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50% Organics ban from landfills coming in 2022



Photo credit: BBC.

THE landfill ban of organic waste in the Western Cape comes into effect in 2022 with a requirement of 50% reduction and 100% reduction by 2027. Municipalities who run the landfills must draw up organic waste diversion plans and submit to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. ORASA (The Organics Recycling Association of SA) is assisting some municipalities with these plans. Key to the ban working is making source separation of organic waste mandatory at factories, businesses, restaurants, hotels and households. As yet there is no legislation in place to enforce source separation in the municipal bylaws. New extended producer responsibility regulations also include compostable packaging which will need to be processed into compost and not landfilled.

Why the need?

Eddie Hanekom, Western Cape Director of Waste Management advises that in the Western Cape alone, approximately 40% of all waste delivered to landfill is organic waste, estimated at more than 3-million tons annually. Current rates of organic waste disposal causes significant negative financial, social and environmental impacts, not least by occupying increasingly scarce current and future landfill space, production of environmentally harmful

methane – greenhouse gas - during decomposition and leachate production requiring expensive containment barriers to mitigate against surface and ground water contamination. These negative issues present a cost burden where if removed, savings could be allocated to much needed infrastructure projects and stimulate further organic disposal initiatives.

Furthermore, and perhaps more importantly organic waste, isn't waste at all and can be turned into valuable compost and nutrients to sustain future food security while creating jobs in the implementation of a new way of collection, commercialisation and creation of composting sites.

How can it work?

Melanie Ludwig, founded Zero to Landfill Organics in 2009 with its first client, Spur Head Office in Century City, Cape Town and is an original member of ORASA.

"We started by composting only 196 kg of food waste per month at Soil for Life in Constantia, Cape Town. In 2010 we moved to a larger composting site located at the Business Place in Philippi and in 2013 we moved to our current site located on the farm Geduld also in Philippi. By 2013 we were composting 35 tons per month of organic waste.

"Today we compost between 100 and 200 tons of organic material per month and

have several waste logistic companies using our facility to compost waste from their clients.

"It is envisaged that the collection of residential organic waste – mainly food scraps – will follow a two lidded bucket system.

"A 5l bucket kept in the kitchen which is emptied into a 25l bucket, perhaps kept in the garage or out building which is can be collected every fortnight by the municipality or a private contractor employed by the municipality. The bucket contents are discharged at licenced collection points and residents are supplied with a clean, sanitised new bucket for the process to begin again.

"Pilot projects by the Stellenbosch Municipality to measure efficacy of the programme focused on township residents with positive results; containing the food waste in sealed containers discouraged rats and mice – a constant problem amongst disadvantaged communities" she said. The City of Cape Town is currently promoting home composting by supplying residents with free home composting cones and is also currently giving residents the opportunity to drop off their food waste at four recycling drop offs in the City through a pilot project.

Not a nice to have – a change in mindset required

This new initiative is a long time coming and requires a change in mindset. The way the general public regard not only organic waste but *all* forms of waste. The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment under the Extended Producer Responsibility programme will implement legislation from November 2021 to address the recycling of plastics, packaging materials, e-waste, compostable products and other materials.

While these recycled products have a more obvious value, the disposal and treatment of organic waste doesn't present the same commercial opportunities. Municipalities will have to create or enhance waste management budgets to cater for the necessary management of organic waste without unduly impacting on the already

Continued on P2

King Air Industria takes shape



KING Air Industria Cape Town, the first business park of its kind in the Cape Town International Airport area with 24/7 access-controlled security, is developing apace as it prepares for the opening and trading of its first facilities.

Infrastructure is nearing completion for the first two phases of the 72ha site, an Atterbury Property and Old Mutual Properties development.

Internal services will be ready by end-April. Extensive external road upgrades to Robert Sobukwe and Borchers Quarry roads form part of the development and are scheduled for completion by the end of May 2021, when the park will officially open.

The Courier Guy will be the first business to start operating at King Air Industria in a 10 112m2 turnkey facility, from 1 July 2021 followed by Morgan Cargo on 1 September 2021, trading in a 7 500m2 tailor-made facility comprising a contemporary provincial head office and a specialised cold storage facility.

Arno du Plessis, Atterbury's development manager for King Air Industria reports; "The imminent completion of infrastructure for its first phases has put King Air Industria on the map as a ready-to-develop, cost-efficient, superbly located, strategic business site."

The site allows for the development of 280 000m2 of facilities, with its buildings ranging from 2 500m2 to 150 000m2. The park offers all the on-site infrastructure and security features necessary for high-performance businesses.

King Air Industria's easy access to Cape Town International Airport cargo terminals is a major advantage being located between Airport Approach, Borchers Quarry, Robert Sobukwe and Pallotti roads and connected to the region via the N2 highway and the R300 freeway.



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A win with fibre

STELLENBOSCH-based investment giant Remgro might have its roots in the old economy, but its acumen for making smart technology investments should not be underestimated. The group's tilt at building a compelling fibre optic hub has reached an intriguing juncture, and now represents 10% of the sprawling investment portfolio.

Older readers will remember that Remgro was an early anchor investor in Vodacom back in the mid-nineties. Remgro's stake was eventually sold to Vodaphone at a sizeable profit...but not before the group realised the power of modern communication.

Before committing to fibre optic ventures,

Remgro became an anchor investor in undersea cable specialist SEACOM. The SEACOM investment - now valued at around R900 million - has been a solid rather than spectacular investment. Recent profits came in at R35 million.

Remgro, on the other hand, will be far more excited about its investments in Community Investment Venture Holdings (CIVH). CIVH houses controlling stakes in fibre optic businesses - Dark Fibre Africa (DFA) and Vumatel.

Remgro values its CIVH investment at a whopping R10 billion, which makes it the third biggest investment in the portfolio and larger than stalwart investments like

liquor group Distell and food group RCL Foods.

In the last financial year Remgro committed another R1.63 billion to CIVH in a rights issue, increasing its stake slightly to 55.2%.

The new funds were used by CIVH to reduce debt and, in Remgro's words, "to unlock capital expenditure for future growth".

In past reporting period, DFA generated flat revenue of R1.2 but hiked underlying operating profits by 47% to R232 million. Vumatel - which took on some of DFA's infrastructure - boosted revenue 43% to R1.1 billion and underlying profits were a sound R297 million.

Growth was driven

by Covid-19 accelerated requirements for data. This trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, and will probably more than justify Remgro's recent funding effort.

The local fibre optic market has been slated as one of the highest growth industries with fibre-to-the-home of fibre-to-the-building subscriptions more than tripling between 2015 and 2019.

The continued growth in the digital economy - spurred significantly by the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic - should also mean steady annuity income streams for DFA and Vumatel.

To date DFA has laid over 13 000 km of fibre optic cable in most of the major cities around the country. Vuma-



tel, which is primarily a fibre-to-home provider, has a cable network that winds past 600 000 households.

There seems little doubt that, like cell phones did with telephony, the fibre optic market will also connect most South Africans to reliable and fast broadband internet. CBN reckons Remgro has latched onto another winner...

Advanced retreats...and then holds the line



Advanced Health's Harbour Bay facility.

DAY surgery specialist Advanced Health has sold its Vergelegen facility in Somerset West - but has given its recently opened Harbour Bay facility in Simonstown a reprieve. Advanced has battled for traction in South Africa despite a predicted shift towards more cost-effective day surgery procedures. The outbreak of Covid-19 also left Advanced's operations paralysed for some months when elective surgeries were not considered essential medical procedures.

Cash flows have been tight, and Advanced's balance sheet took seri-

ous strain.

The group recently needed to conclude a R50m rights issue to fortify the balance sheet. Fortunately, Advanced will also receive a much needed R17m for the sale of the Vergelegen facility.

Developments at Harbour Bay in Simonstown, however, might suggest Advanced is finally finding profitable traction. In fact, CEO Gerhard van Emmenis said recently that he hoped Advanced's local operations would be profitable by the end of 2022.

Advanced's operational footprint comprises nine day hospi-

tals (after the sale of Vergelegen and the closure of the Soweto facility) - the bulk of which are located in the Western Cape at Knysna, Worcester, Panorama and Durbanville.

The Harbour Bay facility in Simonstown only started operating on January 17 last year with Advanced incurring capital expenditure of R8,3 million on the project.

Shortly after opening, operations at Harbour Bay came to a standstill as a result of Covid-19. The level five lock down, which was in effect from the last week in March 2020 and lasted a full

month, had a devastating impact on the functioning of this surgical centre.

Van Emmenis noted: "Not only has Covid-19 had a strong impact on this newly created venture, but the staff and doctors involved, also felt totally demoralized."

Consequently it was difficult to reactivate this facility for a second time. Van Emmenis said that during this period the facility did not enjoy the growth originally planned. "Larger than anticipated losses were incurred and part of the plan of action was to sell the facility to a

prospective buyer."

Such a decision was easy to justify at the time - remembering that the hard lockdown, for almost the entire month of April 2020, put further pressure on cash flows as about 95% of revenue was lost.

But during December 2020, things changed and Advanced's board of directors took a decision not to sell Harbour Bay. Van Emmenis said the plan is rather to strengthen this facility and to grow it into a properly functioning surgical centre. "Initial indications are that Harbour Bay is starting to enjoy patients generated by specialists who previously did not make use of this facility."

So what's the prognosis for Harbour Bay and Advanced's other facilities?

Advanced noted that Covid 19 has been in existence for over a year now, and this implied that even those surgeries that did not fall under the definition of "emergency surgery", which were postponed over recent months, would soon qualify as "emergency surgery" as the waiting time has been long.

The group argued that many of these surgeries can be performed in a day hospital setting, allowing Advanced Health as a group of day hospitals

to be a preferred service provider.

"With winter around the corner and experts warning that South Africa may experience a third or even a fourth wave of Covid-19, this is expected to increase the backlog of postponed elective cases and sooner will put pressure on the surgeons to start operating these cases in an environment that is COVID free."

Advanced maintains that the risk of contracting Covid-19 is negligible in day hospitals because the environment in which these facilities operate is more controllable. "Management is therefore expecting

that Advanced Health, should see an increase in the number of surgeries that have been postponed in the recent months, as the day hospital is a safer and a COVID free environment when compared to the acute hospitals."

What's more Advanced believed medical funders were also moving away from traditional hospital networks to day hospitals as the day hospitals are viewed as being more cost effective compared to the acute hospitals. "Medical funders are revoking co-payments for patients choosing non-designated service provider hospitals and co-payments linked to certain procedures."

50% Organics ban from landfills coming in 2022

Continued from P1

strained ratepayer's pockets. Channelling the savings achieved by excluding organic waste from current landfill operations looks like a good place to start.

"The most cost effective way to handle residential organic waste is backyard composting. If people want to make a difference themselves, home composting makes

sense. Home owners can manage their own food and garden waste and make beautiful compost for your garden for free!" enthused Melanie.

For more information contact Melanie Ludwig of the Organics Recycling Association of South Africa, Tel: 083 696 5138, Email: info@orasa.org.za or visit www.orasa.org.za

OUR PARTNERS

The fruit of Zeder's labour

SOME of the Western Cape's best known agricultural assets could be on the block. PSG controlled agribusiness investor Zeder Investments recently indicated that it had received unsolicited offers for certain of its assets.

Zeder's largest investments are seed business Zaad, fruit marketing specialist Capespan, The Logistics Group (TLG) and agriservices business Kaap Agri.

Zeder appears to be in the process of winding down after selling its majority stake in Pioneer Foods to multinational brands conglomerate PepsiCo. The group also recently sold off its holding in the Quantum poultry, egg and animal feeds business.

Zeder has showed no inclination to make new investments, and has recently concentrated on paying out special dividends and buying back its own shares.

Talk around the farm gate is that Capespan and TLG are most likely to be sold. Both businesses have enjoyed resurgence of late, and Zeder has increased its valuations on both entities.

TLG is now reckoned to be worth R1.325 billion (up more than R300 million from R1 billion a year ago), and Capespan is worth R1.17 billion (R1 billion a year ago).

Interestingly TLG was originally the logistics arm for Capespan's fruit exports. TLG, however, started taking

on third party business and shifted into handling general cargo.

This prompted a decision to split TLG out of Capespan, a decision that appears to have paid off handsomely.

Zeder said TLG continued to expand its services offering and capabilities to a broader customer and market base in southern Africa.

Recurring headline earnings shifted up 12% to R142 million, prompting a R36 million dividend. Zeder noted encouragingly that the lower trading volumes and negative effects of Covid-19 were of a short term nature, and a good recovery - with additional growth prospects on key African trade corridors - was

underway.

Capespan reported recurring headline earnings of R75 million and declared a generous R50 million dividend.

Zeder said the improved results were largely due to a better performance within the South African and Namibian farming divisions. "The better production volumes and improved market pricing impacted positively on the group results, as did the more streamlined global marketing business, with resultant lower costs."

The improved results show why TLG and Capespan have probably attracted suitors. The big question now is whether Zeder will be able to negotiate a premium price above



the new valuations.

What happens with Zaad will be even more intriguing. Zaad has an international flavour, and with a value of R2 billion is Zeder's biggest remaining investment.

Zaad managed recurring headline earnings of R181m, an

increase of 2%. Zeder still believes the specialised agri-inputs market, and particularly the proprietary hybrid seed segment, remains attractive.

Zeder said Zaad had identified East and Central Africa as key growth areas for seeds and agrochemicals.

The group recently acquired the EAS group of companies in Kenya.

Zaad, CBN suspects, will probably look at securing a listing on an offshore bourse...possibly after making a few more acquisitions to bulk up operations.

Nestlé becomes the first FMCG to join Polyco in SA

NESTLÉ became the first food and manufacturing company to join the Polyolefin Responsibility Organisation (Polyco), a not-for-profit industry body that was established in 2011 to focus on reducing the amount of used polyolefin plastic packaging waste going to landfill and ending plastic waste in the environment. Polyco aims to make waste a valuable resource that works for our economy by increasing the sustainable collection, recycling, recovery and beneficiation of polyolefin plastic packaging.

The announcement coincides with Nestlé's recent launch of its RE sustainability initiative in South Africa, which is aimed at reinforcing all its sustainability initiatives, strategies and resources to help mitigate sustainability challenges and strengthen its contribution to a waste-free future. The initiative focuses on three key pillars to tackle the sustainability issues: RETHINK, REDUCE and REPURPOSE.

Saint-Francis Tohlang, Corporate Communications and

Public Affairs Director at Nestlé East and Southern Africa Region (ESAR) notes that sustainability challenges cannot be addressed through a singular approach. "As Nestlé in East and Southern Africa, we know that addressing sustainability challenges cannot be resolved without collaboration and it therefore becomes important to work with like-minded partners like Polyco. Being a leading food and beverage company in the world, we have drawn lessons from other markets that have successfully joined producer responsibility organisations in a way that has made a meaningful impact on collection and recycling initiatives. We are excited to join Polyco and hope our contribution can lead to increases in the recycling rate of polyolefin plastic," concluded Tohlang.

Under the proposed new extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation, as contemplated under section 18(1) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008, planned for

implementation on the 5th November 2021 by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE); producers, through their producer responsibility organisations, will be mandated to manage their products at end-of-life in order to grow the downstream reuse and recycling of their materials to achieve agreed legislated targets.

"Nestlé have shown their commitment to extended producer responsibility and we are delighted to have them join Polyco as our very first brand owner member. Brand owners are key stakeholders within the packaging and recycling value chain as they are the decision makers for the packaging that is placed on the market and which ultimately either gets collected for recycling or ends up in the environment. We are excited to further our impact in growing the collection and recycling of polyolefin plastic packaging in South Africa, and to work closely with our members to support ending plastic waste in the environment," says Mandy Naudé, CEO of Polyco.

Some truly acrobatic thieves leapt on the gravy train

By Jacques Moolman,
President of the
Cape Chamber
of Commerce &
Industry.

THE notion that profit is theft is popular in some quarters. It's the insult often hurled at the business community when alleging that the free market is a skewed economic system. In South Africa today, the notion is redolent with irony. Those seeking profit without scruple are not to be found among the legitimate tax-paying private sector but among the ranks of the criminal classes, many it would appear embedded in the public services.

We recently saw three minor public servants charged with siphoning off millions - their motives, according to the prosecution, were pure greed, since all three had safe jobs.

Should they be found guilty and jailed it will make only a slight dent in the widespread public scepticism of official attempts to bring to justice all looters of the public purse. Even so, it is a start, and we should be grateful.

Pick-pocketing the taxpayer has been going on for some time but only with the Covid-19 emergency were the wheels of justice kicked into (first) gear. Of course, the thieves had already put their profit-seeking boots on and were on their way.

Not only did they swiftly clear massive profits with little effort beyond having a letterhead printed, their fake companies had no offices, paid no rent, hired no staff and, unlike honest businessmen and women, they did not have to wade through regulations before they could get anything done.

Six Gauteng companies, sprung miraculously into being within seconds of the declaration of a national Covid-19 emergency and the suspension of the procurement procedures of the public service.

In less than a year they pocketed R117 millions of taxpayers' money by being the first to offer to sanitise public offices and other buildings, allegedly making them free of the dreaded virus.

Their profits were courtesy of the

Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development who, now freed from tiresome purchasing regulations, spent 90 % of the allocated funds for personal protective equipment on the six lucky new companies who just happened to be specialists in sanitizing buildings.

We now know that none of their fumigations were of the slightest use.

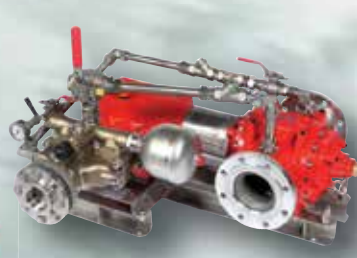
Will those in the Gauteng department who authorised this tsunami of public money to flow so freely to fly-by night entities see the inside of a courtroom?

There are others to be collared first. So far, the Treasury has shelled out R 510 million for the useless cleaning process.

Gauteng takes first prize because, apart from the millions shovelled into the pockets of the six companies, another R431-million was spent by the Gauteng Education Department on sanitising schools. That windfall is being investigated by the Special Investigating Unit.

All profit is theft? No, not all. But when it comes to taxpayer's money, to some people, it is a gift that just keeps on giving.

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THE BEE IN MY BONNET COLUMN

With tourism on its knees, local spat makes no sense

The editor laments, again.

A Stadler Street address in Blouberstrand is like a little piece of heaven.

Its commanding views of Table Mountain and Robben Island, ever changing vistas, shipping movements, water sports and family beach activities on this glorious section of coastline are amongst the best in the world.

The steady awakening of this hidden treasure has caused an increase of footfall of both local and international tourism, and until the COVID-19 lockdown, prosperity for the few businesses plying their trade at

the northern end of the Street.

Three restaurants with common ownership /tenancy, dominated the Street – alas one, known as Café Blouberg has closed – maybe due to the pandemic which has hit Cape Town eateries hard.

The other two – On the Rocks (OTR) and Onse Huise have managed to stay afloat and even prosper since lockdown regulations were eased, with the owner no doubt counting their blessings. But there is trouble in the state of Blouberg...

Sitting – figuratively – in between these two

icons is a property formally run for the past 17 years as an upmarket guest house. Entrepreneur Jerry Finley, the owner, has said that his business was hit hard during the lockdown as many of his clients were visiting overseas tourists – so hard in fact that he decided to abandon the guest house format and utilise the property in three innovative ways – a store front coffee shop, a soft serve ice cream kiosk and a limited offering beach front dining experience, capitalising on the magnificent views.

The Council's zoning of both his property

and that of OTR and Onse Huise is GB1, and his application for the change in his business operations have been authorised by the City of Cape Town licensing dept.

Seeing what could only be construed as competition for his businesses, OTR and Onse Huise owner, Advocate Andre Bezuidenhout launched an urgent interdict to prevent Finley's business – now registered as Light-house Trading 47 from "disrupting the applicants business in any form whatsoever" (– does that include fair

competition I wonder?) One of which related to the provision of on-site parking even though both OTR and Onse Huise have no on-site parking! All three eateries rely on the 177 public parking bays provided for the very purpose by the Council, to cater for tourism.

