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Government wrestles control for upgrading water infrastructure away from “distressed” municipalities

A change to the Revenue Act opens the way for the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) to bypass crisis hit municipalities, excluding them from R17,86-billion in funding.



service, capacity weaknesses in many municipalities have seen its role steadily change, and it has now become directly involved in the administration of upgrade projects.

The amendment to the Division of Revenue Act has already seen MISA become the implementing agent that will upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure at two municipalities.

“The conversion has already commenced in two municipalities, namely uThukela District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal and Emfuleni Municipality in Gauteng,” said Deputy President Paul Mashatile, who was briefing Members of Parliament (MPs) in the National Assembly on various issues in November.

MISA already supports 22 dysfunctional municipalities, which were regarded as the worst performing in a total of 66 dysfunctional municipalities, as identified in the 2022 State of Local Government Report.

Room for improvement

Though MISA, which is a relatively unknown agency, is key to upgrading water and sanitation infrastructure, its performance has dropped over the past few years.

The budgetary review and recommendations report of the portfolio committee on cooperative governance and traditional affairs says despite achieving its sixth consecutive clean audit, there was “a significant and drastic decline” in the organisation’s service delivery performance over the last four financial years.

MISA’s expanding mandate and municipal budgetary constraints are the reasons for its failure to achieve the planned target of reducing non-revenue water losses by 5%.

Even so, the portfolio committee was still critical. “The entity’s downward performance curve during the period under review is a cause for concern. The unfavourable audit findings around issues of

Continued on P2

2025 Mining Indaba relocates government activities to CTICC 2 building

Move will see state role players increase their participation in one of the world’s premier resource conferences.



THE 2025 Mining Indaba’s government activities will be “larger and more impactful” following its relocation to the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) 2 building. The 2025 Mining Indaba, which will be held from 3 to 6 February, in Cape Town for the 31st time, is one of the world’s premier resources conferences. This can be seen in the 2024 event having over 9 900 delegates attending, had 410 speakers, and hosted 1 200 investors and 1 500 mining executives.

Collaboration between government and private sector

Aside from being a gathering place for players in the private sector, it is also a venue for government decision-makers to share ideas and conclude deals. The growing importance of the role of governments can be seen in the 44 C-level mining executives and 24 government ministers discussing and further strengthening public-private collaboration on the sustainable development of Africa’s mining sector, at the 2024 Mining Indaba’s Ministerial Symposium.

Continued on P2

By Larry Claasen

AN amendment to the Division of Revenue Act opens the way for the national government to wrestle control from “distressed” municipalities when it comes to upgrading their water infrastructure.

This move is a response to the water crisis, primarily caused by underinvestment and lack of maintenance in water and sanitation infrastructure by municipalities.

The scale of the crisis can be seen in the 2023 Blue Drop Report, finding that 277 of 958 (29%) water supply systems were “in a critical state” in the country compared with 174 systems in 2014. The crisis is so great there is a growing fear that Johannesburg might be heading to “Day Zero”, where its taps will one day run dry.

The change to the act that sees the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) go from a Schedule 5b (direct grant) to a Schedule 6b (indirect grant) is one way to

address the crisis.

This amendment means the grant, which is meant to upgrade municipal infrastructure, will not be given directly to a troubled municipality but rather to the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), which will be the “implementing agent”.

BRICS backing

The change will effectively mean that problem municipalities will not have direct access to \$1-billion (R17,86-billion) loan from the New Development Bank - a BRICS funding institution - which will be used to upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure in the country via the MIG.

Although the government has the money, it is hesitant to trust faltering municipalities that were responsible for the crisis with the funding. This is why MISA, which was formed in 2011 to provide technical support to municipalities, has become a key player in addressing the crisis.

Though MISA started out as a support

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Government wrestles control for upgrading water infrastructure away from “distressed” municipalities

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indicator measurability and reliability are indicative of planning that is not sufficiently realistic.”

Wait and see

Companies looking to partner with the agency might also have to wait a while. Though it says it is looking for private sector partners to invest in municipal infrastructure, it did not enter

into any private sector partnerships for the 2023/2024 period.

It has, however, issued several tenders, such as the one for R50-million for the installation of bulk water meters for the Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality in Mpu-malanga. It has also issued a R50-million tender for the refurbishment of two boreholes and installation of the

associated elevated storage and water pre-treatment facilities for the Ngwathe Local Municipality.

A difficult business model

Bringing in the private sector to help solve the water crisis is easier said than done. This is according to a position paper funded by the Water Research Commission, which said municipal

water infrastructure performance-based contracts (PBCs) only work in a limited number of cases.

“The research found that PBCs are an attractive and viable option but are only applicable in a small number of municipalities and where a number of pre-conditions have been met. Setting up and sustaining PBCs requires effort and

commitment on the part of the municipality, and external technical and financial support may be required.”

In essence, it found that functional municipalities did not need to bring in an outside contractor to run their water infrastructure effectively, and dysfunctional municipalities presented too many risks for the private sector to get involved with.

2025 Mining Indaba relocates government activities to CTICC 2 building

Continued from P1

Enhanced government presence at CTICC 2

In recognition of the importance of the government’s contribution to the mining sector, the government activities will be relocated to CTICC 2 building, which has six exhibition halls, four meeting suites, five meeting pod rooms, an executive boardroom, three open-air terraces including a rooftop venue, a coffee shop, and a multi-level parking garage. CTICC 2 was opened at the start of 2018 and cost R900-million.

Expanding space for critical discussions

“This move aims to provide ministers with a larger and more collaborative space to participate in crucial discussions and projects for

sustainable investment and development in the mining sector. With a focus on enhancing attendee experience, the new government hub will serve as a central point for ministers to navigate the full Mining Indaba event with ease,” said Mining Indaba.

Key themes from Mining Indaba 2024

The 2024 Mining Indaba saw governments and the private sector addressing the stubborn challenges of logistics and infrastructure investment, attracting exploration spend, driving investment in the sector, reducing policy uncertainty, and overcoming skills shortages.

Challenges facing Africa’s mining growth

The three key themes

were identified as major inhibitors to Africa’s growth: limited exploration spend and investment, reducing minerals right issuing backlogs, and unexploiting its critical minerals abundance.

Long-term solutions to exploration challenges

Challenges in mineral rights including corruption, bureaucracy, and red tape, were raised as issues. It was also noted that increasing exploration was crucial, as a mine could take decades to build. Long-term strategies, such as cadastral systems, could help alleviate the lack of exploration across Africa.

Post-event report tracks solutions

In the Mining Indaba

2024 Post Event Report, solutions to these issues included advancements in geological mapping and identifying mineral endowments to encourage exploration. The Ministerial Symposium would track progress in addressing these challenges, with post-event gatherings for feedback.

Mantashe calls for regional value chains

Then Gwede Mantashe, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, in his opening address at the 2024 Ministerial Symposium did not hesitate to address the sector’s most pressing issues. He said transforming mining needs the building of regional value chains and forming part of supply chains in the global green economy, while also making a

meaningful impact on people’s lives through socio-economic development and sustainable growth.

Collaboration and sustainable development

He also pointed out that transformation required a shared understanding of what Africa wants to achieve; how African countries can better collaborate, for example, along regional value chains and leveraging agreements such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (Af-CFTA); how countries can overcome one of the biggest challenges, namely access to energy, and how to respond with peaceful solutions to the geopolitics of the scramble for critical minerals.

Santam rewards program and business finance to be launched

By Larry Claasen

SHORT-TERM insurance group Santam will

be launching a rewards program as part of its brand relaunch.

The 106 year old insurer is repositioning

its brand to reflect its new brand new concept: “Living in the moment, not in the worry”.

Santam head of brand, Nondumiso Mabece says the repositioning is the “first of many exciting developments that we have planned for the brand and for our clients – the individuals, businesses and corporates – who trust us to deliver on our values.”

Rewards program to add value for customers

One of these steps will see it launch a rewards program as a way to provide more value to its customers.

“We definitely will come back with an exciting offering in terms of rewards. We definitely understand that when you’re paying a hundred rand for something, it’s really great to get something back,” she said.

Mabece did not specify what such a program would entail,

but said it was part of its strategy of providing more value to its customers.

“We’ve seen the banks do it. We’ve seen many service providers do it. And it’s very beneficial because you know that if I pay a hundred rand here, I know I get value in something else.”

Though Mabece did not say when the program would be launched, she said the group was excited about it.

“It is something that we definitely want to introduce as an organisation. So your readers must watch this space. There’s going to be something exciting.”

Having a rewards program also caters for customers who are increasingly taking strain. The aftermath of the pandemic, the sharp rise in inflation, and the energy crisis have all hurt the econ-

omy.

With South Africans under financial pressure, paying for insurance might seem like a grudge purchase to many.

Mabece says Santam understands this, and that is why it is looking at ways to provide more value to its customers. One of the ways it is doing this is bundling home and vehicle insurance together and getting a discount for the package deal.

“If you contact us and you combine your home insurance and your vehicle insurance, you get a specific discount. So those kinds of things are initiatives that we look at to further assist our clients.”

Business support services for SMEs

Santam is also offering business support services to its business customers. For

an additional R40/month, businesses can get access to marketing services, and an attorney.

“We can get specialists to help you write a marketing plan. We can introduce you to digital marketing specialists who can help you develop your website. We can help you with an attorney if you want to just clear out your legal issues, if there’s contracts to read.”

Aside from business support, Mabece says the insurer will also be moving into business finance.

“We’re launching a very exciting proposition where we also tie that to business funding as well. So we don’t just look at SMEs in South Africa as insurance clients, but we look at SMEs as businesses that we can assist to develop, to grow.”



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TFG and JD Sports launch first store in South Africa, signalling major retail expansion

By Larry Claasen

TFG (The Foschini Group) has opened the doors to southern Africa's first JD Sports store at Canal Walk Mall, Cape Town, marking a significant milestone in the region's retail sector.

This partnership between TFG and the UK-based JD Sports Fashion introduces a globally recognised sports and lifestyle retailer to South African shoppers.

JD Sports has over 3 300 stores in 34 countries, and was founded in Bury, Greater Manchester, as "John David Sports."

Transforming South Africa's sports fashion landscape

The collaboration between TFG and JD Sports is intended to reshape South Africa's sports fashion market, with an ambitious goal of generating up to R2,5-billion in turnover by 2029. TFG expects to generate R250-million from its JD Sports stores for the 2025 financial year.



ecosystem and strong relationships with top global brands like Nike, Adidas, Puma, and The North Face position us to deliver an elevated consumer experience," TFG noted.

JD Sports also brings its mix of global brands alongside private labels like Pink

operates the Rockwear, Sneaker Factory, Sportscene, and Total-sports chains.

The decision to expand JD Sports into South Africa aligns well with the country's demographics, where a young, urban population drives demand for activewear and athleisure. With nearly 60%

meet the style and performance needs of a diverse, fashion-conscious consumer base seeking both global trends and local relevance.

Expanding the JD Sports footprint in South Africa

TFG plans to open three to four JD Sports stores during the 2025 financial year, with a target of launching 10 to 15 new stores annually in the coming years.

The next store is scheduled to open at Eastgate Mall in Johannesburg.

"Our goal is to position TFG as the go-to destination for premium sportswear," said TFG CEO Anthony Thunström.

"This partnership reinforces our leadership in the South African market, providing customers with a superior shopping experience and access to the best products available."

Chris Rowan, JD Sports international franchise director, emphasised the importance of the partnership in JD's global expansion strategy.

"Working with TFG allows us to bring JD's distinctive multi-brand, omnichannel retail proposition to South Africa."

"We are excited to offer South African customers a unique and exclusive shopping experience," Rowan said.

The future of sports retail in South Africa

TFG's partnership with JD Sports is expected to significantly enhance the sports retail landscape, with plans to open 50 to 60 stores over the next five years.

The expansion aims to meet growing consumer demand for premium athletic and casual wear, while reinforcing both companies' presence in the region.

2026 municipal elections: a key test for South Africa's Government of National Unity

By Chris Hattingh

THE 2026 Local Government Elections (LGE) will be a strong indicator on whether the public thinks the country is heading on the right track.

The stakes are high for South Africa's Government of National Unity (GNU), which is facing numerous domestic risks and opportunities. Perennially high unemployment and declining levels of service delivery could combine to accelerate political change in the 2026 LGE.

High unemployment and service delivery challenges threaten political stability

With the South African Reserve Bank forecasting GDP growth of 1,7% in 2025, and of 1,8% in 2026, the average quality of life will remain depressed. This provides ample fuel for citizens' frustrations with the government and with the economic status quo to grow, with the most significant risk being sustained service delivery protests and civil strife.

Opposition parties face a critical opportunity to capitalise on voter dissatisfaction

Following the global electoral changes that took place in 2024, those political parties (and coalitions) that won out will be on a short-time frame from voters.

In South Africa the GNU parties especially have limited time and ever fewer opportunities to convince voters of the work they are doing before the 2026 LGE; on the other hand, parties such as the uMkhonto weSizwe Party and the Economic Freedom Fighters will either manage to focus their messaging and value offering and take advantage of GNU shortcomings, or fall into infighting.

At present the GNU broadly represents the centre in South African



politics, with other parties operating on the left. These two blocks could become clearer in 2025, into 2026.

Municipalities that excel in service delivery will attract businesses and investors

For all the political machinations at national level, where the rubber hits the road is at local government, or municipal, level. Those provinces and municipalities that function better, that use effectively the revenue they collect from rates, and that manage to set themselves apart from others will benefit from the continued intra-country migration of businesses and businesspeople, as well as higher-net worth individuals, that are looking for better run local governments and areas in which to invest. There are ample easy wins for local governments to seize in this regard.

Local government performance will drive investment and migration

2025 will confirm whether South Africa is on a different economic growth path following the 2024 elections, or whether the sugar high afforded by the GNU's formation will prove to be only that, and nothing of more substance to change the country's fortunes over the longer term.

South Africa to chair the G20 in 2025 amid global geopolitical shifts

On the global front, geopolitics will be upended by the second administration of Donald Trump in the US. South Africa enjoys a great opportunity on this front; the country will hold the chairmanship of and host the G20, with the main summit and numerous side conferences and engagements.

With the US to take over from South Africa in late 2025, there is ample scope for the countries to work together on a shared platform of priorities and trade and investment flows – if not at least to improve channels of communication.

Structural reforms key to boosting South Africa's investment climate

Regardless of how exactly the administration proceeds, it is within the GNU's capacity to accelerate structural reforms of network industries and labour markets to place the country on a more pro-business, pro-investment footing.

Should the global trade and investment environment turn more negative, countries that set-up more attractive and transparent business and policy environments will benefit over the long-term.



TFG CEO Anthony Thunström.

According to TFG's 2023/24 annual report, the partnership is "transformational" and aligns with the group's vision to strengthen its leadership in the athletic and leisurewear categories. "Our unique retail

Soda and Supply & Demand, providing a diverse and exclusive product range.

The addition of the JD Sports partnership, extends TFG's presence in the sports/active wear market, as the retailer also

of the population under the age of 35, there is a growing appetite for lifestyle-driven sportswear.

By offering globally recognised brands alongside exclusive private labels, JD Sports is well-positioned to

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An example of a Condra overhead crane in a factory environment.

Boatbuilding crane sets new record for Cape company - Condra

BB Cranes – a member of the Condra group - is to manufacture its first 30-metre-span overhead crane, a record for this Cape Town-based company and the direct result of improved manufacturing capabilities and a recently expanded factory floor.

The wide-span double-girder electric overhead travelling crane is one of six ordered by boatbuilders Robertson and Caine, the largest manufacturer of catamarans in the Southern Hemisphere and the third largest globally. BB's 30-metre span, 5-ton capacity crane is for the factory in Montague Gardens, Cape Town. Robertson and Caine has also ordered two sin-

gle-girder and two double-girder BB machines, all with 5-ton capacity. They will span 20 metres (two cranes), 19 metres and 18 metres. The sixth crane on order is a 10-ton double-girder machine with a span of 20 metres. BB will assemble all six from standard components, and fit them with twinned short-headroom

Condra hoists – two per crane. There will be variable-speed drives on the long- and cross-travels for precise boat positioning. Asked to comment, a BB Cranes spokesman explained that three of the six cranes would be manufactured simultaneously with two other wide-span machines ordered by Rovic, an independent agricultural machinery manufacturer that commissioned three double-girder overhead cranes in the first half of 2024, two of them designed with 28-metre spans just two metres shy of BB's new 30-metre record.

“Our crane spans are usually anything between 18 and 25 metres, so we see the 28-metre-span machines for Rovic – and especially the 30-metre span crane for Robertson and Caine – as justifying our decision to expand BB's capabilities and increase our factory floor space,” the spokesman said.

BB has steadily upgraded its capabilities and procedures at Rivergate Industrial Park since 2022, when BB Cranes became a member of the Condra group. In June 2024, the company increased its factory floor area by 400 square metres.

“All of these cranes represent turnkey deliveries from design through to installation. For us, they are affirmation of BB's decision to grow,” said the spokesman.

Robertson and Caine has been BB Cranes' customer for twenty years. Current work for the boatbuilders includes partial on-site automation of a 16-ton crane used in repetitive applications, control of which will be reduced to the single push of one button to accelerate production and improve productivity.

The BB Cranes spokesman explained that the number of enquiries for automated cranes was increasing, stating that they offer automation across their product range, working in collaboration with Condra's design office.

“Condra is accumulating automation experience, and is currently automating a crane for use in wrap-and-protect operations in Gauteng. We hope to see more automated cranes among our customers here in Cape Town,” said the spokesman.

Currently equipped with eight BB cranes, Robertson and Caine's new order will bring its total of BB machines to fourteen.



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South Africa's top precast concrete producers are equal to the world's best; a bold statement but true. The evidence for this observation can be seen in the much anticipated results of the **Concrete Manufacturers Association's Digital Awards for Excellence 2024 Competition**, which are readily to hand in the winners book – see https://issuu.com/andrewmeyer86/docs/winners_book_2024-pages.

Open to all CMA members, this year's competition attracted 34 entries including two international projects, and such was the overall quality of the submissions that each of the competition's 15 entry categories attracted a winner.

"It's not often that there is a winner in all entry categories," said CMA general manager, Henry Cockcroft. "We have always operated on the basis of only conferring awards on merit, and if none of the entries in a particular category meet a standard worthy of an award, then no award is made."

The competition is judged on the basis of product and application excellence in two groups, Aesthetic Excellence and Engineering Excellence; there are seven categories in the former and eight in the latter. Awards certificates are presented to all category winners and the four best category winners are awarded a much coveted CMA Awards for Excellence trophy.

This year nine, as opposed to seven, Aesthetic Excellence certificates were awarded. The reason for this is there were two winners in the Cladding/Large Panels category and two in Beauty for Life category.

Similarly, eight Engineering Excellence awards were made, again because there were two winners in one of the Product Innovation categories.

"The fact that there were two winners in three of the entry categories, further serves to highlight the high standard of this year's entries," said Cockcroft.

The judging, which was based on video productions of all the entry projects, was an all-day affair held at the beautiful Catello di Monte Hotel in Pretoria. The judges included media specialist, Andrew Meyer, precast concrete specialist, Louis Orffer, and CSIR smart mobility expert, Dr Karien Venter.

Once the judges had finalised the category winners, the four trophy winners were chosen on the basis of the points they had accumulated in their respective categories. There was one Engineering Excellence trophy winner and three Aesthetic Excellence trophy winners.

ROCLA

Rocla earned the sole Engineering Excellence trophy for the supply of HDPE-lined steel-band jacking pipes which were used in the construction of a new bulk outfall sewer system in Montague Gardens, Cape Town. The pipes were designed in accordance with very strict specifications for micro-tunnelling trenchless construction, a system which has gained world-wide traction for the installation of precast concrete sewer pipes in urban areas.



Revelstone, C.E.L. Paving Products and Cape Concrete Works were the Aesthetic Excellence trophy winners. Revelstone, which also gained three Aesthetic Excellence awards, earned a trophy for supplying pavers for an extensive landscaping makeover at Erinvale Estate Hotel and Spa, a five-star sanctuary in Somerset West surrounded by the majestic Hottentots Holland Mountains. Entered in the Wet Cast Stone category, the project entailed replacing clay brick paving with cast-stone cobbles.

Approximately 3 500m² of Revelstone's 50mm Kent Cobble and its Jura Cobble edging pavers were specified by the designer. The project was far from simple and the design and actual installation work required careful planning and detailing. The paving forms an intricate web of interlinked paths, tree and fountain circles which are interspersed among the estate's extensive indigenous gardens and Cape Dutch architecture.



C.E.L. Paving Products won two Aesthetic Excellence certificates, one of which was in the Beauty for Life category from where it earned a trophy for supplying paving blocks for the High Constantia Retail Centre in Cape Town. The prestigious site is steeped in history and the design team wanted to ensure that the finished product harmonised with the surrounding landscape and its past.

