy equipment cannot go. With the Mobicon system, there is no damage to yards and therefore no need for costly repairs."

"These mobile container handlers have excellent manoeuvrability and can turn in tight spaces and are also able



*Mobicon TF2 mini straddle carrier for efficient container handling.*

to travel inside warehouses, under awnings and up to docks. This flexible system requires very little maintenance, unlike conventional container handling equipment, where ongoing maintenance is expensive.

"Other advantages of this mini straddle carrier system include easy handling of ramps and speed bumps, faster container handling times in all weather conditions and minimal damage to contents normally caused by long lift truck runs. The investment in a Mobicon system also reduces capital investment costs. Conventional forklifts, reachstackers, sideloaders or self loading trailers are more costly to operate."

These robust mini straddle carriers incorporate two independent towers and utilise the container as the structural component linking the two towers. This two tower design provides the flexibility for the machine to be able to operate on sloping or uneven surfaces.

The container is lifted from the bottom, which allows the operator to easily handle flat beds, tank containers, half heights, over heights and curtain sided containers.

The lightweight Mobicon system has a 33 ton lift capacity and is able to carry any type or size ISO specified container, without the need for modifications or additional lifting equipment. The low centre of gravity of this system enhances stability, preventing it from rolling over like conventional forklifts.

Safety has been critical in the design of these compact machines. The operator has a clear view of the working area and instead of staff having to work at a trailer height of 1,5 m, they are able to work safely at ground level. These container handlers do not need to travel with a container 3 m in the air, as with conventional systems. Cabins are fitted with CCTV cameras for improved operator visibility. Other safety fea-

tures include front and rear strobe lights, audible movement alarms and failsafe switches.

The Mobicon 2T series, which stacks containers one high, can operate in an area as small as 5 m wide. This machine carries containers safely inside a building and under awnings and to save operation time, it can also load road vehicles. The lift height is 1,75 m, lift speed is 2 m/minute and the cycle time is approximately 3,5 minutes. Fuel usage is also less than 5 litres of diesel per hour.

The Mobicon TF2 machine, which stacks containers two high and has a drive speed of 9 km/h, is perfect for operations where space is at a premium and where speed is a priority. These machines have a lift height of 3,4 m, a lift speed of 4 m/minute and a cycle time of approximately two minutes. Fuel usage is less than 8 litres of diesel per hour.

Mobicon mini straddle carriers for safe and efficient container handling, which are manufactured in Australia, are available exclusively in South Africa from BLT SA as rental machines, or for purchase.

Other container handling equipment from BLT SA includes Taylor empty and loaded container handlers and reach stackers, as well as Meclift variable reach trucks for swift and safe container stuffing and handling. Capacity terminal tractors can be customised for specific handling tasks required.

The Mobicon 2T series, which stacks containers one high, can operate in an area as small as 5 m wide. This machine carries containers safely inside a building and under awnings and to save operation time, it can also load road vehicles.

The Mobicon TF2 mini straddle carrier, which stacks containers two high and has a drive speed of 9 km/per hour, is perfect for operations where space is at a premium and where speed is a priority.



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# Combilift SC– more than just a container handler

THE new Combilift Straddle Carrier is a versatile and cost effective solution for moving bulky and out of gauge loads such as generators, pipes, steel plates, tanks of all types and just about any oversized load. The limitations which apply to other heavy-lifting equipment, such as overhead cranes do not apply to the highly manoeuvrable and multipurpose Combi-SC. The Combi-SC is able to load and off load inside and outside and moves effortlessly between the two due to the innovative design.

“The Combi-SC is easy to operate and very user friendly. It has added versatility to our operations and enabled us to offer an extra level of service to our customers”

The Combi-SC is able to move large oversized loads up to 40% faster and allows for huge savings, against the need to hire mobile cranes and is full customisable to suit our customer's unique requirements. Unloading a directly from the truck and depositing the load exactly where required, even inside buildings due to the telescopic design which allows the Combi-SC to be low enough to enter into buildings and still allows the machine to double stack in outside areas, enabling the best use of available space. The Combi-SC significantly reduces the number of forklift movements to load and unload containers and oversized loads, reducing occupational health and safety concerns. Optionally the Combi-SC incorporates a patented load stabilising feature which allows full loads of non-uniform lengths to be lifted, with no risk of swing during transit. Even when the weight is unevenly distributed. This allows the Combi-SC to travel over relatively rough ground with a very stable load.

The machines ability to lift from ground level also results in a more compact storage space compared with a side loader system, as load can be stacked closely side by side, thanks to the Combi-SC's ability to traverse aisles of just 1 650mm.

**Accolades received from our Combi-SC customers:**  
“The Combi-SC is easy to operate and very user friendly. It has added versatility to our operations and enabled us to offer an extra level of service to our customers”

In South Africa, Shamrock Handling Concepts is the authorised dealer of the Combi-SC and provides a comprehensive aftersales service and will attend to all maintenance requirements through its national network.



## COMBiLiFT

LIFTING INNOVATION

### Material Handling Solutions for Your Industry

Combilift, world leaders in providing material handling solutions, offer a full range of innovative products, designed to handle long and oversized loads better than anyone else, guaranteeing considerable improvements in space utilization and safety. With capacities ranging from 1000 kg to 100,000 kg, it's a safe choice to go with Combilift.



## Combi-SC

### Complete independence when moving Containers & Oversized Loads

- Up to 100,000 kg capacity
- Works in narrow aisles
- Eliminate waiting trailers
- Full load ground to trailer loading
- Low ground pressure fully loaded
- Low running & maintenance costs
- Optional remote control
- Telescopic function - ideal for low doorways

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010 593 4342



# Demag launches DMR modular rope hoist

DUE to its modular design, the Demag DMR modular rope hoist provides a unique range of possible combinations, enabling the rope hoist to be configured to meet specific needs, thereby providing the perfect 'one-stop' solution, comments Richard Roughly, Senior Manager: Sales & Marketing.

"For the first time, customers can specify the design of their rope hoist, and still have the choice of all further options with just one system," Roughly highlights. The Demag DMR modular rope hoist is available in two versions, namely a C-design and a co-axial design.

Smart interfaces meant that the Demag DMR modular rope hoist can be supplemented with a range of fittings and accessories that are freely selectable. Application types, from foot-mounted hoists to double-rail crabs, can all be implemented

according to specific customer requirements. "With its unmatched level of modularity, Demag has made it that much easier to implement more rope-hoist variants than ever before," Roughly comments.

Five sizes are available, with load capacities up to 50t. The controls can be 'smart', conventional, or provided by the customer, with a stepless or two-stage drive concept. Control can be wire-connected or by radio, depending on requirements. In addition, a range of extra safety and control functions can be opted for.

"Our modular design allows us to offer customers the exact control system needed for their Demag DMR rope hoist. Your equipment can be enhanced for future production and logistics processes due to our innovative control systems, which transform your rope hoist into a smart solution for maximum transparency, safety,



Five sizes are available with load capacities up to 50t.

and reliability," Roughly elaborates.