Not surprisingly the presiding judge didn't agree that the matter was urgent – he clearly had many more urgent criminal cases to deal with rather than a spat between two property owners, and the case was postponed until the middle of May 2021.

In the interim,

there has been much mudslinging from the applicants of the interdict which resembles a school yard bullying standoff – 'my dad will beat your dad; she said, he said' etc. Some clearly biased reporting in a national newspaper, the encouragement of objections from a couple of residents, and a town planner's one sided report, added fuel to the fire.

Clearly there are personal sensitivities involved here – but the case's applicants don't own the street, despite owning two iconic properties that have been trading for

decades and longer in the case the historical landmark, Onse Huise.

Healthy competition will create new business opportunities, add to the local economy, the tax base and create desperately needed jobs.

Sure the neighbours will cry 'NIMBY', but two of the three restaurant facilities were there prior to them buying in the area, - four if you count in Café Blouberg - and hey, new developments will only increase the value of their properties.

You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.

Eish.

Microplastics in tap water threaten health and wellbeing

A new study published by researchers at the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center found microplastics in 100 percent

of samples taken from 50 iconic rivers, lakes and streams in Pennsylvania, USA. The researchers described their finding as trou-

bling and said "it's clear that the scope of plastic pollution in Pennsylvania extends far beyond what was previously thought".

Dave Noble, spokesperson at Bluewater, a Swedish water company battling the need for single use plastic water bottles with innovative water tech and drinking bottle solutions, said the PennEnvironment study is the latest evidence of the pernicious plastics pollution plague sweeping the planet.

"Unlike litter, micro and nano plastics are largely invisible to the naked eye yet today are in the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the water we all drink around the world, so perhaps it's not so surprising that people are largely unaware of what's going on," Noble said.

He noted how recent studies found minute plastic particles in human fetuses and organs such as lungs and livers. Although there has been limited research into the potential health impact of microplastics, some scientists believe exposure leads to medical problems such as infertility, cancer, reduced immunity, and obesity.

Research on wildlife appears to support theories that young men today are less fertile than their ancestors due to chemical pollution. Researchers at



England's University of Portsmouth found shrimp living in polluted waters are producing 70 percent less sperm than the rest of their species, while a study published in Biology Letters found toxins leaching from microplastics disrupted the ability of shellfish to detect and avoid predators.

A study by the American research group Orb Media indicated that 94 percent of tap water in the USA and 72 percent in Europe contained microplastics.

In 2020, Chinese scientists supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China found microplastics in 36 of 38 samples of domestic tap water taken from urban

locations throughout the country. Noting there is no legal limit for microplastics content in tap water, the team said their findings nonetheless could not be ignored and called for more attention to be paid to microplastics in drinking water systems.

For consumers concerned about tap water quality and microplastics contamination there are technologies that provide protection against potential cancer-causing chemical pollution. The second generation reverse osmosis technology developed by Bluewater is designed to filter municipal water down to 0.001 micron, which means they can remove most known microplas-

tics. And a recent study showed point-of-use Bluewater water purifiers in homes and professional kitchens were able to remove PFAS-related chemicals.

"The evidence from China, the USA, and Europe about microplastics pollution in treated tap and bottled water sends a stark warning to us all that we need bolder action on a massive scale and at speed by regulators and lawmakers to halt plastics and chemicals ending up in our tap water," said Noble.

For more information, contact Dave Noble, Bluewater PR Communications Director, at david.noble@bluewatergroup.com or +44 7785 302694.

New ultrasonic level and distance sensor

INSTROTECH, local representative of Senix Corporation, has the new ToughSonic CHEM 12 Ultrasonic level and distance sensor on offer. The Senix Chem12 is ideal for applications where rapid changes in temperature occur and

is tested under more stringent temperature conditions. The compact design, with shorter and smaller diameter transducer, measures closer to the top of a tank and is easier to install when space is limited. The rugged, PVDF housing

makes the unit suitable for use in diesel fuel and chemical level applications in closed or open tanks. It is also has mounting flexibility, with both top and bottom mounting threads.

All ToughSonic sensors can be

programmed with free SenixVIEW software which includes nearly 80 parameters that can be tailored to users' specific application/s.

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Novus: turning over a new leaf

NOVUS Holdings, the old Paarl Media printing operation, has seen a significant change in ownership with media giant Media24 selling out its influential 17.4% stake in the struggling business last month.

Media24's stake in Novus was always considered strategic since most of its printing work for its magazines and newspapers went to Novus. Media24 and Novus were once both ensconced in the Naspers empire.

But that has all changed – no doubt brought about by declining volumes in the mainstream printing and publishing segment. So enter A2 Investment Partners as a new strategic shareholder at Novus.

A2 may not be a well-known corporate entity – but one of its main backers, Andre van der Veen, has left an indelible mark on the local

business map.

Van der Veen was a top executive at Cape Town-based investment company Hosken Consolidated Investments (HCI). At HCI he enjoyed much success – particularly with Niveus, where a potent alternative gaming hub was built in quick time.

Perhaps more importantly – especially with regards to Novus – was Van der Veen's stint with Paarl-based liquor group KWV. KWV initially formed part of Niveus, and Van der Veen did a sterling job fortifying KWV's operations and brand power. KWV was eventually sold by Niveus at a sizeable profit to billionaire Viv Imerman.

Long suffering shareholders in Novus – which include Caxton & CTP and Value Capital Partners – will be hoping A1 can bring on-board similar turnaround skills.

In the six months to

end September 2020 Novus was still reeling from the Covid-19 lockdown disruptions.

Revenue declined by 32% to R1.5 billion – but there was some good news in that free cash flow improved by a not insignificant R145 million with cash conversion increasing by a whopping 190%.

In the interim period Novus suffered badly on the printing side as key customers announced several title closures as well as a reduction in volumes and pagination.

To make matters worse, Novus' Labels Gravure division was significantly impacted by the ban on sales of alcoholic beverages with production only normalising in the second quarter of the interim period.

CBN reckons the new key investor at Novus will look to stabilising a smaller printing division and building up a more

formidable packaging niche.

Interim revenue in the print segment slumped 35% to R1.1 billion and there was an operating loss of over R11 million.

CEO Neil Birch said all product categories experienced volume declines with retail inserts significantly down by 59.6%. Magazine and Newspaper volumes decreased by 48.6% and 49.6% respectively.

Packaging revenue dropped 28% to R275 million with ITB Flexible Packaging Solutions (ITB) down 18% and Labels Gravure down 56%.

Birch noted the lack of demand for beverage labels significantly impacted the performance of the Labels Gravure division whilst ITB was impacted by the reduced demand stemming from the weaker economy.

This segment yielded an operating profit of R2.7 million – down 92% compared to the prior year.

The group's tissue division saw revenue flat at R131m with the gross margin showing an improvement of 5.8%. Novus is in the throes of selling a controlling stake in this business for R60 million to a company already operating in the tissue sector, which should hopefully see an improvement in operating performance.

A1's first few months as the largest shareholder in Novus could be a testing time. The full year results to end March 2021 probably won't be pretty.

At the interim stage Birch already cautioned that demand was expected remain muted in the second half of the year – albeit before stabilising again in the medium term.

He also warned that the restructuring programmes that were recently initiated would incur some once-off costs in the second half of the financial year. But Birch believed the future benefits in cost structure and efficiencies should materialise in the 2022 year and beyond.

The good news is that Birch indicated that capital resources would be freed up along with the further anticipated cash release to support initiatives at improving working capital efficiencies. He predicted working capital would show a further improvement with Novus maintaining a positive cash balance.

In addition, Birch said the Labels Gravure division was expected to see some form of recovery as trading normalises, while ITB's performance was expected to remain stable.

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Complying with technical safety requirements

WEARCHECK's advanced field services (AFS) division offers a wide range of specialist monitoring techniques which include rope testing, technical compliance (TC) and non-destructive testing.

According to Johan Stols, WearCheck's TC manager, the ultimate goal of the TC division is to ensure that all the components that they monitor comply with stringent, pre-determined safety standards.

The TC team plays a supporting role to customer operations by reduction of risk using specialised and multidisciplinary services and resources, and they are on call at all hours. The TC customers predominantly operate in the mining sector, but other industries are beginning to realise the value of TC, too. The TC team's mining customers are generally the deep level mines – coal, gold, platinum etc. The TC tests generally include level one winder and main fan compressor inspections, compliance level electrical inspections, headgear elevator



WearCheck advanced technical compliance technician, Joe Kies, measures the charging time of the hydraulic system for a winder.



WearCheck AFS technician, Joe Kies, checks the safety circuit during a technical compliance audit.

electrical inspections, lock bell inspections, chairlift electrical inspections, secondary injection testing and conveyor belt compliances.

These components must undergo regular tests to ensure that they are constantly in a safe operating condition. Inspections are conducted using specialised testing equipment, highly skilled and experienced inspectors, and compliance to rigorous safety standards. In South Africa, TC standards are legislated in many cases, but are also guided by industry-recognised best-practice values. Stols explains further,

‘We add value for our clients by providing quality services, and identifying and mitigating risks associated with safety and production-critical equipment.’

‘WearCheck's TC team comprises six winder inspectors, who have around 140 years' combined experience between them. It is this team's responsibility to check that every component in a given machine is working exactly as it is supposed to work. For example, on a lighting circuit, all lights must be working perfectly. Or each safety circuit trips exactly when it is supposed to trip. ‘If an error is found, this is

reported to the engineer in charge of that particular component. Repairs are carried out by the engineer's maintenance team, and then the TC team returns to retest the faulty component. ‘In dynamic testing, which is applied to license winders, the law states that physical testing must be conducted within every 200 days in order to comply with safety standards.’

‘There are two levels of testing. Level one is where general electrical and mechanical audits are conducted. Level two involves designer audits on OEMs. In level one testing, even though there is no spe-

cific law that stipulates the frequency of testing for winders, industry best-practice dictates that they should be tested at least four times a year. ‘During a typical TC audit, which is normally done during a weekly examination in which around 100 items are tested.’

The safety circuit is tested for correct operation. The different circuits on each unit must be tested to ensure correct operations. A report is compiled with all findings and includes the previous three audit results so that a trend can be established. Recent repairs done on the machine are high-

lighted. ‘Tracking the compliance status of each component enables the engineer and the maintenance team to keep the component in peak operating condition and avoid nasty accidents or costly downtime.’

‘What is important to note, for example, is that each winder has its own unique operating and protection system, which must be adhered to when it is undergoing testing. We make sure that we are acquainted with each component and its maintenance history. ‘Our TC team is standing by to assist in any way possible to ensure that all moving machinery is audited according to best practice, and that all required safety standards are met. Due to the production-critical nature of our support work, we are on call 24/7/365.’

For more information, please visit www.wearcheck.co.za or call WearCheck on +27 (31) 700-5460. E: marketing@wearcheck.co.za

Cabin filtration system makes car COVID safe - claim

COVID-19 provided the impetus for Chinese car maker Chery to develop its “CN95” health cabin, which it claims can form an “antiviral shield” inside the car. “CN95” has now been applied in Chery Tiggo 8, Tiggo 7 and other models.

CN95 air filter- Creator of “clean” breath

“CN95” health cabin is equipped with the



top-level certified CN95 air filter, which lifts the filtration efficiency of

0.3µm particles to 95% under the air volume of 288m³/h. It can also

isolate more than 95% of fine particles and over 99% of bacteria

in the air, effectively block, adsorb and dehydrate virus carriers, and destroy the living conditions for virus, thus shortening the survival time of bacteria.

The Air Quality System (AQS) to the “CN95” health cabin has multiple and progressive air purification functions to filter, isolate and purify the air in the car.

The clean air flowing in will be further sterilized and deodorized by CN95 air purifier to create a cleaner air environment. Besides, the Remote Active Cabin Self-Cleaning System (RICSCS) will also sterilize and deodorize the car before unlocking and after locking, thus ensuring the air quality in the car.

Over-extension of Extended Producer Responsibility?

Garyn Rapson, Paula-Ann Novotny and Emma Bleeker from Webber Wentzel, question the new EPR regulations.

SOUTH AFRICA recently published a set of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations, which aim to extend companies' financial or physical responsibility for certain identified products to the post-consumer stage of the products. Contrary to international best practice, however, Government has overextended the reach of this responsibility, which raises a host of challenges.

The EPR Regulations and associated sector schemes were published and came into force on 5 November 2020. Before this, existing laws had contained some elements of EPR and sector collection schemes have largely been run by voluntary industry organisations. This is the first comprehensive set of regulations seeking to regulate EPR measures in South Africa. The new EPR regime applies to producers of paper, packaging and some single-use products; electrical and electronic equipment; and lighting equipment, with designated 'identified products' within each sector.

Defining the scope of EPR regulation is crucial. Internationally, the principle of EPR is to hold the **brand owners** of certain products on the market accountable for the waste generated by their products at the end of their lifecycle. For example, in Canada (British Columbia), a beverage company would be defined as a producer (the manufactured product is used in a commercial enterprise, for sale or distri-

bution under its own brand), so this company would be required to set up or join a scheme which ensures that the beverage-filled bottles are returned or recycled post-consumption. In most international jurisdictions, it is therefore the person whose activities produce waste / the person that sells a final product that is considered to be the producer for purposes of EPR regulation, rather than the person who manufactures the packaging.

This is because the brand owner is typically the entity that has the power to influence or specify the design of the product. If product designs are to be changed to make them easier to recycle or more valuable in the recycling value chain, then it is typically the brand owner that must make or at the very least agree to this decision. From a consumer point of view, it is also the brand owner who is associated with any such products littered on the side of the road – you see a Coca-Cola bottle on the floor, you don't consider that the bottle was made by a bottle manufacturer, not Coke.

As the person which introduces a packaged product onto the market, it is thus the brand owner who should fulfil the extended producer responsibilities of the producer for that product, according to international best practice. Arguably, this is also the intention of the empowering provisions in the National Environmental Management: Waste Act of 2008, which apply EPR measures to the post-consumer stage of the *product*, i.e. the product which has gone to market, not the product as it evolves through the supply chain.

South Africa has, however, adopted a



Paula-Ann Novotny.



Garyn Rapson.



Emma Bleeker.

wider EPR scope, at least insofar as the paper and packaging industry is concerned. Under the new EPR scheme, responsibility partly lies with the **manufacturer of the packaging**, e.g. Mpact, Sappi or Mondi. Producers are thus widely defined under the EPR regulations to include the full value chain of manufacturers, converters, refurbishers, importers and brand-owners; and the identified products are similarly defined to include packaging components pre-final saleable product.

Government's rationale for extending the EPR scope is predominantly informed by the historic approach which has been at play in the market until now, under voluntary industry-driven schemes. The Packaging Council of South Africa (PACSA) (now Packaging SA) and The Glass Recycling Company (TGRC) have been operating as voluntary industry bodies which promote product collection and recycling through their members, with membership comprising principally of converters and secondarily of associates (the latter being the major raw material suppliers, material organisations, brand owners, retailers and other organisations and associations with interests in the industries). Manufacturers and converters in these sectors have thus sup-

ported (and pushed for) the government's extension of the EPR scope to their factions, to formalise the current practice of self-regulation in South Africa's industries. Government's reigning in of a wider scope of manufacturers and importers of products also seems to align with its idea of a circular economy, i.e. to allocate responsibility for the impact their products have on the environment, from manufacture to the day they are discarded.

South African industry players have voiced concerns that placing EPR only on brand owners is likely to fail, with major brand owners intending to set up their own Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs). This will result in a market influx of PROs, each driven by separate corporate agendas and individual compliance schemes, which may override each other or complicate the lines of responsibility. This also leaves small PROs by the wayside.

However, the wide definitions undermine the effectiveness of the EPR regime by blurring the lines in allocating responsibility throughout the value chain. This has several unintended consequences.

Firstly, limiting the scope to those brand owners who sell the final product or put it on the market is important because it

levels the playing field between locally manufactured goods, goods produced by third parties, goods which use imported packaging and fully imported goods. Regulating only locally based supply chains will discourage local manufacturing and turn the country into an importer of finished goods to circumvent regulation. Overly broadening or restricting the scope of 'identified product' components also blurs the lines between regulated and unregulated manufacturing activities. In addition, including converters in the definition of producer opens the field to powerplays by large monopolies / duopolies in the South African market – where one cannot establish a PRO without them, but the effectiveness of the resultant PRO may be constrained by the veto powers of these large supply chain actors.

Secondly, the current scope of the EPR Regulations means that a packaging manufacturer in South Africa will have to enlist the co-operation of all of its customers (i.e. the brand owners) to join the scheme and will be ultimately responsible if they do not, which is impracticable. This wide net further introduces concerns of "double-taxation". If the brand owners will be responsible for the EPR fee obligations, why should the

upstream manufacturers also be? In addition, extending the scope of EPR to multiple parties creates a very real reporting challenge, where duplications of declared "sales" and "targets" will be reported to the government across the supply chain, some of which may not be reconcilable. As a result, the industry could face the issue of double counting, which causes significant complications for accurately calculating collection and recycling rates for products placed on the market.

Thirdly, the fact that the sector notices and schemes for lighting equipment and for electrical and electronic equipment do not seem to be drafted as widely as the paper and packaging sector scheme begs the question of equity and fairness. Why is the equipment products regulated only in their final working and saleable state; while paper, packaging and some single-use products are regulated throughout the supply and value chain?

It has been widely reported that international EPR regulation has been effective in driving the circular economy agenda. It is therefore debatable whether the South African legislature was correct to try and reinvent the wheel, or whether it will succeed.

Recent developments seem to indicate that

government may have heeded brand owner calls to revisit the allocation of responsibility. On 15 March 2021, government proposed amendments to the EPR regulations and the paper and packaging sector notice which seek to amend the definition of "producer" to mean persons who put a certain volume of identified products onto the market on an annual basis, and to differentiate between scenarios where branded goods are sold by local brand owners, foreign brand owners or retailers. However, for local brand owners, the proposed amended definition of producer continues to extend the responsibility to the product manufacturer, converter and/or the brand owner. There is no doubt that the "and/or" language drafted into the proposed amendments creates ambiguity as to who is accountable, which creates a real risk that some producers will use this loophole to avoid contributing to EPR schemes. And again, the local producers only cover a portion of the market. It therefore appears that the proposed amendments, which are currently out for public comment, are ineffective and continue to stray from the international legal position.

South Africa's approach is driven by the need to transition from the voluntary structure run by industry, to the legislated structure run by brand owners. South Africa's attempt at creating a hybrid EPR model is, however, questionable without the necessary clear allocations of responsibility or supporting transitional arrangements. Time will tell whether our implementation of this new regime will succeed.

Constrained supply chains, survey shows

GLOBAL restrictions implemented to curb the spread of Covid-19 have had a direct impact on manufacturing supply chains with constraints still evident across many manufacturing subsectors a year after the country first went into hard lockdown, according to the Q1 Absa Manufacturing Survey.

"South African manufacturers are reporting issues in the supply chain that are resulting in raw material shortage constraints negatively affecting their production processes," said Justin Schmidt, Head of Manufacturing Sec-

tor at Absa Retail and Business Bank. "Currently, a major problem globally appears to be the supply of shipping containers and vessels across routes, including to and from South Africa.

Whilst manufacturers remain hopeful that this will be resolved within the quarter, the risk of successive Covid-19 waves around the globe and further lockdown restrictions is a major concern."

For the second quarter in a row, manufacturers highlighted raw material shortages as a serious impediment to activities. With the

index currently at 57 points, this is the second highest number recorded since 1974. The index ranges between zero and 100, with zero reflecting no constraint and 100 a serious constraint.

The quarterly survey, which covers approximately 700 businesspeople in the manufacturing sector, was conducted by the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) at Stellenbosch University between 18 January and 1 March 2021. The majority of survey responses were received during the last two weeks of February, when the peak

of the second wave of Covid-19 infections in South Africa had passed and it was evident that some of the restrictions on economic activity would soon be lifted. In spite of this, the higher intensity of loadshedding in the quarter when compared to Q4 of 2020 as well as raw material shortages, helps explain why overall confidence fell from 31 to 25 index points in Q1 2021.

Positively, insufficient demand as a constraint on current activities remained at 65 index points, only 9 points lower than in Q1 of 2020 and 20

points below a peak of 85 reached in Q2 of last year. Whilst this indicates that insufficient demand does remain a constraint for manufacturers, the situation seems to be improving.