C.E.L.'s coarse exposed aggregate paver was used to pave all the parking areas in a double mix concrete design which incorporates a dense cement-heavy 10mm topping. Ten years on, the paving's beautiful aesthetic has withstood normal vehicular and heavy duty traffic and looks as good today as when it was first installed.

Cape Concrete

Cape Concrete Works won a certificate and a trophy in the Cladding/Large Panel category for the cladding of the new Investec building at Cape Town's V&A Waterfront with large precast concrete panels. The building features 536 vertically installed panels in light and dark shades and in smooth and corrugated finishes.

Erected on the eastern and southern elevations, the precast concrete facades integrate seamlessly with the glazed facades on the western and northern elevations. The panels not only offer low maintenance but are designed to age gracefully, providing the building with an authentic aesthetic.

This year's event was the CMA's second digital competition. And as in 2022, videos were made of all entry submissions and were posted on YouTube and other social media platforms. They provided outstanding levels of focussed exposure in the lead up to the judging.

"Our digital reach at 124 600 was nothing short of epic," said Cockcroft, "and our content interactions at 639 was a staggering 643% higher than in 2022. Our total watch time covered 21 days and 11 hours and our organic wow factor came in at 6 681, a jump of 54.8%.

"The fact that the entry videos achieved these remarkable results through our social media platforms, show that in addition to showcasing precast concrete, they contain information of real value to construction professionals. In fact the competition is more to do with gaining exceptional visibility for the multiple applications of precast concrete than winning an award. It's about creating an informative resource for engineers, architects, property developers and other professionals, encouraging them to tap into the many advantages of precast concrete," concluded Cockcroft.

Concrete Manufacturers Association

Contact: ☎ +27 11 805 6742 ✉ admin@cma.org.za 🌐 www.cma.org.za



One of the Rocla HDPE-lined steel-band jacking pipes used in the construction of a new bulk outfall sewer system in Cape Town.



Some of Revelstone's 50mm Kent Cobble and Jura Cobble edging pavers which formed an essential component in a landscaping makeover at Erinvale Estate Hotel and Spa in Somerset West.



Installed over 10 years ago at the High Constantia Retail Centre in Cape Town, C.E.L. Paving Product's coarse exposed aggregate pavers look as good today as when they were first laid.



Cape Concrete Work's precast concrete panels integrate seamlessly with the glazed facades of the recently completed Investec building at Cape Town's V&A Waterfront.

PPE from BMG - safety is in the detail



Specially designed arc flash PPE – which includes Dromex Arc15 cal/cm2 jackets and pants - are available from BMG to offer protection against unseen threats.

BMG – which celebrates over 50 years of business this year - is a complete process solutions provider to all sectors of industry, which means customers can access all essential quality branded engineering components, technical services and support from one reliable supplier. This integrated approach guarantees lower production costs and higher efficiencies.

BMG's Tools & Equipment division offers a comprehensive range of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to assist industry in creating a healthy and safe work environment. An important part of this range is Dromex arc workwear, that is critical for use near industrial electrical panels, switch rooms, substations and utilities power generators.

"We advise our customers to ensure their chosen workwear and PPE offers adequate protection for the spe-

cific application and because every environment poses different safety challenges, correct product selection is very important in all sectors," states Andrew Johns, business unit manager, BMG's Tools & Equipment division. "Before selecting arc workwear and PPE for use in hazardous industries, where second and third degree burns can occur, it is important that an arc assessment is conducted. Once the arc hazard has been determined, the correct level of protection can be selected.

"An arc flash – which can reach temperatures up to 20 000°C - is a potentially fatal explosion of extreme light and radiant heat, as a result of a short circuit on an electrical panel. An arc flash can be caused by dust, dropping tools, accidental touching, condensation, corrosion or a faulty installation. Possible injuries include second and third degree

burns from the extreme heat of the blast, burns from airborne molten metal, metal oxides and vaporised copper, concussion and head injuries, hearing impairment, damaged eyesight and even death. An arc flash can also cause fire in the surrounding work areas.

"Because injuries in these dangerous working conditions can be fatal, we believe it is essential that all selected workwear and PPE have undergone relevant testing. Tests should include fabric and garment analysis and be supported by official certification, giving the assurance that adequate protection will be provided.

"Included in BMG's range of Dromex workwear and PPE are dependable arc protection products that have been developed through consultation with experts, testing fabric combinations and working with world-leading testing facilities. The

range includes a head-to-toe PPE solution that is lightweight, comfortable and provides the highest level of protection against an arc flash."

Dromex arc workwear is manufactured locally, using Dromex A.P.T.T.M (Arc Protection Technologies) fabric. These products – which include 55 cal and 15 cal garments, as well as arc gloves, footwear and visors - are certified to stringent local and international standards.

Dromex A.P.T.T.M FR cotton fabric has passed "Red Metal" testing, which offers additional bodily protection from molten metal, vaporised copper and metal oxides up to 1 400°C. Molten metal is a deadly hazard that can easily penetrate synthetic lightweight fabrics during an arc flash incident.

The service life of an arc garment is dependent on many factors, including careful wash care, storage between use and wear and tear during use. Specialists recommend that if a worker is exposed to an arc flash incident, the workwear and PPE needs to be removed from service immediately and replaced. Arc protective garments and equipment should always be inspected before and after use to ensure that it isn't damaged or torn.

BMG's range of PPE items also includes general protective clothing, safety spectacles, goggles, face masks, gloves, vests, rain suits and footwear.

For more information: <https://bmgworld.net/>

Coated with success: B.E.D. announces major surface engineering company customer win



BOLT and Engineering Distributors (B.E.D.), a leading supplier of engineering products and services, proudly announces a significant customer win with a surface engineering customer, one of South Africa's leading providers of thermal spraying and coating technology.

This collaboration, which underscores B.E.D.'s dedication to providing top-quality welding solutions and exceptional customer service, began a year ago when one of the customer's team members was introduced to Kevin Jenkins, the newly appointed B.E.D. area sales manager (ASM) for the Vaal region.

The customer - already acquainted with the high standards of Fronius's welding machines - had a unit which required service and calibration.

Leveraging its expertise as a longstanding and experienced Fronius distributor, B.E.D. efficiently managed the repair process, returning the machine to optimal performance. This success was pivotal in building trust and demonstrating B.E.D.'s capability to meet the customer's high expectations.

"We are very pleased to announce our collaboration with this valued customer! This is a testament to B.E.D.'s unwavering commitment to quality and customer satisfaction - and to the excellence of our supplier Fronius's welding equipment and solutions," says Mike Giltrow, CEO of B.E.D.

Addressing customer requirements

Following the repair and return of their welding machine, the customer encountered an operational issue regarding the selection of the correct settings for a specific welding application. Demonstrating dedication to customer satisfaction, a specialist from

B.E.D.'s welding division accompanied the ASM to the customer's site.

The hands-on support and training provided speedily resolved the issue, again showcasing B.E.D.'s commitment to ensuring optimal operational performance for its customers.

Recognising the need to remain competitive in the market, the customer then expressed interest in the Fronius TPS400i Cold Metal Transfer (CMT) machine, driven by their requirement to offer advanced welding processes to their clients. B.E.D.'s welding specialist provided comprehensive insights into the CMT machine, initiating the quotation and purchasing process.

Expertise and confidence

"The customer's expertise in surface engineering, and the variety of welding processes required for this – including, for example, their familiarity with the cold metal transfer welding process - combined with their confidence in B.E.D. and in the Fronius brand - played a crucial role in their decision-making process," Jenkins explains.

He adds that throughout the discussions, B.E.D.'s welding division's extensive industry knowledge was very evident: "Our welding team addressed all the technical queries raised by the customer, providing detailed explanations on materials, machine capabilities and optimal welding settings. This technical support was instrumental in securing the order of the new CMT machine."

B.E.D.'s welding division's in-depth technical experience, and understanding of Fronius's products and solutions assured the customer of the quality and reliability of their purchase.

The promise of ongoing support and back-up service, along with training for the machine

operator post-commissioning, further reinforced the customer's confidence in their decision. "In addition, our welding division team ensured that all potential issues were promptly addressed, providing robust operational support to the customer," Jenkins advises.

Successful implementation

Upon delivery and commissioning of the CMT machine, B.E.D. also conducted thorough training sessions, ensuring that the customer's welding team was well-versed in the use of the new equipment.

"This hands-on approach guaranteed that the customer could maximise the machine's capabilities from the outset. Since automating their CMT process, the customer has reported outstanding results, reaffirming their satisfaction with Fronius's welding technology - and the sterling support received from B.E.D.," Jenkins enthuses.

"Our collaboration with this market-leading surface engineering customer exemplifies the synergy between our technical expertise and their commitment to excellence. By providing comprehensive support and high-quality solutions, we have strengthened their operations and affirmed our dedication to customer satisfaction.

B.E.D. is proud to have facilitated this customer's enhancement of their welding processes, enabling them to maintain a competitive edge in their market. Our collaboration exemplifies B.E.D.'s ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality engineering solutions and fostering strong, supportive relationships with our customers," Mike Giltrow concludes.

For more information: <https://bolteng.co.za/>

Goscor Group appoints Barry Owen as new CEO

THE Goscor Group has named Barry Owen as its new Group CEO, effective 1 January 2025.

Owen, who has been with the company for eight years, steps into the role with a proven track record in leadership and strategic development.

During his tenure, Owen has played a pivotal role in Goscor's growth, showcasing a strong commitment to excellence and innovation. He succeeds Neil Wilson, who will transition to the position of chairman after serving as CEO for 15 years.

"We are delighted to have Barry step into the role of Group CEO," said Wilson.

"His dedication, innovative approach, and extensive experience will undoubtedly drive our company forward and



Incoming Goscor Group CEO, Barry Owen.

ensure continued success."

Goscor, established in 1984, is a key player in supplying, servicing, and renting industrial and construction equipment across Southern Africa.

The group operates within industries including earthmoving, mining, construction, and logistics, supported by partnerships with leading global equipment brands and a strong national service network.

As part of the Bud Group, Goscor benefits from access to a diversified portfolio that enhances its ability to deliver tailored solutions across the region.

Under Owen's leadership, Goscor says it aims to continue its trajectory of growth and innovation while maintaining its reputation for quality service and customer satisfaction.

For nearly four decades, the Goscor Group

has brought some of the most trusted equipment brands from across the globe to the African continent.

Founded by George Owen Siddle in 1984, the group has expanded tenfold, comprising seven companies that offer unique products and services from top international brands.

Goscor employs more than 1 000 staff nationwide and operates offices and dealer networks in all major South African cities.

Its holding company, Bud Group, was established to serve South African industry. Other companies in the Bud Group portfolio include Uni-Span, Afrit, and Concord Cranes.

For more information: <https://goscor.co.za/>

Four co-located trade shows maximise time and cost savings for industry

TRADE shows have re-emerged as essential hubs for business growth, fuelling face-to-face interactions that digital connections simply cannot replicate. In a post-pandemic era, where companies and professionals have once again recognised the power of in-person networking, trade shows have proven critical for fostering relationships, sparking innovation, and driving success across industries.

Trade shows offer unmatched opportunities for businesses to showcase their offerings, engage directly with potential clients, and cultivate valuable partnerships, making them a cornerstone for companies looking to expand their reach and solidify their place in a competitive market. The four co-located shows — Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management Expo, and Fireexpo — provide Africa's largest collection of security, occupational safety and health (OSH), facilities management, and fire safety solutions in one venue. Returning to Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand from 3 to 5 June 2025, the exhibitions provide quick and easy access to the most comprehensive technologies and services geared towards enhancing security and safety, facilities optimisation, and personnel wellbeing and comfort.

"By co-locating these expos, we provide visitors with an opportunity to focus their decision-making and buying efforts over a comprehensive three-day period. They save time and costs in sourcing the solutions they need, thereby not only finding products and services that match their specific requirements, but also adding to their profitability and productivity. We welcomed a combined total of 10 898 visitors to the 2024 events, making this a must-add element for organisations seeking an excellent ROI in their marketing spend," says Mark Anderson, portfolio director at Specialised Exhibitions (a division of Montgomery Group).

Anderson points out that not only do visitors have access to thousands of security, safety, and FM products and services, but there are several visitor attractions that enhance the event experience.

- Securex South Africa: free-to-attend Securex Seminar Theatre, SAIDSA Techman Competition, Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs), K9 demos, and drone

demonstration area.

- A-OSH EXPO: free-to-attend Saiosh Seminar Theatre and the Working at Height and Safety Seminar Theatre.
- Facilities Management Expo: free-to-attend Facilities Management Seminar

Theatre.

- Fireexpo: free-to-attend Fireexpo Seminar Theatre.

"With over half a decade of successfully organising and facilitating leading industry trade shows, Specialised Exhibitions brings a tired-and-test

formula to exhibitions. Our exhibitions bring together the suppliers and manufacturers of high-quality products and services with industry professionals tasked with finding these solutions. The feedback we receive from both exhibitors and visitors high-

lights our ability to create a networking platform that takes the guesswork out of 'smart shopping,'" says Anderson.

"We encourage both potential exhibitors and visitors to visit the four shows websites to find out more about each exhibition. They can be easily ac-

cessed at: www.securex.co.za, www.a-osh.co.za, www.fmexpo.co.za, and www.fireexpo.co.za. Organisations wishing to exhibit at Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management Expo, or Fireexpo 2025 can contact the 4 shows 2025 team on zelda.

jordaan@montgomerygroup.com or joan.vanheerden@montgomerygroup.com to book a space or capitalise on a sponsorship opportunity," says Anderson.

For more information: <https://www.montgomerygroup.com/africa>



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DHL Stadium wins a Gold International Award



THE IPMA, one of the world's leading project management bodies, bestows these awards on projects demonstrating outstanding performance and innovation. The awards ceremony, held at DHL Stadium itself, underscores the project's adherence to global standards and reinforces DHL Stadium's status as a world-class venue.

The project upgraded the pitch from a natural grass pitch to a cutting-edge hybrid grass system, integrating natural grass with synthetic fibers.

Now on par with global venues like Twickenham and Stade de France, the stadium's new pitch offers durability far exceeding conventional fields, capable of handling six times more traffic. It also has a 15-year lifespan.

This upgrade allows the stadium to host a wide range of back-to-back events, from top-tier rugby and football matches to high-profile concerts, with minimal downtime for recovery.

Delivered on time and within budget, the project showcased remarkable planning and execution.

The team navigated a tight 12-month timeline during the 2023 Rugby World Cup, leveraging detailed scheduling and agile management to overcome challenges, including unforeseen delays in the

delivery of materials.

Construction on-site took just 86 days, with critical milestones meticulously tracked through a day-by-day program. When the hybrid grass system shipment faced weather-related delays, the team swiftly re-sequenced two major milestones - the installation and grow-in period - ensuring the overall schedule remained intact. Additionally, the project prioritised sustainability by reusing 1 750m³ of excavated materials and optimising the irrigation system, reflecting a commitment to environmentally responsible practices and long-term operational efficiency.

Since its completion, the new pitch has significantly enhanced the stadium's operational flexibility.

Over 200 events have been hosted, attracting more than 500 000 spectators. This increased capacity has not only boosted the stadium's appeal, but also provided substantial economic benefits to the local community, stimulating business for vendors, hotels, and other service providers.

Gina Woodburn, CEO of DHL Stadium, expressed her pride in the project's success: 'This award is a testament to our team's dedication to excellence.'

The new hybrid pitch meets the highest international standards and

significantly enhances our ability to host back-to-back events.

This drives economic growth, supports local businesses, and fosters community engagement. We're proud to set a new benchmark for stadium infrastructure and contribute to Cape Town's global reputation.'

'I am proud of the DHL Stadium's achievement. This was a necessary and important project, executed perfectly. The Stadium is proving to be one of the busiest and the preferred venue for big events in the country, said Mayor Geordin-Hill-Lewis.

The awards ceremony, together with a two and half-day conference with 600 delegates from 40 different countries, was hosted at DHL Stadium.

Utilising a floor space of approximately 6,000 square meters, DHL Stadium is ideally positioned to host mid-week conferences and corporate functions.

DHL Stadium remains dedicated to delivering world-class experiences, further cementing its role as a cornerstone of Cape Town's cultural and sporting landscape.

As a versatile multi-purpose venue that hosts not only major sporting events, but also gala dinners, conferences, and a wide range of community and corporate gatherings, the stadium continues to be a pivotal hub for diverse activities.

The Electricity Expo Africa: Powering Africa's future with innovation, sustainability, and opportunity

ELECTRICITY Expo Africa, a groundbreaking event set to take place at the Nasrec Expo Centre from 9-11 September 2025, was officially launched at the prestigious ECA(SA) Presidential Excellence Awards on Friday, November 22, 2024.

This landmark event, organised by the Electrical Contractors Association (SA) and the South African Equity Workers Association (SAEWA), will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and key stakeholders to address Africa's energy challenges with sustainable, safe, and cutting-edge solutions.

SAEWA and the ECA(SA) are the sole partners behind the National Bargaining Council for the Electrical Industries in South Africa (NBCEI), a model of successful cooperation spanning



ECA(SA) President Frans Swanepoel, ECA(SA) National director Mark Mfjike, MMC COJ Eunice Mgcina, ECA (SA) 2nd Vice President Jimmy Turner.

ulators to converge, collaborate, and share innovative solutions to address Africa's energy crisis. The expo will highlight the latest advancements in electrical technologies, renewable energy solutions, and smart grid innovations. It will also

technologies that will transform Africa's energy landscape and ensure safe, sustainable access to electricity for all. Yes – Africa will work with the universe to contribute bright energy to the World."

A Vision for the Future of Energy in Africa

The Electricity Expo Africa will not only focus on showcasing the latest in energy solutions, but will also place a strong emphasis on skills development, training, and knowledge exchange. This year's event aims to equip the next generation of installers, engineers, technicians, and entrepreneurs with the practical skills and expertise needed to meet the energy challenges of the future.

In collaboration with colleges, universities, and training institutions, the Expo will ensure that educational programs align with industry needs, helping to create a highly skilled workforce ready to drive innovation and improve electricity infrastructure across the continent.

"Electricity remains a cornerstone of Africa's development. Our goal with the Expo is to train and empower the future workforce. We aim to expose learners and students not only to the latest technology but also to the wide range of career opportunities within the electricity sector," said Robert McAlpine, the general secretary of SAEWA.

"By fostering collaboration between academia, business, and government, the Expo will play a critical role in bridging the skills gap, ensuring that South Africa and Africa as a whole can meet global energy standards and achieve energy security for all. Future generations must inherit the results of the good work the Expo will deliver. This is the legacy we will leave behind and its fruits will be enjoyed long after we have departed."

For more information about the event please visit the website on <https://electricityexpoaf-rica.com/>

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R5,2-billion upgrade to the Potsdam wastewater plant to benefit 75 000 households and support property development

By Larry Claasen

THE R5,2-billion upgrade to the Potsdam Wastewater Treatment Works in Milnerton (WWTW) will benefit about 75 000 households.

Once complete, the upgraded treatment plant will double its capacity from 47-million litres to 100-million litres per day. Construction, which started in April 2023, is expected to be completed by 2027.

Aside from providing services to 75 000 households, the upgrade also opens the way for property development in the cape.

"The upgrades to the Potsdam Wastewater Treatment Works are likely to have a positive impact on property developments in the area by increasing the capacity for urban growth in line with both the Local Spatial Development Framework (LSDF) and the Land-use 2040 Spatial Planning Overview," says the city of Cape Town's mayoral committee member for water and sanitation, Councillor Zahid Badroodien.

Badroodien says this investment by the city will not only improve the quality of life for residents but also foster confidence in the private sector in the Mother City.

"The upgrades will aid in improving environmental quality, enhancing property values, and fostering sustainable development. Developers and investors will likely view the upgraded infrastructure as a long-term asset that supports both residential and commercial growth."

This view was echoed in a November 2023 parliamentary report.

"Residents in the City of Cape Town will benefit from the development of the plant as more water will be made available for use by industry which reduces the strain on our freshwater reserves."

The upgrade is being done through two construction contracts - one for civil infrastructure and another

for providing mechanical and electrical infrastructure - and created about 250 jobs.

The upgrades will use cutting-edge membrane technology that will progressively be added to ensure high wastewater treatment and treated effluent standards.

The dewatering and ultrafiltration installations are likely to be commissioned around mid-2025. This is anticipated to have a positive impact on existing operations, assisting to realise early improved treated effluent quality at the WWTW.

The upgrades will also mitigate the amount of effluent going into the nearby Milnerton Lagoon.

"With the advanced treatment facilities of the upgraded plant, the quality of the treated effluent will not only increase but is expected to be more consistent. The Water and Sanitation Directorate therefore foresees a definite improvement in the environmental health of the Lower Diep River reach and

the Milnerton Lagoon," said Badroodien.

Badroodien also noted that the Potsdam WWTW is not the sole contributor to the environmental health of the Milnerton Lagoon as there are many other factors involved in the associated pollution.