The Demag DMR modular rope hoist guarantees reliable operation by means of the tried-and-tested contactor control option. Not only can this be maintained easily, but it is also available with various control voltages. An even more flexible option is for customers to implement their own 'plug-and-play' controls. In this regard, Demag can supply its own electric enclosure with vari-

ous cable unions for customer-specific solutions.

The integrated Demag SmartCheck sensor system detects all of the rope hoist's operating parameters continuously, and reports them to the control system. These critical parameters range from information on speed to brake wear. Precise overload protection is fitted as standard, giving customers more peace of mind that they have the best total system

for their individual applications.

Slack-rope monitoring means that the tension of the rope can be checked continuously. The hoist drive switches off automatically when the load has been lowered to its destination. Bypass control allows for areas to be specified where the travelling hoist is blocked. This means safe bypass of high parts of machinery, for example, or alternatively zones that are out of bounds.

Tandem mode means that loads can be transported safely by two Demag DMR rope hoists via a single control unit. Two cranes, with up to four rope hoists, can also be synchronised. A further control refinement is area-specific load reduction, whereby areas can be defined which the travelling hoist may only enter if the load does not exceed a specific reference value. This has the added benefit of reducing the load on the runway

and building structure, especially when two or more cranes operate on a single runway.

Real-time remote diagnosis empowers users to have an overview of all Demag DMR rope hoists in operation at any one time – even if you are away on a business trip. The innovative Demag StatusControl remote access system supplies all relevant operating data in real-time, and analyses and processes it for direct access, even on a smartphone. Proactive maintenance can therefore be scheduled as and when required.

Demag StatusControl also allows customers to monitor complete crane systems in various production facilities and at different locations, regardless of the brand.

Target positioning means that loads can be transported automatically to a selected target position, as long as the crane operator presses the corresponding button on the radio control.

## New SKF grease cuts false brinelling damage in half

SKF has launched a new grease that has been proven to reduce the damage caused by false brinelling in hub bearing units by more than 50 per cent when compared with competing greases. The lubricant has been introduced to the market to help overcome this wear phenomenon and can also enable overall improvements in vehicle efficiency by limiting fretting corrosion and the microdamages caused by vibration.

Designed for use with both new designs and retrofits, the grease is fully compatible with bearing components materials and came out as the best performing lubricant for reducing the raceway microdamages caused by false brinelling when tested alongside several other standard greases.

## THE DMR MODULAR ROPE HOIST



## ONE ROPE HOIST. TWO DESIGNS. MANY POSSIBILITIES.

Individual needs require specific solutions. With the DMR modular rope hoist, you can benefit from flexibility in all types of applications: from stationary units to crane systems:

### CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF:

- C-design or co-axial design
- Five sizes with load capacities up to 50 tons
- Foot-mounted hoist, low-headroom travelling hoist, double-rail crab and standard-headroom travelling hoist
- Controls to meet your needs:
  - Smart Demag SafeControl system
  - Conventional contactor control
  - Customer's control system
- Variable or two-stage switching elements
- Control concept: wired connection or radio control

[www.demagcranes.co.za](http://www.demagcranes.co.za)

**DEMAG**



## Xpert 40 compact press brake – ‘the Swiss Army knife’ of press brakes



THE production of small steel components is a key part of overall sheet steel production. Now Bystronic, a world-leading provider of cutting and bending solutions – represented in SA by First Cut – has released the Xpert 40, a compact, mobile press brake designed specifically for the high-speed production of smaller components.

“Not for nothing is the Xpert 40 referred to as the ‘Swiss Army knife of press brakes’. In its development Bystronic took customers’ feedback – for compact ergonomics, speed and productivity – into account as well as energy and cost-savings.

“With an impressive 40 ton capacity, Xpert 40 can carry out up to an amazing 1 028 bends an hour – 3x as many parts in the same as a large machine would – allowing users to bend quickly and efficiently,” comments Andrew Poole, First Cut’s managing director.

These high processing speeds have been achieved through upper flank and back gauge acceleration; and the fact that the machine is fully programmable with the use of BySoft 7 software.

“Thanks to intelligent functions such as energy saver and automatic stop-start, the Xpert 40 operates more economically than larger press brakes – while bending at higher speeds,” he says.

First Cut’s Bystronic Sales Director Gareth Jackson agrees, adding: “Another major advantage of the Xpert 40 is that, being so compact, it can be deployed in approximately five minutes. In addition, the machine has forklift ports, allowing for mobile deployment and integration into almost any industrial environment or fabrication configuration. For example, it can be deployed from a fixed bending station directly next to a laser cutting system, in order to improve production flow from laser cutting to bending.”

“Rising electricity costs in South Africa is a growing concern for

the manufacturing and fabrication sector, the Xpert 40’s process-controlled drive unit reduces power consumption by up to 30%, resulting in substantial savings and maintenance costs.

“In addition, the Xpert Tool Changer, a compact automation solution – which works in tandem with the Xpert 40 – allows for the fast changing of bending tools. This will allow for reduced set-up times and improved bending quality, explains Jackson.

The accuracy achieved with the Tool Changer produces parts of consistently high quality. In addition, using intelligent sensor technology, the Tool Changer scans new tools and automatically integrates them into the magazine. “You do not have to re-programme or call in a service technician, thereby also saving operational time and costs,” adds Jackson.

The Xpert Tool Changer also integrates seamlessly with the Xpert 40’s ByVision Bending software, which has an extensive database including parameters for all common types of sheet metal and bending tools – allowing users to decide on the appropriate tool, sequence of angles and the bending force required.

A further option with the Xpert 40 is the Bystronic mobile bending cell, based on the so-called ‘plug and bend’ principle. “This ancillary machine allows production to cope with varying order sizes: from large series with recurring parts, to flexible job order production with fluctuating batch sizes and widely varying bent parts.”

“Apart from a high level of process reliability, the bending cell allows for multi-shift operation with the minimum staffing requirement. The bending cell can be set up in a couple of minutes and does not affect the mobility of the Xpert 40 at all,” Jackson points out.

## Brazing, debrazing best practice for replacement compressors

SPECIALITY chemicals supplier A-Gas is highlighting brazing and debrazing best practice during compressor replacement in air-conditioning system service.

Any brazing or debrazing must only be carried out after recovery of any excess gas in the system, and following the introduction of an inert gas such as Oxygen Free Nitrogen (OFN) into the pipework, A-Gas South Africa National Sales Manager Michael Labacher highlights.

“It is critical to expel oxygen from the internal system so as to prevent flash-ignition

of hot oil, a particular problem when debrazing welded connections on replacement compressors,” Labacher comments. He adds that OFN inhibits oxidation of internal copper pipes and fittings.

Oxy-acetylene torches are often used to ‘unsweat’ copper fittings. An established and accepted practice, this is however extremely hazardous and unsafe, as heat from a naked flame can result in the ignition of any expelled refrigerant and oil mist. A side-effect is that trace quantities of refrigerant will also decompose as a result, and generate toxic fumes.

SafeWork NSW, the workplace health and safety regulator for New South Wales in Australia, recently issued a safety report, following a spate of incidents whereby air-conditioning engineers suffered severe burns following the ignition of refrigerant and oil mixtures during servicing.