Despite previous promising signals that the manufacturing sector's output recovery could receive a boost in 2021 if the higher demand levels were sustained and manufacturers could restock inventory to meet forward looking demand, the Q1 survey results indicated that output continued to lag behind demand – stock levels of fin-

ished goods relative to expected demand remained the lowest on record.

"Many manufacturers close during December and January, and as such, there is often a dip in production volumes over this period.

This year however, loadshedding as well as the introduction of adjusted level 3 lockdown restrictions, notably the alcohol ban, have been a major drag on production," Schmidt noted.

The February production data will provide a good indication of the sector's production recovery.

The sector seems to have gained some lost ground as indicated by the Absa Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) which increased for a second consecutive month in February 2021 to 53.0, signalling an improvement in business conditions, he added.

"External shocks such as the reintroduction of lockdown restrictions to mitigate the impact of a third wave of Covid-19 cases and the resurgence of load shedding, which will likely remain a factor throughout 2021, pose a risk to the recovery," Schmidt said.

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Specialists in machine tool supplies

COASTAL Engineering Supplies, the Cape Town and Johannesburg specialists of import and distribution of new and pre-owned machine tools and metalwork machinery, have recently supplied an advanced CNC automatic FIBRE laser pipe cutting machine to Atlantis based Jonwin Pty Ltd t/a Designamite, to increase efficiency and production capacity of its visual display and merchandising equipment offerings. The contract involved the supply, installation, commissioning and intense training of Designamite's personnel by the machine's principles.

The machine known as the XS FIBRE LASER MODEL F6020GE is no lightweight – it occupies a substantial space being 15m in length and weighing in at over 10t.

The machine has a IPG (German) laser cutting power source of 1kW and can accommodate any ferrous or non-ferrous materials in any profile – square, rectangular, round or triangular. Pipe lengths of up to 6,45m are loaded into the unit's magazine and automatically fed into its chuck where predetermined slots and hole apertures are cut with remarkable speed and to an accuracy of $\pm 500\mu\text{m}$, ideal for Designamite's FMCG merchandising products.

"We have a long-standing trusted business relationship with Designamite stretching back three decades and when they approached us with a need to increase and streamline the production of their shelving and merchandising products division, we analysed their requirements and recommended the F6020GE as a perfect fit" explained Coastal's Sales Manager, Mr. Rainard Louw.

Coastal have been in the machine tool business in Cape Town since 1972 when Austrian born George Hintenaus established this family owned concern.

His son Albert Hintenaus is the company's CEO and the company have expanded in response to export business opportunities with the opening last year – in the middle of the COVID-19 lockdown – of a Johannesburg operation, based in Boksburg's Jet Park.

"In spite of the COVID pandemic we have seen a marked increase in business and enquiries from neighbouring states, especially since opening the Jet Park branch" said Louw.

"We are particularly pleased with the performance of the F6020GE – John Winter, CEO of Designamite has reported that a machining operation which previously took two days, is now accomplished within two hours with consistent quality and accuracy. Our relationship with this and other customers is based on trust and in-depth engineering knowledge. The purchase of the F6020GE has substantially increased their capabilities whilst making them more competitive, he concluded.

For more information contact Rainard Louw

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Website: www.coastalengineering.co.za



The F6020GE Fibre pipe cutting machine, supplied to Designamite Group

PRECISION ENGINEERING
HEAVY ENGINEERING
CNC LASER CUTTING
SHEET-METAL
TOOLING
MACHINE ACCESSORIES
SERVICE DIVISION

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COASTAL
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Robot streamlines food deliveries in a pilot trial



AN autonomous mobile robot has been seen moving around the corridors of the REDI shopping centre in Kalasatama, a neighbourhood in Helsinki, Finland. Operated by OMRON's solution partner Dimalog, the robot was taking part in a month-long 'Home-on Demand' automated courier service trial. This is testing the potential for using autonomous robots for deliveries to urban homes. It's part of a larger experiment called the Six City Strategy 'New solutions in city logistics' project, which is looking at possible options for last mile deliveries in Finnish cities. It's looking for solutions that will organise urban logistics as lightly, sustainably and efficiently as possible.

The trial was arranged by Forum Virium, the City of Helsinki's development company, in conjunction with construction company SRV. Other organ-

isations involved in the project include elevator company Kone; the K-Supermarket in the REDI shopping centre, Asumi, a digital resident service platform and the design studio, Muotohomo. For the trial, the OMRON mobile robot was programmed to deliver items of food from the shopping centre to apartments in the nearby Majakka tower block.

Refining the robot

OMRON, Dimalog and Muotohomo worked closely together to refine the operation and design of the robot so that they met the specific needs of the project. To move around successfully, the robot had to navigate the supermarket and tower block corridors as well as using elevators and service tunnels. As it moved, the robot both whistled and talked in Finnish (using a speech synthesiser).

Running the trial

Each delivery started with the receipt of an online order from a customer using the Asumi platform. Orders could also be placed through the supermarket by the shopping centre's smaller businesses. The items (mainly meals) would be collected at the supermarket and loaded by staff into the robot, which would then deliver the order to the relevant business or apartment. The customer would receive an automatic notification as soon as the robot delivered the item. Kaisi Spilling remarks: "During the coronavirus epidemic, the robot has brought lunches for homeworkers.

Self-navigating robots

The robot used on the trial was an OMRON LD model - a self-navigating autonomous mobile robot (AMR).

Unlike traditional autonomously guided vehicles (AGVs), OMRON's mobile robots don't need any expensive modifications to facilities (such as floor magnets or navigational beacons). They navigate by the natural features of the facility, having been designed to move material within challenging environments that might include confined passageways, as well as locations where there might be people moving around. OMRON's software also integrates with a company's other systems so that the robots can become operational in minimal time.

Esa Korhonen, Area Sales Manager at OMRON in Finland, explains: "Our mobile robots can dramatically boost the productivity of logistics operations. They can navigate effectively and provide invaluable support to human workers. This enables employees to focus on other tasks that require complex human skills."

Kaisi Spilling concludes: "We are looking for new agile logistics solutions in the city. We are exploring how we could improve the smoothness of everyday life in building the future. Robotics is essentially related to a smooth everyday life."

Access Bank access SA via GroCapital

ACCESS Bank Plc has entered into a definitive agreement with GroCapital Holdings in October 2020 to invest into Grobank Limited over two tranches. Access Bank Plc has received the approval of the Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank for the Bank's transaction to obtain a controlling interest in Grobank Limited following its investment of Tier 1 capital into the Bank. This will enable Grobank to further accelerate its objectives around business diversification, improved operational efficiencies, talent retention as well as robust governance.

Bennie van Rooy, CEO of Grobank, hailed this transaction as an exciting event for the South African banking industry: "The entry of Access Bank Plc into the South African banking sector will enable us to provide sustainable support to our existing customers

and target new customers with a presence across the African continent.

"We are excited about joining the Access Bank family and look forward to contributing meaningfully to the achievements and ambitions of the Group."

Africa's gateway to the world

The proposed transaction is expected to provide a doorway to the largest banking market in Africa and enable Access Bank to consolidate its Southern African and broader African footprint with enhanced capabilities to fulfil the needs of multi-national clients.

Once signed off, the proposed transactions will result in Access Bank having a presence in 10 African countries spanning East, West and Southern Africa.

Herbert Wigwe the CEO of Access Bank Plc, commenting on

these developments, said: "We have consistently looked to focus on building the scale required to become a leading African bank; one that leverages our experienced and growing talent base and key stakeholder partnerships towards driving sustainable impact and profitability.

Growing the African footprint

"With a broader presence across the continent, Access Bank will be better placed to support our customers who are increasingly looking towards intra Africa growth," he said.

"The proposed transactions will accelerate the Bank's momentum towards delivering world class banking services to an expanded customer base across Africa. Our goal remains to reach and impact 100 million unique customers across the continent by 2022."

Survey highlights the important role of plastic recycling in South Africa

SOUTH Africa's packaging manufacturer, Tuffy, and the South African Plastics Recycling Organisation (SAPRO) have joined forces to highlight the challenge of plastic waste. In conjunction with SAPRO, Plastics SA released the annual South African Plastics Recycling Survey outlining the state of the country's plastics recycling industry for 2019 through data received from plastics re-processors and packaging industry associations like Plastics SA, PETCO and other stakeholders.

Recycling operations and achievements

The report reveals that in total, 503 600 tons of plastic waste were collected for recycling across the country, of which more than half (362 800 tons) consisted of packaging. Of this, 352 500 tons of plastics were converted back into raw materials in order to manufacture other products in 2019. Although these statistics represent progress, the report notes that South Africa produced almost 1,8 million tons of plastic products in the same period.

The largest quantity (70,4%) of recyclables came from landfill and other post-consumer sources. Unlike other countries, recyclables in South Africa are mostly sourced from landfill at a high cost. Plastics recycling also saved an estimated 244 300 tons of CO2 in 2019, the equivalent emissions of 51 000 cars in the same year.

South Africa's recycling operations

There were 288 recycling operations recorded in the country in 2019. Of these recyclers, 52% were based in Gauteng which recycled 60% of the tonnages during the year. The number of larger recyclers (according to tons per recycler) were higher in the Western Cape than in other provinces - 11% of the total number of recyclers were based in the Western Cape, recycling 14% of the total tonnages. Recycled tonnages have seen a steady increase in Gauteng in the last three years with most of the end-markets situated in the province.

The survey also noted that recycling rates will increase as brand owners and their

manufacturers commit to higher levels of recycled content in their products.

Driving economic development

Survey findings further revealed that R 2 065 billion was injected into the informal sector through the purchasing of recyclable plastics waste in 2019, creating 58 750 jobs which included waste pickers and employees of the smaller entrepreneurial collectors.

Taking the lead with 100% recycled refuse bags

Tuffy was the first organisation in the country to be certified for using 100% recycled material in its refuse bags (75% of the recycled content is the waste generated by the public that would otherwise end up in landfill) and the first to receive accreditation from an international product verification company to verify the claim 100% recycled. On average, Tuffy uses an astonishing 544 tons of recycled plastic per month, which is the weight of approximately 113 elephants!

Geotextile dewatering-bags

FIBERTEX geotextile bags (geobags) for use in on-site desludging wastewater projects, have advantages over conventional methods, which are often unaffordable to authorities and contractors with limited budgets.

Benefits of using geobags for sludge removal include ease of operation, efficient retention of solids, compliance with environmental regulations and cost optimisation. A further advantage is this dewatering system is passive and does not require constant monitoring and maintenance of equipment.

The filtration properties of geotextiles - which are effective in retaining the fine-grained materials found in sewage sludge, while allowing the water to filter through - make these materials suitable in desludging wastewater ponds. The effluent that passes through the woven fabric can then be transferred to a designated safe disposal site, given that it meets the regulations set by the Department of Water



These Fibertex geobags are filled with sewage.

Affairs (Policy and Strategy for Groundwater Quality Management in South Africa).

"When wastewater treatment ponds reach their capacity, the options available are to either build new facilities or to empty the existing ones to make additional space available for waste. Traditional methods of waste containment, which usually require large amounts of space, stringent environmental permits and frequent dredging, are normally unaffordable to municipalities," explains Meera Govender, Technical Product Manager, Fibertex SA. "A feasible solution needed to be found to dispose of extracted material through the desludging process, which is not restricted by

budget constraints and the limited space available at existing wastewater facilities.

"The use of geotextile dewatering bags is recognised globally as the most efficient and economical method to achieve the required desludging process, to improve the functionality and safety of wastewater treatment works."

In recent local projects, where wastewater treatment plants had reached their maximum storage capacities, the Fibertex solution was to remove sludge from the existing tailings facilities by using geotextile dewatering bags on-site. Fibertex also provided the geosynthetic products required to carry out repairs to existing lining systems that were

damaged, and for installation of new lining systems in facilities which previously had none.

In these recent projects, prior to placement and filling of the geobags, Fibertex lined the dewatering area with a 1 mm thick geomembrane layer, according to SANS 1526 specifications for thermoplastic sheeting. This material prevents local erosion and collects all effluent released from the geobags, thus preventing any seepage of the wastewater into the ground. The effluent is then channelled back into the dam or taken for further treatment.

The Fibertex geosynthetics range encompasses a complete portfolio of nonwoven and woven geotextiles, as well as gabions and mattresses, drainage pipes, fittings and erosion control and cellular confinement solutions. Fibertex also supplies soil reinforcing products, including geogrids and geocells, as well as geosynthetic clay liners, as part of composite lining systems in modern landfills.

Would you leave your children’s inheritance in the hands of the Government?

By Alex Simeonides, CEO of Capital Legacy.



“When children lose both their parents, they and their inheritances become wards of the High Court.”

WHAT many parents don’t realise is that they leave their children’s inheritances at the mercy of the Government Guardian’s Fund when they don’t make the proper provisions for the possibility that their children may face tomorrow without them. When children lose both their parents, they and their inheritances become wards of the High Court.

“The Government Guardian’s Fund – a structure set up to safeguard and protect the inheritances for our country’s most vulnerable – falls short more often than not in fulfilling its mandate.”

What exactly is the Government Guardian’s Fund?

According to a recent report, the Government Guardian’s Fund receives over a Billion Rand a year to hold and administer on behalf of beneficiaries.

What makes this fact

scary is the number of cases of fraud and maladministration levelled at the fund. In 2010, the then Justice Minister, Jeff Radebe, announced that about R80 million had been defrauded from the Government Guardian’s Fund. Furthermore in 2019, the President gave instruction for all the Masters’ offices across the country to be closed for the Special Investigating Unit to collect information regarding fraud and maladministration, which was amplified later in the year when R10 million was stolen from the Guardian’s Fund.

Claiming maintenance from the Guardian’s Fund for minors

When a minor child’s inheritance is administered by the Guardian’s Fund, it is up to the legally appointed guardian of the minor to apply for money to be released for day-to-day living expenses such as clothing, food, school fees, etc. This process, however, is burdened with archaic administrative processes and stringent application requirements, which are inflexible considering the virtual requirements of COVID. Often, this means that there are delays in funds being released and can have a serious impact on the child’s life.

Any money which remains unclaimed in the Guardian’s Fund for a period of 30 years is forfeited to the state. That means if your children aren’t aware that their inheritance

has been paid to the Guardian’s Fund and they don’t claim within 30 years after turning 18 years old, the state keeps it.

“Many people fail to get their Wills in order simply because they just don’t get around to it.”

The simple solution – draw up a Will

Many people fail to get their Wills in order simply because they just don’t get around to it. In fact, the number one reason for people passing away without a valid Will in place is procrastination. They know they need to do it but never find the time to do it – it’s our children and dependants that pay the price.

Why set up a testamentary trust?

If you don’t make provision for a testamentary trust through your Will there are only two options left with regards to what will happen to the assets and money you leave to your children – First, it is paid into the Government’s Guardian’s Fund until your child becomes of age and claims it, or second, it is given to your children’s legally appointed guardian to manage.

A testamentary trust can only be created once the person who initiates its establishment has passed away, so the best way to plan for this is in your Will.

For more information on wills and estates and setting up trusts, visit: www.capitallegacy.co.za

Louisa Mojela honoured for empowering women in Africa

AT a small graduation ceremony for doctoral graduates from the Faculty of Economic and Management Science at Stellenbosch University (SU), Ms Louisa Mojela, group chief executive officer of the Women Investment Portfolio Holdings (WIPHOLD), received the degree Doctor of Commerce (DCom), *honoris causa*, for her visionary leadership in establishing platforms to empower women on the African continent.

Mojela has made remarkable achievements in the business sector and innovative contributions to the socio-economic development of South Africa.

At the graduation ceremony on Tuesday (30 March 2021), SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof Wim de Villiers praised Mojela’s leadership and her dedication to the “empowerment of women” and the creation of development opportunities.



Dr Louisa Mojela. Photo credit Stefan Els.

“Louisa Mojela is a well-known figure in corporate South Africa having been a co-founder and long-time group chief executive officer of WIPHOLD, a company dedicated to the empowerment of women and the creation of development opportunities.

Under her leadership, WIPHOLD

grew to be the country’s premier black women-owned and managed investment company with billions invested across a wide array of industries. More than 200 000 black women are beneficiaries who hold a direct share of 33,6% in the holding company via WIPHOLD Investment Trust and WIPHOLD NGO

Trust,” said De Villiers.

Mojela graduated with a Bachelors in Commerce from the National University of Lesotho, and successfully completed the Executive Leadership Programme at Wharton Business School in Pennsylvania in the United States.

She is a well-known figure in corporate South Africa, and has served on the boards of companies such as Distell, Sun International, Sasol Mining and Life Healthcare Group Holding. She has received numerous awards for her business leadership and entrepreneurial spirit.

In May 2009, she received the Inaugural African Business Leadership Award in Dakar, initiated by the African Development Bank, and in 2010, she won the Africa Economic Builders Entrepreneur of the Year award in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast.

Claims for workplace injuries can be repudiated if alcohol-related

By Rhys Evans, Managing Director at ALCO-Safe

IN South Africa at least 60% of road deaths are attributable to alcohol consumption according to a recent World Health Organisation Global Status Report on Road Safety. Furthermore, alcohol abuse has been shown to increase a person’s risk of early death due to conditions such as heart or liver disease and disability. Thus, it’s no surprise that medical aid and insurance providers generally reject claims for accidents that are alcohol-related, both in the workplace and on the road. This makes it important for employers to ensure that they’re providing a safe working environment by taking all measures necessary to prevent employee accidents that are caused by alcohol consumption.

The danger of alcohol in the workplace

Employees that report for duty under the influence of alcohol present a real danger to themselves, their colleagues and their employer. The use of alcohol affects sight, speech, coordination and reaction speed,

which is extremely hazardous when that person is working with machinery or driving a vehicle. According to the South African Labour Guide, 20% to 25% of injuries in the workplace involved employees under the influence of alcohol.

Medical aid and insurance claims: the implications of alcohol induced-injuries

Who pays for medical expenses incurred where an individual is injured on the job? Ordinarily these costs would be covered by the Compensation Fund or the employer’s insurance if the injury occurred during the scope and course of the individual’s job. However, an employee can be disqualified from claiming benefits where drugs or alcohol are the primary cause of the incident. This means that employees could be in a position where their injuries are not covered, preventing them from getting the treatment they require to return to work or place them in financial troubles. This in turn will impact their productivity and have a detrimental effect on the business.

Similarly, where an individual is involved in a road accident and tests positive for alco-

hol levels above the legal limit, most vehicle insurance providers will not pay their claim. Standard policy wording allows for a claim to be repudiated if the driver is “under the influence or exceeds the legal limit”. A big mistake that people make is thinking that the insurance provider requires a breathalyser test or blood result to prove that they were driving under the influence. A number of considerations can be used to deduce that the individual was drinking, including the person’s demeanour at the time of the accident, whether they smelled of alcohol, the circumstances of the accident, where the person was before the accident and any reports of witnesses who may have seen the person drinking alcohol before the accident took place.

Ensuring a safe working environment

Without an enforceable alcohol policy that allows businesses to regularly check on employee sobriety, organisations open themselves up to risk. The workplace can play an important role in preventing alcohol and substance abuse if employers implement appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and

“Who pays for medical expenses incurred where an individual is injured on the job?”

remedy alcohol and drug related problems in the workplace. This starts with having a written policy on alcohol and drug abuse that details the company’s approach to keeping alcohol out of the workplace. To prevent intoxicated employees from entering the workplace in hazardous industries, organisations must conduct regular testing by means of breathalysers for alcohol or saliva testing for chemical substances. ALCO-Safe for example, is a major supplier of breathalysing and drug testing equipment providing organisations easy access to the equipment they need in order to reduce alcohol related injuries that can lead to claim. In doing so, the organisation can protect its workers and minimise the chances of having a legitimate injury claim repudiated because it is alcohol-related.

\$14 billion battery cell order for Swedish gigafactory

NORTHVOLT and Volkswagen Group have unveiled the next step in the partnership between the two companies, which was initiated in 2019. The collaboration will place a greater focus on Northvolt’s gigafactory in Sweden, which will be further expanded to support a combined order worth more than \$14 billion over the next 10 years, as Northvolt is selected by Volkswagen Group as a strategic lead supplier for premium battery cells in Europe. In total, Northvolt has now secured in excess of \$27 billion worth of contracts from key customers.