Other major sewerage infrastructure upgrades under way in the vicinity include the R430-million Montague Gardens Bulk Sewer Rehabilitation, R118-million Koeberg Pump Station Upgrade, and long-term pump station and pipe replacement programmes.

The investment in water infrastructure is part of the city's commitment to invest R120-billion in infrastructure over the next 10 years.

Water and Sanitation investment now makes up 42% of Cape Town's R120-billion pipeline, with multi-billion rand upgrades to seven wastewater works on track according, the city said in February.

Solving wastewater woes: How Maskam water transformed operations at a stainless steel engineering company

By Larry Claasen

THE National Stainless Steel Centre (NSS) in Kempton Park, home to 200 staff members, faced mounting pressure from escalating wastewater issues and the broader water crisis in Gauteng.

Frequent honeysucker services, costing between R10 000 and R20 000 per visit increased their operational expenses, while overflow incidents caused raw sewage to spill into stormwater systems, resulting in pollution and unpleasant odours.

Amid a worsening water shortage in Gauteng—marked by dwindling supplies and rising operational costs—Dries Louw of Waterbear Technologies, a Maskam Water dealer, presented a timely solution.

He introduced the Maskam Fusion® Wastewater Plant, a system designed to reduce costs while enabling water reuse in a region where every drop counts.

Fusion Wastewater Treatment Plants are decentralised solutions designed to meet and exceed the Department of Water and Sanitation standards. First introduced in Franschhoek in 2010, Fusion has since

expanded with close to 400 installations across nine African countries. Its compact design, available in capacities from 1 000 litres to 15 000 litres per day, makes it ideal for residential, commercial, and community applications. Requiring no pre-treatment tanks, Fusion is perfect for space-constrained sites and offers versatile effluent disposal options, including irrigation, dams, trenches, or direct discharge.

With its underground installation and odor-free operation, it blends seamlessly into urban and remote environments.

Applications range from single households to schools, lodges, shopping centers, and entire communities, making it a versatile solution for diverse needs. By enabling the use of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes like toilet flushing and irrigation, Fusion provides an effective way to alleviate water scarcity while supporting sustainable development across Africa.

Investing in resilience

Initially hesitant due to the price, NSS soon realised the potential benefits.

As Dries explained, the system would pay for itself within a year by cutting honeysucker expenses and recycling wastewater for practical uses. The treated water could irrigate gardens, flush toilets, or even flow into natural streams, adhering to strict Department of Water and Sanitation standards.

The promise of reduced reliance on municipal water and greater sustainability, especially during Gauteng's ongoing water crisis, made the investment compelling. NSS embraced the opportunity, recognizing the system's alignment with both economic and environmental goals.

Wastewater into opportunity

The installation of the Maskam Fusion® system was transformative. NSS now repurposes treated wastewater to maintain their gardens and refill a dam on their property. This dam, a peaceful habitat for swans and antelope, symbolises their shift toward sustainable practices.

Dries encapsulated the impact: "A small investment – big savings!"

This change eliminated the need for

honeysuckers, cutting costs significantly while reducing NSS's reliance on potable water. By proactively managing wastewater, NSS not only eased its operational challenges but also contributed meaningfully to alleviating regional water stress.

Setting the standard

NSS's move to adopt advanced wastewater technology amid Gauteng's water crisis is a powerful example of industrial leadership. The project showcases how businesses can respond to environmental challenges with solutions that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

By partnering with Maskam Water, NSS has become a role model for industrial water management, proving that proactive investments in sustainability can deliver measurable returns. As water scarcity intensifies in Gauteng, the NSS story highlights a path forward for other organisations seeking resilience in the face of resource constraints.

For more information: <http://www.maskamwater.com/>

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Can water help Africa reach Net Zero - Xylem Africa?

Carbon neutrality is an opportunity to accelerate Africa's water modernisation, writes Chetan Mistry, strategy and marketing manager at Xylem Africa.



HUMAN activity is substantially increasing carbon levels. NASA's regular Carbon Dioxide measurements show an alarmingly upward trajectory. Its researchers estimate that modern civilisation has elevated atmospheric carbon levels by 50%, slowly raising average global temperatures. Even marginal shifts in that benchmark have already led to disastrous results, such as large forest fires, prolonged droughts, excessive rainfall, and aggressive heatwaves. Rising carbon levels create tumultuous ripples in our planet's complex weather ecosystem, hurting communities—especially in Africa.

The problem has many aspects, such as Africa's massive reliance on combustible fuels and oil economies, or reluctance to fund African decarbonisation. But one area deserves more attention: water.

Water is climate

change's canary. Excessive rainfall and prolonged droughts relate to changes in water systems. Civilisations primarily rise around water, so changing water behaviour is a bellwether for sustaining the modern world.

Water also offers opportunities to tackle carbon generation and usher nations closer to Net Zero status, negating the greenhouse gases they produce. Xylem consulted international experts to design a strategy that will help public water utilities and large water consumers adapt their systems to reduce carbon generation. The strategy, Net Zero: The Race We All Win, is a four-step approach: Set realistic targets, optimise existing assets, prioritise capital planning, and plan for the future.

Public utilities often have stockpiles of data—modern data analytics tools are helping them use that information for future

planning. We can set realistic data-backed targets to incrementally make appropriate adjustments for a given site. For example, Chile's Aguas Andinas is using data-backed planning to significantly reduce its carbon output by 2030 through renewable energy.

Asset optimisation is also crucial. Utility sites must last for decades, and sweat their pumps, pipes, mixers, bioreactors, and oxidisers. However, strategically modernising those systems delivers dramatic energy efficiency and carbon reduction improvements. Numerous utilities are using net zero plans to cut energy and maintenance costs.

Water can help African communities reach Net Zero status. It offers many quick wins and long-term victories to ensure we look after our planet and future.

For more information:
<https://www.xylem.com/en-za/>

EWSETA CEO calls for the integration of indigenous knowledge systems to address South Africa's water challenges

THE Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) recently hosted an insightful webinar titled Skills for a Water-Wise Future: Blending Innovation with Indigenous Wisdom.

Moderated by Hilton Bartman, CEO of All Core Water, the event convened experts and thought leaders to explore sustainable water management solutions for Sub-Saharan Africa.

"As stewards of this vital resource, we cannot ignore the value of indigenous knowledge.

Preserving and applying this wisdom is essential to our future"

The distinguished panel included Sylvain Usher, executive director of the African Water and Sanitation Association (AWSA), who offered insights into continental strategies for advancing water and sanitation access through a fusion of traditional and modern approaches. Adding to the government's perspective, Petunia Ramunenyiwa, chief director for sector transformation and provincial governance in the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), discussed intergovernmental collaboration and policies necessary for fostering



EWSETA's CEO, Mpho Mookapele (right)

sustainable water solutions.

Providing an academic and economic lens, Professor Bongani Ncube, SARCH Chair in Governance and Economics of Water and Sanitation Sector Institutions and Acting Director of the Centre for Water and Sanitation, stressed the importance of robust economic and governance frameworks in supporting long-term water sustainability.

From a research perspective, Rhulani Shingwenyana, a Senior Researcher at the CSIR specialising in Water and Wastewater Treatment and Technology Development, highlighted advancements in membrane processes and wastewater treatment as

pivotal to enhancing water resilience across Africa.

Central to the discussion was the urgent need for reliable water access in rural communities. Bartman emphasised the value of blending indigenous knowledge with cutting-edge technology, noting that only 24% of Sub-Saharan Africa has daily access to clean drinking water.

He argued that embedding African indigenous practices into national water management frameworks could offer sustainable solutions to the continent's water challenges.

EWSETA's CEO, Mpho Mookapele, in her keynote address, emphasised the SETA's commitment

to uniting indigenous wisdom with innovative approaches in its educational and public programmes.

"As stewards of this vital resource, we cannot ignore the value of indigenous knowledge. Preserving and applying this wisdom is essential to our future,"

Mookapele, stated, calling on stakeholders to support programmes that integrate these perspectives into practical solutions for water management.

Furthermore, Mookapele, reiterated EWSETA's commitment to translating the discussions from this webinar into actionable programmes that blend Indigenous knowledge with technological advancement.

"We're truly open to collaboration, and I want to extend a call to experts in the field: let's work together to drive South African programmes, and African programmes, that can deliver tangible results.

She encouraged cross-sectoral partnerships to help realise sustainable water solutions across Africa, ensuring that future generations can thrive in a water-wise environment.

"By uniting our expertise, and involving the custodians of our indigenous knowledge systems, we can foster a transformative impact that resonates beyond borders and help conserve this scarce resource."

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AES: Clarifying boiler water treatment is essential for effective heat transfer and energy management

POOR boiler water treatment is the primary cause of poor boiler performance, according to Chris Paterson, MD of specialist operations and maintenance service provider to the steam and boiler sector, Associated Energy Services (AES).

Not all water is created equal and there is a lot more to water treatment than ensuring that it appears clean, he says. Yet, this is where many companies are tempted to cut costs.

However, because correctly treated boiler water is integral to preventative maintenance and essential to ensur-

taking over the operations and maintenance of a client's boilers and energy plant.

A drop in water standards

Poor infrastructure has reduced municipal water quality - while the increased cost of this water source has persuaded many companies to switch to alternative streams such as borehole water and stored rainwater - creating a whole new set of challenges, says AES operations director Ray Lund.

"Each of these streams has different properties. Hardness

"We look at various technologies to identify the most cost-effective way in which to manage that over the long term"

water, the iron and silica content need to be checked. Furthermore, boiler water should be thoroughly tested over time to see what is in it - and to check the variability of the various contaminants - so that one can design and install appropriate treatment equipment and technology," Paterson advises.

According to Lund, the quality of water going into a boiler has two direct impacts: the first on the life of the boiler and the second on its heat transfer capacity and efficiency - which affects the overall energy plant management.

Clarifying boiler water treatment

Using the analogy of a domestic kettle, Lund

explains that compounds such as calcium and magnesium form a hard scale which adheres to surfaces. This limits the transfer of heat from the fire side of the boiler to the water side, making the boiler inefficient when it comes to the production of steam.

However, this does not happen immediately. Paterson warns: "Poor water treatment damages boilers over long periods. Water does not go off specification in one day. Therefore, water treatment needs to be done correctly and consistently, every single day. Unfortunately, this is what many manufacturing and processing facilities miss."

Lund notes that the relationship between



Water treatment plant including reverse osmosis module.

"Lund explains that compounds such as calcium and magnesium form a hard scale which adheres to surfaces."

ing boiler safety - as well as operational and energy efficiency - this is one of the first and most critical issues that AES addresses when

levels (how much calcium and magnesium is in the water) and total dissolved solids (TDS) need to be considered. When using borehole

on-site boiler operators and water treatment companies forms a strong foundation for a watertight boiler water treatment strategy.

At the beginning of the process, solids are removed via different forms of filtration. Plants with very high TDS might require the installation of a reverse osmosis (RO) plant which can be a very ef-

fective energy-saver, as it requires fewer blow-downs of the boiler to clean it out.

"Typically with municipal water supply, the TDS is low, so we proceed directly to a softener. However, there are some areas in the country where the water is very hard. We look at various technologies to identify the most cost-effective

way in which to manage that over the long term," says Lund.

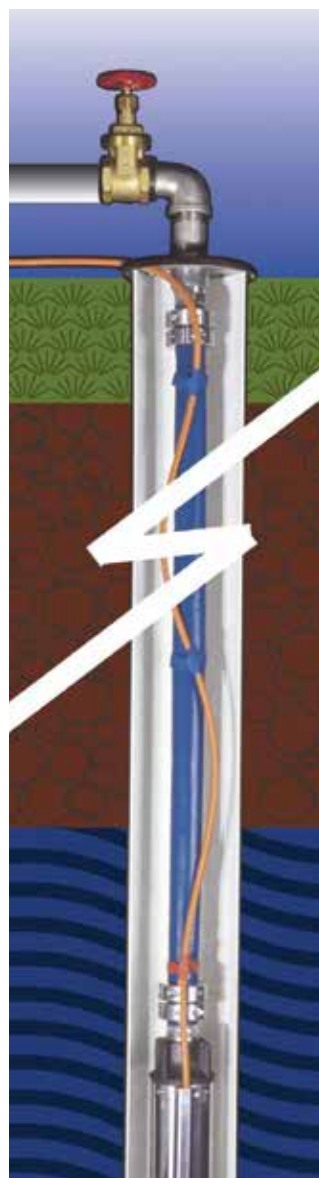
PH control is always critical, and must remain within the right parameters to facilitate the formation of a protective layer which protects the internal surfaces of the boiler.

For more information: <https://www.aes-africa.com/>

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Western Cape Government building sets new standards in water resilience with Maskam Water’s Fusion system

THE Western Cape Government has turned its Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) building into a flagship of sustainable water management in Cape Town’s CBD.

"With features like six-month service intervals, a four-year sludge removal cycle, and redundancy that maintains 75% capacity even if one unit fails, the Fusion system ensures seamless performance with minimal maintenance"

Amid the water crisis that brought “Day Zero” dangerously close in 2018, the government revamped the building with a cutting-edge wastewater treatment system to slash potable water use and sewage output by 50%.

A model for sustainable water usage

The DEA&DP building now boasts the Fusion Wastewater Treatment Plant by Maskam Water, a state-of-the-art system designed to recycle wastewater for non-potable uses.

The plant treats effluent to flush toilets, ensuring uninterrupted operations even during municipal water outages. Not only has this system bolstered the building’s water resilience, but it also curbs costs by reducing reliance on municipal water and cutting sewage discharge fees.

The installation marked a turning point in the city’s response to ongoing drought conditions. The project demonstrated how commercial buildings in urban centres could adopt compact, efficient, and odour-free solutions to address water scarcity without sacrificing conveni-



ence.

Each Fusion is a fully operational plant. Should one plant go down for whatever reason, 75% of the treatment capacity remains available.

The Early Warning System monitors the mechanical workings of the plant. In case of a failure, it notifies the user via an audible siren and strobe light. Panel lights indicate the exact cause of failure, allowing proactive action before an environmental crisis arises.

Additionally, remote monitoring through GSM or a Building Management System (BMS) is available, as is the case with the DEA&DP installation, where the audible alarm has been deactivated in favour of BMS-based monitoring.

Fusion System: How it works

The Fusion system incorporates advanced treatment stages:

1. Anaerobic digestion to begin breaking

down waste.

2. Anoxic treatment for additional filtration.
3. Aeration using a Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor to reduce organic content and treat ammonia.
4. Denitrification and phosphate reduction for nutrient management.
5. Sludge recycling to ensure efficient processing even during low inflow periods.
6. Final clarifying of the treated effluent

before discharge.

7. Clarification and disinfection for clean, reusable water.

With features like six-month service intervals, a four-year sludge removal cycle, and redundancy that maintains 75% capacity even if one unit fails, the Fusion system ensures seamless performance with minimal maintenance.

Tackling installation challenges

Installing the plant in the heart of the city came with challenges. Limited access to the site necessitated creative planning, including splitting the system into four smaller units to fit within a confined courtyard. Despite these hurdles, the system became fully operational in March 2019, showcasing resilience and innovation in overcoming urban infra-

structure constraints.

A future-ready solution

The DEA&DP building now uses 100% reclaimed water for toilet flushing, making it a model for ESG compliance and water resilience in high-density urban environments. The system also integrates smart monitoring via a Building Management System (BMS), providing real-time alerts to preempt potential issues.

Why it matters

This case study underscores the potential of wastewater treatment technologies in tackling pressing environmental challenges. For businesses aiming to reduce water usage and meet sustainability goals, the Fusion system offers a viable, cost-saving solution.

For more information: <http://www.maskamwater.com/>

What you need to know about bylaws and installing Private Wastewater Treatment Plants in Cape Town.

The City of Cape Town Policy Encourages Sustainable Development Through On-Site Wastewater Treatment.

The original SOP which required the decommissioning of private wastewater treatment plants once there is capacity in Potsdam, Zandvliet and Macassar WWTWs, has been updated to make provision for a more forward-thinking policy allowing for Developers, Homeowners’ Associations (HOAs), and Body Corporates to RETAIN on-site wastewater treatment plants, provided the treated effluent complies with the standards outlined in the National Water Act.

Developers in areas outside the original list of capacity-constrained zones can apply for permission to install their own treatment plants, with decisions made on individual merit.

Reusing treated effluent from your private wastewater treatment plant for non-drinking purposes satisfies the alternative water source requirement under the 2018 Water Amendment Bylaw.

This policy marks a significant step toward fostering sustainable urban living, reducing reliance on municipal water supplies, and advancing waterwise developments.



This policy creates opportunities for developments to:

- Align with principles of sustainable living
- Paving the way for a smart city framework
- Reduction of carbon footprint
- Enhance water resilience
- Lowers monthly municipal bills for developments
- Speaks directly to ESG scoring requirements regarding water reduction



Retail: Fusion installed at Renshaw Shopping Centre in KZN South Coast



Residential: Fusion installed at a residential estate



Commercial: Fusion installed in a walkway in a parking lot at Barloworld Caterpillar in Mputu



Schools: Fusion installed at a Curro School in Blomfontein. In 2023 the school outgrew the capacity of the Fusion WWTP, so we added volume by installing a 3rd Fusion



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Thermoplastic pipes: A critical solution to South Africa's water crisis

GAUTENG's ongoing water woes have once again dominated the headlines, highlighting the province's deepening water insecurity.

Widespread and frequent water outages have left communities across Gauteng struggling for days or even weeks without water. The crisis, exacerbated by aging and unmaintained infrastructure, illegal water connections, and a lack of urgent interventions, has prompted Water and Sanitation Minister Penny Majodina to label it a "self-inflicted crisis."

Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation David Mahlobo recently revealed a staggering statistic: of the five billion litres of treated water distributed daily by Rand Water, an alarming 2,3-billion litres—nearly half—is lost due to leaks and unmaintained municipal infrastructure. This equates to a nonrevenue water rate of 492%, underscoring the urgent need for infrastructure repair and modernisation.

Against this backdrop, thermoplastic pipes, such as those manufactured by members of the Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association (SAPPMA), offer a crucial solution to reducing water losses and improving infrastructure reliability.

Benefits of Thermoplastic Pipes

Thermoplastic pipes are rapidly becoming the material of choice for water engineering and wastewater treatment projects due to their numerous advantages:

- **Reduced Water Loss:** Plastic pipes are less prone to leaks than traditional materials, ensuring more water reaches end users.
- **Durability and Longevity:** With a lifespan of up to 100 years, thermoplastic pipes require less frequent replacement and maintenance.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Lightweight and energy-efficient to produce, plastic pipes have a lower carbon footprint than metal or concrete alternatives.
- **Cost-Effective Installation:** Their flexibility and lightweight nature make plastic pipes easier to transport and install, reducing overall project costs.
- **Enhanced Flow Efficiency:** Smooth interior surfaces result in lower friction losses, improving the efficiency of

water distribution systems.

The Role of SAPPMA

SAPPMA is at the forefront of promoting high-quality, certified plastic pipes that adhere to stringent manufacturing

standards. Pipes bearing the SAPPMA mark guarantee reliability, performance, and longevity, making them a vital component of any infrastructure upgrade.

"The importance of specifying quality thermoplastic pipes

cannot be overstated. Decision-makers and specifiers must include the SAPPMA mark in their tender specifications to ensure the installation of pipes that meet local and international standards," urges SAPPMA

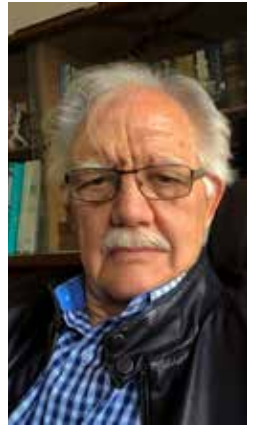
CEO Jan Venter.

Call to Action

It is clear that no intervention will succeed in making Gauteng water secure unless municipal reticulation systems are fixed, leaks are elimi-

nated, and illegal connections are tackled. The adoption of thermoplastic pipes offers a path forward, ensuring sustainable water management for future generations.

For more information: www.sappma.co.za



SAPPMA CEO
Jan Venter.

5 REASONS WHY A SAPPMA MEMBERSHIP MAKES SENSE

SAPPMA is an Association of leading companies in the plastics piping business, with the purpose of facilitating high standards of ethics, product quality and technical information. It is an open association, well regulated by strong Articles of Association and Code of Conduct and is registered as a Section 21 Company incorporated not for gain.

01

Members have a collective voice at engineering associations, consulting engineering firms, municipalities, water authorities and contractors.



Access to expert technical information: advice, consultations, technical manual, conferences, webinars, technical publications and ongoing training.

02

03

Access to the market survey results/reports, product standards, quality systems, test procedures.



Free access to the latest SANS standards, with representation at certification authorities and test facilities in terms of standards, testing, monitoring and quality control.

04

05

Members are set apart from other players in the market by passing the SAPPMA factory audits and adherence to the SAPPMA Code of Conduct.