In the cases reported, an oxy-acetylene torch was the culprit. Although non-flammable R22 was used, residual pressure in the system released a refrigerant and oil mixture from the pipe joint, resulting in a flash fire.

Labacher warns that both engineers and technicians must be made aware of the potential for fire during brazing operations. Gloves and goggles should be worn as standard Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), while an adequate risk assessment also needs to be carried out. A dry-powder fire extinguisher must be on hand at all times during hot works.

“Technicians are often unaware of products on the market that can assist them in the field. For example, A-Gas South Africa not only offers a wide range, but can supply



A-Gas South Africa  
National Sales Manager  
Michael Labacher.

recovery cylinders to capture unwanted gas for recovery or destruction, as well as handy portable-sized OFN cylinders for purging and pressure testing,” Labacher concludes.

## Historic win for young South African welder

OSBOURNE Samukelo Mbambani has won first prize in the Student category at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Arc Cup Welding Competition in Shanghai, China during the week of 24 – 28 June 2017. In total 16 countries participated in the event with Russia alone entering 26 competitors in all categories!

“This is an absolutely amazing result,” says Etienne Nell, SAIW business development manager, S.A. team leader in China and Senior Category judge.

“Samukelo simply blew everyone away with his attitude, skill and application. Given the facts that: he had never even been on an overseas trip before; that he competed against dozens of the best young welders in the world in a strange country; and that the marking was amongst the strictest of any world competition, what he achieved was nothing short of miraculous,” Nell says.

He adds that Samukelo’s relaxed, humorous and easy-going approach was matched with an incredible discipline and willingness to give of his best. “He was the perfect competitor and was a credit to himself, the SAIW and South Africa.”

There were four categories of welding in the competition:

- Student Welder (max. age 22) – here the competitor firstly welds a plate, pipe and fillet weld using a specific process – GMAW in the case of Samukelo. Then they enter the Finished Welding category where

they assemble and weld, in all positions, a carbon steel project with all four processes i.e. GTAW, GMAW, SMAW and FCAW. Samukelo participated in both categories.

- Senior Welder (max. age 35) – process as per the Student welder above. Houston Isaacs the multi-winning welder in the various local SAIW welding competitions represented South Africa in this category. While Jaco van Deventer achieved second

place in this category last year, Houston was unable to attain his usual winning standards this year.

- Robotic Welding (no entry from S.A.)
- Technology/Theory (no entry from S.A.)

Nell says that the story of Samukelo getting to China is in itself quite bizarre. “He wasn’t meant to go at all. SAIW Welding Challenge second-placed Angel Mathebula was originally supposed to participate in the Student Category but had to withdraw for person-

al reasons. So, we decided to take a chance on Samukelo who was placed third in the WorldSkills S.A. Nationals in Durban earlier this year. The rest is history ... in the truest sense of the word,” says Nell.

Samukelo was over the moon with his achievement. “China and the Arc Cup was an incredible experience. I never expected to win but it goes to show that one can only do one’s best and hope that it’s enough. This time it was! I must thank Etienne, the sponsors

and the whole team for their support,” he said.

The ARC Cup is the Chinese version of the WorldSkills competition and his highly regarded by the welding industry globally including the International Institute of Welding (IIW).

The South Africa Welding Team was sponsored by the Merse- ta. The team consisted of four people – Etienne Nell, team leader and Senior Category Judge; Valencia Hendriks coach and Junior Judge; and competitors Houston Isaacs and Samukelo Mbambani.

## Welding – the miracle career

There is no better career choice for a young man or woman than welding. It offers a wide variety of activities from inspection to administration through to actual welding in a host of different applications. And most importantly, with a welding qualification, you’re certain to get a job.

So, see below for a list of our many courses and contact us for more information on how to bring a miracle into your life.



### Courses offered by the SAIW

Welding Quality Control; Welding Inspection; Welding Coordination; Codes of Construction; Heat Treatment; Competent Persons; Welding Symbols; Welding Metallurgy and Failure Analysis; Practical Welding; Non-Destructive Testing – Visual Testing, Magnetic Testing, Penetrant Testing, Eddy Current Testing, Radiographic Testing, Ultrasonic Testing.

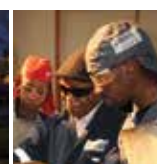
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# More than just a standard printer

PYROTEC's machinery division, Pyrotec PackMark, has launched the new 9405 Continuous Inkjet (CIJ) coder from the global manufacturer of product identification and traceability solutions, Markem-Imaje.

CIJ technology is one of the oldest printing technologies still in use today, which is testament to its versatility, printing tolerances, reliability and cost effectiveness. It is ideal for an array of uses in many industries and capable of marking most substrates. This simple technology works by creating a continuous flow of ink by pushing liquid ink through a gun body and microscopic nozzle via a high-pressure pump. Many industries demand high-speed printing, of which the CIJ is capable. A non-contact continuous ink system, CIJ virtually eliminates potential damage to packaging or products during the printing process. It is perfect for use in harsh

environments and can be used with a variety of inks depending on industry needs. Solvent-based inks that contain alcohol or ketones may be used in CIJ printers to ensure fast drying times.

Graphics printing, expiration dates, and barcodes can be achieved using small character CIJ printers, which offer precision and work seamlessly with surfaces that are curved, flat, or textured.

These benefits can be seen in Markem-Imaje's recently-launched 9405. More than just a standard printer, the 9405's quick multiline message set-up offers optimal line effectiveness, and its constant quality coding with long maintenance intervals provides proven robustness. This is supported by its hygienic fully stainless-steel design with no retention zones that allows easy daily wash down (full IP55).

Efficiency is the name of the game with



the 9405. An intuitive WYSIWYG 7-inch colour touch screen provides real-time display of remaining print capacity expressed in hours and number of messages, an integrated assistance and alert system, simplified message printing and management, and the ability to create user profiles. These features ensure that operators can manage the 9405 without support. Another benefit is easy configuration. Quickly create or upload codes via a USB connection, or through the international operator/machine interface

with many language options.

To improve daily operations, the 9405's smart design ensures seamless integration; and intuitive guidance is supplied via embedded software for independent, efficient coder management.

The 9405 CIJ coder offers a broad array of ink options, including multi-use, high-performance, ketone-free, thermochromic and MEK-free inks, to help manufacturers achieve traceability and sustainability goals. Clean and secure, Markem-Imaje's sealed 0.8-litre innova-

tive cartridge system requires no set-up and eliminates consumable management errors. An accurate real-time consumable display and efficient replacement without stopping production adds to this coder's efficiency.

Print features include Markem-Imaje's Jet Speed Control that guarantees marking quality at a printing resolution of 71dpi, and print speeds of up to 4,6 m per second for up to five lines of print. Automatic font selection is available depending on the print speed and printhead/object distance. Font height ranges from five to 32 dots for multiline messages, and character heights from 1.5 to 11mm. Additionally, a wide choice of 1D and 2D barcodes, and Datamatrix and QR codes is offered.