“Volkswagen is a key investor, customer and partner on the jour-

ney ahead and we will continue to work hard with the goal to provide them with the greenest battery on the planet as they rapidly expand their fleet of electric vehicles,” said Peter Carlsson, Co-Founder and CEO, Northvolt.

The next step in the partnership is the result of a mutual analysis on how to best leverage the strengths and ambitions of each party during the years to come. By consolidating cell production to the Northvolt Ett gigafactory, the partners will achieve further economies of scale, thereby securing the best possible cost and enabling the lowest environmental footprint in the world for cell production.

As Volkswagen Group plans to scale up its own battery manufacturing in Europe, Northvolt will sell its share in the joint venture Northvolt Zwei in Salzgitter to Volkswagen. Volkswagen will at the same time increase its ownership in Northvolt.

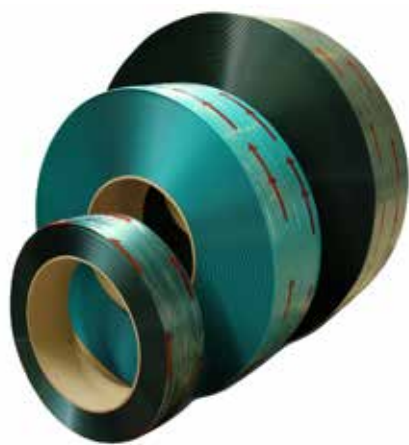
“Volkswagen will continue to deepen the collaboration and partnership with Northvolt. They are one of our key battery suppliers as we make the transition to electric mobility – and there is potential to expand this partnership even further,” said Thomas Schmall, Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Group Components.

Quality in PET strapping solutions

PROPER packaging plays a crucial role in just about every major industry in the world and no-one understands the need for reliable, practical packaging tools better than the team at FROMM. Since FROMM Packaging Systems was founded more than seven decades ago, it has demonstrated a resolute commitment to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction. Its products can both add value to our customers' businesses, while also being respectful of the environment to ensure a sustained future for all.

Meeting and exceeding professional packaging needs:

PET (also known as polyester) is one of the strongest and highest quality types of plastic, especially when it comes to strapping. This superior quality ensures that PET



strapping is softer on tools. It also boasts a very consistent tensile strength and a very high elongation. Typically, it has 17 – 20% elongation potential, which helps to improve safety during packaging and transport.

While the quality of the plastic is important, so is the quality of the manufactured product. FROMM is committed to always deliver the highest standard with every product and service. This is sup-

ported by the fact that its state-of-the-art factory in Caprino, Italy, as well as the new plastics production factory in Kölleda, Germany have been awarded ISO 9001 and 14001 certifications. The consistency of the thickness and uniformity of straightness of its PET strapping products is guaranteed.

FROMM also produces a range of manual, battery, and pneumatic tools to enable the effortless and reli-

able application of strapping, no matter the size or volume.

Supporting environmentally-responsible practices:

FROMM is continuously working on innovative solutions to further improve its products, striving to create better products for a better planet. This approach has resulted in FROMM being one of the world's largest PET recycling companies. Its polyester strapping is made from PET bottles that are recycled at a plant in Wolfen, Germany.

Extensive investment has been made in converting operations to solar power to lower its carbon footprint, while production facilities have evolved to meet zero waste to landfill.

For more information on PET strapping and the tools used for its application, contact frommsa@fromm-pack.co.za

Seal doorways before winter blues hit



Apex high speed doors offer efficiency in operation as well as durability.

WIM Dassing, sales executive at Apex Strip Curtains, and the South African pioneer of the use of flexible PVC strips in a number of industrial applications, says "While general purpose strip curtains will certainly do the job in closing off a doorway and prevent the ingress of cold into a working area, it may not be the most appropriate solution for a particular application," he says.

The days of just installing a roller shutter door are long over. The company manufactures a range of fast action roll-up and fold-up doors which are suitable for applications ranging from food preparation and the hospitality industry through to mining and manufacturing.

For example, the standard Traffic fold up door, which is ideally suited to provide exterior access in production plants, shipment areas and warehouses, is designed to resist wind loading of up to 50 km/hour. A custom model of the door is also available that can withstand speeds of up to 90 km/hour.

Like other doors in the range, the Traffic door is controlled by an electric unit which complies with all IEC regulations and can be activated by any type of remote control equipment including photocells, pressure sensitive mats, movement detectors or induction loops. To facilitate safety, the door is fitted with a release lever that opens it from either side in the event of a power

failure or malfunction.

Safety features have also been incorporated and continuity of operation is ensured by a set of back-up batteries housed close to the electrical control panel. The door has a sensor bar on its lower edge which, in the case of an accidental collision, opens the door immediately no matter what stage in its cycle.

"All the doors are engineered for extensive opening and closing actions, and require virtually no maintenance," Dassing says. "However, it is vital that the correct door be selected and factors such as doorway size and the type and volume of traffic moving through this opening must be considered in the purchasing decision."

Dairy takes major step towards going off-grid



The new 560-kilowatt solar farm at Fair Cape Dairies. Picture credit Henk Kruger/African News Agency (ANA).

IN the spirit of Fair Cape's motto of 'Do the Right Thing', its newly installed 560 kW solar power plant now allows Fair Cape to not only produce all fresh milk off grid during daylight hours, but also to process and store it in its cold rooms before going to market.

"In addition to using solar energy at the milking parlour, which has reduced the need for coal-derived energy by around 150 MWh per annum..."

This unique facility will generate approximately 1 016 MWh of energy and will save approximately 400 tons of CO₂ per annum.

Fair Cape switched over to powering its milking parlour entirely with solar power during daylight hours in October 2018, and this solar plant now represents further significant progress in Fair Cape's efforts to stay true to environmentally-friendly principles in its business practices.

Louis Loubser, Fair Cape Dairies' chief marketing officer, said that the philosophy of Do the Right Thing is the company's moral and ethical compass. "Our brand is based on three pillars: animal welfare, social welfare and environmental welfare and this is simply the latest in a long line of steps we've taken to minimise our impact on the environment."

In addition to using solar energy at the milking parlour, which has reduced the need for coal-derived energy by around 150 MWh per annum, Fair Cape changed its Eco-Fresh milk bottle in 2019 from white PET to clear PET – which is also made with 30% recycled material – to make it more recyclable and encourage recycling at a consumer level. An innovation which won them the PETCO Recycling Partnership Gamechanger of the Year Award that year.

In addition, developing their waste sorting and handling infrastructure has resulted in diverting 1 500 tons of solid waste from landfill during 2020, and the recycling of wash water at the milk-

ing parlour for non-potable use and irrigation at the farm saves nine million litres of water per month.

Fair Cape also recycles the cows' dung, spraying it back onto their lands as fertiliser. This recovery of 'waste' not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions and replenishes the earth with nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and other micro-nutrients, but has also reduced the use of chemical fertilisers by approximately 20%.

"As a company, we are totally committed to environmental stewardship and this initiative is the next step in our environmental journey," said Loubser. "We have long hoped to move our operations off-grid to allow us to produce and process milk in a far more environmentally friendly manner, and today's announcement goes a long way to fulfilling this ambition."

Keynote speaker at the launch event, Western Cape Premier Alan Winde, said that the values, vision and leadership shown by Fair Cape Dairies are matched only by their passion to do the right thing. "But this is not just the right thing to do: it's the smart thing to do. In fact, it's the only thing to do."

New line of high pressure washers introduced

FROM auto body repair garages to retail showrooms, for those working in the automotive industry, cleaning is a crucial element that cannot be overlooked.

Anyone working with vehicles knows how much dirt they can accumulate that ranges from dust, grit, mud and to traces of rubber from tyres; engine oil, lubricant and fuel; coolant, exhaust gases, powdered metal residues and rust. A wide range of dirt can be dangerous to operators if inhaled, causing injury and pollution if not properly removed and collected.

Workshop cleaning is a critical task that cannot be overlooked. Smaller workshops are not only workplaces where cars are repaired, but also places where custom-

ers are welcomed and receive advice on vehicle maintenance. A tidy, clean and well-maintained workshop leaves a good impression on the customer.

"The power of pressurized water with the appropriate flow cleans up everything swiftly and with little effort," states Peter Esterhuizen, Sales Director for Goscor Cleaning Equipment (GCE). Besides a wide choice of cold water models, it is sometimes more suitable to rely on hot water pressure washers to dissolve the toughest grease without chemicals. These machines house either an electrical- or diesel-powered boiler that heats water before releasing it under pressure.

"Portotecnica, a member of IPC, is the latest brand to join the portfolio of clean-

ing equipment solutions that GCE has to offer. Portotecnica has four specific lines of pressure washers ranging from hot to cold water with electric, motor-driven and wall-mounted models for every cleaning need," adds Esterhuizen.

Since there is no second chance for first impressions, professional cleaning solutions are an effective as well as indispensable work tool for workshops, tyre repair centres, electricians, body repair shops and showrooms. It is important to make housekeeping a continuous and an ongoing effort. From dealer principal to technician, all employees should understand that housekeeping is a health and safety priority.

Building green data centres



In response to the exponential growth of data-center energy consumption, Danfoss decided to build data centres that will be an example for future climate-friendly designs.

IN response to the exponential growth of data-center energy consumption, Danfoss decided to build data centres that will be an example for future climate-friendly designs. Danfoss has the technologies to cool data centres in a greener way, to reduce energy consumption within them, and to reuse the excess heat for other applications.

"Using the latest technologies for cooling and heat recovery we transform data centres from energy consumers to sources of sustainable energy. It is exciting to see that in action at our own data centres," says Jürgen Fischer, President, Danfoss Climate Solutions

Data Centres as Power Plants

An example of this concept is Danfoss headquarters in Nordborg, Denmark. In 2015, it

was heated 100% by fossil fuel. In 2022, it will be CO2 neutral. And, in 2024, reused excess heat from Danfoss data centres will provide 25% of the overall heat supply for the 250 000 m2 of factories and offices.

Location plays a key factor to optimally utilize excess heat. The data center will be near the location of data use and where the local area can benefit from the excess heat. This provides the opportunity to use oil-free heat-pump systems to transform the data center into a heat source. The excess heat from the data center can then be distributed to a local neighbourhood, helping to reduce the data-center energy costs, and lowering greenhouse-gas emissions.

"The data centres of the future will be hybrid data centres where we combine the best of two worlds: the

cloud and the on-site data center. And we utilize the excess heat in the energy grids close to where it is produced," Danfoss CIO Sune T. Baastrup says.

Danfoss is on a digital transformation journey, consolidating 20 global data centres and 135 server rooms into a handful of data centres, which will all be built utilizing Danfoss green technologies.

"We put words into action. We have managed to build our own climate-friendly data centres, effectively in less than half a year. We want to show that digital transformation and green transition go hand in hand," says Sune T. Baastrup.

Data centres are consuming vast amounts of energy. Energy to supply servers with power, but also to cool down server rooms and remove the huge amounts of heat they generate. It is

estimated that 10% of all electricity is used within the IT ecosystem. This makes reducing the climate impact of digitalization a high priority.

Decarbonisation of data centres starts from the cooling side. Danfoss has a wide portfolio and expertise to reduce direct and indirect CO2 emissions with lower-GWP refrigerants and energy effective solutions. Danfoss technologies are also optimized for operating conditions at higher temperatures to enable less need for cooling, thus naturally reducing the power consumption used for cooling.

The technologies include chillers and heat pumps featuring Danfoss Turbo-cor® technology that allow data centres to be cooled up to 30% more efficiently and to recover excess heat generated by the data centres.

In addition, Danfoss has innovative solutions for heat recovery. Excess heat is generated by server equipment as part of data center operation and is discharged into the atmosphere. Utilizing this excess heat for use in heating applications, instead of allowing it to escape, represents a massive opportunity for Danfoss to provide an environmentally friendly solution that will help the company reach complete global decarbonization by 2030.

Marine lubrication solutions



LUBRICANTS for the marine environment are subjected to very specific and often harsh conditions. They therefore need to be designed for their specific applications to ensure they are effective and safe.

Callum Ford, National Marketing Manager at Lubrication Engineers (LE) South Africa, says that typical marine applications include wire ropes, moving chains and cable parts. He stresses that using non-toxic products is also important for preserving marine life.

"People tend to think that biodegradable is the same as non-toxic to marine life, and that's not always the case," he explains. "While environmentally friendly lubricants have long aimed to be biodegradable, the Earthwise™ range supplied by LE is specifically focused on also being non-toxic. For example, LE's Earthwise EAL Wire Rope Grease (3353) is a certified environmentally acceptable lubricant and is recommended for use in applications on or near waterways. It is readily biodegradable, exhibits minimal aquatic toxicity and will not accumulate in the cells of fish and other aquatic life forms. Our Duolec® additive, which is used in gearbox applications, has also been specially re-engineered to perform better in saltwater conditions, guarding against lubrication deposit and engine wear."

Wire rope lubrication is another essential part of maintenance in the marine sector, but many people aren't

aware that by switching to modern lubrication equipment and application technology, they can substantially improve the speed of application and the efficacy of their lubrication products. LE supplies the Viper wire rope lubricator, which is available in three different sizes to accommodate different rope thicknesses.

"As the wire rope is passed through the Viper system, the lubrication is applied," says Ford. "It provides grease penetration, displaces moisture from the rope's core, provides total coverage, even for large ropes, and prolongs the lifespan and improves the performance of the ropes. The reduced risks of this system, as opposed to manual greasing, include it being safer for staff to use, using smaller volumes of lubricant and less leakage and mess. All of which has a positive long-term benefit for the environment."

LE also supplies environmentally friendly cleaning products that are suitable for dealing with oil and grease in marine environments. Oil Spill Eater II (OSE II) uses a biological enzyme to convert waste into a natural food source for bacteria found in aquatic envi-

ronments. It is approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (and featured on the National Contingency Plan List) and the UK Marine Management Organisation, and works by speeding up nature's own spill remediation process.

"In nature, bacteria release enzymes and biosurfactants that attack the spill," says Ford. "The biosurfactants emulsify the spill, breaking it down to be used as a food source for the bacteria. The end result of this process is CO2 and water. OSE II can bioremediate most organic-based compounds and almost all hydrogen-based compounds."

Aside from cleaning up spills on ship decks, fuel tank cleaning, ballast water tank cleaning and bilge tank cleaning, OSE II is also specified for cleaning oil spills on oceans and lakes, as well as for cleaning oiled wildlife and marine life. "Because it works so swiftly and is non-toxic, it causes the oil to just easily slough off once sprayed on," says Ford. "This causes less trauma for the animal being cleaned and a much faster and easier clean-up process. The spill is detoxified to the point that indigenous bacteria can now use the oil as a food source."

Screw-in temp sensors

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INSTROTECH offers Kobold's MMA range of industrial temperature probes, or insertion resistance thermometers (with/without transmitter). The MMA is engineered using 316 stainless steel and incorporates high accuracy Pt100 resistance sensors with analogue output options. The MMA is delivered standard with M12 or DIN 43650 plug electrical connections, as well as a wide variety of popular process connections.

Integrated Transmitter

Temperature sensors with transmitter are capable of transmitting measuring signals noise-free over long distances. The two-wire transmitter is integrated in the resistance thermometer. The output-signal is 4-20mA. The transmit-



KOBOLD MMA Temperature sensor transmits long-distance, noise-free signals.

ter range is configurable from PC through the KM-HART interface and the KM-Soft software.

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- Process connection threaded

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- Electrical connection DIN 43650, or M12
- Stainless steel
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This quality range of economically priced temperature instrument is suitable for a wide range of industrial applications such as: heating installations, furnace and apparatus construction; machine construction and building installations; marine engineering; general industrial applications; food, and pharmaceutical industry.

Contact **INSTROTECH** for more information on Kobold's MMA range of industrial temperature probes on 010 595 1831 or sales@instrotech.co.za

Standard named best bank in Africa

STANDARD Bank Group has been named the Best Bank in Africa in Global Finance's 28th annual awards for the World's Best Banks. Additionally, Standard Bank South Africa and Stanbic Bank Uganda were named best banks in their respective markets.

The winners of this year's awards are those banks that attended carefully to their customers' needs in difficult markets and accomplished strong results while laying the foundations for future success, according to Global Finance, which has a circulation of 50 000 and readers in 189

countries.

"Banks are playing a key role in economic recovery around the world. Our Best Bank awards highlight the leaders in restoring growth and mapping a way forward," said Joseph D. Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of Global Finance. "This year's evaluations are more important and valuable than at any point in their 28-year history, given the unprecedented economic conditions wrought by the global pandemic."

All selections were made by the editors of Global Finance after extensive consultations

with corporate financial executives, bankers and banking consultants, and analysts throughout the world. In selecting these top banks, Global Finance considered factors that ranged from the quantitative objective to the informed subjective.

Objective criteria considered included: growth in assets, profitability, geographic reach, strategic relationships, new business development and innovation in products. Subjective criteria included the opinions of equity analysts, credit rating analysts, banking consultants and others involved in the industry.

Floating slurry pump succeeds where old methods fail

INTEGRATED Pump Rental's innovative SlurrySucker desilting barge is successfully cleaning a large process dam for a coal mine in Mpumalanga, after past attempts by numerous contractors had failed.

The dam – at a mine in the Delmas area – measures a substantial 300 metres by 100 metres in size, with a six metre depth. It was unable to function effectively as it had become 90% filled with coal slurry from the processing plant. Ruaan Venter, rental development manager at Integrated Pump Rental, says the pond is also lined with a geomembrane to prevent the coal slurry from contaminating the groundwater.

“Manual excavation methods had been tried by previous contractors, but these could not efficiently move the required vol-



SlurrySucker desilting barge successfully cleaning a large process dam for a coal mine in Mpumalanga.

ume of sediment,” says Venter. “In fact, some attempts made matters worse by damaging the environmentally important membrane under the pond. In addition, extensive reed growth in the dam also hampered the desilting efforts.”

By contrast, the application of the SlurrySucker was able to meet the safety priorities of the mine while

cost effectively removing the slurry. Operating the barge remotely from a defined distance away from the dam's edge is much safer than having personnel or equipment on the dam itself, he says. Operators also use a buddy system with a harness for added safety. Extensive training of operators was also required by the mine before

work began.

“We were able to float the SlurrySucker on those parts of the dam with sufficient water, while also employing hydro-mining on the drier areas,” he says.

“This allowed our high-solids pumps to dredge quickly and cost effectively over the whole area of the dam.”

Two monitoring guns, each fed by a 7-bar high pressure discharge hose, are blasting the drier slurry towards the discharge point. Specialised pumps with chopper-impellers are employed, which can deal with the dislodged reeds without becoming clogged. After setting up on site in December 2020, Integrated Pump Rental is expected to complete the slurry removal process by the second quarter of 2021, says Venter.

New 6-inch, 4-cylinder suction trailer

WERNER Pumps, specialists in high-pressure jetting equipment, has created a new trailer-mounted 6-inch centrifugal pump unit. MD Sebastian Werner explains that this machine can be used to pump water, as well as solids, in maintenance and troubleshooting applications, such as clearing manholes or dealing with sewage spills.

“We developed this non-clogging, self-priming sewage pump unit primarily to help meet the needs of our existing customers, many of whom require this type of equipment to complement their larger jetting trucks they have procured from us,” he explains.

Like all of the trucks and trailers in the Werner Pumps range (excluding the Rapid Response Vehicle), this



unit is 100% locally manufactured at the company's premises in Springs. It features a heavy-duty diesel tank, 4-cylinder air-cooled Kirloskar engine, SP6 self-priming sewage pump, heavy-duty strobe light and a side-mounted control panel. Designed for stable performance and reliable operation, the unit operates at 750-1 450 r/min with a flow rate of 2 084-4 167 l/min, between 5 and 30 kW.

Its back-pull-out

construction makes it convenient to use in a variety of applications, from pumping rainwater and common sewage to use on municipal drainage projects and construction sites. Werner says it's also suited to use in the paper, textile, food processing, chemical, utilities, mining, tanning and water purification industries. The lead-time on one of these units is roughly three weeks from order to delivery.