As a member of SAPPMA, you will be participating in the only representative plastic pipe forum in the country. Members are afforded valuable networking opportunities, social interaction and enjoy a sense of community.

06

NEED MORE REASONS TO JOIN? CONSIDER THIS...

- SAPPMA represents more than 80 % of the plastic pipe market in Southern Africa. Members are supported by an established brand that is solely aimed at protecting the customer and the infrastructure of the country.
- Our members represent manufacturers, polymer manufacturers, suppliers, individual members and certification bodies.
- The SAPPMA mark on a product has become a sought-after quality guarantee and give customers and end-users the peace of mind that their product meets local and international quality standards.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES CAN QUALIFY FOR A SAPPMA MEMBERSHIP:

- Pipe & fittings manufacturers
- Raw material suppliers
- Consultants
- Construction companies
- Municipalities
- Water Boards
- Contractors
- Installers
- Individuals

SAPPMA

southern african plastic pipe manufacturers association

JOIN SAPPMA TODAY!
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SA can arrest its infrastructure decline by leveraging local tech and expertise - Pragma



Bani Kgosana, chief revenue officer at Pragma.

THE condition of South Africa’s government-owned assets and deteriorating infrastructure is a serious challenge that frustrates citizens and businesses daily. But key issues like water management, hospitals and logistics in the country can be

turned around using locally-developed solutions, according to South African-based enterprise asset management company **Pragma**.
The South African government manages over 93 000 buildings and 74 hospitals. Many of these assets, belonging to municipalities and state-owned enterprises, have tremendous potential for improvement and revitalisation.
Bani Kgosana, chief revenue officer at Pragma, explains: “Scheduled maintenance enables best outcomes. Eskom has shown the impact of maintaining its electricity generation and transmission fleet over the last year which has led to more than six months without load-shedding.
“Pragma has developed advanced solutions for maintenance and asset management issues which are being implemented locally and exported beyond our borders. These homegrown solutions have the potential to not only improve maintenance for government-owned assets but optimise them for the greater good of South Africans and our economy.”
Pragma is a specialist enterprise asset management business headquartered in South Africa with enterprise clients in 46 countries. With roots in engineering consulting, it helps industrial businesses and municipalities maximise their return on asset investments to support highly functional and reliable operations.
“Pragma’s On Key enterprise asset management software enables the end-to-end management of maintenance processes and

resource allocation. Resources, including third-party contractors, are tightly managed to remove the risk of work falling behind, jobs completed poorly, or work dragging out due to unprepared or poorly skilled teams not being able to complete the work.”
“An added benefit for contractors is that work is allocated to the most suitable contractor closest to the job. This ensures contractors can respond quickly, complete the job and conclude administrative processes in On Key to get sign-off and submit their invoices. This saves time and costs,” adds Kgosana.
Pragma’s network of contractors is located across the country. A stringent accreditation process ensures that contractors with the right set of skills are identified and trained to legislated stand-

ards. Aspects such as hourly rates, the time required to perform a job, and best practices are agreed upon with the client and contractors and set up in On Key. Spare parts are also specified to ensure that the correct spares are used to prevent re-work due to poor quality. Doing the job properly eliminates the need to revisit sites, saving time, fuel and costs.
“With this approach, Pragma administers the efficient and quick distribution of work to smaller contractors. Instead of a big behemoth making money from government, much maintenance work is outsourced to smaller businesses, ensuring much-needed business for smaller contractors.”
“Our approach has created significant job opportunities for regional SMEs,” says Kgosana.
Pragma’s On Key offering focuses on:

- **Intelligent asset register:** Creates a detailed asset register with scalable maintenance plans.
- **Work management:** Streamlines operational processes to ensure timely maintenance and repairs.
- **Supplier material management:** Manages suppliers, spares and spending to enhance service delivery and efficiency.

“If the same commitment to planned maintenance that we eventually saw at Eskom can be implemented by water management, healthcare, building management sector and other utility management sectors, the impact on our country will be immense.

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From cleaner to CEO: the inspiring journey of Alfred Challis, MANZI Water

ALFRED Challis has risen from humble beginnings as a cleaner to become the CEO of MANZI Water, a rapidly growing prepared water business with over 100 outlets across South Africa.
Alfred’s story began in the small community of Montagu in the Western Cape, where he spent his early life before moving to Mossel Bay following his parents’ separation. Eager to experience working life, Alfred left school to obtain a college matric while nurturing his passion for skateboarding. His dedication to the extreme sport saw him participate in various contests. These early achievements reflected Alfred’s determination to rise above the challenges of his early life and pursue success with unwavering commitment.
Upon entering the working world, Alfred started with pizza deliveries but was soon employed at a retail store that sold purified water. There, his unwavering work ethic caught the attention of his superiors. Through sheer determination and a desire to learn, Alfred climbed the



Alfred Challis, CEO of MANZI Water.

ranks over more than 15 years. During this time, his work took him to cities like eMalahleni and Tshwane, at times with just a couch, bed, and desk loaded onto the back of a Ford Bantam bakkie.
“Every job I held has been a stepping-stone,” says Challis. “I learned from each experience, which fuelled my drive to make a difference in the industry. Becoming the CEO of MANZI Water is not just a personal achievement; it’s a testament to what hard work can accomplish.”
Under Alfred’s leadership, MANZI Water has faced numerous challenges on its journey. Yet, despite the odds, the business has experienced significant growth, recently celebrating the opening of its 105th outlet in South Africa.
Challis’ story is one of inspiration, a motivator for young people aspiring to build businesses that serve others.
As MANZI Water continues to expand its reach and enhance its offerings, Challis remains at the forefront of the company’s mission to provide clean, safe drinking water to all South Africans. His journey from cleaner to CEO is a powerful reminder that, with determination, anything is possible.

Futureproofing infrastructure with galvanized steel - International Zinc Association Africa

IN South Africa where decaying water works, sewerage works, and railway systems need rapid upgrading and rehabilitation, new and remediated infrastructure must not only last for decades but thrive under challenging operating conditions.

Hot dip galvanized steel has become integral to achieving this goal. "Galvanizing is about more than just corrosion protection," states Simon Norton, director of the International Zinc Association Africa.

"All new bridge construction or repair in the City of Cape Town South Africa is required to utilise hot dip galvanized rebar in concrete structures"

"It is about creating infrastructure that stands the test of time with reduced maintenance and increased resilience and saves the taxpayer money."

Galvanized steel is the backbone of sustainable development. Coastal environments, in particular, benefit from galvanized rebar in concrete, which resists the corrosive effects of salt and carbonation.

Examples like Cape Town's sea-facing retaining walls at Clovelly on the False Bay coast showcase how galvanized steel rebar in concrete performs under extreme conditions.

In coastal areas, bridges are exposed to harsh environments with high levels of humidity and chlorides. Galvanized rebar has been successfully used in bridge construction to ensure long-term concrete durability and prevent corrosion-related failures.

All new bridge construction or repair in the City of Cape Town South Africa is required to utilise hot dip galvanized rebar in concrete structures.

Luxury apartments along the prestigious Mouille Point, Sea Point, and Camps Bay beachfront in Cape Town have also suffered deterioration on columns and concrete balconies because hot dip galvanized rebar was not used in the original concrete.

"With these apartment prices reaching astronomical heights

and owners faced with exorbitant repair costs, all the concrete used along the East and West Coast of South Africa should contain hot dip galvanized reinforcing steel. Nothing less will suffice," urges Norton.

Structures exposed to seawater, such as wharfs and docks, are particularly vulnerable to corrosion. Galvanized rebar provides excellent protection against marine corrosion, extending the service life of these

concrete structures.

In terms of environmental resilience, the sacrificial nature of zinc ensures that galvanized steel rebar containing concrete structures endure even in high-corrosion environments.

By extending the lifespan of structures, galvanizing minimises disruptions and costs associated with repair. Using galvanized rebar supports the circular economy by reducing the frequency of replacements and the

materials consumed in maintenance.

Galvanized steel is not just about addressing today's challenges; it is about anticipating future needs.

"As we look to build infrastructure that lasts, reduces capital

costs and is durable for decades, galvanized rebar is an indispensable tool," concludes Norton. Its role in environmental resilience, cost saving, and sustainability assures its place in the future of construction.

TRICOM AFRICA WAS AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE KAAIMANS RAW WATER PUMP STATION

The Kaaimans Raw Water Pump Station pumps water from the Kaaimans River to the Garden Route Dam. The Pump Station is situated adjacent to a 7m deep weir in the Kaaimans River. This weir forms a pool and water flows from the pool through two coarse screen openings into the pump sump.

The George Municipality replaced the existing six borehole pumps that were prone to blockage and damage caused by the sand pebbles, leaves, twigs and other fine river debris.

The required flow range for the Kaaimans Pump Station is a minimum of 15 l/s and a maximum of 230 l/s at 120 m total head and still allowing a minimum environmental flow of 35 l/s down the river.

The six borehole pumps were replaced by six 15kW Grundfos submersible pumps with Open S-tube impellers with the ability to handle large compressible solids. Each of the submersible pumps handles a flow rate of 15 l/s to 55l/s and at a maximum flow rate of 230 l/s four duty pumps will be utilized with two pumps as standby.

Some of the existing pipework was refurbished and the valves, reflux valves, pressure gauges and packings were replaced.

The raw river water is pumped through two strainers installed in parallel configuration. An-adjustable pre-selected pressure loss over each strainer initiates an automatic cleaning cycle new pipework with valves, automatic actuators and specials were installed to accommodate the filters.

Six new Grundfos CR type centrifugal pumps were installed, two 37kW pumps each capable of handling a flow rate of 15 l/s to 25 l/s and four 90kW pumps each capable of handling a flow rate of 25 l/s to more than 60 l/s.

Refurbishment of the existing pipework and specials were done to accommodate the new centrifugal pumps.

The pump sets are controlled with Grundfos model CUE variable speed drives and Grundfos CU362 controllers.

The following civil and building works were also performed under this contract.

- Modifications to the electrical building to accommodate the new Motor Control Centre.
- Manufacture, fabricate and install galvanized steel pumphouse structure including steel single door, ventilation and louvres including roll-up door and electrical hoist, all on a cast concrete floor.
- Construction of strainer slab and thrust blocks.
- Re-construction of Stormwater channel.
- Reinstatement of stormwater system, unblocking scour valve and improvement of stormwater runoff.
- Construction of walkways, steps and new fence access gate.
- Construction of new concrete road.



Client:



Consultant:



Contractor:



Main Equipment Supplier:



Allmech set to celebrate 30 years of customer service in 2025



ORIGINALLY established as a closed corporation in 1995, Allmech has grown into a leading South African manufacturer of boilers and supplier of water treatment components, servicing the entire country and expanding its services beyond the borders. While 2024 has brought its share of challenges, MD Lionel Maasdorp says it's been a good year overall and the company is positioned well for 2025, which will mark 30 years in the business.

"With the 2024 national election came hope for change, and change did happen," he says. "It hasn't been in all places as expected, but for us the best is the fact that we have not had loadshedding. One does not realise how disruptive it is and how much it affects business operations. We have seen a significant increase in enquiries and orders for our electric steam products. We've had a very busy workshop and were able to get all the projects out as planned."

Maasdorp says one of the focuses for 2024 was to expand into new industries and sales rep, Lynette Morrey. Who headed up this initiative made significant progress and exceeded expectations in growing the client base.

"We also had several firsts as a business, including importing several new Runxin valves," he says. As the only authorised South African agent for Runxin valves, Allmech was invited to visit the global Wenzhou Runxin Manufacturing Machine Co., headquartered in China, to experience the latest technological developments and decide which new products to bring to the local market. They have since begun to stock an automatic pool filtration valve, irrigation valve with rain sensor, and a leak detection shutoff valve.

"Imports have been slow and costly, but by managing our stock and keeping costs down where possible we have been able to keep our prices unchanged for most of the year," says Maasdorp. "Material shortages for manufacturing of some of the valves have delayed our imports from China by as much as 5 months, but we've been able to expand our client base in the water treatment division. Certain new industries have found some of our unique Runxin valves a great addition to their product offering, such as pool shops and pump supplying companies."

Allmech has also managed to increase

awareness of its range in areas including Namibia, the Western Cape, Free State and Mpumalanga, where previously its main focus was in Gauteng and KZN. "Our Runxin range now covers over 150 products," says Maasdorp.

He says that as the company prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary, Allmech is embarking on an expansion plan for 2025, which includes stocking an even wider range of the Runxin valves.

"Who knows – it might even end up with us securing new premises to accommodate us all and the stock under one roof!" he says. "Allmech celebrates 30 years of customer service next year, and considering that we have some staff who have been with us for over 20 years, we hope to keep going for at least the next 30 years."

About Allmech

Allmech was founded in 1995 and has grown over two decades to become one of South Africa's leading boiler manufacturers and suppliers to the water treatment industry. Allmech offers a comprehensive range of electrical, gas and oil-fired boilers with water treatment to suit.

The importance of safety in sewer cleaning - Werner Pumps

SEWER cleaning is an essential task but can be dangerous. A recent tragedy, where three plumbers lost their lives in Ekurhuleni while unblocking a sewer, underscores the urgent need for improved safety measures in this field.

According to Sebastian Werner, MD at Werner Pumps, a local manufacturer of high-pressure jetting and vacuuming trucks often used in sewer maintenance, the risks of such tragedies occurring can be significantly lowered by adopting proper safety protocols and using the right equipment for the job.

"Most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about sewer maintenance, but those of us who work in the industry know how dangerous it can be," Werner says.

"Common risks include toxic gases, such as methane and hydrogen sulphide, as well as biological hazards, and confined spaces. It's critical to address these risks to protect workers and to ensure compliance with occupational health and safety standards."

Werner says that



there are several safety measures that need to be considered whenever undertaking sewer maintenance or cleaning. These include:

- The importance of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gas detectors and harnesses.
- The role of training in hazard recognition and emergency response.
- Implementation of confined space entry protocols and ventilation systems.
- Regular maintenance and inspection of equipment to ensure reliability.

"Of course, big cleaning and maintenance jobs

require the right equipment, such as jetting trucks, and these need to be correctly operated too," says Werner.

"Modern trucks have built-in features to help with this, such as gas monitors, and you can also customise your truck unit to ensure it meets the demands of the types of jobs you tend to do. There are also features available, such as remote operation, that allow operators to work from a safe distance, minimising direct exposure to hazards."

He suggests that investing in the right equipment not only improves efficiency and reduces downtime, but also prevents accidents and prevents fines for

non-compliance.

"At Werner Pumps, we provide operator training with every truck we hand over to a customer because we believe safety always comes first," he says

"We also supply a range of safety equipment, such as a special tripod device that can be used to more safely lower or lift the operator. We use these in our own rental units too. What happened in Ekurhuleni was a heartbreaking situation and we are doing our best to ensure that none of our customers will ever experience something similar."

For more information: <https://wernerpumps.com/>

Mobile pumps make industry more flexible - Lutz Pumpen

LUTZ Pumpen is set to present the B70H eccentric screw pump and the B3 battery-powered drum pump at the Pumps & Valves 2025 trade fair in Dortmund.

Bringing maximum flexibility and rapid operational readiness, especially in changing or unpredictable working environments, mobile pumping solutions are assuming increasing importance in industrial settings.

Responding to this development, Lutz Pumpen will present the B70H eccentric screw pump, which can be flexibly mounted on a transport trolley, and the battery-powered B3 Battery drum pump at the Pumps

& Valves 2025 trade fair in Dortmund from 19 to 20 February 2025 (stand 5-L09 in hall 005).

The B70 series eccentric screw pumps are used in industrial applications to pump watery to highly viscous liquids with up to 100 000 mPas and media containing solids and shear-sensitive media.

This can range from diesel and oil in the raw materials industry, to caramel and pasta products in the food industry and toothpaste and creams in the cosmetics industry.

"The B70 series pumps are characterised by a gentle and low-pulsation pumping action, which ensures that the structure and properties

of sensitive food products, pharmaceuticals, biochemicals and polymers remain unchanged during transport", explains Takumi Nasu, head of development at Lutz-Pumpen GmbH.

The pumps work with an eccentric screw that rotates inside a static housing, thereby dividing the medium across individual chambers and conveying it along these chambers. This gentle pumping process only subjects the medium to a low mechanical load, which minimises the danger of shear stress.

A consistent flow rate without pressure peaks and dead times The B70 series eccentric

screw pumps also guarantee low levels of pulsation during operation. "The flow rate is constant and there are no sudden pressure peaks. This is advantageous not only for the stability of the transported medium but also minimises the dead time during which no liquid is pumped", says Nasu.

With a three-phase motor producing up to 900 revolutions per minute, the pumps achieve a flow rate of up to 120 l/min, a delivery head of up to 6 bar and are suitable for immersion depths between 500 mm and 2,500 mm. It is also possible to measure the flow rate indirectly via the speed of the rotor.



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Global pumping giant ready to support hydrogen economy - KSB Pumps and Valves

WITH abundant sunshine and wind, southern Africa is perfectly positioned to become a global powerhouse in green hydrogen production.

As the world shifts towards cleaner energy sources, Namibia and South Africa provide favourable conditions and are well situated upon one of the world's central shipping routes to transport the commodity to all corners of the globe.

"In Namibia the Hyphen Hydrogen Energy project aims to build a massive 3 GW electrolyser facility near Lüderitz"

Not surprisingly, two key projects are already in advanced stages of development in Namibia with the Hyphen Hydrogen Energy and Daures projects well underway and gearing to transform southern Africa into a vital supplier of hydrogen to meet the energy demands of developed nations.

Global pumping solutions provider KSB has identified the vast potential of these types of projects in southern Africa and through its KSB Pumps and Valves subsidiaries in Namibia and South Africa, is investing heavily in bringing the right skills to the region. This type of specialised planning is essential to ensure the success of the hydrogen economy as the process of creating green hydrogen is complex as is the generation of renewable electricity to split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen through electrolysis.

According to KSB business strategist, Ulrich Stahl the important enabler function of hydrogen is that it makes the transport of renewable energy over long distances possible. Furthermore, transporting Hydrogen as a gas or in liquid condition is challenging. Being a light gas it is difficult to contain and requires compressing and cryogenic freezing to convert it to liquid form. This is prohibitively difficult and has led to techniques where it is converted to ammonia which is a compound

of nitrogen and hydrogen. The addition of nitrogen to create ammonia makes it easier to store and transport than pure hydrogen. Once shipped to its destination, it can be converted back into hydrogen, making it a practical and scalable

solution for fulfilling global energy needs.

In Namibia the Hyphen Hydrogen Energy project aims to build a massive 3 GW electrolyser facility near Lüderitz with production of green hydrogen set to begin

by 2026. At full capacity, it will produce 3 million tonnes of green hydrogen annually. This ambitious project will draw on 6 GW of renewable energy generated from wind and solar power ensuring that the hydrogen it produces is entirely

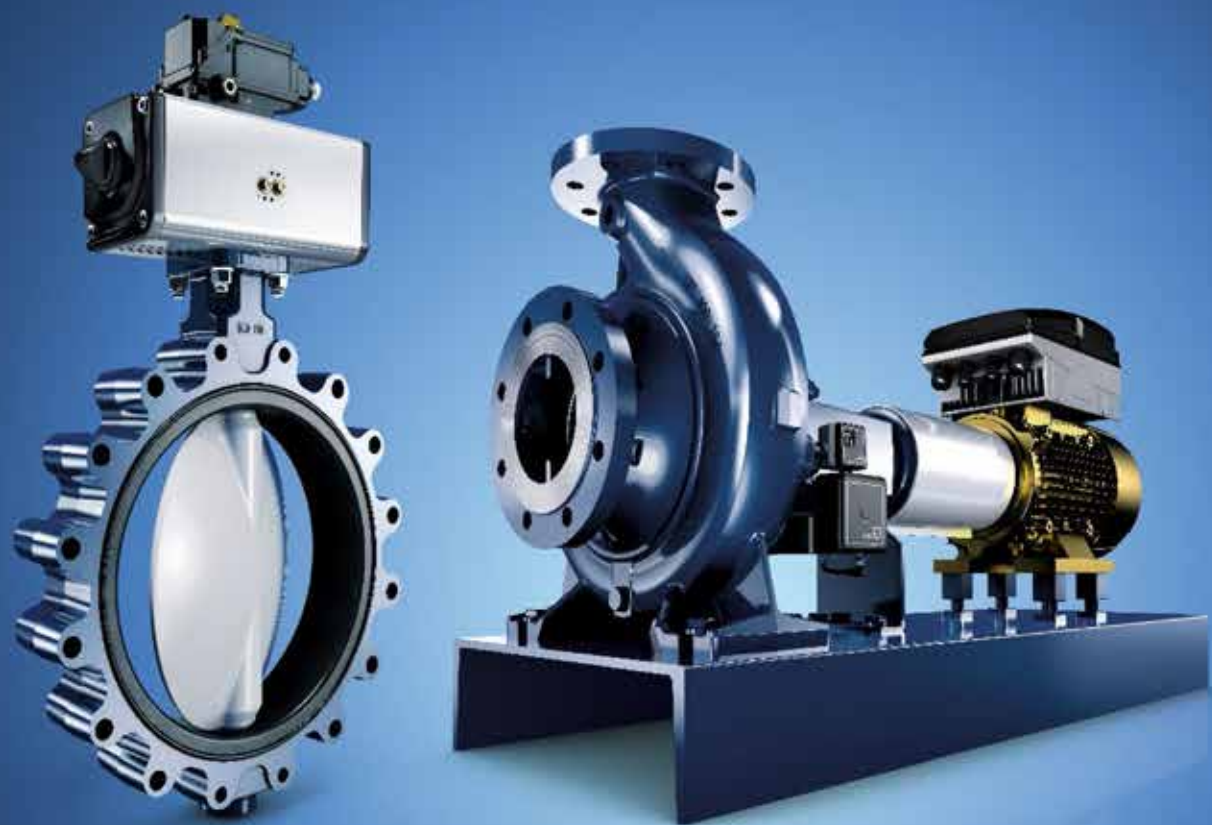
green and emissions-free. The hydrogen will be exported primarily to Europe with Rotterdam allocated as a key destination for energy integration.