And finally, cleaning the print head is a simple operation: open the print head, wash it, and close it in just two minutes.

# Low-noise conveyor system with fast assembly

FUTURE-proof production, assembly, and packaging lines must be able to deal with even smaller batches, more frequent product changes, and a large number of product variants. Chain conveyor systems used in production, therefore, have to be easy to configure and assemble with fast response times and shortened time-to-market providing the major competitive edge for machine manufacturers and users. Additionally, a low-noise operation is also crucial for this type of system. Bosch Rexroth's new Vario-Flow Plus chain conveyor system fulfils all of these requirements, supporting both manufacturers and users.

A number of standardised modules cover differing application requirements are also available with maxi-

mum interchangeability and modularity. To simplify selection and correct combination of the modules, Bosch Rexroth offers MTpro planning software with Layout Designer.

Conveyors and even complex multi-conveyor or workstation systems can be designed, components selected, and the results output to CAD with this system. Even more valuable time can be saved during commissioning as the innovative drive solution provides a great degree of planning freedom and the motor mounting position can be chosen on-site.

This reduces the selection of drive variants to a minimum.

With its low-noise operation, the new chain conveyor system greatly reduces noise and thus improves working conditions.

# tna double production line speeds

FOOD processing and packaging solutions provider tna has launched performance 5.0, a revolutionary new approach to high-speed production line performance.

Comprising a brand new high performance vertical packaging system, high-speed multi-head scale and the world's fastest case packer for flexible bags, tna performance 5.0 gives food manufacturers the innovation and efficiency they need to double their output thanks to ultra-high speed equipment, advanced equipment integration and intuitively designed, self-learning technology.

As a result, customers can maximise production flexibility with faster changeovers and more product capabilities in a single system.

"tna performance 5.0 is about a lot more than just individual product innovations," comments Alf Taylor, CEO and co-founder of tna. "It's our vision for the future of food manufacturing. For us, the key to long-term commercial success is to rethink the conventional and invest in technology that sets new benchmarks and doesn't just meet current industry expectations. Our ultimate goal is therefore to equip today's

food manufacturers with technology that is capable of the highest speeds as well as continuous improvement, so they're ready for the next stage of food production. That way, their equipment won't just meet the requirements of today, but will also easily adapt to their future needs."

Central to tna performance 5.0 is the world's fastest case packer for flexible bags. Capable of speeds of up to 300 bags per minute, the new tna ropac® 5 takes a monumental leap in terms of performance by more than doubling the industry's average case packing speeds, offering snack

food manufacturers unprecedented levels of throughput, exceptional equipment reliability and one of the smallest machine footprints. This will be followed by the launch of the tna robag® 5, the latest generation of tna's flagship vertical form, fill and seal (VFFS) packaging system.

"We've always preferred disruptive innovation over incremental improvement or me too solutions," adds Taylor. "Back in 1984, when tna released the original robag 1 VFFS packaging system with continuous rotary motion jaws, the industry saw packaging speeds

leap from 50 bags per minute to an incredible 100 bags per minute. tna performance 5.0 will be just as revolutionary. By combining our expertise in equipment integration with our passion for innovation, we've been able to develop a new range of ultra-high speed solutions that cover everything from weighing to packaging - all the way through to case packing.

Together with tna's complete portfolio of high-performance food processing solutions, these new innovations will allow food manufacturers to take their production line performance to unprecedented levels."





## Fastest in the world.

At 300 bags per minute, the new **tna ropac® 5** is the world's fastest case packer for flexible bags. Try and outrun that. Join us at **Propak Cape, hall 1 booth #A17.**

**tna** rethink the conventional  
visit [tnasolutions.com](http://tnasolutions.com)

years of  
**35**  
innovation



packaging & processing solutions













# Cape Town to host international water loss conference

THE City of Cape Town is predicted to experience an even drier summer, based on the city's current rainfall patterns.

To address the city's dire situation, 500 global leaders in the water sector will meet next May at the 2018 International Water Association's Water Loss Conference which will be held in Cape Town.

The conference will provide these leading experts with a platform to share their experiences, ideas and expertise in the area, and to find realistic solutions to address the city's crippling predicament.

Ronnie McKen-

zie, chairman of the International Water Association's specialist group on water loss, said many successful case studies will be showcased from South Africa as the country is highly regarded worldwide in the field of water losses.

He added that South Africa was also considered to be one of the leaders in advanced pressure control as three of the largest advanced pressure control installations in the world were commissioned in South Africa – two of which can be found in Cape Town.

City mayor Patricia de Lille said the city is looking forward to

"learning as much as we can in our goal to build a water-resilient city to ensure that our residents and our economy can adapt, survive and grow".

## Emphasising water saving

The city has also urged residents to maintain saving water and at the beginning of July, implemented level 4b water restrictions. These restrictions require all water users to use less than 87 litres of water per person per day in total, irrespective of whether people are at home, work, school, or elsewhere.

Citizens across the city are being made

aware of the need to build its water reserves during winter as most of the city's annual rainfall comes then.

Mayco members Eddie Andrews said city staff, water inspectors, and law enforcement officers have and continue to go into suburbs to spread awareness about the crippling water shortages.

"Although our water-saving awareness drive was well received by residents, we are alarmed at the number of people who are still not completely fami-liar with the water restriction requirements or ways in which they could save water," he said.



"We need residents to take responsibility now and not to ease up during these winter months," he added.

"Saving water needs to become our new normal and it is important that we hold each other accountable dur-

ing this critical time. We will all be affected equally if we do not build up the necessary reserves."

# Propak Cape 2017 highlights the importance of the Western Cape agro-processing sector

THE importance of the Western Cape agro-processing sector will be highlighted at this year's Propak Cape exhibition taking place in Cape Town in October. Packaging forms an important part of the agricultural and agri-processing value chain by extending shelf life, preventing spoilage and helping the product to arrive at the customer in good condition.

Propak Cape 2017 will showcase cutting-edge advancements in the packaging and related industries in the region. Over 200 hundred local and international exhibitors will be displaying their latest

products, equipment, machinery and services, across packaging, food processing, plastics, printing and labelling. Many live demonstrations will showcase machinery and equipment in action.

This year's show will also expand to include wine and olive oil production and supply at the newly-launched Wine and Olive Oil Production Expo to be held alongside Propak Cape.

"Visitors can expect to see many leading South African and international companies at Propak Cape and will have the opportunity to source new products, find out about the la-



test trends and technologies, and meet new and existing suppliers," says Sven Riddle, Event Director at Specialised

Exhibitions Montgomery. "Expert advice will be available from technical specialists who will be on hand to dis-

cuss the right solutions for business growth."

A series of free-to-attend seminars will add further value for visitors

with industry leaders sharing their knowledge and expertise on a variety of industry topics such as: Successful design thinking for packaging and printing innovation; Agro-processing: SA food and beverage market and related trade trends; Funding for the packaging, processing and plastics industry; accessing the DTI grants and rebates; Trends and technological innovations changing the face of food and beverage processing; Digital disruption and innovation: the future of packaging; Initiatives driving growth in the South African plastics industry; Trends and technologi-

cal innovations changing the face of food and beverage processing; and Emerging trends in sustainable packaging: 2017 and beyond.