Are press connections the best for pipes and fittings?

By Adam Branson of Construction News UK.

DRAWBACKS associated with compression or soldered connections can be addressed easily and consistently. Water is a resource that can be taken for granted in the developed world. Ubiquitous access to clean water makes it easy to forget that a great deal of thought goes into ensuring that our water is fit to drink.

According to Richard Bolton, marketing manager at press-connection manufacturer Viega, those responsible for commissioning drinking-water systems for buildings need to consider a wide range of factors.

First, it is important to select the right pipes and fittings.

Material variety

Copper and stainless steel pipe are ideal solutions for projects that require fewer fixing points along the pipe length or where improved resistance to fire is an advantage. Multilayer composite pipe, meanwhile, is cheap and flexible – it can achieve complex routing around voids and obstacles within buildings, fit into tight spaces, and accommodates long runs where minimal joints are required.

“However, it can be susceptible to heat,



and some types of plastic pipe can leach chemicals that contaminate water,” Mr Bolton says.

As a result, when selecting materials, thought needs to be put into what a building will be used for.

“On houses, many installers favour plastic because it's easy, quick and cheap,” he says.

“Press connections simply require a press gun, which provides consistent force on every connection that you do.

“If you're doing a job on a prominent building, however, you would favour stainless steel and that is certainly the case for healthcare facilities because it's essential to keep contamination to an absolute minimum.”

The type of fitting can also have a significant impact on potential contamination, leakage or inconsistency. The main options include soldered joints, compression fittings, flange fittings and solvent welded.

“You don't want solvent coming into

contact with drinking-water system, and with solder you have to use heat, so there may be flux or swarf or other debris that can also contaminate, and there is also a risk of fire,” he says.

“Compression is clean but relies simply on the plumber's muscle to connect the pipe together, so there is no consistency in the strength of the joints. It may hold during testing only to begin leaking when the building is complete and occupied – resulting in the need for costly remedial work. There can be similar issues with flange fittings.”

As a result, the method favoured by Viega is press connection. “Press connections simply require a press gun, which provides consistent force on every connection that you do.”

“Designed with a double pressing both before and after the compression, it ensures a permanent seal that will withstand both torsional and longitudinal forces” he said.

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Device identifies performance degradation

POWERED by IBM Watson analytics, Armstrong's Pump Manager makes use of the embedded intelligence and connectivity available through Armstrong Design Envelope pumps, making active performance management available on all models as standard.

With its continuous optimisation and analysis across multiple parameters on single pumps, or on an aggregated basis for multiple pumps, Pump Manager assists in identifying performance degradation and facilitates a predictive and proactive approach. It will, for example, report issues such as exces-

sive vibration, pump in hand, risk of cavitation or a dead head should they start to occur.

Pump Manager can reduce operating and maintenance costs by providing continuous optimisation of pump performance for maximum energy efficiency. It also increases pump availability and

reliability, reducing unexpected failures and providing early problem detection and helps maintain flows in the desired range, reducing temperature swings.

For more information, contact: www.armstrongfluidtechnology.com



Mobile technology making water accessible and affordable

RSKeWATERservices JV to deliver water to 164 000 people in Tanzania.

THE UK based RSKeWATERservices has won a tender to install 650 solar powered eWaterPay 'pay as you go' water meters across two districts in Tanzania- Dodoma and Singida. eWATERservices employs a low-cost pay as you go water system using mobile technology that is already serving 110 000 families across The Gambia, Ghana and Tanzania and have dispensed over 260 million litres of affordable, accessible clean water to rural communities.

RSKeWATERservices is a joint venture between the leading integrated environmental, engineering and technical services business, RSK, and eWATERservices, the company behind the eWaterPay system.

eWATERpay comprises a solar-powered tap that is connected to a digital wallet that is situated within a village community. The revenue collected is used to cover the costs of accessing clean water that is then used to operate and maintain the systems over time.

The device successfully addresses the twin challenges of water infrastructure maintenance and availability by offering round the clock access to water for users, unlike in the past when a borehole may have only had personnel at it for specific time periods.

In sub-Saharan Africa, about 40% of the population lacks safe drinking water. Within ten years, the global demand for water is expected to grow by 50 per cent.

According to a recent World Bank study on the performance of water supply services in Africa, half of the region's utilities do not have the revenues to cover their operation and maintenance costs. Countries need to build up their operational capacities and use both public and private utilities to meet the demand for sufficient volumes of quality water.

The Tanzanian government has launched the Accelerating Solar Water Pumping via Innovative Financing (ASWPTIF) project to address this issue. The ASWPTIF project is being led by the Government of Tanzania through their TIB Development Bank with funding from the World Bank. The RSKeWATERser-



vices JV successfully won a tender to install just under 650 solar-powered pay as you go water meters across two districts in the country.

Water shortage is a big challenge in Africa, observes Nick Leason, Director of Projects and Public Affairs, eWATERservices. "Many rural communities across Africa are plagued with water systems installed with good intent by global charities and NGOs but with little thought to the sustainability of these systems, meaning that when a pipe bursts or a pump fails, there are no funds, engineers or spare parts to repair them."

"In Tanzania, this issue is particularly bad with an estimated 86 000 rural water systems in the country,

over 40% are unserviceable, leading to thousands of rural communities who live a hand to mouth existence, having to travel large distances every day to collect water. This means that children are unable to attend school, the water has to be boiled leading to further deforestation and is a source of disease for many."

In fact, 45% of water supply systems tend to break after two years because there is no water economy, no professional maintenance and no money to pay for maintenance. It's important to find a solution that helps maintain the water infrastructure. eWATERpay helps address these challenges and ensures accessible,

affordable clean water for rural communities. That, in turn, reduces the time needed to collect water daily, meaning children can attend school, it also reduces the risks of disease to these most vulnerable communities.

With Africa's rapid growth in mobile use, and with 93% of Africans having access to a mobile phone, it makes it easy for them to have access to safe drinking water.

Moreover, the cost of water is affordable to even the poorest communities with a 1000 litres of water costing just 1 USD - or 5c for a 20-litre bucket. In Africa, mobile technology which revolutionised the banking sector could do the same for water shortage.

LEGUAAN SaaS water quality monitoring tool

BOSCH Capital has been appointed by environmental and water governance, risk and compliance specialists - CBSS - to support the commercial development of the new LEGUAAN™ Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) water quality monitoring, data visualisation and reporting tool. This project is supported by the WADER programme of the Water Research Commission (WRC).

CBSS has developed this water resource management tool to facilitate the efficient conversion of water monitoring data into meaningful visual graphs and reports that meet specific requirements of each organisation and that facilitate improved monitoring and compliance.

"In this exciting venture with CBSS, the Bosch Capital team is conducting a market analysis study that will inform the development of a commercial model and business plan for the LEGUAAN SaaS tool. This project also includes the development of a high-level financial model, to enable the analysis of the key financial drivers of the business," explains Rajiv Paladh, Manager: Advisory and Funding at Bosch Capital. Bosch Capital is a member of the Bosch Holdings group of multidisciplinary consulting engineering companies. Bosch Capital offers advisory, capital raising and investment solutions, which forms part of an integrated finan-

cial and engineering solution for clients with Bosch Projects.

The founding member of CBSS, Carin Bosman, had this to say regarding the monitoring tool: "Key advantages of this cost-efficient system are time-savings for the user, coupled with the assurance that all data is accurately converted into meaningful information and graphical representations. Without the correct interpretation of results, it is impossible to make informed decisions about the management adjustments that are necessary to improve consumption, reduce water footprint and minimise impacts on water quality, as well as reduce liability risks for the organisation."

Once the scientific integrity of the data is verified, it is swiftly converted into interactive and intelligible charts, such as Mauchino diagrams (salt balances including nitrates), time-series graphs (single year, multi-year and stacked for seasonal comparison), box-plot diagrams for statistical evaluations, and Ficklin graphs. Graphs and reports are provided online to users in a secure, interactive dashboard format, thus enabling users to download and present it to their internal and external stakeholders.

Reports and graphs generated by this water resource management tool can be set up to compare a user's data to the limit values in the water-use licence, or any

other site-specific limit value specified by a government agency. CBSS specialists are also able to assist with the development of scientifically correct site-specific limit values in accordance with the new Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) policy on Water Quality Management.

CBSS has also developed an App, WaterMonster™, that automates the capture of all critical field data that is necessary in the interpretation of water quality monitoring results. These factors include the type of sample, weather conditions at the monitoring location and observations about the colour, odour and flow of water. Relevant field readings of variables, such as temperature, electrical conductivity, and dissolved oxygen, are digitally captured.

The WaterMonster App also documents the geo-location of where the sample is being taken, captures a photograph of the monitoring location, and, if a sample could not be taken, records the reasons or obstacles for this. If a field sampler needs to purge a borehole before taking a groundwater sample, the purge-time is automatically calculated. Certain variables, such as free chlorine and dissolved oxygen, must be measured at the sampling location because concentrations change during transportation to a laboratory. All field observations are immediately available in a digital format.

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Air Liquide Venture Capital (ALIAD) invests in new start-ups

ALIAD, the venture capital investor of the Air Liquide group, continues to invest in technology start-ups with a new stake in the start-up INTACT, which develops 3D ultrasonic equipment quality control tests, and in Inopsys, a water treatment specialist. Since its creation in 2013, ALIAD has made more than 35 investments worldwide for a total of around 100 million

euros in the energy transition, health and digital sectors.

ALIAD has just invested in INTACT alongside Ekoscan, a French manufacturer specialised in equipment for ultrasonic quality control. Ekoscan has worked with Air Liquide since 2015 in integrity testing of production units of its Large Industries and Industrial Merchant activi-

ties. INTACT develops 3D ultrasonic non-destructive quality control testing for metal or composite equipment (pipelines, aircraft hulls, etc.). It relies on a unique technology, developed by Ekoscan in partnership with Air Liquide, for 3D modelling of cracks detected during ultrasonic testing. INTACT's solutions, which apply to the engineering, inspection and management of

the mechanical integrity of assets through connected technologies, enable predictive maintenance in order to achieve operational excellence while also improving safety.

ALIAD has invested in Inopsys, a Belgian start-up, whose mission is to develop and operate the on-site treatment of wastewater, complex toxic waste and solvent flows from the pharmaceutical and fine

chemical industries, where the treatment of waste is subject to strict requirements. Inopsys's solution relies in particular on high oxygen consumption for AOP (Advanced Oxidation Processes) applications and on water pH testing with CO2 injection. Inopsys has also developed solutions for recycling certain valuable components such as zinc and palladium. The use

of Inopsys' solutions could be extended to chemical markets and other waste-generating industries requiring special treatment.

Emilie Mouren-Renouard, Member of the Air Liquide Executive Committee, in charge of Innovation, Digital and IT, Intellectual Property and Global Markets & Technologies World Business Unit, said:

"These new investments by ALIAD in

technology start-ups are part of our ecosystem innovation strategy. Our objective is to identify disruptive technologies relevant to our activities in order to develop synergies and accelerate the Group's innovation.

This approach also enables each start-up to benefit from Air Liquide's industrial and technological experience and a unique access to potential customers around the world."

New technology critical for O&G industry to manage well integrity



THE oil and gas (O&G) industry must look to new, acoustic data-based methodologies to improve the diagnosis of well integrity issues and inform successful remediation and plug and abandonment (P&A) strategies.

This is according to a paper from LYTT, "Well Integrity Flow Detection Using Novel Acoustic Pattern Recognition Algorithms," which showcases the core role of LYTT's innovative well integrity methodology in

delivering an effective P&A remediation strategy for a BP-owned and operated field in the Americas.

Properly addressing leak and flow issues requires a complete overview of the source of the fluid, its flow path, and its potential to cause an issue for well integrity. Traditional methodologies for tracking leaks and flow have limitations that may prevent operators from consistently achieving full visibility of the health of the well. The dynamic nature of leak and flow events require constant monitoring to capture their intermittency, whereas traditional methods allow monitoring of only one point in depth and time - potentially bypassing the loca-

tion of the naturally dynamic leaks within hundreds and thousands of meters of the well length. This can hamper the operator's ability to swiftly and effectively understand and resolve well integrity issues such as tubing leaks, casing leaks, flow behind casing and overburden integrity.

In response, LYTT developed a technology that identifies and differentiates multiple downhole well integrity events by using unique algorithmic pattern recognition capabilities that build on acoustic measurements from Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) data. This allows for a highly targeted intervention that can have a greater chance of success than interventions based on

the current standard of surface observation or traditional wireline monitoring techniques.

While the industry has been aware of DAS for over a decade, its full potential has gone unexplored owing to the difficulty of quickly drawing insights from the enormous volume of acoustic data generated. LYTT solves this downhole "big data" challenge by extracting only the data that informs operational decision-making and analysing this data in the context of LYTT's library of acoustic patterns. This results in a significant reduction in DAS data volume at site, and the ability to provide engineers with actionable insights in seconds, not weeks.

"Well integrity is an

issue for O&G companies across the globe, but most traditional methods only give a snapshot of the problem - if they find them at all - while the true, dynamic nature of flow events can be missed," LYTT Technical Product Owner Lilia Noble said. "We think it's about time that the guesswork around leak detection and remediation is addressed with real-time data that enables informed decision making."

One exciting thing about DAS is that, with LYTT's analysis, operators can use the wealth of data this technology generates to find, identify, and predict the source of leaks - even before they occur - in a way that was previously thought impossible,

Noble said.

First shared at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference, this paper outlines LYTT's capability and presents a case study of its deployment in the field. The paper outlines how DAS-based pattern recognition algorithms allow operators to identify sources of flow and capture events as they occur, supporting informed decision making and customized remediation strategy planning.

The paper is now available to download <https://onepetro.org/SPEADIP/proceedings-abstract/20AD-IP/4-20ADIP/D041SI07R003/452325>
Article source: <https://www.worldoil.com/news>

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API and AEC sign MOU to expand industry standards

THE American Petroleum Institute (API) and the African Energy Chamber (AEC) (EnergyChamber.org) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on capacity building initiatives and standardization to enhance safety, environmental protection and sustainability in African countries producing natural gas and oil.

"API is pleased to collaborate with the AEC to expand use of our world-class standards and programs to help enhance the safety, transparency and sustainability of natural gas and oil operations across the African continent," API Segment Standards and Services Vice President Alexa Burr said. "This is our first partnership with an African based organization, and we look forward to supporting AEC's efforts to drive industry-wide technical knowledge."

Cryo-Vacc – vaccines transportation without power source

RENERGEN has developed the innovative Cryo-Vacc, which enables the safe transportation of vaccines at the required extremely low temperatures and for periods of up to 30 days, without the need for any power supply.

The Cryo-Vacc™ has a temperature range of -150°C to 8°C, making it highly versatile for a range of vaccines.

Renergen claim the Cryo-Vacc, will solve the following challenges:

- Pharmaceutical companies have unique complex supply chain requirements. Typically the delivery of biologics and vaccines require a number of handoffs from the manufacturing site, storage depots, and various

modes of transport, to reach the ultimate destination.

- Provides control over the integrity of the doses, with regards to temperature monitoring is difficult to manage and control and even more so in remote areas.
- GPS-enabled temperature sensors, to track location and monitor temperature remotely.
- More and more clinical trials, will require the delivery of temperature-sensitive drugs in the future. The Renergen Cryo-Vacc, can be used to transport not only the COVID-19 vaccine, but other vaccines and biologics as well.

Combined with best-in-



class cold chain monitoring and asset tracking technology from Beyond Wireless Proprietary Limited ("Beyond"), a World Health Organisation Performance, Quality and Safety (POS) certified remote temperature monitoring solution provider, the Cryo-Vacc™ can provide

accurate temperature readings of the vaccines whilst in transit, as well as GPS tracking to ensure the custody chain can be audited.

Beyond has active deployments in over 70 countries and are partners with numerous for-profit enterprises, Ministries of Health, as well as

several non-governmental organisations including UNICEF, the World Health Organisation, the International Committee for the Red Cross, and the Pan American Health Organisation.

Cryo-Vacc™ is ideal for both air and ground transportation, utilising liquid nitrogen to trans-

port by road and helium to transport by air. Aside from helium being only a fraction of the weight of nitrogen, significantly reducing its cost in air-freight, when used in Cryo-Vacc™ helium can accommodate up to 12 times more vials per flight compared to other cryogens based on current flight safety regulations. With the recent release of the NDoH tender for the distribution of vaccines in South Africa, Renergen has teamed up with local express courier partner, DPD Laser, which is part of The Laser Group and known for its last mile courier express capabilities and infrastructure throughout South Africa.

Renergen has already commenced discussions for the sale of units to

logistics companies outside of the South African Development Community (SADC).

"Precise temperature control combined with a formidable hold time in transit makes Cryo-Vacc™ a compelling asset in the transport of biologics, especially in the developing world. With a useful temperature range of over 150°C, Cryo-Vacc™ is very versatile when compared to even standard refrigeration technology. Every Renergen team member is truly proud to be associated with such an innovative product and we hope that Cryo-Vacc™ helps save many lives and restore some normality as the world builds herd immunity," said Renergen CEO Stefano Marani.

Total declares Force Majeure on Mozambique LNG project

Force majeure is recognized under the Mozambique Petroleum Law, which provides that "petroleum operations rights holders may lawfully suspend performance of petroleum operations on account of a force majeure event" - African Energy Chamber.

WE are disappointed about Total's recent decision to declare force majeure on its Mozambique LNG Project. While the African Energy Chamber ("AEC") (www.EnergyChamber.org) stands in solidarity with Mozambique and Total's all energy investors, we believe the declaration of force majeure could have been prevented and comes prematurely. We encourage all parties involved to have a better and more open conversation to find a practical and pragmatic common sense solution for the force majeure event to cease and for the project to resume, for the benefit not only of Total, but also of international and local companies, and especially for Mozambique's people.

While the force majeure declaration by Total is a legal instrument at its disposition to procure its objectives and compromises with its lenders and the government, we firmly believe that Total will do whatever it takes to stand with Mozambique and its people. Total is not only an international company. It is an African company as well, as it is one of its most prominent investors and employers. Total's connection to the African people goes far beyond its investments at a macro level. While many other multinational companies have left the continent, Total has remained, and we believe this commit-

ment to the continent and Mozambique specifically will continue to remain.

"Mozambique continues to be one of the most attractive options to produce gas in the world due to its carbon neutrality, representing a viable solution for climate change. Such a rare opportunity for Africa and the world," stated NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber.

"The energy industry continues to grapple with multiple insecurity issues, community engagement, climate change, energy poverty, greater cooperation between stake-

holders is required to find beneficial solutions" Added Ayuk.

Mozambique may have some important security issues at the moment; Mozambique is not within the top countries most impacted by terrorism, according to the 2020 Global Terrorism Index. Such countries include Nigeria, Pakistan, India, and Libya, where Total continues to operate. We are looking forward to Total taking the same stance in Mozambique as it has done in these countries more impacted by terrorism, and together with the government and other parties involved,

find a solution to safely continue with its LNG Project.

When energy multinationals made a decision to halt natural gas development projects in Myanmar and some declared Force Majeure, Total remained, and made a clear argument that the public stands to lose from electricity shortages. The field supplied about half of Myanmar's natural gas used for power generation.

If Total does halt gas production, "we are convinced the junta will not hesitate to resort to forced labour," Total's Chairman and CEO



Patrick Pouyanné stated at the time. In Mozambique, if this drags on and not resolved, we give an upper hand to terrorist and ISIS.

"When we stop as an industry, we nurture the hate speech against

energy projects in Africa, and we give those "haters" instruments to criticize further our good-faith efforts to make Africa better for Africans. This is not the time to allow for this. This is the time to make a stand, find

solutions, and continue exploiting our resources" concluded Ayuk.

Contents of this communication have been shortened. For the full transcript, go to: www.no-reply@apo-wire.com

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The LEDNOVA-MIDI illuminates the feed dispatch gantry.



Lighting up the gantry

BEKA Schröder has supplied the LED lighting retrofit solution for Meadow Feeds, who are one of the market leaders in the Southern African animal feed industry.

Meadow Feeds produces a variety of specialised diets and custom feed mixes for the poultry, dairy, ostrich and swine industries. The Meadow Feeds' Paarl Branch needed a

lighting upgrade for all the external and internal luminaires of their feed dispatch gantry. Their new lighting installation had to offer energy savings and less maintenance requirements.