For more information: <https://www.ksb.com/en-za>



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Integrated Pump Technology delivers Godwin HL150 to Senegal mine for open pit dewatering



Integrated Pump Technology has secured an order for its first Godwin HL150 pump to a mining operation in Senegal, marking a significant step in the company's ongoing support for mining operations across West Africa.

INTEGRATED Pump Technology has secured an order for its first Godwin HL150 pump to a mining operation in Senegal, marking a significant step in the company's ongoing support for mining operations across West Africa.

The trailer-mounted diesel-driven self-prim-

ing pump has been selected to provide vital dewatering services for an open pit mine, where fluctuating groundwater levels, particularly during the rainy season, pose a challenge to efficient operations.

Mining operations, especially open pit mines, are often situated in re-

mote areas where power availability is limited. This makes diesel-driven pumps the preferred option, offering the flexibility to be deployed without reliance on external power sources.

For the Senegalese mine, the Godwin HL150M pump will provide a robust solution that can be quickly mobilised to where it's needed most, keeping operations running smoothly even during periods of intense rainfall when groundwater levels rise rapidly.

JD Nel, Godwin product manager at Integrated Pump Technology, says the Godwin HL150M Pump was considered the ideal choice due to its exceptional capabilities.

"Compact yet powerful, this pump is capable of delivering flow rates of up to 374 m³/h and can discharge water at heights of up to 148 metres. This level of performance

makes it perfectly suited for high-demand dewatering applications like those found at this open pit mine," he explains. One of the key features of the Godwin HL150M is its ability to run dry for extended periods thanks to its high pressure oil bath mechanical seal. Nel says that this innovative design ensures continuous operation in tough conditions such as those found in the Africa mining regions and it allows the pump to automatically prime and reprime as needed, without manual intervention.

"Dewatering applications in open pit operations call for a robust pump and this model can handle solids up to 35 mm in diameter, allowing it to deal with both slurry and clean water, adding versatility to its application," he says.

Another critical benefit is the pump's ability to achieve a suction lift

of up to 8.5 metres. Combined with its fully automatic priming system, the Godwin HL150M offers reliable performance, making it a valuable asset for mining operations in challenging environments.

This recent delivery to Senegal underscores Integrated Pump Technology's growing presence and support for mining projects across Africa. We have built a strong reputation for supplying high quality dewatering solutions tailored to the needs of the mining sec-

tor in Africa, where the ability to maintain uninterrupted operations during the rainy season is crucial," Nel says.

Alongside its range of Godwin diesel driven pumps and Grindex electric submersible pumps, Integrated Pump Technology offers end-users in the region not only reliable equipment but also comprehensive support.

This includes expert consultation to ensure the correct specification for each dewatering challenge, as well as maintenance and service op-

tions to keep the pumps operating at peak efficiency throughout their lifespan.

"With advanced solutions like the Godwin HL150M pump, Integrated Pump Technology enables African mining operations to tackle environmental challenges head-on, enhancing operational efficiency and reducing downtime to ensure optimal productivity," Nel concludes.

For more information: <https://www.pump-technology.com/>

Unplanned mine dewatering calls for Weir's custom solutions

IN both opencast and underground mines, unexpected water ingress can severely disrupt production unless an effective dewatering solution can be quickly applied; some forethought will go a long way in making this happen.

According to Marnus Koorts, GM Pump Products at Weir, one of the key challenges is that unplanned dewatering usually requires sizeable equipment to be retrofitted into locations where there is often no infrastructure to support it.

"In many open pits, for example, the voltage in the power network is different to normal motor voltages," says Koorts.

"This therefore calls for the application of transformers to achieve the right supply voltage."

The underground environment may have its own restrictions, such as the need for any equipment and motors to be flameproofed. It quickly becomes apparent, he explains, that any solutions provider needs not only an in-depth knowledge of the pump duty requirement. They also need to understand the various peripheral equipment that will render the pump suitable for the application.

"Satisfying these elements will allow the challenge to be more effectively addressed, but what about similar incidents in the future?" he asks. "The next important step is to look ahead and ask what the mine will be doing – and where mining will be taking place – in a year from now."

He highlights the risk that water might be pumped during an emergency to a nearby holding location, where it creates an obstacle for future operations on the mine.



Weir's pontoon solution is useful for emptying holding dams where it can draw water from the middle of a dam.

With a bit more planning, the dewatering process can ensure that water is removed further away at the outset. This, he suggests, could require the use of booster stations.

"There are not many pumps that can dewater a deep underground mine or open pit in a single lift," says Koorts.

"This means finding suitable places to install booster pumps, and ensuring that the appropriate power supply is available there. This may not always be easy, if certain levels of an operation have been mined out and no longer have active infrastructure."

With a forward-looking approach, a mine can also identify the depths at which dewatering may be required in two to three years' time, and when more booster pumps will need to be installed to cater for deeper operations. "At this point, the situations can start becoming quite complex, and every site demands a highly customised solution," he says.

Among the more innovative solutions, he notes, is the use of pontoons for opencast mines – with technology to automate their operation. A pump mounted on a pontoon can be positioned in an open pit, and can float if the area starts to flood. Fitted with the relevant

sensors, the pump will pick up the rising water levels and begin dewatering.

"The pontoon solution is also useful for emptying holding dams, especially since it can draw water from the middle of a dam, where it is cleaner and easier to pump," Koorts explains.

"Of course, the quality of the water will determine the pump type to be employed, as clean and dirty water present very different demands for a dewatering pump."

"In the SADC region, a diamond producer procured a bespoke dewatering solution to facilitate the removal of accumulated water in the pits. This was achieved through a series of diesel-powered booster pumps, enabling uninterrupted operations throughout the rainy season" elaborates Koorts.

"Another example is a copper producer in Central Africa that procured a bespoke solution to aid in the dewatering of surplus water accumulated during their operations. This measure not only complied with their environmental commitments but also ensured the safe and sustainable relocation of water away from operational areas."

For more information: <https://www.global.weir/>



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Läckeby's Roto Sieve Rotary Drum Screen: efficiency redefined



The Läckeby Roto Sieve Rotary Drum Screen.

IN the realm of wastewater treatment, the importance of reliable and efficient screening systems cannot be overstated. Among the industry's leading innovations, Läckeby's Roto Sieve Rotary Drum Screen – supplied by Monitor Pumps & Systems – stands out as a gold standard in fine solids separation, delivering exceptional performance in industrial and municipal applications alike.

Precision and simplicity

The Roto Sieve's design reflects Läckeby's commitment to engineering excellence. Featuring a rotating stainless-steel drum with perforations as small as 0.6 mm, the system ensures that even the finest debris is effectively separated from wastewater streams. This meticulous filtration enhances downstream processes, protecting equipment and improving overall system efficiency.

What sets the Roto Sieve apart is its simplicity.

Wastewater flows into the rotating drum, where solids are trapped and transported to the discharge point by internal flights. With minimal moving parts, the

system operates seamlessly, reducing the likelihood of breakdowns and ensuring uninterrupted performance.

Built for durability

One of the Roto Sieve's greatest strengths is its durability. Constructed with high-quality materials, the system is designed to endure harsh conditions, from abrasive industrial applications to high-volume municipal operations. Its self-cleaning mechanism, featuring brushes or spray nozzles, prevents clogging and extends the lifespan of the drum.

The low-maintenance design further enhances its appeal. Operators benefit from reduced downtime and lower maintenance costs, making the Roto Sieve a cost-effective solution in the long run.

Energy efficiency and sustainability

In an era where sustainability is a priority, the Roto Sieve shines as an environmentally friendly option. Its energy-efficient motor minimises power consumption, aligning with global efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of industrial operations. By capturing solids

early in the treatment process, the system also contributes to better sludge quality, promoting sustainable waste management practices.

Proven performance

With thousands of installations worldwide, the Roto Sieve Rotary Drum Screen has earned its reputation as a trusted solution for diverse wastewater treatment needs. From food processing plants to municipal sewage facilities, it has consistently demonstrated its versatility and reliability.

As the demand for efficient and sustainable wastewater treatment solutions grows, Läckeby's Roto Sieve continues to lead the way. Its innovative design, low energy consumption, and exceptional performance make it a valuable asset for facilities looking to optimize their operations while prioritising environmental responsibility.

For operators seeking a robust and efficient screening system, the Roto Sieve Rotary Drum Screen is more than a choice—it's an investment in efficiency, sustainability, and peace of mind.

For more information contact www.monitorpumps.co.za

Werner Pumps launches locally patented wet/dry combi vacuum and jetting truck

WERNER Pumps, leading manufacturer of high-pressure jetting equipment in South Africa, has patented its wet and dry combination jetting and vacuum truck unit, designed and manufactured locally in South Africa. The company has already built and sold the first few units and believes demand for such trucks will continue to grow.

Sebastian Werner, MD at Werner Pumps, says the company has built on the success of its IMPI Combi Unit, a versatile machine suited to many applications, to fill a gap in the market for a truck that is able to meet dry vacuuming application requirements too.

"We found that customers were looking for a machine that could not only be used in wet jetting and vacuuming applications, such as storm water drain or sewer cleaning, but also for dry applications, such as dust suppression on mines or managing fly ash in power generation facilities," he says. "We developed a new version of our vacuum pump to address these needs, and we've seen that the unit performs well in the 'in-between' applications too, such as vacuuming slurry. This makes it a great investment for customers using it for multiple applications. We've



already deployed the first unit, and the customer is very happy with its performance."

As with the dry-only system, the high-pressure pump on the Werner wet/dry IMPI system has a capacity of

295l/min at 135 bar and is fitted with a pneumatically operated regulating valve, making pressure adjustment simple and contributing to operator safety.

The vacuum pump has a 2 400m³/hour suction capability, and the vehicle is fitted with a 12 500 litre stainless steel tank. Other features include a hydraulic slewing suction boom, two hydraulic-driven hose reels and multiple toolboxes. "We're always looking to innovate based on what our customers need," says Werner.

manufacturing, supplying and maintaining specialist high-pressure jetting equipment.

The company has built a reputation as a local industry leader through its focus on delivering high-quality, low-maintenance, 100% South African manufactured products that last, all while considering clients' budgets.

Aside from its in-house manufacturing capabilities, Werner Pumps specialises in the supply and maintenance of high-pressure jetting equipment, German high-pressure pumps, high-pressure sewer cleaning hoses, Swiss-engineered Nozzles by ENZ, and high-pressure guns, lances and cleaning equipment.

For over 30 years, Werner South Africa Pumps & Equipment has been designing,

For more information, visit www.wernerpumps.com

"The vacuum pump has a 2 400m³/hour suction capability, and the vehicle is fitted with a 12 500 litre stainless steel tank"

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DEMONSTRATION VIDEO
Lackeby RS36 Roto-Sieve®
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Scope for private steam turbines to feed grid, says WEG Africa

STEAM turbines represent mission critical equipment for a range of industries from sugar and paper to steel and petrochemicals, but there is now greater opportunity among these sectors to generate more energy to sell into the national grid.

Traditionally, companies using steam turbines have usually consumed all the energy they produce in their processes – with a range of benefits such as supply reliability and cost savings. As the country struggles to keep up with power demand, however, there are more opportunities for the private sector to produce excess electricity for sale into the grid.

According to Alastair Gerrard, executive energy systems at WEG Africa, this trend is already advanced in Brazil – the home of holding company WEG. Many steam turbine users in Brazil have capitalised on these opportunities by increasing their



Measuring of labyrinth seals on a turbine rotor.

boiler efficiency. “While it may be common in South Africa’s sugar industry, for example, to use medium pressure boilers, the Brazilian market uses high pressure boilers up to 140 bar – and gain significant efficiencies with these higher pressures,” says Gerrard. “This allows these sugar producers and other users to upgrade their facilities and considerably augment

their revenues through the sale of electricity, while also paying off their capital investments much quicker.” He points to the government’s strategic direction in establishing the National Transmission Company of South Africa, a key step in transforming the country’s electricity industry. This will open doors for more private companies to ‘export’ excess electricity into the grid, help-

ing to stabilise supply and strengthen the foundation for economic growth. “This has been successfully achieved in countries like Brazil, and it is exciting to see that we are making progress on this journey in South Africa,” he says. “We believe that WEG Africa has an important role to play in this endeavour – through our long experience in this field and



Cobus van Eeden, WEG Turbine services manager at WEG Africa.

our full service offering for steam turbine users.” Cobus van Eeden, WEG Turbine Services manager at WEG Africa, highlights that the company offers customers a turnkey capability. It sizes steam turbine solutions according to the specific operating parameters of the customer’s application, and supplies a bespoke thermal power system. The service also

includes installing the machines, commissioning and ongoing after-sales servicing and maintenance. “As an OEM of steam turbines, gearboxes and generators, we can even help customers to assess their current equipment – whether these are WEG products or from other OEMs – and provide strategic options and recommendations,” says van Eeden. “In addition to our

depth of engineering expertise for repairing such equipment, we can also analyse the potential for enhancing operational efficiency and increasing power output capability of the equipment.” The company provides long term service level agreements, including contracts for preventative maintenance. WEG Africa also works with customers on their forward planning, which may include considering the transition to electricity exporting. Gerrard points out that this approach is built on its commitment as an OEM to stand alongside customers throughout the lifecycle of the equipment supplied. He notes that, while there has in the past been some acceptance of third-party support in this field, WEG Africa favours in-house OEM support for its solutions through service level agreements that give customers confidence in the total lifecycle cost of their purchase.



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Teraco commences construction on 120MW utility-scale solar power plan



TERACO, a provider of interconnection platforms and vendor-neutral colocation data centres, announced today that it has started construction of its 120MW utility-scale solar PV power plant in the Free State province of South Africa.

"Teraco plans to not only own its data centres, but also to power them with a renewable energy source"

In a world first for data centre operators, Teraco will own the 120MW solar PV plant and wheel the renewable energy to its data centres, with the plan to create its own sustainable energy source to power the next generation of client cloud and AI computing applications. The plant is expected to come online in late 2026.

"Driving renewable energy infrastructure investment at a time when computing applications, such as artificial intelligence,

are using increased power, is an industry imperative. The need is even more acute in South Africa, given its electricity generation constraints and current levels of renewable energy penetration. This is a significant step toward meeting our renewable energy ambitions and those of our clients. It is also only the first phase of our longer-term renewable energy commitment, with the construction commencement marking an important milestone in what has been a long journey over the last several years, and we are now looking forward to driving the project to completion," says Jan Hnizdo, CEO at Teraco.

"In South Africa, we have various energy challenges, and this presents an incredible opportunity to support the needs of our broader community through the addition of generation capacity to our constrained grid, while meeting Teraco's near term renewable energy objectives. This represents a unique, holistic approach since

Teraco plans to not only own its data centres, but also to power them with a renewable energy source, creating a sustainable path to growth. This initiative aligns with Teraco's long-term vision of powering digital transformation across Africa. South Africa's solar power represents a competitive advantage for data centres relative to other locations," he adds.

Teraco successfully secured grid capacity allocation from Eskom for the solar plant in February and has spent the last eight months finalising plant design and the wheeling arrangements between Eskom and the municipalities of Ekurhuleni and Cape Town, within which several of Teraco's data centres are located.

Wheeling renewable energy across electrical grids enables power to be moved from a renewable energy producer in outlying areas via existing transmission and distribution systems to end users in urban areas. It also allows the deployment

of renewable energy projects to areas with high energy yields to maximise their generation potential. Wheeling to multiple municipalities marks another first for renewable energy projects in South Africa.

Bryce Allan, head of sustainability at Teraco, says, "Teraco considers this project essential to achieving its renewable energy ambitions and believes it will pave the way for other municipality renewable energy wheeling projects. This will ultimately assist municipalities in attracting new investments and remaining competitive as local and international companies become increasingly sensitive to the carbon intensity of their electricity supply."

Teraco has partnered with juwi and Subsolar to develop the 120MW solar PV plant, with juwi appointed to design and manage the procurement, construction, and commissioning.

"Our strategy is to control our own solar project, and together with our partners, directly drive its development. This project delivers on our commitments to clients and shareholders," he adds.

Teraco will also be upgrading Eskom's transmission infrastructure to allow the electricity generated to be successfully transmitted through the national grid. When fully operational, the 120MW solar PV plant is expected to produce more than 354 000 MWh annually.

Balancing power generation technologies could save €65-trillion by 2050 - Wärtsilä's Crossroads to net zero report

WÄRTSILÄ'S global power system modelling, published in the Crossroads to net zero report, compares two pathways from the year 2025 to 2050 with the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming, as per the Paris Agreement targets.

In the first pathway, only renewables, such as wind and solar power, and energy storage are added to the power mix. In the second pathway, balancing power generation technologies, that can be ramped up quickly when needed to support intermittent renewables, are also added to the system.

The modelling shows that a power system including balancing power has significant advantages when it comes to both cost and CO₂ reductions. The model reveals that this pathway would generate cumulative savings of €65-trillion by 2050 compared to a renewables-only pathway, due to less renewable capacity needed. This would average €2,5-trillion per year – an equivalent to over 2% of 2024's global GDP.

Key findings

Reduced costs: The study shows that compared to a renewables and energy storage-only pathway, the deployment of balancing power plants will re-

duce the cost of future power systems by as much as 42%, equalling €65-trillion.

Reduced emissions: Adding balancing power can reduce the total cumulative power sector CO₂ emissions between now and 2050 by 21% (19 Gt), compared to the renewables and storage-only path.

Less wasted energy: The modelling shows that the use of balancing power allows for enhanced power system optimisation, resulting in 88% less wasted energy due to renewable curtailment by 2050, compared with a renewable and energy storage-only pathway. In total, 458 000 TWh of curtailments would be avoided, enough to power the whole world with the current electricity consumption for more than 15 years.

Less renewable capacity and land needed: By adding balancing powerplants, we can halve renewable capacity and land needed to meet our decarbonisation targets.

Anders Lindberg, president Wärtsilä Energy & executive vice president, says, "While we have more renewable energy on our grids than ever before, it is not enough on its own. To achieve a clean energy future, our modelling shows that flexibility is essential.

Locally, South Africa plans to grow renewable capacity to

17,7 GW by 2030.

Wärtsilä's analysis in the country shows that a balanced system with flexible power generation, running on gas, and energy storage is crucial to integrate this variable renewable capacity, ensuring grid stability and reliability.

Calls to action for the power sector

Decisive actions from the entire power sector are crucial to achieve a low-cost and low-emission energy transition in line with the 2050 Paris Agreement. Instead of only focusing on the acceleration of renewable build up, a holistic system level thinking must be in place when investing in and planning power systems.

Kenneth Engblom, Wärtsilä's vice president for Africa and Europe concludes, "South Africa stands at a pivotal moment in its energy transition. Eskom's recent 3 GW GASIPPPP tender for ultra-flexible gas highlights the critical need for adaptable generation, as outlined in the report's modelling. The choices made today will define the country's energy future for decades, and prioritising flexible solutions from the outset is essential to maximising the potential of renewable energy investments."

For more information: www.wartsila.com/energy

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The role of packaging in agriculture: insights from Cape Bag Group

PACKAGING is integral to the agricultural sector, ensuring that products are transported securely, stored efficiently, and delivered in optimal condition. At Cape Bag Group, we've earned a solid reputation over nearly 90 years for providing high-quality packaging solutions tailored to the needs of the agricultural

industry. Our three divisions—Cape Bag, Cape Bulk Bags, and Cape Twines & Packaging—serve customers from three different factory locations, each offering specialised products that support the agricultural sector's growth. As the demand for food increases and agricultural practices

evolve, the pressure on businesses to enhance operations, including packaging, has never been higher. Packaging not only serves the purpose of safeguarding products but also plays a crucial role in optimising handling, storage, and logistics. This is where Cape Bag Group steps in with customised packaging solu-

tions designed to meet the unique challenges of agricultural businesses.