Propak Cape is endorsed by the Institute of Packaging SA, Plastics SA, Printing SA, the South African National Bottled Water Association (SANBWA) and the Italian SA Chamber of Trade and Industries (Italcham).

Propak Cape 2017, together with The Wine and Olive Oil Production Expo, will be taking place at the Cape Town International Conference Centre (CTICC) from 24-26 October 2017.

# Securex 2017 wins the approval of decision makers

SECUREX 2017, held at Gallagher Convention Centre from 30 May to 1 June, again proved that it is Africa's premier exhibition for sourcing security- and fire-related solutions all under one roof. With 121 local (75%) and 53 international exhibitors showcasing their solutions on 3 388 m2 of stand space, the 5 048 visitors (of which 1 147 were first-time attendees at Securex) were spoilt for choice.

"We welcomed 177 international visitors from 27 countries. Again showing that the exhibition has the ability to attract desirable customers, 16 African countries were represented in the visitor numbers. Given the fact that feedback from our exhibitors clearly indicates a desire to increase their footprint in other SADC coun-

tries, this is a very favourable statistic," says John Sterley, Portfolio Director at Specialised Exhibitions.

Feedback from visitors has been extremely positive, citing high-quality products and knowledgeable stand personnel as two of the highlights. "There were a number of exhibitor stands that really blew me away," says Eduan Beetge of Evenflow. "We were very pleased at the large variety of security technology on offer and will be back again next year to view the latest trends," adds Aubrey Hefe, City of Cape Town.

Similarly, the exhibitors expressed high levels of satisfaction at the level of decision making represented by the visitors. "Last year we exhibited at Securex for the first time and as a result of our presence



there we won a large contract to provide a maintenance service on the X-Ray inspection equipment at a number of sites for a large South African parastatal. I tell everyone who asks 'Why Securex?' that it is a completely worthwhile investment in growing your business. We are thrilled at the exposure the show provides us with," says Naomi Sekae of Pabalelo Security.

While Securex is

characterised by predominantly local content, two new overseas exhibitors were particularly happy with the response they received to their brands. "This was our first time at Securex, promoting our desk wall system. We have been inundated with the interest from visitors wanting to either distribute or buy our products. We have no doubt that we will return to Securex again as the market

penetration into Africa is clearly evident here," says José Garcia from Gesab in Spain.

"We felt that Securex would be the ideal platform to present our offerings to the African market and we have not been disappointed. We launched a number of our new products and there was great interest in our Mission Control product. The organisation of the show was excellent, with an abundance of marketing before the event driving a lot of traffic to Securex," says Martine Billmann from Genetec in Canada.

Apart from the wide array of local and international security and fire offerings, Securex's value-added visitor attractions again drew in the crowds. Speaking at the ESDA breakfast, Emma Sadleir drew a very sobering picture



of the legal issues that can arise from social media, cautioning that for instance, screenshots have become a way of making what should be transient either semi- or even completely permanent. She added that there is evidence that we are chemically addicted to social media on our mobile devices.

Sadleir cautions social media users to be hyper aware that we are surrounded by people who over document which can lead to confidentiality issues. She warns that the law remains unchanged with regard to your social media post whether you delete it or not. Once it has been posted, it is in a public forum.

The InFIREs Workshop, hosted by FPA-SA, provided the insurance industry with an opportunity to interact with . Topics under discussion included an update on InFIREs and NatFIRE; Improvement of veld fire management through sector mapping; and The management and inspection of a pump and tank installation for fixed automatic suppression systems. Several vendor presentation took place and video footage of recent large fire incidents internationally was presented, with input supplied by the audience.

Securex 2018 -22-24 May, Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand Gauteng.



# Chevron refinery gets high pressure clean

CHEVRON's Milerton refinery underwent its annual shutdown during February and March this year, during which all critical path production equipment is maintained. High pressure industrial cleaning of the plant and equipment was conducted using equipment from South Africa's leading water jetting solutions company, Total Blasting.

The refinery's annual shutdown is scheduled for routine cleaning, maintenance and any necessary mechanical repairs and this year, took place over three to four weeks during the month of February, reaching completion within the expected time frame.

Total Blasting Director, Bradley Storer, remarks, "Our client, who was commissioned to oversee the industrial cleaning of the Chevron refinery

plant and equipment, needed reliable rental pumps for the job, because the bandwidth of their own equipment would not suffice for the scope of such a project."

### T3 & T4 Series built tough

Equipment supplied to the project by Total Blasting to clean heat exchangers, pipe lines and process tanks included their T3 and T4 Series units, working at 1 000 bar at 50-100 l/min and 2 800 bar at 19 l/min respectively. Both the T3 and T4 Series units are suitable for the most demanding of applications and for single or twin-gun operations. Most common applications include cleaning, descaling, coating removal, pipe cleaning, marine growth removal, floor cleaning and heat exchange cleaning.

Units come complete with a starter panel including Murphy control panel, push button start and emergency stop, and the inlet water filtration system comes with dual filtration on 2 800 bar unit being a 1 micron cartridge with a 50 micron bag filter.

Safety features include over pressure protection with primary rupture disc at 1.2 times w/p (working pressure), secondary rupture disc at 1.4 times w/p as well as a pressure gauge mounted to the pump head. In addition, the unit comes with a stainless steel spark arrestor.

Optional extras include skid or trailer mounted set ups as well as a 3 m container mounted set up either DNV offshore rated or a standard container.

Differences between the T3 and T4 Series are the size, weight and

the trailer type. The T3's dimensions are 2.3 m (h) x 1.75 m (w) x 4 m (l), it weighs in at 2 t and comes with single axle trailer. The T4, however, measures 2.4 m (h) x 2 m (w) x 4.5 m (l), weighs 3,5 t and comes with double axle trailer.

"Of paramount importance for a project of this size and measure is both the supply and quality of equipment, which in this case, included high pressure pumps and associated tooling. It is essential that all of the equipment supplied runs without any breakdown to ensure maximum uptime during this short window for maintenance," remarks Storer, who goes on to say, "At Total Blasting, we ensure the highest possible rates of uptime by supplying the best and most suitable equipment we have to offer



Both the T3 and T4 Series units are suitable for the most demanding of applications and for single or twin-gun operations.

along with excellent technical support to back it."

"Supplying equipment to the Chevron refinery maintenance project affirms our serious commitment to the industry and in

supporting our valued client who is a supplier of choice for their high quality equipment and service to the petrochemical sector, with a specific focus on plant shutdowns," comments Storer, concluding, "We

look forward to a repeat partnership in the near future, when our rental fleet and technical team will be commissioned to support both the Sasol Secunda and Natref refinery shutdowns later this year."

# Africa's 2017 construction expo attracts many

THE fifth edition of the biggest gathering of built environment professionals under one roof - the African Construction and Totally Concrete Expo

- took place at Gallagher Convention Centre on 23 and 24 May 2017 which the organisers claim was an 36% growth in the number of attendees over the

previous year. The event attracted over 7 100 built environment professionals.