The luminaire of choice was BEKA Schröder's robust and versatile LED bulkhead, the LEDNOVA-MIDI with wireguard. The LEDNOVA offers optimal photometric performance and high reliability to reduce energy consumption and maintenance in all types of lighting applications.

The LEDNOVA range, consisting of the MINI and MIDI sizes, has been designed and manufactured in South Africa. It is suitable for use in various environments, which include outdoor mining areas, oil and gas refineries, food and beverage plants, manufacturing process plants and any application that requires robust and well-built luminaires. The LEDNOVA range has been developed to reduce disability glare and thus improve the quality of light.

BEKA Schröder locally develops and manufactures energy-efficient LED lighting products, designed and suitable for local conditions. We are very proud to be associated with Meadow Feeds in providing a successful lighting solution for this project.

For further enquiries, contact Therlo Brown at 021 510 8900 or ct@beka-schreder.co.za



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New lighting regulations in South Africa

SOUTH Africans had until 30 April 2021 to comment on the recently gazetted specifications for new lighting regulations and general service lamps.

The specifications aim to improve the safety, performance and energy efficiency of lightbulbs approved for use in South Africa by phasing out inefficient and environmentally harmful lighting products.

If passed, lighting products, which do not meet the specifications would be removed from the market.

Ashanti Mogosetsi, Project Manager: Appliance Standards and Labelling Programme at the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), explains: "For example, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) currently on the market would not meet the specifications; it is more likely that LEDs would become the preferred choice of lamp. Although CFLs are often known as 'energy saving' lamps, they contain mercury which can be harmful."

He adds: "However, if CFLs make a technological advancement and meet these specifications in the future, then they could be legally sold. The purpose of the specifications is not to ban any particular lighting products, but to mandate their safety and performance standards."

SANEDI believes the gazetted regulations, if passed, would be a milestone in the journey towards a more environmentally sustainable country.

On 1 March 2021, on the recommendation of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), the Department for Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) proposed compulsory specifications for Energy Efficiency and Functional Performance Requirements and Safety Requirements of general service lamps. Comment is invited for two months after the publication of these notices.

Lighting regulations: a necessary development

"Currently, South Africa makes wide use of old and outdated lighting technology, which is known to be far less energy-efficient than modern lighting products such as LEDs. Further, these old lamps also contain elements that cause environmental degradation when discarded. Mercury is extremely harmful to the environment, and in turn, harms the health of people living in those environments," explains

Mogosetsi.

Mercury is the most concerning component of CFL bulbs. Everyone is exposed to some amount of mercury and high amounts of mercury can lead to long-term and sometimes permanent neurological and behavioural disorders.

In light of this, the UN Environment Programme created the

Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2013. "The convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. The compulsory specifications show that South Africa is aligned to the goals of the UN and will hopefully have good news to share at UN Climate Change Confer-

ence (COP26) due to be held in November this year," says Mogosetsi.

The Minamata Convention (COP4) will also be hosted in November 2021, where the Clean Lighting Coalition (CLC) will submit votes to amend the exemption of lighting products containing mercury, now that alternatives without mercury exist.

An economic and environmental win-win

A cost-benefit analysis by Nova Economics on the proposed specifications show that while the environment is set to benefit from new regulations, South Africa's economy is sure to see benefits, too.

The net economic benefit is expected to amount to R11,7 billion

over 15-years; with a benefit-cost ratio of 27.4 to one. "This means that the present value of the benefits is more than 27 times the present value of the costs of introducing and enforcing the regulation," explains Mogosetsi. "Electricity cost savings that accrue to South African households once the specifications are introduced,

account for most of the R11,7 billion benefit realised."

SANEDI encourages people across the country to show support for these specifications, especially NGOs and any industry bodies whose mandates are environment-centric. "Show your support for a greener and cleaner South Africa," concludes Mogosetsi.

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Leading the way in safe pre-fabricated on-site accommodation

KWIKSPACE has been in the on-site accommodation business for almost 50 years and claims industry leadership in providing 'Kwik', high quality accommodation solutions. Pre-fabricated units are also manufactured for use as offices, mobile homes, dormitories, classrooms, clinics, kitchens, storage rooms/lockers, ablution facilities or temporary structures for shows and events.

Kwikspace buildings have a minimum rated lifespan of 20 years. Not only does Kwikspace use a thicker steel grade than the industry norm; its units are also insulated with polyurethane foam instead of the standard expanded polystyrene (EPS). This provides superior strength and thermal properties. Kwikspace panels are also covered with up to 0.47mm Aluzinc painted steel, providing improved corrosion resistance as well as increased durability and longevity.

Quality is tightly managed through Kwikspace's ISO9001-certified processes. High standards are further complemented by registration with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBC), Agrément South Africa and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

"Kwikspace is fully committed to deliver products and services that consistently satisfy and exceed our customer's expectations," says Ashley Adams, the Cape Town Regional Branch Manager.

Kwikspace customers have the option to either purchase or rent. With the largest modular buildings rental fleet in Africa, Kwikspace ensures delivery in 5 – 14 working days. Kwikspace offers two purchasing options: either fully-erected modular buildings, ready for delivery and instant use, or buildings in kit form. This option allows the customer to rapidly establish a completely customised site to exact requirements, using proven prefab panel technologies - a particularly useful feature on sites with restricted access.

Kwikspace is a Level 4 BB-BEE Certified company, with manufacturing facilities in Cape Town and Johannesburg. These facilities have a combined capacity of 3 000m² per month. Through its extensive branch network, Kwikspace is able to provide cost-effective solutions throughout South Africa and beyond its borders.

Park homes and custom prefab buildings have been supplied for schools, clinics, mining, construction and humanitarian requirements. Kwikspace have also taken great pride in providing screening, vaccination and isolation rooms in support of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Latest firefighting proportioner arrives in SA

THE latest Generation III FireDos firefighting proportioner – a fire extinguishing device that uses water flow to mix extinguishing chemicals into water and deliver it at rates of up to 15 000l/min to stationary extinguishing systems, has arrived in South Africa.

Described as a first on the African continent by Mike Feldon, MD of DoseTech Fire, FireDos agents in southern Africa, revealed that the two new Generation III proportioners are destined to provide advanced foam fire protection at a crude oil depot in Ladysmith in the KZN Midlands.

“FireDos in Germany have been designing and producing proportioners and a wide range of monitors and foam delivery systems since 1994, having supplied more than 13 000 units and hundreds of monitor systems worldwide over the past 27 years.

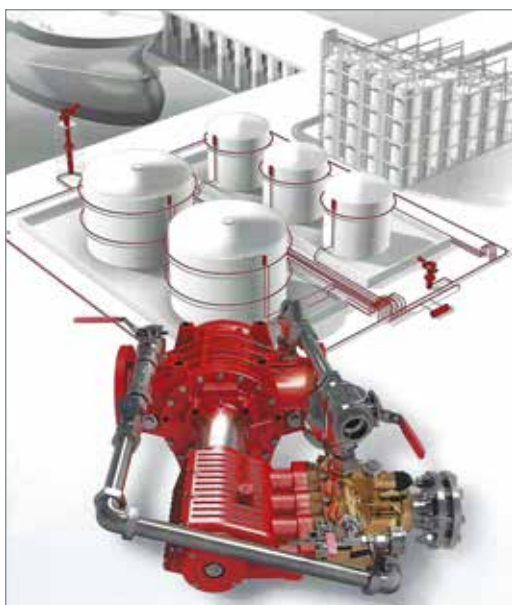
“The Generation III proportioner as the name suggests, is the latest incarnation of the breed and is

designed to handle all foam types including replacements for the soon to be superseded fluorine, which while highly effective is considered toxic in certain circumstances.”

As with earlier examples of FireDos proportioners the Generation III is purely mechanically powered, driven by water flow and independent of electricity and independent power supplies.

The FireDos product concept allows operators to minimize risks and achieve a reduction in costs while enhancing the performance of an extinguishing system. The purely mechanical concept consists of a water motor and a high efficiency piston pump. Driven just by the water flow, no electricity and no backup power supply are required.

It is capable of handling all types of foam concentrates, even highly viscous, alcohol-resistant and fluorine-free foam agents. Thanks to the wide operating range, the proportioners are



The latest Generation III FireDos proportioners.

qualified for all types of extinguishing systems like sprinkler, deluge, wet and dry extinguishing systems. When used in monitor applications, foam can be applied up to 150m from the fire site.

A constant proportioning rate across a wide operating range guarantees safe proportioning and efficient firefighting in every situation. As the

separate foam agent tank is unpressurised and can therefore be refilled whenever necessary, users benefit from unlimited firefighting time. The purely mechanical system provides a cost-efficient and eco-friendly proportioning rate testing, completely without foam.

The Generation III features a sturdier, rugged design



DoseTech's Mike Feldon gives the thumbs up to the two new FireDos proportioners, destined to protect a crude oil depot in the KZN Midlands.

for a long service life. Hydraulic optimisation reduces pressure losses by 25% compared to earlier generations while improved manufacturing precision of the cylinder cut-off valve improves suction capacity for the optimized delivery of high-viscous foam agents.

“Our relationship with FireDos goes back almost as long as we have been in business,

which is more than 30 years” explained Feldon.

“During this time we have installed and maintained FireDos proportioners at many vulnerable sites in South Africa including oil depots, harbour installations and even the helideck at Cape Town's Netcare Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital where the hospital's compre-

hensive fire protection design included foam dosing technology, foam concentrate, water cannons, and a combination of deluge and pressure-reducing valves.

“The company's helipad special risk fire protection project has received recognition as a new industry standard.

“The versatility of the FireDos proportioners has seen applications as diverse as tank farms, pump rooms, jetties, high rack warehouses and waste incineration plants.

“The world-wide environmental trend to recycling plastics presents yet another hazardous situation where intelligent fire solutions such as remote camera operated foam monitors can provide 24/7 365 day protection in storage situations, fed by the latest hi-tech foam proportioners” concluded Feldon.

For more information contact Mike Feldon – Email: mgf@dostech.co.za Tel: 08611111544, or visit www.dostech.co.za

Two new external wireless detectors

UK firm GJD has launched two new external wireless motion detectors offering powerful intruder and perimeter protection - the D-Tect X Dual Tech and the D-Tect Universal Dual Tech.

Both of the detectors are battery powered and include a quad PIR sensor module, which provides improved reliability compared to standard PIR detectors. Each sensor module

needs to trigger simultaneously in order to activate, creating a significantly higher resistance to false/unwanted alarms. They also have a built in microwave sensor which only triggers if motion is detected. The added benefit of microwave technology combined with the quad PIR ensures that false alarms are, according to GJD, almost impossible, making the detectors perfect in a

variety of ever changing weather and traffic conditions.

Ana Maria Sagra-Smith, GJD's Sales and Marketing Director commented: “The new detectors are aesthetically pleasing, extremely reliable and versatile. Their wireless design ensures quick installation, easy repositioning and can be moved anywhere as required which is ideal for temporary installa-

tions.”

The D-Tect X Dual Tech can be linked to GJD's D-Tect X wireless Receiver, which has a communication range of up to 500 metres. It is also IP65 weatherproof and tamper protected. The D-Tect X Dual Tech can be linked in its base form to four detectors, which can then be further expanded up to 16 detectors using GJD's Expander Module. Making it an ideal

solution for the protection of small and large outdoor spaces.

The D-Tect Universal Dual Tech is built with three independent negative outputs to connect to third party transmitter modules providing alarm, tamper and low battery switching; making this detector very useful for a variety of situations. Another key benefit of the D-Tect Universal Dual Tech is that the

direction of the covert sensor electronics is invisible to the human eye, providing extra safety.

Front and rear tamper switches are fitted in both products to prevent tampering. For example, if someone attempts to open the sensor then it will immediately trigger an alarm.

The detection range for both detectors is 15m x 15m with an ori-

entation of 180 degrees pan and 90 degrees tilt. The mounting height is up to 6 m, but it is recommended that the optimum mounting height is 3 m. The housing is made from a high impact ABS IP65 plastic.

For more information contact Ana Maria Sagra Smith. Tel: +44 (0) 7917 888 287 Email: ana.sagrasmith@gjd.co.uk

Siemens' fire protection system for small to medium-sized buildings

- 2-loop fire control panel connects up to 252 devices
- EN 54-23 compliant alarm devices and dedicated peripherals
- Time-saving tools such as auto configuration and on-board web server
- License free programming

WITH the launch of the new version of the fire protection system, Cerberus FIT, Siemens Smart Infrastructure expands its offering for the small to medium-sized buildings market. Various small

to medium-sized buildings can now be covered with a simple and cost-efficient solution. Cerberus FIT maximizes fire safety, thanks to greater functionality and enhanced productivity for those working on protecting the buildings. The intuitive interface as well as the auto configuration tool allow the technician to install, commission and maintain the system in a fast, easy and reliable way. With the delayed alarm function staff will be informed first to identify what an alarm is about in order to assess the situation. This ensures business

continuity and reduces disturbances to occupants of smaller buildings such as small-to-medium sized hotels, kindergartens or nursing homes.

Safety and business continuity in every situation

The Cerberus line offers a broad portfolio of detection and alarming devices including pre-configured Cerberus FIT device to choose from: from fast and reliable fire detectors to configurable alarming devices (including EN 54 compliant sounder and

voice sounder beacons) which enables smart evacuation. The newest portfolio member, the updated Cerberus FIT fire protection system now allows for second loop, supporting a maximum number of 252 addressable peripherals and devices, such as detectors as well as alarm devices. Compared to one loop panels with only 126 addressable peripherals, the second loop offers more possibilities to wire devices to the panel. All detectors and peripheral devices have an integrated line separator. In case of an interruption, the

loop turns into two stub lines while making sure the system is running. This significantly increases the safety of building occupants and ensures business continuity. Because every device is also powered by the loop, less wiring is needed, enabling the customer to achieve cost-efficiency.

Intuitive and easy operation

The new version of the Cerberus FIT control panel comes with an intuitive interface, including LED indicators with self-explanatory icons and an easy-to-read dis-

play. This avoids extensive training and allows facility staff to perform simple operational tasks on their own, without the help of experts. Thanks to its auto configuration feature, the Cerberus FIT control panel detects and automatically reads in all connected devices, providing immediate and simple operation. The integrated 'Panel Configurator' enables the configuration to be changed quickly and easily on a PC or laptop, without additional software.

Cerberus FIT is an EN-compliant fire protection system. It is approved and certified by the indepen-

dent certification body LPCB and can be used in accordance with the application standard DIN VDE V 0826-2. The new Cerberus FIT version will be available globally, maximizing the fire safety of smaller buildings as well as enhancing the productivity of everyone involved in their protection.

For more information on Siemens Smart Infrastructure, see www.siemens.com/smart-infrastructure For further information on Cerberus Fit, please see www.siemens.com/cerberus-fit

Taking the guesswork out of fleet management

CTRACK's 30 year track record can help unlock better diagnostics, support compliance reporting as well as provide tailor made analytics to aid with short and long-term decision making.

Solutions for the transport and logistics industry

CTrack's transport and logistics solutions ensure

improvements in all areas of business including safety and security, driver behaviour, productivity and efficiency, compliance and asset management.

Drivers can focus on the task at hand and keep their eyes on the road while CTrack's in cab services handle job dispatching, navigation, messaging and give feedback on driver behaviour.

Fleet managers are able to keep an eye on vehicles and take the guess work out of the transportation of loads with bespoke tools that include asset monitoring, trailer tracking, engine performance monitoring through the vehicles CAN system, temperature monitoring as well as fuel level and consumption monitoring.

Real time trailer tracking is proven to reduce cargo theft and improve trailer turnaround time as it matches loads with precise delivery points.

Added safety and security for the driver, vehicle and cargo is ensured thanks to solutions including Iris Cameras, Driver identification, Remote door unlocking and Vehicle and fleet tracking.

Real-time visibility software

All this hardware is backed up by a variety of software solutions:

- The CTrack Mobi app allows the monitoring of vehicles using a smartphone or tablet from anywhere with a cellphone signal.
- CTrack Online is a web-based portal that enables remote

monitoring of vehicles from any device with an internet connection.

- CTrack MaXx is a powerful, server based fleet monitoring and management tool that takes the usefulness of the data gathered by the vehicles one step further with a sophisticated fleet analysis package.

The Ctrack fleet analytics software uses detailed fleet analytics algorithms to smartly interpret data, providing the information needed for critical decision making in a format that is simple to react upon.

The enhanced SMILE script function for certain firmware allows non-standard events to be highlighted and reported when two events or anomalies are combined to create "new events" and conditions without the need to change firmware. Various input options can be used with integrated equipment, such as CAN data, digital lines and timers. Each of the scripts can be customised per operation, to create outputs such as buzzers, sms messages or report generation.

CTrack's Fleet Monitoring Service

Bureau service allows operators to completely outsource fleet control room activities and is backed by highly proficient hindsight, insight and foresight data analytics and reporting functions.

Dedicated fleet controllers monitor vehicle movements, incidents, alerts and alarms from a support centre, 24/7.

Driver monitoring ensures optimised driver productivity via continuous analysis of factors including; speed, harsh events, unscheduled stops and vehicle abuse.

Real time route monitoring benefits include ensuring schedule adherence, constant direct communication with the driver, geo zone mapping and adherence, the monitoring of fuel consumption and daily health checks.

Fleet data is expertly analysed and simplified, highlighting factors such as POI visits and duration count as well as driver behaviour.

The 24/7 emergency support centre can monitor a fleet every minute of every day and offers emergency response, panic alarms, tamper alarms, stolen vehicle recovery support, vehicle immobilisation, one hour free vehicle escorting service and, at an additional cost, helicopter response.

Bespoke weekly and monthly reports can reveal productivity, safety, travelling time, KM usage, after hours, driver behaviour, POI visits and EXCO monthly summaries amongst others.

CTrack have industry solutions to track a variety of assets including cars, trucks, trailers, containers, generators, packages and confidential deliveries.

For more information contact CTrack at 0860 333 444 or visit the their website www.ctrack.co.za



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Wind breaks for super-span crane

CONDRA has followed deliveries of customised cranes for injection-moulding and shipboard maintenance applications with a third overhead machine of unusual design, this one sporting an exceptionally wide span of no less than 35 metres.

A span of this magnitude is more than double the average of fifteen metres, and approaches the manufacturer's record of 42 metres.

Not only is Condra's newly completed crane unusually wide, but it is also large from an overall perspective, with box girders the height of an average man, and a 20ton two-speed hoist mounted on a seven metre-wide crab with a wheel base of six metres. A working platform of open-grid walkway and solid-forged handrail runs the full length of the machine.

The crane will be delivered to a platinum concentrator for maintenance duty. Weighing in at 33,3 tons, it has a lifting height of 18,7 metres and is controlled remotely by radio. There is a pendant backup.

During the crane's design phase, the very large size of this machine dictated careful consideration of wind loading. Condra's engineers included the company's patented storm brake to counter wind forces anticipated at the installation site.

The storm brake is activated by anemometers in two stages, the first sounding a siren when the wind speed reaches 30 km/h, and the second automatically engaging the brake at a wind speed of 50 km/h. At this point, any crane operation is de-activated and the machine automatically secured against all movement.

Condra completed final assembly, alignment and testing of the concentrator maintenance crane in the last week of March. No less than 260m² of factory floor space was set aside for this phase of manufacture.

Transport to site will require three specialised vehicles: two horse-and-dolly movers for the two box-girders, and one flat-bed trailer to be loaded with the hoist, crab, end-carriages, bottom-block, panels and ancillary equipment.

Installation and commissioning at the concentrator will be undertaken by an independent contractor

with Condra engineers in support.

Johannesburg-based Condra boasts a manufacturing pedigree going back more than 50 years. The company claims the highest local content of any overhead crane supplier in the central and southern African region, allow-

ing it to deliver overhead cranes with the lowest possible lifetime cost, supported by a comprehensive back-up service and rapid spare parts delivery.

All Condra products are manufactured to ISO 9000 standard, with the full range of cranes and hoists

encompassing capacities from 250 kg to 500 tons. A fully automated option is offered on all machines.

The company's success in securing significant orders against determined competition from other major market participants continues.