The critical role of bulk bags in agriculture

Bulk bags (also known as Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers or FIBCs) are essential to the agriculture industry. These bags are commonly used for trans-

porting large quantities of agricultural products such as grains, fertilisers, seeds, and animal feed. Known for their strength, reusability, and compact storage capacity, bulk bags are an ideal solution for bulk handling.

At Cape Bag Group, we specialise in providing high-quality bulk bags that meet the rig-

orous demands of agriculture.

We understand the complexities of the industry and design our bags to ensure reliability and safety throughout the supply chain.

Whether it's from harvest to storage or from farm to market, bulk bags play an indispensable role in the agricultural process.

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

Beyond quality protection, packaging also plays a key role in enhancing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of agricultural operations. Cape Bag Group offers a wide array of products, including polypropylene bags, hessian bags, and bulk bags, all designed to streamline operations and reduce overall costs.

As Robin Uys, Group MD, states: "Efficiency is essential in agriculture, and packaging plays a major role in achieving this. We at Cape Bag Group understand the challenges of the agricultural sector and strive to provide packaging solutions that optimize both operational efficiency and cost management."

Innovations such as our woven polypropylene bags have helped businesses improve logistics, reduce waste, and cut costs.

With over 60% of Cape Bag Group's sales originating from agricultural clients, we are proud to be part of a solution that helps farmers, suppliers, and distributors maintain the quality and consistency of their products.

Meeting the changing needs of agriculture

As farming practices evolve, so does the need for packaging. Farmers are continuously seeking ways to reduce waste, improve shelf life, and enhance the presentation of their products. At Cape Bag Group, we constantly innovate and adapt our product offerings to meet these changing demands, ensuring that we provide packaging solutions that cater to the needs of today and anticipate the challenges of tomorrow.

"We are committed to offering packaging solutions that drive the success of the agricultural sector," says Uys.

"From bulk bags for fertilizers to woven polypropylene bags for produce, our mission is to provide packaging that supports the growth and efficiency of agriculture in South Africa and beyond."

Looking to the future

Cape Bag Group remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships within the agricultural industry. Through continuous product innovation and a customer-focused approach, we aim to provide packaging solutions that help our clients succeed.



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With nearly 90 years of experience, Cape Bag Group provides superior packaging solutions for the agricultural sector. Our three trusted brands - Cape Twines & Packaging, Cape Bag, and Cape Bulk Bags - offer a full range of products, including:

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Precision farming, perfect produce: VEGA sensors cultivates perfection

EFFICIENT water and resource management are essential for sustainable farming, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where climate change has led to erratic rainfall patterns.

VEGA's advanced pressure and level sensors are widely used in agriculture to improve efficiency and sustainability. From monitoring water systems to ensuring precise level measurement in packaging lines, VEGA solutions are helping producers optimise their processes while minimising waste.

The perfect level of clean

In tomato processing, efficient washing systems are critical to maintaining product quality. After harvest, tomatoes are transported to washing basins, where they are moved along the line using water. To ensure effective cleaning, heavy contaminants such as stones and mud are separated while high-pressure air blowers complete the washing process.

The VEGAPULS C 11 radar sensor is the ideal choice for monitoring water levels in washing lines. Its non-contact design provides precise and reliable level measurement, even in turbulent or frothy water conditions. Specifically engineered for simple applications, the sensor ensures a steady flow of water to maintain consistent washing performance. Additionally, its robust design and easy installation make it a cost-effective and user-friendly solution.

Thermal sterilisation is an essential process in tomato production, particularly for concentrates, pulp, and juice. In a plate heat exchanger, tomatoes are heated to approximately 85°C to eliminate germs before being cooled for further processing. To ensure the process operates seamlessly, precise pressure monitoring is essential.

The VEGABAR 83 pressure transmitter is perfectly suited for this application. Equipped with a metallic measuring cell, the sensor delivers reliable performance under high pressures and vacuum conditions.

Its compatibility with Cleaning-in-Place (CIP) procedures makes it ideal for food production environments, where exposure

to aggressive cleaning agents and high temperatures is routine.

The VEGABAR 83 ensures the efficient separation of media streams, reduces energy consumption through reliable heat recovery, and provides seamless connectivity

via IO-Link, making it a dependable and economical choice for modern production facilities.

Cultivating perfection

VEGA's advanced pressure and level measurement solu-

tions are transforming tomato production by improving process efficiency and reliability. With sensors like the VEGAPULS C 11 and VEGABAR 83, farmers and producers can ensure consistent quality, reduce waste, and enhance produc-

tivity. By embracing these technologies, the agricultural sector can move toward a smarter, more sustainable future.

From water management to thermal processing, VEGA sensors deliver the precision and durability

required for modern farming. By integrating VEGA's robust, low-maintenance solutions, farmers and producers can achieve better control over their operations, reduce costs, and contribute to more sustainable agricultural practices.



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Why tank cleaning matters in brewing and distilling - Monitor Engineering

TANKJET nozzles play a pivotal role in maintaining high standards of cleanliness and efficiency in the brewery and spirits industry. Cleaning and sanitising tanks, vats, and other large vessels used in the production and storage of beverages is critical to ensuring product quality, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency. TankJet nozzles, with their advanced design and reliable performance, provide a versatile and effective solution for cleaning these essential components.

“The production of beer, spirits, and other beverages involves intricate processes where cleanliness is paramount,” says Monitor Engineering’s MD Grant Orsmond. “Fermentation tanks, storage vessels, and mixing containers can accumulate residues such as yeast, grains, sugars, and other organic materials. If not properly cleaned, these residues can lead to contamination, off-flavours, or compromised product quality. Moreover, stringent industry standards, including those from organisations like the FDA and HACCP, mandate rigorous cleaning protocols to ensure consumer safety.”

Efficient tank cleaning also minimises downtime, enhances productivity, and



Monitor Engineering’s TankJet nozzles.

reduces water, energy, and cleaning chemical consumption. This is where TankJet nozzles excel, offering solutions tailored to the unique requirements of the brewery and spirits industry.

Advantages of TankJet nozzles

1. Superior cleaning performance: TankJet nozzles are engineered for thorough and consistent cleaning. Their precise spray patterns and optimized flow rates ensure that even hard-to-reach areas inside tanks are cleaned effectively, eliminating residues and biofilms.
2. Versatility: With various models available, TankJet nozzles can accommodate tanks of different sizes

- and shapes, from small mixing vessels to large fermenters and bright beer tanks. Whether the application requires a gentle rinse or a high-impact cleaning cycle, there is a TankJet nozzle to meet the need.
3. Water and chemical efficiency: TankJet nozzles are designed to maximise cleaning efficiency while minimising water and chemical usage. Their targeted spray reduces waste, leading to cost savings and a smaller environmental footprint—a key consideration for sustainable brewery and distillery operations.
4. Easy installation and maintenance: These nozzles are user-friendly and easy to integrate into existing cleaning systems. With

robust construction and minimal moving parts, they offer reliable operation and require less frequent maintenance.

5. Compliance and safety: TankJet nozzles support compliance with hygiene standards in the beverage industry. Their designs often feature materials compatible with food and beverage applications, ensuring safe and sanitary operations.

Applications in breweries and distilleries

TankJet nozzles are used across various stages of beverage production:

- Fermentation tanks remove yeast and fermentation byproducts efficiently.
- Bright beer tanks ensure clarity and purity by thoroughly cleaning storage vessels.
- Mixing and blending tanks clean residual sugars, flavours, and additives.
- Barrel washing for distilleries where specialised nozzles handle the delicate task of cleaning barrels without damaging their structure.

Tailored solutions for every operation

“Every brewery and distillery has unique cleaning challenges. Our TankJet nozzles come in a wide range of models, such as rotating nozzles for dynamic cleaning action and static nozzles for simpler tasks. Automated systems can be customised to meet the specific requirements of each facility, ensuring optimal performance,” says Orsmond.

Monitor Engineering represents Spraying Systems Co. in South Africa. For expert advice, contact grant@monitorspray.co.za or visit www.spray.co.za

Gin industry insights: from craft distilleries to emerging alcohol trends



Wilderer head distiller André Pretorius (left) with owner Christian Wilderer.

JUNIPER berries, traditionally harvested wild, have been used in gin-making since ancient times. A South African importer of these berries, SGC Botanicals, imports around 45 tons of juniper berries annually, sourced from Serbia and South Asia where they are picked wild.

The company supplies this key ingredient to 62 distilleries and 100 home distilleries across South Africa. This ‘seems’ a good indication of a thriving craft gin industry.

Rise and decline of the craft gin market

Nils Schwarz, owner of SGC Botanicals, shares with Cape Business News an update on the industry. “There was a massive escalation during and after COVID, as gin was a drink which people could make themselves fairly easily. This led to a rapid increase in the number of distilleries. Since then, the demand has dropped off and then stabilised. There is a glut of gins on the South African market, and the consumer is becoming more selective.”

With so much competition, he says, a lot of the smaller players have stopped producing. The larger, more established ones remain along with the smaller craft distilleries that produce quality products.

Lessons from Wilderer Distilleries

One such craft distillery is Wilderer Distilleries, South Africa’s first private distillery which has been in business for 30 years. Christian Wilderer and his father Helmut started the business in 1995 having moved out from Germany. His father started distilling Grappa – which remains part of their portfolio and which has won international awards.

However, it was in 2014 when Christian was in Germany that the gin trend surfaced, spilling over from England. Christian predicted it would come to South Africa too and suggested to his father that they develop a gin. Helmut was not keen as he disliked gin. A handful of distilleries launched craft gins and enjoyed massive media attention.

This helped convince Helmut and he set about learning as much as he could about gin making. It took a year and half to develop and in December 2015 they launched the first gin to great success. In the first four months, they won multiple international gold awards and received much publicity. Within the first year they went from producing 10 000 bottles of Grappa a year, to producing 32 000 bottles of gin. The next year they achieved 60 000, which was an enormous amount for their small

setup. They went on to export it to 20 countries.

Christian says that the big spirits companies were initially slow on the uptake but when they caught onto the gravy train, they reinvented their brands, rebranded and even changed recipes. They acquired some of the new craft distilleries adding their brands to their portfolios and then cross-subsidising in order to gain market share.

This led to a massive drop off in sales for craft distilleries as well as the market became flooded with which meant less money to go around.

Key opportunities and insights for the alcohol industry

What will the next boom be? The ready-to-drink market is on the rise and even Heineken N.V. reported in their 2024 third-quarter trading update, that in South Africa their cider Savanna and ready-to-drink Bernini grew double-digits, outperforming the market.

Wilderer Distilleries, although severely affected by the decline of the craft gin industry, has adapted by contract distilling for other brands, as well as white labelling for corporates and hotel groups, plus continuing with some exports. They also have plans afoot for a ready-to-drink product.

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How temperature affects compressed air treatment: Artic Driers' insights



A heatless SA 5580 desiccant air dryer constructed by Artic Driers with a capacity 95 m³/min at 7 bar with a dewpoint of minus 40°C.

COMPRESSED air is a form of motive power, the same as electricity, gas, water, and steam. Compressed air and steam are the power sources that are produced onsite where gas, water and electricity are clean, metered and paid for.

Most engineers will agree that steam and compressed air are the most contaminated forms of motive power.

Pre-cleaning with filtration

Clean and Dry (CaD) compressed air is generally treated by inline pad type separators and inline filtration. These are installed before and after the compressed air dryer. This may be a refrigerated or a desiccant air type dryer.

Consistent high quality compressed air is achieved with the correct dual pre-filtration of particles followed by a coalescing filter/s. Pre-filters may achieve particle filtration down to 1µm and oil vapour removal down to 0.01 ppm with particles to 0.01 µm. Filtration after the dryer may be in the form of dust filtration after a desiccant air dryer, or even activated carbon filtration.

"These specifications above are based on an air temperature approaching the filters of 20°C," says Paul Cockfield, operations manager at Artic Driers International. "It's a European specification that is not generally highlighted here in South Africa. The ability of the filter to obtain the oil vapour specification is dependent on the approach temperature to the filter casing. If the compressed air approach temperature is 30°C instead of 20°C, the ability of the filter to remove oil vapours is not the same, as the oil viscosity changes with temperature. Higher temperatures mean the filter is dealing with more vaporous oils."

will assist in providing cooler compressor discharge temperatures, making filtration and air drying that much easier."

Which dryer type to use

The choice of the air dryer is determined by the application. In some applications a compressed air dewpoint of +3°C is acceptable; this can be obtained by an air-cooled or water-cooled refrigeration air dryer. If sub zero dewpoints are needed, a heatless or heated desiccant air dryer can be considered. These dryers can achieve minus 40°C dewpoint or better.

In both dryer types, the higher the temperature entering the unit, the larger the dryer becomes, to cope with the elevated inlet temperatures.

If a minor portion of the air is required to be ultra dry for a specific application, a refrigeration air dryer can be the primary dryer. A less expensive desiccant smaller dryer can then be installed at the point of use.

Visit www.articdriers.co.za or email Paul@articdriers.co.za. For a copy of Artic Driers' notes on Compressor House Design, email vedre@articdriers.co.za

Cape Collective wins Grand Prix at 2024 Beer Label Design Awards

By Diane Silcock

THE seventh annual Beer Label Design Awards for 2024 saw the craft beer brand Cape Collective coming up trumps.

The awards, convened by Winemag.co.za, which include wine and beer, are sponsored by self-adhesive label supplier Rotolabel who has been associated with the initiative since inception, with secondary sponsors being Avery Dennison, Synchron and Kemtek|HP Indigo.

Beer and wine marketer, Dane Raath and designer, Janneman Solms - co-founders of Cape Collective - seem to have found the perfect combination in working with Saggy Stone Brewing Co. to produce not only award-winning beer, but award-winning label designs too. Besides Cape Collective, Dane is also part of the Bomb Squad beer team having introduced Steven Kitshoff and Malcolm Marx, to both Saggy Stone and Janneman Solms. This has culminated in wins all round.

The awards took place in Cape Town on 27 November 2024 and the Cape Collective series designed by Janneman received the Gold award in the beer as a series category and the ultimate Grand Prix award.



Proud winners of the Winemag.co.za Label Design Awards for beer: Cape Collective's Dane Raath (left) and Janneman Solms (middle), with Andrew Bradley (right), Saggy Stone co-owner, with the brewery having also won two bronze awards for other Saggy Stone beers.

Added to this, Cape Collective also won the People's Choice award for beer.

Bomb Squad Pilsner, produced by Saggy Stone Brewing Co. and designed by Janneman, won Gold in the single label category.

"Our win is one for the books for Cape Collective," enthused Dane. "Janneman blew everyone away with his incredible creations and we are very proud of our achievements. We extend our thanks to Winemag.co.za for hosting such an amazing event, and, of course, a big thank you to Saggy Stone for believing in us

and backing all our beer projects."

"When life handed us a 2020 lockdown," says Janneman, "Dane and I with our few decades of wine industry connections, collaborated, exporting wine and then teaming up with Saggy Stone to whip up our Cape Collective 'palate cleansing' beers. Design is my passion, as is good wine and beer, and I'm elated with the outcome of the awards. It's a great feeling to see how far our brand has come."

Beers were judged in two categories: single labels and labels forming a series. Judging

criteria included originality of concept, execution, shelf appeal and effectiveness as a piece of communication. Criteria included beer having to be produced in South Africa and being commercially available while the minimum stock requirement was 50 six-bottle cases for beer.

According to Winemag.co.za, the motivation for the competition is to reward outstanding design as an influence on wine and beer purchases and all South African wine and beer producers, as well as giving design studios the opportunity to enter.

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“Innovation in motion” is the theme for 2025 SAPICS conference in Cape Town

Countdown to Africa's leading event for the supply chain profession.



THE annual SAPICS Conference, Africa's leading event for the supply chain profession, will be held from 8 to 11 June 2025 in Cape Town under the theme “Innovation in Motion.”

Now in its 47th year, the SAPICS Conference enables supply chain managers to learn, network and share knowledge, which is increasingly important for this vital profession in today's volatile and uncertain environment. More than 750 supply chain managers from 30 countries across Africa and around the world attended the 2024 SAPICS Conference in Cape Town in June 2024.

The 2025 theme, Innovation in Motion, reflects the imperative for organisations to innovate and strive for the agility and adaptability needed to rapidly respond to potentially chaotic changes and disruptions in today's turbulent supply chain landscape. In the face of continuous technological advances, shifting global dynamics and the pursuit of seamless efficiency, customer satisfaction

and sustainability, one thing is clear: innovation is a necessity for supply chain managers, SAPICS stresses.

Adaptability and innovation are the keys to success in supply chains today. Whether this means leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation, accelerating sustainability or rethinking traditional supply chain models, the need to innovate is more critical than ever. This year's theme, Innovation in Motion, encapsulates the dynamic and forward-thinking approach that today's supply chain professionals must adopt to stay ahead.

“Innovation in Motion isn't just a theme—it is a call to action,” comments MJ Schoemaker, president of supply chain industry body SAPICS.

“It is about keeping pace with change, continuously improving and ensuring that supply chains across all industries and sectors are not only resilient and innovative, but also drivers of competitive advantage. The SAPICS Conference

aims to equip delegates with all the knowledge, strategies, tools and techniques needed to do this.”

SAPICS 2025 will bring together industry experts, thought leaders and professionals from around the world and across the supply chain spectrum, to share their insights and expertise in compelling presentations, panel discussions and practical workshops. Attendees can expect to learn from the brightest minds and the most influential voices in supply chain management as they explore the trends, technologies and strategies that are driving the future of the supply chain management profession.

“This is a not to be missed event for supply chain practitioners at all levels,” Schoemaker states.

“Whether you are a chief supply chain officer or an experienced, senior supply chain manager, a supplier to the industry or someone who is simply eager to learn and grow, this is your opportunity to be at the forefront of our profession.”

Rhenus Group's R440-million new Joburg warehouse is water independent

The Meadowview facility will use a borehole and rainwater harvesting setup to be independent from municipal water.

By Larry Claasen

LOGISTICS firm Rhenus Group's move to a R440-million state-of-the-art facility in Johannesburg will see it become independent from municipal water.

Its new 28 000m² facility in Meadowview, Johannesburg is not only designed to fit the German company's environmental goals, but also operate independently from the city's water supply.

This means the facility's water management systems support sustainable operations and include a borehole, a 120 000l rainwater harvesting setup and a 40,000l fire sprinkler reservoir. An additional 1,11-million stormwater tank adds to the facility's eco-friendly features.

Rhenus says the facility's water independence is a response to the Water Crisis in South Africa.

“We needed to adopt innovative measures to reduce our reliance on municipal water supplies. It's important for us to work efficiently and ensure operational continuity, hence the decision to invest in alternative water sources,” it said in response to questions sent to it from CBN.

The move to have an independent water supply comes as there is growing concern on whether the City of Johannesburg will be able to keep the taps flowing.

A lack of maintenance and investment in the city's water and infrastructure has led to fears that it would one day reach “Day Zero,” where it will one day not be able to supply residents and



businesses with water.

Aside from water independence, the new facility is also sustainable when it comes to producing its own power. It features a 500kW PV system with 1 600 solar panels, an 800Watt lithium-ion battery plant and a 500kW diesel generator, ensuring energy efficiency and reliable backup for up to eight hours. LED lighting and motion sensors throughout the facility contribute to further energy savings.

The facility is also designed to facilitate Rhenus's growth.

“Our former facility in Long Meadow had high warehouse utilisation, and we operated across three separate buildings limiting future expansion. The decision to consolidate our operations in Johannesburg under one roof has already introduced greater operational efficiency streamlining work-

flows and enhancing our ability to scale as we continue to grow in the region,” says Cornell van Rooyen, CEO of Rhenus Warehouse-

solutions MEA.

The facility is close to the OR Tambo International Airport and City Deep Container Terminal while remaining within range of current customers and not disrupting staff travel.

By consolidating operations under one roof, Rhenus expects to see efficiency improve significantly with optimised resource utilisation. Capacity has been increased by over 100%. The introduction of advanced technology and upgraded equipment will further streamline operations and reduce processing times.

Dirk Goedhart, MD of Rhenus Air & Ocean South Africa, says the integrated facility enhances productivity, allowing seamless cargo flow across the different divisions of the Rhenus Group.

“We have customised the entire facility to meet our exact needs which in turn allows us to deliver tailor-made solutions that meet the specific

needs of our customers.”

Security is a top priority. More than 600 CCTV cameras, robust access control systems, a 2,4m clear-view electric fence, 5m perimeter walls and a dedicated security tower monitoring the facility around the clock make the warehouse one of the most secure in South Africa.