In line with Minister Nathi Nhleko's recent announcement

on transforming the construction sector, the event provided 36 free training workshops, including CPD accredited training for architects, quantity surveyors and engineers. Additional training was offered in Africa's first-ever Contractor's Corner, sponsored by AfriSam, Builders and Concrete Slab Supplies, which featured product demonstrations and practical skills training for the over 2 500 building contractors in attendance.

The indoor and outdoor exhibition increased to 221 exhibi-

tors this year, up from 176 exhibitors in 2016, and for the first time featured six dedicated zones: construction; concrete; digital construction; mechanical electrical and plumbing (MEP); surfaces and finishes; and tools and equipment. Visitors also benefited from the R100 000 worth of prizes which were given away, ranging from tools to equipment to R50 000 worth of vouchers from suppliers.

The success of the Expo encouraged more than 60% of exhibiting companies to rebook for 2018's expo.

Four co-located events took place alongside the Expo: the Captains of Construction and Infrastructure Leadership Forum, the Smart Buildings and Infrastructure Africa Summit, the Digital Construction Expo and the Women in Construction Awards which was a gala dinner recognising the excellent contributions made by women in the construction, cement and concrete industries over the past year.

Over 100 VIP's from private sector CEO's to public sector government officials attended

the show, in addition to 90 expert speakers who addressed the audience at the Captains of Construction and Infrastructure Leadership Forum, the Smart Buildings and Infrastructure Africa Summit, the Digital Knowledge Lounge and workshops.

Throughout the year, planning for this initiative will continue to connect public and private sectors towards industry transformation and the 2018 edition will take place at Gallagher Convention Centre on 16 - 17 May 2018.

## Autodesk University South Africa 2017

AUTODESK University slams into the calendars for Cape Town designers, innovators, makers and creators on the 6 th September. AU South Africa promises to improve your business with innovative techniques, best practices and new workflows with Autodesk software. It's your annual opportunity to learn from international Autodesk experts and network with your peers.

### Get the edge

- Become part of a global community of thought leaders and visionaries
- Explore advanced technology first-hand
- Shape future releases - with direct access to Autodesk product teams

### Speakers include:

#### Callan Carpenter

Vice President of Global Named Accounts.

#### Tom Wujec

Autodesk Fellow, a master facilitator, a popular TED speaker, and a best-selling author

#### Tatjana Dzambazova

Architect who has worked for Autodesk for the last 16 years.



## The Cape Town Africa Data Forum Conference 29-30 Aug 2017 at the Westin Hotel Cape Town

THE Cape Town Africa Data Forum Conference will showcase Data use cases and techniques that drive the greatest business value.

With an emphasis on real-life implementation of analytics technologies, this practical business forum will provide bold vision from leading innovators across the data-driven spectrum. Join hundreds of C-suite executives, business strategists, data scientists and analytics professionals to leverage the opportunity to harness your data for competitive advantage.

### Conference Topics

- The Role of Data at the Centre of the Digital Ecosystem
- How Data Analytics is Reshaping Digital Advertising Industry
- Transforming the Organization Using Insights – Unlocking the Data Advantage
- The New Data Management Approaches from Command and Control to Collaborate and Enable
- The Science of Winning in Financial Services
- How to Use Data and Analytics to Improve Your Business

- Transforming Business in the Digital Disturbance Economy
- Using Data to Deliver Better Customer Outcomes
- Building a Governance Framework for Comprehensive Data Privacy Compliance
- King IV – Assisting decision makers in fulfilling their Data Governance duties
- Nostradamus Effect: Disruption of People Analytics
- Transforming Organizations using insights – Tales From The Trenches

- How to Define Your Data Governance Metrics
- Transforming State Owned Entities to Better Understand and Serve its Stakeholders
- Building Data Science Capabilities for Data Driven Enterprise
- Master Data Management, Data Quality and Data Governance: Why You Need All Three
- Business Improvement through Advanced Analytics – A practical approach



OPINION

All shall be peasants as we boldly march into the past

Continued from back page

They revealed without any sense of irony or, indeed, concern that “high agricultural efficiency consistently correlated with lower environmental impacts”

Who would have guessed? Those with common sense. All farmers have a keen interest in land conservation. Duh!

These ardent researchers had a great time at the University of Minnesota (never heard of it, either). They analysed “The environmental impacts of different food production systems”. They looked at conventional versus organic; grain-fed versus grass-fed beef; trawling versus non-trawling fisheries; and greenhouse-grown versus open-field produce. They examined different agricultural input efficiencies (such as feed and fertilizer), and different foods.

They studied cov-

ered levels of land use, greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), fossil fuel energy use, eutrophication (nutrient runoff) and acidification potential. Mp doubt quite a few doctorates resulted.

Yet another cause for a pause one would have thought was the finding that “While organic systems used less energy, they had higher land use, did not offer benefits in Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) {wow!}, and tended to have higher eutrophication (?) and acidification potential per unit of food produced.

“Grass-fed beef, meanwhile, tended to require more land and emit more GHGs than grain-fed beef.”

Gosh, where do they think grain feed comes from?

Yet another piece of obvious common sense was “discovered”: cattle need a lot of land, ten

times more than pork, and poultry which have significant benefits, both for the environment and for human health.

Now comes the kicker.

“Larger dietary shifts, such as global adoption of low-meat or vegetarian diets, would offer even larger benefits to environmental sustainability and human health.”

“It’s essential we take action through policy and education to increase public adoption of low-impact and healthy foods, as well the adoption of low impact, high efficiency agricultural production systems.

“A lack of action would result in massive increases in agriculture’s environmental impacts including the clearing of 200 to 1 000 million hectares of land for agricultural use, an approximately

three-fold increase in fertilizer and pesticide applications, an 80 per cent increase in agricultural GHG emissions and a rapid rise in the prevalence of diet-related diseases such as obesity and diabetes.

“The steps we have outlined, if adopted individually, offer large environmental benefits. Simultaneous adoption of these and other solutions, however, could prevent any increase in agriculture’s environmental impacts. We must make serious choices, before agricultural activities cause substantial, and potentially irreversible, environmental damage.”

That looks very much like a return to peasant-style living on one plot, with one pig, a goat or two, a milk cow and some chickens.

Fancy living like that on a hectare in the Karoo? Three hundred

years ago in Europe it was possible. As any sheep farmer will tell you, it is a sure recipe for starvation if you try it in the Karoo.

Judging from the worldwide flood of people abandoning such a lifestyle by moving to the cities, even peasants hate it, and cannot get away fast enough.

That’s the trouble with utopian theories. People just will not do as they are told. Especially when the orders are plain stupid. To make them obey takes a police force and eternal vigilance to address backsliding.

East Germany was a perfect example of where this thinking takes us. Just about everyone in that late unlamented socialist paradise had a police record and everyone spied on everyone else.

Will there one day be Green Commissars? Maybe.