Final assembly and testing of the 35m-span Condra double-girder electric overhead travelling crane for the platinum concentrator.

This very wide-span crane is fitted with the company's patented storm brake to counter excessive wind forces.



THESE MACHINES HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED TO ENDURE

Condra cranes and hoists are without equal in their quality, performance, reliability and overall lifetime cost. Operating data and the experience gathered from installations around the globe are today incorporated in all Condra products, the endurance of which has been proven in highly corrosive and abrasive environments, and under wide extremes of temperature, humidity and altitude. Technical support, service and spare parts delivery are guaranteed worldwide.

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Access to critical healthcare hinges on logistics support

**By James R. Muhs,
Regional President,
FedEx Express,
Middle East, Indian
Subcontinent and
Africa**

SINCE the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global healthcare industry has seen significant demand for medtech products. To keep global trade moving, express logistics providers with network strength and flexibility, are continuing to play a critical role in moving pharmaceutical supplies, personal protective equipment, and other essential products to communities in need.

Logistics providers with expertise in moving goods around the world, have in-depth knowledge of local regulations, customs

requirements, and environmental conditions that help determine the right distribution route, ensuring that each shipment is delivered in a safe and timely manner. This expertise and knowledge becomes even more critical during a pandemic.

Healthcare customers want supply chains that are agile and reliable, giving them full transparency, control, and flexibility to manage risk and track and react to any unforeseen events in the supply chain. While visibility and control are important in most industry supply chains, they are absolutely essential for the healthcare sector. From manufactured biological items to pharmaceuticals, the majority of items that the healthcare industry ships are sensitive, critical, and valuable.



ical, and valuable.

Until recently, the biggest innovations in healthcare have often been around a breakthrough drug, vaccine or sophisticated medical device. However, logistics is increasingly playing a larger role in addressing some of the biggest challenges faced by this industry that can have an impact on cost, quality, and access.

One of the recent

innovations in the healthcare sector is the use of hyper-precise technology, that enables carriers to gather, see and send data, helping to ensure near real-time tracking and tracing. Using this data, healthcare companies can map information such as location, light exposure, humidity, barometric pressure, and shock events, which may impact the safety

and effectiveness of the contents of a healthcare delivery.

SenseAware, powered by FedEx, is just one such example of hyper-precise technology that tracks temperature and provides near real-time tracking and information, making the entire journey of healthcare products more connected, and accessible. This technology can be further connected using the

FedEx Surround platform, which uses artificial intelligence and predictive tools to proactively monitor conditions surrounding the packages, allowing customer support agents to intervene if issues such as weather or traffic delays threaten to delay delivery timelines.

The movement of COVID-19 vaccines is likely to take place over a long period of time, and collaboration between the active ingredient producers, vaccine manufacturers, the logistics sector, and government agencies is crucial to its success.

Vaccine distribution and allocation has its challenges, so supply chains must be able to adapt quickly. To address these challenges, it is essential that healthcare companies partner with logistics experts that have

the experience, global network, and technology solutions to handle their specific needs and provide customized solutions to help ensure safe and timely movement of vaccine and vaccine-related shipments.

Time-definite express transportation of critical shipments is exactly what our FedEx Express air network was built to do when we launched in 1973. Every step since then has prepared us for this mission. We have decades of experience and an unrivalled global network consisting of more than 5 000 facilities, over 680 aircraft, more than 200 000 vehicles, and – most importantly – nearly 600 000 dedicated team members.

*Originally published in
LogisticsNews.co.za*

President Ramaphosa, the Port of Cape Town requires your urgent attention

**Says David Maynier,
Western Cape
Minister Of Finance
And Economic
Opportunities**

WE are encouraged by the recent commitment made by President Cyril Ramaphosa to make our ports more efficient and competitive and his recent visit to the Port of

Durban.

However, we are also concerned that the Port of Cape Town may be deprioritised in the overall strategy going forward, given the extensive focus on the Port of Durban.

And so, we have written to President Ramaphosa highlighting the current challenges facing the Port of Cape

Town and requesting that he schedule an urgent visit to assess the challenges, and the measures being put in place to address those challenges in the Port of Cape Town.

The ports of Durban, Richards Bay, Gqeberha and Mossel Bay, are being prioritised for significant short term infrastructure

investments.

For example, the Port of Durban will receive significant infrastructure investment in the short term (1-2 years), including:

- 16 Rubber Tyre Gantries replaced at the Durban Pier 1 Container Terminal; and
- Straddle Carrier Replacements at the Durban Pier 2 Container Terminal.

President Ramaphosa has also indicated that they will be exploring partnerships with the private sector to bring new investment, technology and expertise to port operations and to modernise equipment and infrastructure, announcing that Transnet is planning “to advertise a concession later this year to build and operate the new Point Terminal” at Durban Port.

This investment and the partnerships with the private sector are a huge step forward, however we are con-

cerned that the Port of Cape Town will not see any infrastructure investments in the short term, and there is no mention of similar private sector partnerships in relation to the Port of Cape Town.

The Port of Cape Town is a critical infrastructure asset and, if leveraged to its full potential, could serve as a catalyst for economic growth and recovery for South Africa, but it continues to face multiple challenges primarily due to inadequate maintenance and investment in equipment.

In the 2020/21 financial year, there were approximately 5 064 incidents of equipment breakdown across all three shifts at the Port of Cape Town, which is approximately 14 breakdowns per day. The root cause of these breakdowns is largely attributed to the equipment reaching its mid-life.

Every time there is a breakdown, it means that there are operational delays, which in

turn have knock-on effects across the entire port supply chain, adding to berthing times and truck turn-around times. The general issue of slow service has also caused shipping lines to stop calling to the Port of Cape Town.

The Western Cape government established a Port Task Team, which has brought together stakeholders from across the port logistics value chain to find solutions to the challenges facing the Port of Cape Town. And while this Task Team has achieved a number of successes to date, in the important area of infrastructure investment, there is little that this group can do unless national government intervenes.

Growing exports is a key pillar of our strategy for economic growth and recovery, but to achieve this, we require a world-class Port of Cape Town.

I'm grateful to all in the port logistics supply chain, including Transnet Port Terminals



David Maynier.

management, who have shown commitment to working collaboratively to find solutions to these challenges, but our ability to increase exports will continue to be constrained unless we urgently address the infrastructure challenges at the Port of Cape Town.

We have, therefore, written to President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighting the current challenges facing the Port of Cape Town and request that he schedule an urgent visit to assess the challenges and the measures being put in place to address those challenges in the Port of Cape Town.

Cash services logistics

SOUTH African consumers remain loyal to cash. In fact, according to a recent Deloitte study, although 80% of South Africans have a bank account, most consumer transactions are still cash based, and cash usage in the economy continues to grow at an annual rate of between 6% and 10%. “These statistics

underline the need for secure, reliable and efficient cash services,” says Albert Erasmus, founder and CEO of iziCash Solutions which specialises in cash management services for the retail industry.

The volume of cash in the economy is, however, not the only reason why expert cash management is essen-

tial. Security and operational efficiency are of paramount importance, especially to the retail sector that cannot trade

Established in 2016, the company distinguishes itself in both the range and quality of services it offers, particularly in terms of security and the precision with which cash is

handled. “Our payoff line – note the difference – says it all,” comments Erasmus.

iziCash provides cash logistics and cash management services to businesses in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and Pietermaritzburg, with an exciting expansion programme into other areas in the near future.



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Automatic extinguishing solutions in recycling facilities and incineration plants utilizing heat detection

In this article, Frank Preiss Managing Director of FireDos GmbH discusses suitable fire protection systems, with a focus on automatic extinguishing solutions utilizing heat detection and remote-controlled fire monitors. FireDos are experts in proportioners and monitors for firefighting, focusing on customer service and their in-house-developed leading technology.

WITH a growing awareness towards the environment and resources, the amount of recycling and incineration facilities worldwide has increased significantly. The risk of fires in these industries is a rising concern. Solutions to extinguish these fires in the early stages of development is imperative, especially considering that the materials being processed are unpredictable. There is certainly no simple answer to this challenge, but it is an issue that needs addressing.

Development of the fire hazard situation

Over the last few years, the trend towards recycling materials has grown in many parts of the world. This has led to the division of organic wastes and recyclables and the installation of waste management companies operating incineration plants, composting plants, and recycling facilities instead of landfills. Vast amounts of materials are now temporarily stored. The fire hazards associated with this are growing as relatively dry materials with high energy contents are stored together with potential ignition sources such as Lithium-Ion batteries, household aerosol bottles, paint cans, and propane tanks. In composting facilities, decomposition can lead to temperatures high enough to cause auto-ignition of the stored material. These types of fire can be difficult to detect and often demand great effort to extinguish when detected too late. This can have serious effects on the environment and public health and jeopardize the safety of firefighters and local communities.

Potential for fire hazards

Recycling facilities are generally set up in three sections.

- Delivery and primary storage area of unsorted recycling goods (tipping floor)
- Sorting and separation facility
- Storage of separated goods such as plastic, paper, metal, glass, and compost

This article will focus on the first section of delivery and primary storage, the tipping floor. Here the complete variety of mixed waste, as it comes from our households, is tipped from collection trucks onto concrete floors or into waste bunkers. In this conglomerate of waste, both ignition sources and combustible materials are present. Damaged batteries that have developed heat are exposed to oxygen and sparks can ignite gases and vapors leaked from household aerosol bottles, paint cans, and propane tanks or formed due to decomposition of waste. Before being transported into the recycling facility via conveyor belts, workers or machines sort out as much problematic garbage as possible. Unfortunately, these components often end up inside the facilities where they may ignite and start a fire. Fortunately, most of the waste is in constant movement. Hot-spots or a fire can be monitored and quickly dealt with if the proper detection and extinguishing equipment is installed.

In incineration plants, the untreated waste is often delivered and burnt without any separation, apart from the removal of metal. The material is stored in bunkers, partially several meters high, where it may be stored for longer durations of time before being transferred to the incinerator. Here a fire may smolder below the surface without being detected and break out over a wider area.

Fire protection systems

The main extinguishing systems used in recycling and incineration plants are sprinkler or deluge systems and firefighting monitors. Depending on the goods that must be extinguished, water or foam can be used as

an extinguishing agent.

Sprinkler systems are mainly used indoors and are generally water-filled. A fire's heat will activate individual sprinkler heads that will release extinguishing water onto the area below it. If the fire spreads, additional sprinkler heads are activated to extend the extinguishing capability. Each sprinkler head is designed to protect an area of several square meters. Large areas are exposed to the extinguishing water when several sprinkler heads are activated, and the system usually must be manually deactivated. Depending on the distance between the fire and the sprinkler heads, they may be triggered too late to successfully extinguish the fire. They are mainly used in areas with low ceilings.

Sprinkler systems can alternatively be filled with a foam premix that generates extinguishing foam once released. The premix is made using specially designed proportioning systems, such as the GEN III water motor-driven proportioning pumps made by FireDos.

Deluge systems are sprinkler systems with open nozzles. They can be manually operated or may be equipped with remote-controlled valves that are triggered by heat detections systems. On activation extinguishing will occur in the complete section of a larger area.

Firefighting monitors, like the distinctive octagonal 'Oval Flat Design' from FireDos, are designed for indoor or outdoor use. When a fire is detected, they are either manually operated or can be remotely controlled. Fire monitors allow precise positioning of fire extinguishing media from a safe distance. See the following link for a FireDos M2 in action in a recycling plant: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6709360327227654144>

Dependent on the fire extinguishing system setup, it is possible to switch between water and foam. Firefighting monitors are optimally suited to be combined with detection systems to form an automatic fire extinguishing system.

Fire detection systems

We can differentiate between three common detection scenarios.

- Smoke detection
- Fire detection
- Heat detection

Smoke detectors are mainly installed under the ceiling to monitor complete halls or sections of a big area. They generally require a large amount of smoke to trigger an alarm. They are mainly used together with manual firefighting equipment utilizing hoses or firefighting monitors as the exact location of a fire must be visually confirmed. They are not well suited as components for modern automatic firefighting solutions.

Another possibility for smoke detection is the use of video smoke detection. It is recommended to use these systems only if combined with another type of detection to avoid false alarms triggered by steam, exhaust fumes or fog. These systems also require ideal lighting conditions and only work in areas with low levels of dust.

Sprinkler systems are classic fire detectors. They are not suited as components for modern automatic firefighting solutions.

Linear heat or fire detectors are sensor cables. They are mainly used to monitor tunnels or garages but may also be installed in big halls. They are generally not suited for use in incineration plants and recycling facilities but may be a suitable option for monitoring covered conveyor belts.

Most common heat detection is achieved through thermal imaging by using infrared (IR) detection technology. In contrast to detecting smoke or a fire, the environment is monitored for radiated heat. By continuously monitoring a specific point or area



Manual operated FireDos M2 on standby in recycling facility.

and measuring the actual radiated heat, or analyzing the increase in temperature, fires can be detected, even if they have not yet reached the surface of a pile. The rise of hot gases may be sufficient to detect a sub-surface fire. Usually, temperatures of 80°C are considered strong indicators of a fire. Heat monitoring of an object with an infrared early fire-detection system means a fire is identified in its formation phase.

For fire detection, continuous monitoring of the hazardous area is mandatory to detect any changes in the environment. Intentional and known heat sources such as motors from belt drives or vehicles, exhaust pipes, sun and reflections should be automatically identified and ruled out as potential fires to reduce false alarms to a minimum.

One stationary, relatively inexpensive camera can cover a large area when using a lower resolution, but this will prevent the early detection of fires while they are still small. With more sophisticated technology, such as the Orglmeister PYROsmart system, areas can alternatively be surveyed using a single pan/tilt head camera. It continuously scans a large area and builds a high-resolution radiometric panorama image. Combined with intelligent analysis software, detection and exact locating of a hot spot allows positioning of water or foam using a precise, remote-controlled monitor such as the FireDos M2 or M3. On-demand, a combination of IR and live video pictures will provide an effective analysis of the situation, especially when the resolution is high enough to allow the user to zoom into the video image.

Through self-learning and artificial intelligence (AI), the software analyzes the environment and differentiates between hot motors, exhaust pipes and hot spots that indicate potential or actual fires.

Automatic extinguishing solutions

When planning a fire extinguishing system, the most effective firefighting strategy to extinguish the wide range of possible fires must be found.

One of the steps is the decision to use water, foam or have the alternative to use either.

Assuming a plan to use a detection system, it must be decided between manual or automatic intervention. Considering that incineration plants may be operational 24/7, recycling facilities often only run one or two shifts a day, making around the clock monitoring and firefighting by staff members difficult.

In the case of manual intervention, the detection system will raise the alarm. Dependent on the system used, this may be a critical hot spot, a flame or smoke. In each case, visual confirmation of the fire threat and manual intervention of the extinguishing process is required by, i.e., activating a deluge system or utilizing a manual or remote-controlled fire monitor.

If the fire extinguishing system is automated, triggered by smoke or fire detection, a deluge system may be activated, flooding the complete area. Alternatively, a

fire monitor could automatically direct the extinguishing agent using a pre-programmed spray pattern in a pre-defined area. Deactivation of the extinguishing system is mainly done manually.

Suppose the fire detection system uses IR heat detection. In that case, a remote-controlled monitor is activated to accurately direct water or foam to the exact location of the hot-spot or fire. A pre-programmed spray pattern may be used. Deactivation may be manual, or the fire monitor can be automatically turned off after a defined extinguishing time. IR heat detection will continue and restart the extinguishing process when and where necessary.

An automatically controlled process with a multi-stage approach is also efficient when a hot spot has been detected:

1. Precise delivery of a limited volume of water to an identified area.
2. Monitoring and the additional delivery of water if the temperature has not decreased to a non-hazardous level.
3. Monitoring and the delivery of foam may be activated automatically if water does not give the required result after one or two extinguishing attempts – or the extinguishing area is enlarged.

With automatic detection and extinguishing systems, the firefighting approach can be customized to the facility, the goods to be extinguished, and the threat a fire may pose to the environment. A first step, and a significant part of the process, is to determine the best approach for firefighting with an analysis of the premises to assess detectors and fire monitors' best positioning. Optimum placement of these devices minimizes the quantity and the cost of a system.

Conclusions

When it comes to firefighting, the three steps for any facility are:

Prevention – Internal Response – Professional Response

In the event of a fire, integrated processes, and systems, consisting of state-of-the-art heat detection and automated extinguishing solutions, are essential to assure that a fire has been extinguished before a professional response is necessary.

Advanced, state of the art fire hazard detection and automatic suppression systems provide great potential to reduce damage and property loss. Although the initial investment cost is higher than for traditional methods, by focusing on early detection and smart, precise extinguishing, rather than extended firefighting, plant owners and operators can reduce reoccurring costs and facility shutdowns can be reduced and the total cost of operation optimized.

For more information go to www.firedos.com or contact local agents mgf@dosetech.co.za, Email: mgf@dosetech.co.za or Tel: Mike Feldon 0861111544.

Concrete industrial floors need special skills

INDUSTRIAL concrete floors are essential for South Africa's industrial growth but also poses more problems for the construction industry than most other concrete projects, says John Roxburgh, senior lecturer at The Concrete Institute's School of Concrete Technology.

Roxburgh says without a well-designed, fit-for-purpose and low maintenance concrete industrial floor, factories, warehouses, storage and retail areas or other hard standing areas cannot operate at optimum efficiency. He believes the importance of a sound concrete industrial floor is often overlooked but should be the main priority for minimising long-term operational costs.

"Industrial floors

on the ground typically appear simple in their design and construction but in reality they can become nightmares for the unskilled. The Concrete Institute can testify to that because when it comes to the various concrete elements in a building, the industrial floor is by far the most problematic in meeting specifications and performance requirements, and attracts the highest volumes of calls for advice and help to TCI."

Although a concrete floor is constructed on the ground - with minimal reinforcement - it is required to possess stringent and diverse qualities, including:

- The correct thickness.
- Level, flat and at the right height construction.



- Hard-wearing dust free surface.
- Capacity to carry large imposed loads over its entire surface - including across its joints and at its corners and sides.
- To be aesthetically

pleasing with minimal surface defects and cracking.

"The concrete used for the industrial floors needs certain plastic and hardened properties to perform and so the mix designs for these concretes are

more constrained and require greater attention to detail. Concrete floors are also often constructed under adverse conditions. The large surface to volume ratio of a floor makes its construction very vulnerable to hot,

windy and dry conditions.

"The most common problems in industrial floors are cracking, joint failure, curling, dusting, scaling, surface wear, sealant failure and excessive lateral movement of forklifts and pallet jacks.

An underperforming floor will result in slowing down of forklifts, pallet jacks and reach trucks. This causes maintenance costs on all packing, stacking and lifting machinery to soar along with more frequent and costly repairs of the floor resulting in more downtime and the need for spare machinery - all resulting in a less efficient operation," Roxburgh contends.

"The good news is that good floors can

be constructed. To help educate those involved with concrete floors, The Concrete Institute offers a one day course, 'Industrial floors on the ground' lectured by MD Bryan Perrie, an internationally recognised expert on concrete floors, in which all the design principles and concrete practice needed to produce a good floor are covered. The course also includes floor repair and maintenance. All engineers, contractors, concrete specialists, floor coating applicators, managers of warehouses and clients involved with industrial floor will benefit greatly by attending the course which is planned for Midrand, Cape Town and Durban later this year," Roxburgh adds.

TPT gear up for bumper citrus season

TRANSNET Port Terminals (TPT) is gearing up for yet another successful citrus season this year, following a 16% year on year increase in volumes handled last year - the highest ever recorded. This, despite disruptions within the supply chain brought about by COVID19.

A combination of interventions introduced last year will be employed again this season. These include a revision of TPT's reefer operating guidelines introduced last year to enhance user experience, following input from internal and external stakeholders. "There were exten-

sive pre-season engagements with all terminals to manage readiness with a key focus on people, equipment and process optimisation - something we are continuing with this year. We further have weekly integrated planning meetings with both internal and external supply chain

stakeholders. This proved especially crucial for deviation management throughout the season," said Siyabulela Mhlaluka, General Manager of Sales and New Business at TPT. He added that introducing the truck booking system at the Durban Container Terminals Pier 1 and

Pier 2 had a significant contribution towards reducing peak congestion and ensuring workloads were spread out over a 24-hour period.