Other key features in the warehouse include a 1 300m² refrigeration area with one section at -20 °C and 100 deep-freeze units situated within the ground-floor racking. This unique feature, not commonly found worldwide, is another first in the South African warehousing space. The warehouse, with a total capacity of 25 000 industrial-standard pallets, is also the only one in the country fully compliant with storing lithium-ion batteries. It has 1 600 battery-compatible pallet positions. In addition, the warehouse is designed to cater to high-value cargo and has a 250m² secure vault.

If you're involved in Supply Chain management, these are the first dates you need to save...



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Leading the way in transport innovations: How CtrlFleet is transforming fleet management



By Renko Bergh, co-founder of CtrlFleet

TRANSPORTATION Management System (TMS) software plays a critical role in modern supply chain management that comes down to one word: control. From small fleet owners to large corporates, the need for streamlined operations, the demand for real-time data visibility, cost efficiency, and adaptability is more pressing than ever. CtrlFleet's Transport Management System (TMS) is at the forefront of addressing these challenges, offering innovative solutions that streamline operations and offer digital control to carriers.

CtrlFleet is designed for easy integration with telematic systems, allowing businesses to adopt new technologies without overhauling their current infrastructure. This flexibility ensures that companies remain agile in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

One fundamental industry challenge, which is a core offering within CtrlFleet's solution, is the disconnect between what trucks are currently doing (telematics) and what they should be doing (scheduling) and managing the execution, exceptions and providing real-time updates to clients

and stakeholders, whilst providing drivers with instructions and ability to capture and return critical data.

Give back control to the transporter with next-generation solutions

A core challenge in the transport industry is the disconnect between the current activity of trucks (telematics) and their intended schedules. CtrlFleet tackles this issue by offering a solution that not only manages execution and exceptions but also provides real-time updates to clients and stakeholders. At the same time, it equips drivers with clear instructions and tools to capture and relay critical data seamlessly. This next-generation approach empowers transporters to regain control, ensuring efficiency and precision in their operations.

Driving innovation for a better future

Innovation in the transport sector isn't just about solving today's problems. It's about anticipating future needs. CtrlFleet continually evolves its solutions to keep businesses ahead of the curve. With its finger on the pulse of industry trends, the platform incorporates feedback from diverse user groups,

ensuring it remains relevant and robust for years to come.

Moreover, CtrlFleet fosters a collaborative community among its users, offering resources, webinars, and training sessions to maximise the value of the system. This human-centered approach goes beyond technology, ensuring that operators, schedulers, and drivers alike feel empowered to use the tools effectively. CtrlFleet's driver application is designed and continuously developed to be initiative and user-friendly for truck drivers in a fast-paced environment. The ability for drivers to receive instructions and complete workflow tasks has become a non-negotiable in today's delivery process.

Why CtrlFleet is the future of fleet management

CtrlFleet's ability to bridge the gap between small-scale operations and large corporate needs makes it a stand-out player in transport management. A well-chosen TMS can be the cornerstone of a future-proof digital transformation. Technological advancements are helping transporters reduce costs, improve efficiency, and meet compliance goals.

As the transport industry continues to evolve, CtrlFleet is setting a benchmark for what Transport Management Software can achieve. Whether you're an independent operator or a global enterprise, CtrlFleet is your partner in navigating the complexities of fleet management, leading the way to a smarter, more innovative future.

For more information:
<https://ctrlfleet.co/>

Zero Carbon Charge is looking for landlords to house its EV charge stations on national roads



The Zero Carbon Charge charging station on the N12 between Klerksdorp and Wolmaransstad, at the Leeudoringstad turnoff, in the North West Province.

By Larry Claasen

ZERO Carbon Charge is looking for landlords around the country on major routes to house its electric vehicles (EV) charging stations. The goal of the group

"We believe that the rollout of our offgrid charging stations across the country will serve as a crucial catalyst for EV migration in South Africa"

is to have the first off-grid, 100% green electric charging network, which will use solar power to power the EVs. This network will comprise 120 off-grid solar powered electric passenger vehicle charging stations - at 150km intervals - to be completed by 2026.

EV drivers in the Western Cape, will be happy to know that there are plans to set up 17 electric passen-

ger vehicle charging stations along the N1 between Cape Town and Pretoria.

For it to fulfill these goals, it needs landowners along the national routes to make land available for it to them.

"The entire network of 120 charging stations will create an income stream for landowners on which these facilities are built. Landowners will earn 5% of the revenue generated from vehicles charging on their land and will also be able to use any surplus electricity generated by the Solar PV panels at the charging stations," said Zero Carbon Charge in response to CBN's questions.

The setting up of the charging station network comes as there is an increase in EV sales, with naamsa reporting sales by 17 industry brands, showing an 88% from 2 034 units in the third quarter 2023 to 3 824 units in the third quarter 2024.

The first off-grid, ultra-fast, charging sta-

tion was set up on the N12 between Klerksdorp and Wolmaransstad, at the Leeudoringstad turnoff, in the North West Province, in November.

"We are thrilled to be officially opening our first off-grid charging station, which marks a significant milestone in South Africa's transition to EVs and a carbon-free future. This has been a three year journey, highlighting our commitment to making our off-grid network a reality as we believe it will benefit South Africans in multiple ways," said Joubert Roux, executive chairman of Zero Carbon Charge.

The off-grid EV charging station in Wolmaransstad boasts six state-of-the-art DC fast charging points for EVs, and two AC charging points for plug-in hybrids.

The DC fast chargers are able to charge a vehicle in about 25 minutes depending on the EV model. Motorists will also be able to enjoy a cup of coffee and a bite to eat at the

farm stall located at the station.

Zero Carbon Charge says it has developed an app available for both Android and iOS, for customers that will offer a seamless, user-friendly experience for managing their charging needs and transactions at its EV charging stations.

"We believe that the rollout of our off-grid charging stations across the country will serve as a crucial catalyst for EV migration in South Africa. Zero Carbon Charge's own research shows that an EV charged from Eskom's predominantly coal-fired power grid indirectly emits 5,8 tons of CO₂ per year. In comparison, an average petrol-powered car emits only 4,4 tons of CO₂ per year. It is clear that the development of a network off-grid, with renewably powered EV charging stations, is the only way we will reduce transport emissions in the country," said Roux.

For more information:
<https://charge.co.za/>



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When short-term rentals make sense - CFAO Equipment



FROM warehousing and logistics, to mining, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and agriculture, short-term rental solutions for material handling equipment can be game changing for operations with fluctuating or cyclical needs.

That said, businesses need to carefully consider who they partner with to ensure they have access to flexible contract options, quality machines, excellent technical support and fleet availability.

CFAO Equipment's national operations manager, Bianca Smit, says customers often

experience spikes in production due to seasonal demands, peak seasons or for special projects.

"One example is South Africa's agricultural sector. During the fruit harvesting season, which differs in each province, the demand for material handling equipment

surges." By renting material handling equipment such as forklifts or pallet jacks, these operations can meet demand during peak season without the long-term commitment of having to invest in equipment they don't need year-round.

Smit says this can result in significant cost savings for a busi-

ness.

She highlights some of the factors to consider when choosing a material handling rental partner:

Flexible rental terms – look for a rental partner who offers rental periods that work for your business, whether it's daily, weekly or monthly. This ensures you only pay for what you need.

Genuine parts – make sure to choose a rental partner that maintains and repairs equipment with genuine parts, ensuring optimal performance and longevity.

Quick turnaround times – rental partners should offer a rapid response for technical

assistance, especially in emergencies. Check whether they offer 24-hour service and quick response times to minimise downtime.

Competitive rates – compare rental rates across providers to ensure the prices are fair and within budget. The rental cost should reflect the quality of the equipment and the level of service provided.

Safety features and certifications – choose a partner that offers equipment with up-to-date safety features, certifications, and operator training to ensure safe use, especially in high-risk environments such as warehouses, ports and construction sites.

Variety of equipment and customisability – the rental partner should offer a wide range of material handling equipment suitable for the specific requirements of your business.

It should be the right type, size and have the correct functionality for your particular operations. Alternatively, machinery should be customisable to meet customers' specific needs.

Reputation and brand reviews – check the potential partner's website and social media platforms, as well as media coverage, to ascertain their credibility and industry experience, as well as the overall sentiment for the organisation and its products from other customers.

Energy efficiency – given the world is under pressure to choose eco-friendly options, check for energy efficiency and whether the equipment is powered with lithium-ion or lead-acid batteries.

Customer service – responsive customer service is key, as is the potential partner's ability to offer personalised solutions and, ultimately, nurture long-term relationships.

Having a dedicated customer service team that is easily reachable and responsive is critical to maintaining operations without disruptions.

Smit says businesses need to do their homework when choosing a rental partner. "It would be counter-productive, even devastating, to choose the cheapest or quickest option and then discover the machines are prone to breakdowns or are not properly supported.

Revolutionising stock management: the power of a warehouse management system (WMS) - Value Warehousing

From manual struggles to strategic solutions: A comprehensive look at stock management in today's business landscape



FOR many businesses operating without a Warehouse Management System (WMS), manual spreadsheets remain a common, though inefficient, approach to managing inventory.

While they may seem practical and cost effective in the early stages, as operations grow, these spreadsheets tend to multiply, becoming cumbersome and difficult to manage.

Relying on manual processes brings a range of challenges that can severely impact the efficiency, productivity, and profitability of warehouse operations.

These challenges include: human intervention and errors, tedious and time-consuming procedures, reactive management, lower inventory accuracy, increased risk of stock losses, slower turnaround times, sub-optimal solutions, and limited visibility.

From the increased likelihood of human error, to the strain on resources; and slower turnaround times, these challenges introduce significant complexity into daily operations, impacting all aspects from stock management accuracy to strategic decision-making. As businesses expand, these issues only become more pronounced, underscoring the limitations of manual systems.

The solution is clear

Implementing a WMS is crucial for overcoming the challenges businesses encounter when lacking an efficient stock management system. By partnering with experienced pro-

fessionals like Value Warehousing, companies will benefit from a robust WMS solution that addresses these challenges, providing a range of advantages that streamline operations and enhance overall efficiency.

The benefits of utilising a WMS to effectively manage your inventory are:

Detailed stock visibility: A WMS provides comprehensive visibility of stock from receipt to dispatch, including efficient handling of returns, ensuring complete visibility at every stage of the process.

Product characteristics management: The WMS easily manages stock based on key attributes such as product code, different SKU levels, product type, production date, expiry date, shelf life; and batch number, allowing for precise control of inventory.

RF Scanner Integration: Utilising RF scanners for multiple functions, including receiving, picking, cycle counting, and stock taking, increases efficiency and accuracy.

Real-time updates: Benefit from real-time stock and location updates as inventory is physically processed, ensuring accurate, up-to-the-minute information across all warehouse operations.

Simultaneous actions: Achieve seamless efficiency with simultaneous real-time stock status updates, system-to-physical actions, and automated processes driven by pre-configured rules.

Auditable stock movements: Gain full transparency with auditable records of inbound, outbound,

and general inventory movements, ensuring traceability and accountability.

System-driven processes: A WMS automates essential tasks, from put-away to storage, ABC classification, stock allocation, replenishment, expiry management, and more, reducing the need for manual input.

Automated stock rotation and replenishment: A WMS automates critical tasks like stock rotation, replenishment to pick faces, and ABC placement, as well as the automatic blocking of expired items, ensuring optimal stock health and availability.

Stock condition management: A WMS systematically segregates stock based on physical conditions, offering visibility into categories such as "Good for Sale," "Quarantined," "Blocked," and "Expired/Near Expiry," so you can manage stock health effectively.

Failure to act

Companies struggling with manual stock management systems will inevitably encounter numerous challenges that hinder operational efficiency and accuracy.

Considering these obstacles, outsourcing warehousing solutions to experienced professionals, like Value Warehousing, becomes crucial for businesses seeking to improve the accuracy, efficiency, and overall effectiveness of their inventory management processes.

For more information: <https://valuwarehousing.co.za/>



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Integrated Air Solutions drives innovation through turnkey support of next-gen air compressors

INTEGRATED Air Solutions, a prominent name in advanced air compression technology, equipment and services, has reinforced its partnership with global compressor manufacturer, ABC Compressors, by facilitating the installation and commissioning of two next-generation direct drive ABC machines for a prominent plastic manufacturer in South Africa.

One of the first of their kind in Africa, the Horizon oil-free machines from ABC Compressors employ a direct drive system that replaces the traditional belt-driven mechanism. This cutting-edge direct-coupled motor design eliminates the need for regular belt adjustments, ensuring higher operational efficiency and significantly reduced energy losses,

with notable energy savings of up to 15%.

In addition, the advanced Horizon oil-free technology is known for its robust, low-maintenance design and longer intervals between services that result in reduced maintenance and related costs.

"The arrival of ABC's new direct drive compressors in South Africa sets new energy efficiency and reliability benchmarks for compressed air generation," notes Wayne Jacobs, MD at Integrated Air Solutions.

"The added value of reduced maintenance requirements also drives up machine uptime and subsequently increased production levels."

With capacities of up to 6,000 m³/h, these direct drive compressors feature an efficient, horizontally opposed

cylinder structure that virtually eliminates vibration. Jacobs points out that this innovative design enhances the lifespan of key components and offers a highly efficient compressor solution tailored to high-performance demands.

Integrated Air Solutions is responsible for the installation and commissioning of ABC Compressor's two Horizon oil-free machines at the plastic manufacturer's facilities in Johannesburg and Cape Town. "We will also provide the necessary ongoing service and maintenance support for the customer at both plants to ensure enhanced performance and longevity of the compressors," affirms Jacobs.

For more information:
www.air-solutions.co.za

Mattei's RVD Series: The evolution of fixed and variable speed rotary vane air compressors

DESIGNED for harsh environments, resistant and reliable, Mattei's RVD series of fixed- and variable-speed rotary vane air compressors is a unique energy-efficient solution that guarantees energy savings, long intervals between maintenance service and above-standard performance.

The RVD series, with a range from 30 kW to 55 kW, is the first line of air compressors featuring insulated cooling with oversized radiators.

This system lowers temperatures inside the machine and keeps the radiators cleaner by separating them from the other components. In addition, these compressors are equipped with panels that allow

easy access to the radiator area for safer and more effective cleaning.

The numerous innovations and advantages of the range are in line with the high technological profile of Mattei's latest generation products: in addition to isolated cooling, the RVD 30-55 KW series includes a feature for



which optimize energy efficiency, reduce recirculation losses and improve air quality.

Finally, the series has an integrated pumping unit with a 5 000-hour oil filter life and 10 000-hour air/oil separator life, designed with direct coupling to ensure low noise and eliminate power losses.

Several extra options are also available alongside the standard features: a water-cooled version, a separator and condensation drain, a heat recovery system, oil quality sensors, an IE4 motor for maximum energy efficiency, and a version with integrated refrigerant dryer.

For more information:
<https://www.rotorvane.co.za/>

RVD series



RVD – designed for harsh environments. RVD offers both fixed and variable speed compressors.

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- ▶ Superior energy efficiency
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DoseTech Fire shares its history and journey in special risk fire protection



Father and son: Walter (Wally) and Mike at the Germany Achema trade show.

Mike Feldon, MD of DoseTech – a leader in advanced special risk fire protection equipment – is the first to admit that nothing comes without hard work, determination and persistence. But it was his late father, Walter Roy Feldon, with whom he is proud to have built their business, who taught him honesty and integrity.

It's these attributes that run through this family-owned business of 35 years, that have led to its growth and success. Mike relates how the company came into being.

"My father established a flow measurement company which included chemical dosing and chlorination, however, following the principal company being bought out by a competitor and the subsequent consolidation around the world, my father was left with just the chemical dosing side of the business resulting in him having to rebuild his company from scratch."

Although Mike had his own business focused on steam systems, he became increasingly involved in his father's business, where his mother, Colleen, also worked. It wasn't long before they joined forces – roping in Mike's wife, Sherry, too – culminating in a move from Johannesburg to Cape Town.

Establishing a long-term partnership with FireDos

Around 1998, Mike and his father were introduced to Heinrich David from Germany, the founder of FireDos, which at the time was MSR Dosiertechnik. Heinrich was marketing a water-driven dosing feeder for use in agriculture. A longstanding partnership developed, with Heinrich spending significant time in South Africa to understand the market. Mike relates how his father and Heinrich travelled 5 000 kms around South Africa during a cholera outbreak, visiting all the water treatment facilities to try to solve the problem.

"Heinrich introduced us to the FireDos product," says Mike, "a water motor that drives a chemical dosing pump. When water runs, it mixes in the fire-fighting chemicals and is ideal for industrial use. Going from being passionate about chasing greenhouses, I suddenly got very passionate about chasing the fire protection industry."

However, success did not come easy. Banging on the doors of consulting engineers, fire chiefs, and fire departments, did not lead to sales of this exciting product. Although they enthused over it, there was massive resistance due to the pricing. The industry was not ready to move away from the products they were familiar with.

When Mike realised that negotiating better pricing was not an option, he rethought who he was aiming the product at and this was the turning point in their business.

Moving across many sectors of the industry, from pre-industrial applications in harbours and refineries, to warehousing sprinkler systems, DoseTech grew their client base.

MSR Dosiertechnik was also evolving, eventually discontinuing its feeders to focus on FireDos foam proportioners, as well as changing its name to FireDos. It also added extinguishing monitors to its portfolio. These changes had a positive impact on FireDos and DoseTech.

Acquiring agencies for AKRON Brass and Mueller Co. opened up further doors

"Two further breakthroughs were securing the agencies for Akron Brass, an American manufacturer of fire protection equipment, as well as Mueller which manufactures valves and fire hydrants, including adding SAFire of Italy. With these manufacturers under our belt, added to our FireDos range, we were able to secure projects for fuel storage depots and pipeline projects, finding ourselves in an interesting industrial space with innovative technology," says Mike.

First in the world portable trailer for crude oil storage facility in KwaZulu-Natal

In a world first, DoseTech supplied a portable trailer for a crude oil storage facility in KwaZulu-Natal, comprising a 20 000l/min FireDos foam proportioning system that mixes 3% foam concentrate in the water.

"Using an oversize water monitor, we can achieve a reach of 130 metres in an ideal condition," says Mike. "It was built by FireDos in Germany where I travelled to undertake the factory acceptance. We tested it at a local refinery, then brought it out to South Africa."



DoseTech MD Mike Feldon showing off the impressive FireDos Monitor to visitors to their stand at Interschutz.

Continually moving forward in the special risk fire protection industry

In conclusion, Mike shares, "I am proud to be a part of the FireDos family and grateful to Heinrich for teaching me determination and persistence. With my father as mentor throughout the evolution of our business, and my grandfather (a WWII survivor) who gave me courage, I am proud to say that DoseTech Fire is successful today. We continue to learn, share knowledge, and keep finding ways to solve problems to benefit our clients. I am proud to be a pioneer in the industry through bringing in new technology, while knocking on doors till someone listens, and continually moving forward."

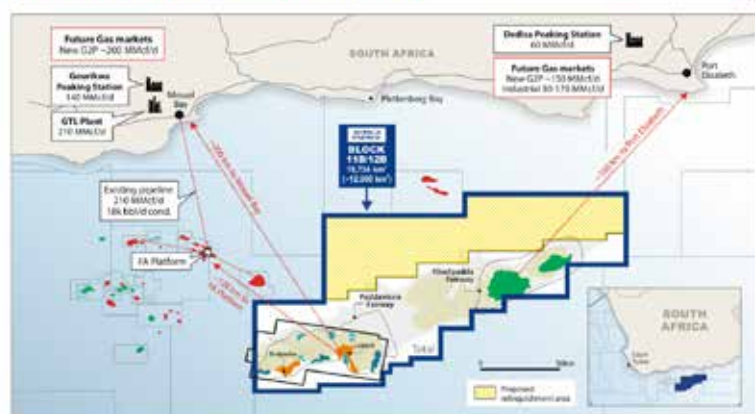
Worldwide move to Fluorine-free foam agents

With the global move towards Fluorine-free chemicals for fire-fighting as a more environmentally-acceptable option, FireDos is ahead of the curve having already developed a proportioner, called FireDos GENIII-SEV, that caters for these higher viscous liquids.

This transition poses a challenge for the fire protection industry, but with guidance from FireDos experts who are at the forefront of this development, DoseTech is able to assist the local industry transition to the new chemical options. This includes selecting the right proportioner for this purpose, plus reviewing the existing installation to discover what can be included or upgraded.

**Canadian group, Africa
Energy Corp to be
become the “operator”
of Block 11B/12B
gasfields**

Block 11B/12B Development



Full field development expected as domestic gas market expands

AFRICA Energy Corp says that its investment in Main Street 1549 Pty Ltd. ("Main Street"), has formally become the operator of Block 11B/12B offshore South Africa.

Block 11B/12B, located in the Outeniqua Basin about 175km off the southern coast of South Africa, covers an area of 18 734 km² with water depths ranging from 200m in the north to 1 800m in the south.