SEIFSA...the organisation which ‘negotiated’ the Steel Industry to the brink of destruction

Comment from the National Employers’ Association of South Africa (NEASA)

*THERE is no counter-weight in society if you have cowards in business. You don’t have to keel over every time someone stands up and says ‘I disagree’.* - Trevor Manuel

The Steel Industry – already in a deep crisis – finds itself in another round of Industry negotiations. Since it is again becoming apparent that SEIFSA simply does not learn from their past mistakes, that they persist with their contempt of SMMEs, this serves to remind them, and the Steel Industry, of their role in the demise of the Industr

It is common cause that the Steel Industry’s wage rates, on all levels, are currently on average 50 percent higher compared to that of other Industries covered by collective bargaining agreements. Of special note is the fact that the entry level wage in the Motor Industry is just less than half the entry level wage in the Steel Industry.

Over the last years, as these developments unfolded, the National Employers’ Association of South Africa (NEASA) tried, to the best we could, to keep the Industry informed. The questions are: Did SEIFSA inform their support base about this? Did SEIFSA

inform their members that even they (SEIFSA affiliated members) were not bound by the unlawful and unethical SEIFSA-NUMSA agreements?

The role of SEIFSA even before 2010 – when their contribution in the overall unlawful practises of the Metal and Engineering Industry Bargaining Council (MEIBC) were exposed – to where we find ourselves today, is simply shocking!

The challenge of the unlawful MEIBC dispensation commenced in 2010. Until then, SEIFSA dominated employer affairs in the MEIBC.

They played that role, claiming to negotiate for employers in the Industry, reached agreements and with the help of their cartel-partners (NUMSA and the Department of Labour) wrongfully extended those agreements to the rest of the Industry.

All of this while the MEIBC was in no respect constituted in terms of their own constitution – therefore technically did not even ‘exist’.

The Steel Industry, completely oblivious of this ‘sham’, had to comply with these unlawful agreements.

Employers who lived in fear for inspections by MEIBC inspectors, were forced to go ‘un-

derground’ in order to make a living, unable to comply with these devious and unlawfully obtained agreements.

In 2011 NEASA challenged the unconstitutionality of the MEIBC and the matter was referred for arbitration.

During the 2011-Industry negotiations, while this arbitration was pending, SEIFSA entered into an agreement with NUMSA and then proceeded to request the Minister of Labour to extend that agreement to non-signatories (non-parties) – notwithstanding the fact that the MEIBC found itself in a legal vacuum – although they created the pretence of everything being above board. However, SEIFSA was well aware of the unlawful state of affairs

In 2011, when NEASA brought an urgent application in the Labour Court to stop the Minister from extending the 2011-14 agreement, SEIFSA, under oath – well knowing that it was false – denied any wrongdoing. This contributed to NEASA losing the urgent application on the basis of urgency.

Still in 2011, two days after the judgement in the urgent application, the aforementioned arbitration commenced. On the very first day of the arbitration SEI-

FSA completely surrendered and admitted all the facts which they denied – under oath – only a few days earlier in the Labour Court. This amounts to a form of perjury.

The result of the arbitration was that, by means of a 2011-consent arbitration award, the MEIBC was properly constituted and SEIFSA, then through its affiliated employer organisations, only occupied 50 percent of employer seats on the Management Committee of the MEIBC.

Before the award SEIFSA was guilty of misrepresentation by representing employers directly, which, in terms of the LRA, they could not do.

Since then SEIFSA has accepted that it is only an ‘agent’, but somehow, through proxy, still finds its way into the MEIBC.

In the meantime, the case which NEASA lost in the urgent application was heard in the Labour Court in ‘review’ proceedings. On this occasion, in 2012, the Court had the opportunity to consider all the facts – and the Court found in favour of NEASA.

However, the Court gave the respondents (perpetrators) another opportunity to correct their wrongdoings and re-submit an application for exten-

sion to the Minister.

In resubmitting this application, SEIFSA was then forced to operate within a properly constituted MEIBC. Since SEIFSA realised that it no longer had the required support – with its drastically reduced numbers on the Management Committee – it simply went ‘underground’ and a paid official of SEIFSA, with or without the knowledge of his superiors, in a ‘dark room’ somewhere, signed an agreement with an official of NUMSA.

The MEIBC proceeded to present this fabrication to the Minister as an Industry agreement and the Minister (again) in 2012, extended this misrepresentation (fraud) to non-parties.

NEASA again challenged this fraudulently obtained agreement and the extension thereof to non-parties in the Labour Court. The Court again found in NEASA’s favour and referred to the whole scheme as a ‘sham’.

In terms of the Court’s finding, not a single employer in the Industry was ever bound by this ‘sham’, an agreement which, according to the Court, was not a collective agreement at all.

The question is: Did SEIFSA inform their affiliated members of this?

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- Boilers & Burners
- Financial Services - Banking, Factoring, Tax, Finance, Risk, Forex, Consulting services
- Fishing
- HVAC
- Instrumentation & Control / Automation Processing Systems
- Materials Handling & Equipment
- Offshore Mining & Drilling
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# How to sort out winter

This time it was different. There I was, not quiet and minding my own business as usual, but loudly taking part in the debate of the day. So boisterous was our approach to the subject that my Golden Retriever launched her large body into the air and barked in secondment. I can always rely on that dog.

So what was it this time, you may well wonder. Zuma? Gupta? Donny Trumped-up's star-crossed bromance with Vlad the Put-on? Nothing as dull as that. (Put-on? Shurely shailing too closhe. Watch it. Ed.)

"Speaking of trumped-up ..." interrupted Bob the Book.

Let that be a lesson to me. No bad joke shall go unpunished. And alas, there's no stopping Bob the Bugle – he once had a newspaper by that name – once he reaches full pitch. "As I was saying," insisted Bob the Loud Book, "guess what my prophetic Thesaurus has to say under 'trumped-up'? Anybody?"

Surprise, surprise, he actually managed to shut us up – except for my dog, who loved this party – as we were sorely unprepared for such bookishness in the local Pub and Grill.

"Oui Monsieur, I can guess," ventured Jean-Jay eventually, the Gaelic poet in him refusing to surrender without at least raising a sword. Or an insult. "Although the English is a language barren of love and logic, surely 'trumped-up' must mean gatvol of Trump, that one. So no more Mr Nice Guy from Monsieur Thesaurus – in place of 'Trump', feel free to use 'Merderer'. Oui."

We all cheered in appreciation, pleased that Jean-Jay could make up such a good lie with such short notice. All except Bob the Braggart Book. "Very good!" announced he. "In fact, so close you might as well call it spot-on!" Trust him to spoil a good story with the facts.

"Prove it!" challenged Colin the Golfer, forgetting for a fateful second that he was dealing with Bob the Book.

"My pleasure," grinned Bob the Bastard, pulling his Thesaurus from his portable library. "Here goes. 'Trumped-up: concocted, contrived, cooked-up, fabricated, fake, false, falsified, invented, made-up, phoney, untrue'. For good measure, add 'Merde-talker'.

"And if that is not enough to convince you of the nature of the beast," he concluded, "go and look up 'trumpetery'."

Which I did of course, But I won't spoil your fun.