Citrus season will begin in April at the Durban, Port Elizabeth and Ngqura Container Terminals. With a gradual resurgence in

demand because of positive business sentiment attributed to vaccine rollouts in major economies, there will be strain on supply chain capacity according to Mhlaluka. However, the arrival of 22 new straddle carriers at the Durban Container Terminals Pier 2 between May and July this year will boost sea-

son performance.

Citrus fruits form about 55% of South Africa's fruit production and are exported in refrigerated containers called reefers to over 100 countries mainly in the European Union (EU), Russia, United States of America (USA) and Mediterranean countries.

Tips for water softener selection

ALL boilers need a softener, as well as cooling towers, as boilers help to prevent scale on heat transfer surfaces.

JP Thyse, Senior Technician at Allmech, local manufacturer of boilers and supplier of water treatment components, explains that water is treated for several reasons: to protect plant and equipment, to prevent scale and corrosion, to increase boiler efficiency, to reduce downtime and to reduce maintenance

costs.

"Scale causes poor heat transfer, hot spots and tube failure, under deposit corrosion and reduced boiler efficiency, and process contamination," says Thyse. "You get different types of scale deposits, such as hardness deposits of calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate, as well as phosphate, silica, and iron deposits. Aside from scale, water treatment can also help to prevent corrosion

issues."

He notes that it is important to choose the correct water treatment solution for your particular requirements, as there's no one-size-fits-all option that will work in the long term. "Before you can consider a solution, you need to test your water to see what you're dealing with."

A trustworthy supplier can then help you to choose the right softener and system, taking into account your hours

of operation, maximum demand (e.g. some boiler applications have peaks and troughs, such as in a mine change-house), your flow rate and your water hardness. "An experienced water treatment technician can also help to solve specific problems related to your water supply. For example, by softening the raw water and using scale inhibitors you can address hardness deposits. Silica deposits can be dealt with by maintain-

ing boiler water alkalinity at a 3x silica level, or using a demineralisation plant."

"Our softeners are based on salt regenerated ion exchange resin technology," says Thyse. "Basically, the resin is a polymer that removes calcium and replaces it with water soluble sodium. But, if your sodium content is too high, it affects the resin's ability to regenerate. Instead of regenerating in cycles, it does so constantly, and will

become ineffective. The resin requires saturated brine to regenerate and the salt needs 8 hours in water to dissolve to saturation level."

"In a properly specced system that's working as it's meant to, the resin in a softener can run up to 10 years, depending on site conditions," Thyse says. "If you're changing your resin more regularly you know you have a problem. That's why we suggest monthly water treatment ser-

vices to all our customers where we test softener equipment and water sources."

He adds that borehole and spring water quality may be affected by rainfall or other factors, so it's important to regularly test it and adjust your system as required. Softeners can regenerate from between every eight hours or once a month - depending on the interval required, which is determined by water quality and size.

Steel industry duties and the great misconception

By Gerhard Papenfus, Chief Executive of the National Employers' Association of South Africa (NEASA)

ON 17 February 2021, Business Day published an article, 'Essential for SA to retain primary steel industry', by Dr Bernie Fanaroff, an adviser to Minister Patel and the main driver of the Steel Master Plan, within which he claimed that there is overwhelming support for a primary steel

producer in both the upstream and downstream sectors of the steel industry. Dr Fanaroff also confirms his support for the import duties to protect the primary steel industry and claims, on the basis of alleged discussions with industrialists, that the duties are necessary to ensure the survival of the steel industry.

This cannot be further from the truth.

A survey done by NEASA a few months ago revealed that more than 95% of steel companies support the

immediate scrapping of the duties. The downstream condition for AMSA's presence in the South African steel market is that AMSA has to prove its value as a primary steel producer without duty protection. A further, very recent survey, once again confirmed that there is absolutely no appetite for the duties to protect AMSA.

The article states that there was broad consultation with both upstream and downstream industry players that support the duties

protecting AMSA. NEASA's surveys and discussions with steel industry role players, which included many of South Africa's most prominent role players, revealed exactly the opposite. If it wasn't for this broad consensus NEASA would not have adopted its current approach with regard to the duties.

It is furthermore stated in the article that the duties have no influence on the price of steel, but the facts show the contrary. AMSA deliberately created a

shortage which resulted in their prices being 16% higher compared to current world steel prices. That is just below the 18% tariff protection granted by Government to protect AMSA; and just enough to make the importation of the current shortfall unfeasible. This amounts to a conspiracy against the downstream.

The shortages are also not a worldwide phenomenon. In 2020 AMSA cut production by 47%, compared to world production that was 1% lower com-

pared to that achieved in 2019. It must also be noted that the Competition Commission already found in 2010 that AMSA deliberately misled Government with regards to the so-called 'Basket Price'.

The steel industry currently finds itself in a dire predicament. This is because the industry, under the current duties regime, cannot import the shortfall.

It is simply astonishing that Dr Fanaroff reaches the conclusion that the duties will "save" the industry.

Exactly the opposite is true. Unless AMSA can supply the South African steel market with high-quality steel at competitive prices, it will be beneficial for the steel industry if AMSA closes its primary production facilities.

Any approach contrary to this is not based on the facts and aimed at protecting the AMSA monopoly. The reason for the Government's concern over AMSA, to the detriment of the downstream, is completely illogical.

Social impact study highlights structural causes of poverty

Some of the findings from the study include:

- More than 87% of the respondents said that FFSA positively contributed to their food budgets.
- If BOs did not get support from FFSA, their meal cost would be 34% more.
- 81% of the BOs said that their attendance would drop if FFSA discontinued support.
- For every kg of food donated, R117 worth of food value was created, as the BOs were able to serve more meals.

FOR every R1 donated to FoodForward SA (FFSA), impact that is worth R98.07 is generated. This is one of the findings of an independent Return on Social Investment (SROI) report compiled by Impact Amplifier, a specialist in the business social impact measurement space.

“The report is a first of its kind for Africa,” says Tanner Methvin, one of the partners at Impact Amplifier. Methvin shared findings from the report at FoodForward SA’s annual stakeholder meeting, which was facilitated online through Cape Town Conference Centre, on Thursday, 18 March 2021.

The SROI report evaluates the impact of FFSA’s foodbanking model and sheds light on how foodbanking brings about social change. During the assessment period, 1 March 2019 to 29 February 2020, FoodForward SA distributed 5 082 308 kg of food to its network of just over 1 000 registered beneficiary organisations (BOs). The total economic value FFSA created was R588 million and more than R1,6 billion worth of SROI was generated from FFSA’s activities in the 2019/2020 financial year.

“The 91-page report reviews the impact of FFSA’s activities and includes statistics that dispel the myth that feeding people does not address the structural causes of poverty,” says FoodForward SA MD, Andy Du Plessis. The study, which involved 80 of FoodForward SA’s beneficiary organisations across three provinces, reports that “47% of respondents noted that, if FFSA were to stop its support, they would have to adjust their feeding programme significantly, while 41% of the BOs said that they would have to stop theirs. According to the BOs, 83% of their beneficiaries are reliant on social grants or support from family, which makes the average household income of individuals receiving services from the BOs registered with FFSA less than R1 000 per family.”

“South Africa is the most unequal society in the world. Shamefully, we wore this badge of dishonour well before the Covid-19 pandemic,” says Du Plessis. “The stark inequality in our social order became significantly more visible when our nation was suddenly plunged into a state of disaster, a year ago. Under lockdown level 5, millions of people who depended on a daily and weekly income for survival joined millions of others who were destitute and vulnerable well before Covid-19.”

“At the centre of our nation’s deeply-



A FoodForward delivery to the needy.

rooted structural inequality are two core problems – poor education and poor nutrition. Since 50% of our youth do not complete grade 12, skills shortages and unemployment are escalating. Because of low education levels, most people earn meagre incomes and will not be able to afford a sustainable livelihood. Unexpected disasters like pandemics leave poor people most vulnerable.” The World Health Organisation (WHO) regards poor nutrition as the most significant threat to the world’s health. They state that, overall, under-nutrition is the single largest killer of children under 5 years (45%).

“We need our government to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth, but its track record is dismal. Poor performance and deep-rooted corruption of state-owned entities like Eskom, SAA, PRASA and SABC do not inspire confidence,” says Du Plessis. While business is a key driver of economic growth business confidence is declining. Released recently, the RMB/BER Business Confidence Index (BCI) for the first quarter of 2021, shows that seven out of ten senior executives expressed dissatisfaction with prevailing business conditions. “This is up from six in the previous quarter and is a clear indication that businesses are following a cautious approach and will likely not hire more staff at the required pace, at least for the foreseeable future. With unemployment at 42%, when considering its broad definition, the inequality divide will only widen, given our current crisis. This will lead to further generational poverty, for most of our people,” says Du Plessis.

“There is another pathway to better education and nutrition outcomes in underserved communities – the social impact of the collective efforts within the non-profit sector,” says Du Plessis. He feels that this has largely been overlooked as a vital driver for change. Traditionally, the non-profit sector is viewed as a charitable segment where benevolence is granted to people and organisations that seem to do some kind of social good. “Unfortunately, most charities do not keep reliable records, do not manage their finances well, do not have good governance in place, cannot demonstrate their impact and are not transforming into viable

contributors to social change. To their detriment, they have been criticized as being the recipients of funds for which they have little measurable results to show for their efforts, says Du Plessis.

By tracking relevant social, environmental and economic outcomes related to the surplus food they recover and distribute via their Second Harvest, Warehouse Foodbanking, Mobile Rural Depot and FoodShare programmes, FoodForward SA is able to measure how much change or value their efforts create. “A growing number of corporates seek to direct their Corporate Social Investment (CSI) or Socio-Economic Development (SED) budgets to outcomes that generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact,” says Du Plessis.

The report also found that “72% of BOs that were part of this assessment do not charge a fee for the services they provide. The majority (75%) of the BOs reported that the food items received from FFSA are not enough to run their food programme and almost all (97%) would like to receive more food from FFSA. The food donations distributed by FFSA to the BOs contributes 34% of the food for meals served; while more than 65% of the total food supply is sourced by the BOs separately as direct purchases, harvested from own food gardens and contributions from other organisations.

“Despite its challenges, the NPO sector provides vital services that stave off hunger, support educational and personal development and give vulnerable people a fighting chance. While not sufficiently documented, there are thousands of success stories of vulnerable people who were able to thrive because of receiving the care and support they needed,” says Du Plessis.

The SROI report was compiled by conducting case studies, site visits, interviews and surveys through a representative sample of its BOs. It assesses whether the food provided by FFSA made a difference and demonstrates how quality surplus food is used as a catalyst for social change in vulnerable communities. Of the participating BOs, 57% provide services that fall under youth and community development which includes orphans and vulnerable children, 35% provide educational services and 8% provide health care services.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

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- Automation Systems / Instrumentation Measuring / Process Control Monitoring
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“Planet Rescuers” videogame promotes STEM education

SIEMENS Gamesa has launched Planet Rescuers, a global educational adventure on sustainability and energy where children ages 8 to 12 will embark on a journey through the popular Minecraft Education Edition universe with a single destination: a sustainable world.

The project is part of Siemens Gamesa’s long-term Social Commitment strategy focused on promoting the United Nations SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Goal 4 for Quality Education.

“The goal of this initiative is to awaken children’s curiosity about concepts such as what energy is for, the different energy sources, electricity generation, or the

problem of CO2 emissions through different adventures with a game that is very familiar to them,” says Maria Cortina, Director of Social Commitment at Siemens Gamesa.

“At Siemens Gamesa, we are concerned about the growing lack of interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), so we want to motivate young people to study those disciplines. We believe it is important to educate them in sustainability so that tomorrow’s citizens will be able to make responsible decisions and help save the planet,” she adds.

Planet Rescuers is available in English

and Spanish, and it is an adventure where players will travel in time to discover, through missions and different scenarios, the importance of protecting the environment, different sources of energy, and how to build an offshore wind platform. Siemens Gamesa wants to take advantage of today’s digital transformation tools to foster vocations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Siemens Gamesa is working on a plan to introduce its video game in schools around the world.

For more information please visit <https://planetrescuers.org/>

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Here we go again, Your Honour

“TO speedy justice in the Piet Retief case,” said Luke the Dude, “for the five farmers facing suspicious-looking murder charges. Doesn’t this bring back bad memories of the Coligny case, Steve?”

Stevie the Poet had kept the company of concerned conversationalists at the local Grill and Garden informed about the two Coligny farm lads who were falsely accused and wrongfully convicted of murder – before justice finally triumphed in the Appeal Court.

“There are reasons to be concerned,” said Stevie.

“Well, tell us, dear boy, tell us,” encouraged The Prof.

“I can tell you what I have learned from reporting by Gabriel Crouse of the Institute of Race Relations and from a statement by the IRR’s CEO, Dr Frans Cronjé, reported in Daily Friend,” offered Stevie, “and of course reporting in the newspapers; Rapport is doing a good job.

“We have two versions plus independent evidence of what happened on April 9. Briefly:

“Version 1 includes the allegations of state witnesses as summarised at the bail hearing. A group of men came to look for work on the Pampoenkraal farm outside Piet Retief. One of them was assaulted and tied to a tree; the others went to call reinforcements. The farmers, farm workers and local leaders also called for support.

“The two groups faced each other across the road, one wanting the release of their detained friend, the other refusing and telling them to leave. They didn’t and in the process two of them were shot dead. End of Version 1.

“Version 2 states that the group of men who arrived were aggressive towards the current farm workers, who called a farmer, Werner Potgieter. When he tried to talk to the aggressors, he was assaulted with a knobkierie. The assaulter was detained and the police were called before 11 a.m. Potgieter was taken to hospital. The police did not react until after the shootings, more than an hour later.

“The two brothers who were later shot, Zenzele and Amos Coka, were on the scene and seen arguing.

“During the stand-off, Amos Coka hit Hans Moolman, a neighbouring farmer, on the head with a steel pipe, knocking him out. Coka managed to grab his unconscious victim’s gun and run for safety behind a bakkie. He was shooting while he was running, accidentally hitting his own brother, who died from the fatal shot. Then the shooter himself was shot, allegedly by Johann Klingenberg, in self-defence when Amos Coka was firing at farmers through the bakkie’s open windows.

“Moolman was taken to hospital and is being treated for very serious injuries.

“Those are the two versions. The independent evidence includes security videos covering part of the scene, including the conduct of the confronting parties and aggressive behaviour by the late Coka brothers. And then, importantly, the conduct of the police. Despite being merely some 10 minutes away, they finally arrived only after being called again because of the shootings, and then proceeded to arrest four farmers and the farm manager of Pampoenkraal.

“Their methodology in detecting the five alleged criminals was, shall we say, eye-opening. The police lined up in the middle of the road, between the two sides, and asked the intruders to call out the names

of the farmers who shot at them. Then the cops booked those men and locked them up on suspicion of murder and other serious charges. No assaulter was arrested.

“This unusual piece of police work is a travesty. For instance, there is reason to believe that one of the arrested farmers, Naas Steynberg, was not even on the scene when the shots were fired. He arrived only about 20 minutes later, another farmer told Rapport.

“Then there is the very troubling behaviour of the police in court. In a podcast on the first bail hearing, Gabriel Crouse relates that the State had called the investigating officer to testify. While doing so, the witness’s attention repeatedly shifted to a policeman sitting out of view of the magistrate and the Defence. This person was holding up a board with writing for the witness to read. New messages followed as the evidence progressed.

“After about an hour of this witness tampering – while the witness was on the stand! – the Defence noticed and interrupted to inform the magistrate what was happening literally behind his back. The policeman hastily tried to hide his board and claimed vehemently that the papers were merely his notes.

“The Defence was having none of that and an adjournment was called by the magistrate to see the State and the Defence in chambers. There was no further attempt at witness interference when the hearing resumed.

“But as of today, the final word has not been spoken on the admissibility of that investigating officer’s evidence, at the very least.”

“Right, gentlemen and beautiful ladies!” called The Governor. “Our learned friend adv. Stevie must have a parched throat by now, so let’s give him a break and refill our glasses.”

“Hmmm,” pondered Big Ben, “why do you think this is the same as the Coligny case?”

“May I, Stevie,” interrupted The Prof, no doubt in consideration of Stevie’s throat, “some of the circumstances are the same, enough for race-driven politicians to twist, in order to inflame the community with a narrative of white farmers vs black victims – to the extremes of prejudice where truth and justice are expected to take a back seat, under threat of violence.

“Such intimidation has been evident. Among the vehicles stoned by a bail-protesting mob, was one where a large stone

OPINION

ON THE CONTRARY



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Pieter Schoombee
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hit the side of a man’s head, probably through an already broken window. He was left for dead and his full recovery is not guaranteed.

“The evil warning has been spoken: If the accused get bail, the town goes up in flames.

“It took the involvement of Afriforum to finally get justice in the Coligny case. The good news is, they have appointed a lawyer to monitor the Piet Retief case. And the bottom line to cheer you all up: the IRR are doing their own, truth-driven, investigation of the facts.”

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There always seems to be a catch with Green technology

THERE seems to always be a catch with Green technology. Just when you think there has been a breakthrough that will make all the promises believable, something or other pops up to make you think again.

It’s a case of “Back to the drawing board”. Not that anyone in developing countries is prepared any time soon to close coal-fired power stations or stop planning at least a few nuclear ones. But there you are.

The latest Green breakthrough that got (almost) everyone excited reminded me of how graphene was going to make batteries super powerful and capable of holding a charge almost forever. We are still waiting to see them on our shelves.

The source of the hype and hope was again British scientists. This time those clever chaps say they have found a way to use nuclear waste in the shape of Carbon 14 to make diamonds and thus, buy a scientific miracle too complex for most of us to understand, create batteries capable of powering your laptop almost forever, and your cell phone, and all the thousand and one gizmos that rely these days on lithium-iron batteries.

Imagine being able to raise a two-fingered salute to Eskom and all those overpaid and over-manned municipalities who take such a large bite out of our after-tax incomes. Imagine factory-made goods dropping in price as their input costs drop. I can’t wait for this promise of energy plenty to come about. At last the pie-in-the-sky will be edible.

Those with shares in oil companies need not panic. Even in this future, there will still be hundreds of uses for petroleum products – lubricants to lipstick to artificial rubber covers a mere fraction.

But my Green enthusiasm is getting the better of me. There is a flaw in the diamond nuclear battery promise of clean power --

it’s nuclear. And we all know how terrified everyone is of all nuclear radiation – however small. So the chances of persuading thousands of people, if not millions, to wear a nuclear device on their wrists, hold one to their ears, and (shudder) have one on your desk at work, is slim. Very slim.

So it’s back to lithium-ion batteries. But wait, they too contain a snag that Greens would rather no one knows. They contain cobalt. A nice shiny EV motor car that our own Elon Musk peddles so successfully contain more than 15 kilos of the stuff.

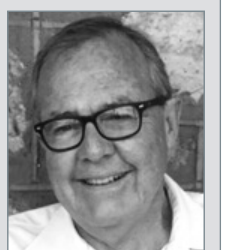
So what is the snag exactly? Well, you see, most cobalt comes from inconvenient parts of the world that are not noted for their health and safety measures, trade union freedoms, or indeed any kind of freedom other than the freedom of their rulers to do some deep mining of their own.

The list is sobering if you consider such things as individual liberty important.

Cobalt is found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) “the worst forms of child labour,” are practised on the mines. They include forcing children to carry heavy loads, digging, and sifting, sorting, using explosives, and working underground.

The OECD found that 13% of the labour force in cobalt mines are below the age of

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN



.....
Keith Bryer
.....

18 and almost half are between 10 and 15 years of age. There are even some less than 10. Overall the child labour force in the DRC numbers 40 000.

Much of the balance of world cobalt supplies come from places like Cuba, the Philippines, Russia, Madagascar, and China where safety is at best an afterthought.

There are a few places where everything is above board but still, Cobalt is a flaw in the Green ideal.

This may change as the word spreads, but like the awful long term pollution involved in the making of photo-voltaic panels, and the massive quantities of carbon dioxide emitted in the making of wind turbine towers, it makes the sceptics wonder how Green the future will really be.