"Now look what you've done," complained Big Ben, sounding much like he did the last time a New Zealand team scored a try against the Lions. "You've gone and got us totally off the topic. Just when we were finding a solution."

"Solution?" snarled Jon the Joker. "Useless! As I recall, we were having a civilised discussion, that is, until the owner and his dog joined in, about the few pros and many cons of winter!"

"Quite true," confirmed Irene the Queen, "how do you find a solution to winter?"

Winter is nature; there is no solution to it."

As the esteemed congregation of conversationalists was pondering this seemingly done deal, my dog was sidling up to Jon the Joker's foot, wrong end first. I instructed her to desist. The Joker's sense of humour goes only so far. Regrettably, he had to escape punishment.

Luke the Dude was the first to regain his memory, in a fashion. "Really," enquired he, "I am sure there was more to it than that. I mean, nobody suggested cancelling winter, surely?"

"Indeed not," reassured The Prof. "it is far too early in the evening for that, dear Lucas my boy. Give us another hour or so of imbibing the brewer's best or Ireland's finest and it would not be at all surprising if we should decide, by a healthy majority, to vote the seasons out of office. Pity we cannot do that with our political masters. Not much hope of that, I fear, now that even Helen Zille was bullied into apologizing for speaking the truth ..."

"Whoa, Prof, whoa!" protested Big Ben again. "Don't start us off on another tangent now. Let's just get to the point about winter. That point you have all forgotten in your stampede to empty the barrel."

"Hey, watch your language," threatened Luke the Sober Dude. "You are not too big for a hiding, as my daddy used to say."

"I can see it coming," grinned Big Ben. "A straight right into the knee cap!"

"Gentlemen, gentlemen," consoled The Prof, "relax, you are all correct – it comes back to me now despite the distraction of all those deliciously accurate words about Donald Trump. Of course we cannot dispose of winter, but we certainly can make it better. And if memory serves, we were on the verge of deciding to do exactly that by means of, wait for it, a curry-cooking competition."

"Indulge me to propose a format. Jonathan the Joker, as he reminded us, is the defending champion. Those who pride ourselves as being good chefs, challenge him by preparing a pot of curry and delivering it here on Saturday evening. The Governor supplies cutlery, crockery and the rice, right Governor? The kind Governor agrees. And as for those who do not participate in the competition, they will be the judges. Everybody in?"

We were indeed.

And so it came to pass. The appropriately perfumed curry chefs of our village, and others who pretended to be, congregated at the local Pub and Grill to determine once and for all who deserved to wear the Golden Fez.

Jon the Arrogant Joker claimed he was unbeatable, based on some defunct competition many, well two, years ago. Did we agree? On the contrary. Revolution was in the air, mixed with a whiff of vindaloo.

Look, don't get me wrong, it was just an innocent cooking competition to find the best curry cook. Not in the world and all and, just in our quaint and quiet neighbourhood.

But yes, it was another night like that last one in Bot River with the Radio Kalahari Orkes. A chaotic but festive bazaar with fewer entries than expected, many more "judges" than expected, nobody who actually knew what to do with the carefully prepared entries standing around and getting cold, a much too small kitchen and a very cheerful Governor.

After all, who cared a papadum about non-Indian curry cooks, the longer everybody was milling around clueless, the longer they were buying drinks. On their empty stomachs? Not his problem; they can walk home.

This was not a situation to be tolerated indefinitely.

So, Irene "Where are my keys?" the Queen was drafted as general to lead the forces of order and defeat the axis of chaos. She established her command, got her soldiers in line and saw to it that we were not still there the next morning waiting for our food and getting more cheerful by the minute.

"Yes thank you, a large one Governor," ordered Luke the Dude. "As the man says in the ad, a Caaastle. Everybody talks more kaaaaa ... (watch it, warned The Prof, there are ladies present!) with a Caaastle ..."

And just when we thought the forces of order had won the war, there was a huge invasion of troops from the Curry Commando led by Muriel the Major, chief of the local chef school, who arrived in feigned ignorance of the gravity of the event and now insisted on sharing in the fun.

Now wait a minute. If by fun they meant curry, urgent counter-measures were required and promptly provided by our brave leader.

ur general outranked their major, overruled the Governor and shut them both up with the powerful assistance of Mister Charles "Hou jou bek man!" Parker-Bowles. The defeated invaders were instructed that they could not

## All shall be peasants as we boldly march into the past

THE Pied Pipers of climate change urge us to follow their dream of a perfect future in which governments will follow their every instruction and people everywhere will sing their praises for rescuing them from a dreadful fate. Many of us are already obedient. We recycle. We save water. We plant indigenous gardens. We cut down invasive plants, and alien trees. We love animals, especially wild ones, and some of us are even vegetarians or vegans.

Those who can afford it install solar water heaters, solar panels on our roofs, LED lights and find space for rows of batteries so we can continue to run our fridges and stoves. We burn renewable wood in our fireplaces and abhor coal or anthracite.

We also hate diesel and petrol. The very rich among us drive electric cars, and tell themselves that their gas hobs contribute only a very small amount to carbon dioxide emissions. They draw a discreet veil over their consciences when they drive their (3rd) vehicle – a 4x4 petrol-driven monster. They prefer not to think at all when they

## OPINION

### ON THE CONTRARY



.....  
Pieter Schoombee  
.....

escape their curryless fate by the general's parade-volume order: "You are TOO LATE!"

But, our side being traditionally magnanimous in victory, the invaders were consoled in their disarray by being allowed to drink – a fate to which they surrendered with gusto and to the ever-increasing good cheer of the Governor.

But, victory or not, I still have this sneaking suspicion that a saboteur or two from the axis of chaos managed to infiltrate behind the lines of the forces of order. Because the curry which was presented as the one that I had prepared with love, the best internet recipe I could find and lots of beer, now boasted two carrots – evidently refugees from a previously frozen plastic bag.

And everybody knows, well, my children know if not everybody, that Rule Number One in my recipe book states: "Zero carrots". And Rule Number Two states: "Zero frozen".

So I am keeping a beady eye open for suspicious-looking characters from the carrot underground. Still, even if I manage to expose them, nothing will change the result. I did not win the Curry Cup. But there was a consolation prize: Jon the Joker ended stone cold last!

E-mail: noag@maxitec.co.za

### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN



.....  
Keith Bryer  
.....

take an annual skiing holiday in Switzerland, and studiously fail to recognise the smell of kerosene Jet fuel on the tarmac when disembarking to (thank heavens!) an electric bus.

It is a tough life being Green.

It is going to get even tougher. The latest ex-Cathedra announcement from the self-appointed High Priests of the Planet (translation: another bunch of climate scientists anxious to attract funding) is that global diet and farming methods 'must change for the environment's sake' (of course).

Not eating so much meat, farming with less land, they say, is essential to avoid irreversible damage to the planet. They have given up trying to persuade farmers to change their ways (the ones that gave the world huge surpluses of wheat and enabled it to be shipped to starving people). Instead we are going to have to change what we (i.e. the people in the developed nations we generally refer to as westerners or – in extreme cases and mistakenly – White people) eat.

Continued on P31

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