The Lower Cretaceous Post-rift Paddavissie Fairway contains the Luiperd and Brulpadda discoveries, and is located in the southwest corner of the block.

Main Street is currently in the process of obtaining all the important information from the previous operator, including drilling, reservoir and development engineering data.

Main Street is in the process of completing the Environmental and Social Impact Report (“ESIR”) and expects to submit the ESIR in the first quarter of 2025.

The approval of the Production Right application will not occur until after the Block 11B/12B joint venture receives environmental authorisation in respect of the ESIR.

Main Street currently holds a 10% interest in Block 11B/12B.

In light of the withdrawal of the joint venture partners, which included TotalEnergies announced July 29, 2024, and subject to all relevant regulatory approvals by South African authorities.

TotalEnergies, QatarEnergy and Canadian Natural Resources provided notice to the joint venture partners that they were withdrawing from their 45%, 25% and 20% interest in Block 11B/12b, respectively, in accordance with the JOA.

Under the JOA, the withdrawing parties assign their interest free of charge to each of the non-withdrawing partners in proportion to the interest of non-withdrawing partners.

All this means, Main Street is expected to hold a 100% interest in Block 11B/12B.

Africa Energy Corp. is a Canadian oil and gas exploration company focused on South Africa. The Company is listed in Toronto on TSX Venture Exchange and in Stockholm on Nasdaq First North Growth Market.

It was incorporated on April 27, 2010 under the name Denovo Capital Corp. and changed its name to Africa Energy Corp. on March 11, 2015.

CLG (formerly Centurion Law Group) has cemented its position as a leading provider of legal, tax, and business advisory services for multinational companies operating across Africa.

With a deep understanding of the continent's diverse markets and regulatory landscapes, CLG delivers bespoke solutions to help clients navigate complex challenges and drive sustainable growth.

Founded with a mission to support businesses across Africa, CLG offers comprehensive services across multiple sectors, including energy, finance, natural resources, and corporate law.

As the only Africa-focused professional services firm listed on the German Stock Exchange, CLG combines local expertise with international standards to deliver exceptional results for clients around the globe.

A multidisciplinary team with a Pan-African focus

With over 300 legal, tax, and business advisors, CLG is uniquely positioned to provide clients with strategic insights and practical solutions.

CLG: Empowering international companies across the globe with tailored legal and tax advisory services

“Our team’s extensive experience in frontier markets enables us to address the most intricate business needs, offering tailored support across the African continent.”

CLG prides itself on being a one-stop shop for all business needs. Its expertise and dedication allows it to provide world-class services that transcend borders, ensuring its clients' success in even the most dynamic markets.

Why choose CLG?

- **Multidisciplinary expertise:** CLG specialises in energy law, natural resources, corporate and commercial law, dispute resolution, taxation, and regulatory compliance.
- **Strategic guidance:** CLG's in-depth understanding of Africa's regulatory frameworks empowers clients to confidently navigate evolving markets.
- **Local knowledge, global reach:** With a global presence, including a listing on the German Stock Exchange and offices in Germany, CLG blends local expertise with international

best practices to deliver impactful outcomes.

**Expertise across the
energy value chain**

CLG's extensive experience across the energy sector allows it to support clients throughout the entire energy value chain. From project financing and infrastructure development to regulatory compliance and taxation, it offers comprehensive solutions designed to meet the industry's unique demands.

Cross-border capabilities

With strategic offices in key African jurisdictions such as South Africa, Namibia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, and Angola, CLG is ideally positioned to manage complex, cross-border transactions. The company's regional presence ensures it can handle large-scale energy deals and facilitate growth and innovation across the continent.

**A global footprint with
local expertise**

Its presence across Africa and our offices

in Europe enable us to seamlessly manage cross-border transactions, offering its clients a blend of local knowledge and global reach.

"We are committed to supporting clients in every aspect of their operations, providing end-to-end solutions that drive success."

A one-stop shop for professional services

As a comprehensive partner, CLG stays ahead of industry trends and regulatory shifts to provide clients with exceptional support.

“Our innovative approach ensures businesses remain agile and competitive in an ever-evolving global landscape.”

About CLG:

CLG is a leading professional services firm offering legal, tax, and business advisory services across Africa. With a team of over 300 experts and a presence in key jurisdictions, CLG is dedicated to empowering businesses with the strategic guidance needed to thrive in dynamic markets.

For more information:
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Pentagon Freight Service has adapted to provide service to the renewable energy sector in Africa

Pentagon Freight Services has evolved for over 50 years of service excellence within the verticals of OGE logistics solutions, and now provides turnkey freight project management logistics services to the Renewable Energy sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa covering wind turbine, solar and hydro verticals. Mining and aerospace verticals also form part of its shipping logistics portfolio globally.

WHEN transport and logistics company Pentagon Freight Service started out 50 years ago, it focused primarily on providing servicing the oil and gas sector.

In recent years, however, it has adapted well to servicing the needs of the emerging renewable energy sector in Africa.

“When we started out 50 years ago, we were a niche market business, focusing on the Oil, Gas and Energy sectors developments, says Penta-

gon Freight Service MD, Kevin Melnick. “We’ve evolved as a company, away from only oil and gas energy to include renewable en-

ergy, freight and transport, as well as solar and hydro projects.” The move away from fossil fuels by developing countries as well as the

group’s clients evolving from fossil fuels opportunities to adapting to alternative energies, is driving this trend. This change has seen

it add the sort of expertise that would require it to transport large pieces of equipment, such as wind turbines, from a seaport, through an urban area to a wind farm in a rural area.

This kind of coordination takes years of preparation, as it requires specialist project planning and management skills, processing this type of equipment through customs control and also making sure that it can fit under bridges or see if signage needs to be moved, requires route surveying.

An experienced route survey company would plan the route survey, to see if additional roadworks have to be done, or if sand roads have to be graded amongst many other compliant procedures.

All this means is that Pentagon Freight Service provides a complete transport and logistics solution, whether the freight comes from another country or is manufactured in South Africa or Sub-Saharan Africa, whether it’s cargo that is imported or exported or just relocated domestically.

Melnick says the group takes particular care in having the compliant and project skills to facilitate expediting equipment across borders.

“The offices and agents we partner with are all vetted to ensure that they can manage our clients businesses, in terms of customs and excise, logistics VAS and local infrastructure requirements on a compliant basis whilst maintaining high service levels.

The need for the services offered by Pentagon Freight Service is set to grow, given the increasing importance of renewable energy projects on the continent.

This can be seen in South Africa where the country is expected to have about 32 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, according to the National Business Initiative (NBI) Business Decision-Makers Guide: Renewable Energy In South Africa report.

“Investment opportunities for large-scale renewable energy in 2024–2030 are promising. It is estimated that the private market will add around 6 GW of solar PV and 4 GW of wind power by 2030, driven by ongoing market liberalization,” said the NBI report.



Logistics for a world that never stops







For 50 years, we have worked alongside the critical industries we serve by providing best-in-class freight forwarding and logistics. Our aim is simple — we want to deliver certainty for a world that never stops.

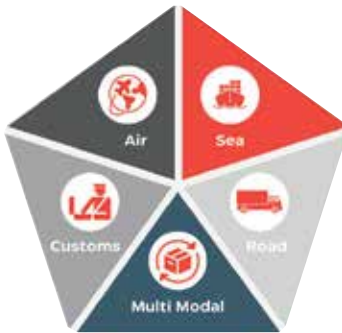
Our expertise in Energy

With 50 years of experience, we cover all areas of the Energy Sector providing Global Forwarding, Project Logistics, Material Management, Consultancy Services and Technology. It means we have every angle covered – offering a complete package that radiates confidence and assurance. We understand the Energy Market, your Objectives and your Priorities – and use our experience to create the right solution every time. Augmented by our technology systems, our best-in-class service range makes Pentagon more than a service provider. It makes us your Energy Logistics Partner.

CONTACT: Kevin Melnick, Managing Director, Office Tel +27 (0) 21 201 0479, Mobile: 074 102 0152, kevin.melnick@pentagonfreight.com

WHAT WE DO How we can help

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- **Marine**
- **Mining**
- **Construction**
- **Aerospace**



ABOUT US Our Mission

To be the most admired supply chain logistics provider within each of our specialist industries, through engagement with employees, clients and partners.

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The South African Oil & Gas Alliance and its members, “Call to Action”

THE South African Oil & Gas Alliance and its members are united in sending a resounding message: South Africa is open for business.

This declaration comes with a renewed vigor, inspired by the challenges and opportunities within the energy sector, and resonates deeply within the context of global energy trends.

equity in its energy strategies.

Angola has long exemplified success in the oil and gas industry within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). With its advanced infrastructure and productive offshore oil fields, Angola showcases the power of foresight and investment. Likewise, Namibia's significant oil and

The Just Energy Transition is not just a policy framework but a critical imperative for South Africa's energy future.

Economic growth must align with environmental sustainability and social inclusivity. This requires investing in innovative technologies, ensuring community participation and benefit, and preparing for a diversified energy mix that includes renewables alongside traditional energy sources. By doing so, South Africa can ensure its energy sector contributes not only to economic prosperity but also to long-term environmental stewardship.

As Angola, Namibia, and Mozambique make remarkable strides, the South African Oil & Gas Alliance and its member companies who form the value chain for the Oil & Gas sector in the Southern Africa region must seize this moment.

The call to action is clear: embrace the tenacity symbolised by “Drill Baby Drill,” but do so with a vision that integrates sustainability and inclusivity. By striking this balance, South Africa can drive progress that resonates beyond its borders, shaping an energy future that powers economic growth while safeguarding the planet. Together, the region can harness its energy potential to fuel enduring socio-economic advancement for all.

SANPC CEO Godfrey Moagi outlines vision for South Africa's energy future



Stakeholder panel Africa Energy Week (AEW) 2024.

AT the opening of Africa Energy Week (AEW) 2024, Godfrey Moagi, CEO of the South African National Petroleum Company (SANPC), presented an inspiring vision for South Africa's energy sector, drawing on insights from Brazil's Petrobras.

Addressing a high-profile stakeholder panel, Moagi highlighted the importance of local content development, strategic state policies, and technological innovation in building a sustainable and competitive energy landscape for South Africa.

The discussion centred around Petrobras's model as a global energy leader, showcasing its success in leveraging strategic foresight, technological expertise, and local solid content policies to build a resilient oil and gas sector. The panel explored how Petrobras's deep-water and offshore innovations have elevated

Brazil into a leading oil-producing nation.

Godfrey Moagi emphasised SANPC's ambition to establish South Africa as a critical player in Africa's energy sector by prioritising local content, fostering regional partnerships, and implementing state-supported strategies. Inspired by Petrobras's achievements, Moagi reaffirmed SANPC's commitment to making South Africa's energy development economically transformative and socially inclusive.

“As we develop South Africa's energy resources, we are guided by the principle that our oil and gas assets should benefit our people first and foremost,” Moagi stated.

“Our goal is to create a thriving, self-sustaining energy sector that reflects South Africa's unique needs, values, and ambitions.”

Referencing Petrobras's accomplishments in Brazil's pre-

salt offshore fields, Moagi noted that SANPC aims to apply similar approaches in South Africa's offshore frontier basins, particularly the Orange Basin, where early exploration has shown promising potential.

SANPC's vision extends beyond national borders, with Moagi advocating for greater regional collaboration to bolster energy security across Southern Africa. During the panel, Maggy Shino, Namibia's Petroleum Commissioner, and Katia Epalanga from Angola's Sonangol joined Moagi in exploring opportunities for cross-border partnerships.

The shared Orange Basin, spanning South Africa and Namibia, presents a unique opportunity for cooperative development that could benefit both nations.

“By working together, we can create a unified and resilient

Southern African energy sector that contributes to our region's economic and social prosperity,” Moagi stated. “SANPC is committed to engaging with our neighbours to foster a stable, secure, and sustainable energy landscape.”

Moagi also discussed potential partnerships with Petrobras, which has expressed interest in Africa's emerging energy markets. Renowned for its offshore capabilities and innovative approach, Petrobras serves as a model for sustainable and socially responsible energy development. SANPC aims to cultivate relationships with established industry leaders like Petrobras, ensuring that partnerships are aligned with South African priorities, including transparency, ethical practices, and sustainable growth.

“South Africa is open to learning from the experiences of global energy leaders like Petrobras,” Moagi said. “But our focus remains firmly on creating an energy sector that serves South Africa's people and strengthens our economy.”

About SANPC:

The SANPC is a newly formed state-owned entity resulting from the merger of iGas, PetroSA, and the Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF). With combined expertise, they're reducing import reliance, expanding local production, and securing stable fuel supplies.

Serving the interests of Upstream and Midstream Oil and Gas Sectors in Africa

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From Concept to Completion: Unique Group’s approach to client-centric solutions

SINCE its establishment in 1993 with just three employees, Unique Group has evolved into a global leader with over 650 professionals. Among them are more than 200 engineering specialists, contributing expertise across industries such as oil and gas, renewables, defence, research, off-shore, and medical sectors.

Operating across 18 locations, Unique Group’s presence spans the Middle East, Asia Pacific, Africa, the Americas, and Europe. This strategic global reach ensures local support is available to meet the diverse needs of clients efficiently and effectively.

Unique Group serves as a one-stop solution for all project needs, offering unparalleled expertise and comprehensive services across its five key divisions. With in-house Research & Development (R&D) and engineering teams, Unique Group is positioned to listen closely to client feedback and continually improve and innovate, deliver-



A DNV classed 12-man customised saturation diving system manufactured in South Africa by Unique Group

ing solutions that make operations smoother and more efficient for its partners and clients. The group’s tagline “Deep Imagination,” reflects their ambition of transforming clients’ visions into reality through engineering. The group’s five key divisions include:

- Diving + Life Support: Designing and manufacturing systems for air, mixed gas, and saturation diving,

Unique Group also specialises in hyperbaric oxygen therapy chambers and defence diving equipment, solidifying its reputation as a trusted industry leader.

- Load, Lifting + Mooring: Solutions include in-house manufactured Seaflex buoyancy systems and Water Weights® products that address diverse

lay, pipelay, and crane load testing. Unique Group also offers spooling and cable handling solutions, as well as an extensive range of lifting and mooring products from global manufacturers.

- Bespoke Engineering Solutions: Unique recently acquired Subsea Innovation, a UK-based subsea technology and equipment manufacturer,

with a strong track record in designing and manufacturing Emergency Pipeline Repair Systems (EPRS), hang-off systems for risers or umbilicals, subsea products such as plugs, J-Tube seals, waterstops, recovery clamps and installation tools, vessel back deck mission equipment and specialist engineering consultancy for bespoke

"Unique Group aims to strengthen its presence in key markets, such as South Africa, Saudi Arabia and the APAC region"

- equipment.
- Unmanned Surface Vessels (USV): In-house developed Unmanned Surface Vessels such as the Uni-Mini, Uni-Pact, and Uni-Max provide versatile survey capabilities that enhance operational efficiency while reducing costs and environmental impact.
- Survey Equipment: Integrated solutions for hydrographic, geophysical, oceanographic, and environmental surveys deliver precise and reliable data for diverse applications.

Looking ahead, Unique Group aims to strengthen its presence in key markets, such as South Africa, Saudi Arabia and the APAC region. By staying close

to its customers and understanding their dynamic requirements, the company aims to maintain its position as a trusted partner in subsea and offshore solutions.

Unique Group continues to prioritise innovation, sustainability, and operational efficiency. Its dedication to delivering customised, integrated solutions has made it a market leader in engineering and technical services. As it moves forward, Unique Group remains committed to shaping the future of the subsea and energy industries through cutting-edge technology and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Explore Unique Group’s capabilities here: www.uniquegroup.com

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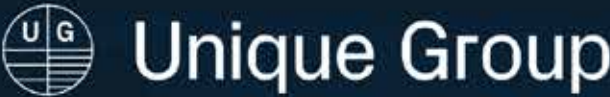


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ACTOM Industry unveils advanced fire detection and safety solutions for explosive atmospheres



ACTOM Industry, renowned for its expertise in mine winder hoists within the ACTOM group, is now expanding its portfolio with the introduction of cutting-edge fire detection and safety solutions designed for explosive atmospheres. Leveraging their ad-

- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Methane Detectors
- Particle Smoke Detectors

Exclusive Ownership of Critical Detectors

In 2023, ACTOM Industry acquired sole

sureing optimal performance even in dusty or high-moisture conditions.

Real-time Monitoring for Enhanced Safety

"In underground mining, proper air circulation is vital for safety. Our Air Velocity Detector swiftly detects any decrease in airflow, alerting operators within seconds through SCADA systems," says Janna Kapp, GM at ACTOM Industry. Housed in a robust metal enclosure, it withstands impacts during handling and minimises the effects of crossflow, ensuring consistent and reliable performance.

Proven Performance in Rigorous Conditions

Extensively tested within the South African mining sector, our Air Velocity Detector has emerged as the top choice for underground applications.

Boasting an impressive accuracy rate of approximately 89%, it remains unmatched in durability and precision. Its resilience against water mist and dust minimises maintenance demands, ensuring continuous safety in hazardous environments.

"By providing cutting-edge solutions backed by unparalleled performance, ACTOM Industry reaffirms its commitment to safety and innovation in industrial settings" concludes Kapp.

For more information: <https://actom.co.za/>

"By providing cutting-edge solutions backed by unparalleled performance, ACTOM Industry reaffirms its commitment to safety and innovation in industrial settings"

vanced power electronic drive, control, and switchgear technology, ACTOM Industry continues to lead the industry by ensuring enhanced safety and protection in hazardous environments.

ACTOM's intrinsically Safe Fire Detection Systems: setting the standard

Our fire detection systems, rigorously tested and certified by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to meet the stringent criteria of SANS 1515, are intrinsically safe for use in explosive atmospheres. This approval underscores our commitment to safety and quality. Among our comprehensive range are:

- Air Velocity Detectors

ownership of the Safdy Air Velocity Detector and the Safety Methane Detector, consolidating its position as the premier provider of safety solutions. This acquisition grants the company exclusive rights to manufacture, market, and distribute these essential products.

ACTOM Air Velocity Detector: enhancing mine safety

Formerly known as the Safdy flow meter, the ACTOM Air Velocity Detector features a solid-state airflow sensor designed specifically for monitoring airflow rates in challenging environments typical of mining operations. Utilising the reliable VORTEX method, it ensures precise measurements independent of small particles, en-

Western Cape firefighter drones to use CSIR sensors

TABLE Mountain authorities in the Western Cape may soon call on firefighter drones to detect and extinguish small fires in hard-to-reach places before they spread to the City of Cape Town.

In March 2024, the CSIR exclusively licensed its K-Line fire sensor to a local company, Autonosky, which designed their Autonol drone to drop fire-retardant balls on small-scale blazes.

"Autonosky specialises in extinguishing small-scale fires, but before partnering with us, they did not have the ability to detect, track and estimate the spread of small-scale fires," says CSIR senior engineer Edwin Magidimisha.

"We introduced the Autonosky team to the concept of fire dynamics and we collaborated with the company to jointly test their K-line payload for fire-detection."

His team worked with Autonosky's engineers to integrate the sensor onto the Autonol drone using Autonosky's specialised gimbal, and the CSIR provided the operational requirements for using the sensor to geo-locate and monitor fires in real time.

"We also showed them that not only can you stream information to the ground for post-processing, but you can actually do onboard image processing in real-time," says Magidimisha. This means the ground station will receive processed fire-detections instead of raw data.

He says the combination of fire-sensing and firefighting pay-

loads now fitted onto the drone could prove invaluable during the Western Cape's hot and windy fire season.

"In mountainous areas, one would find it very hard to drive a fire truck towards a fire, and helicopters require a lot of money and time to organise," says Magidimisha, adding that the risk to human life is high.

"In 2018, for example, we lost a pilot fighting wildfires in the Cape."

That same year, the K-line camera technology began detecting wildfires from space on board South Africa's ZACUBE-2 satellite.

"Drones can safely and quickly access areas that may be too dangerous or inaccessible to firefighters"

It is named for its ability to detect potassium (K) emitting light energy from combustible vegetation. It can pick up the tell-tale signs of a fire at a very particular point, or line, on the electromagnetic spectrum, namely the 770 nm line. This line is still within the visual light spectrum but is near where the infrared spectrum begins.

"We were the first in the world to launch such a payload," says Magidimisha. Even back then, his team saw the potential of the K-line camera to assist with forest disaster management efforts closer to the ground.

He says that infrared sensors have traditionally been used for fire detection. "Unfortunately, these sensors register any high-radiating source as a



CSIR senior engineer Edwin Magidimisha.

potential fire, and they are costly," says Magidimisha. "They require cooling for accurate detection and are prone to false detections."

In contrast, the near-infrared K-line sensor is flaming specific, he explains. This means it has few false positive readings, and since it does not require heavy cooling equipment, it is ideal as a light payload for satellites or drones.

He adds that although no person wants a fire to break out in the windy hotspots of the Western Cape, Autonosky is already engaging with potential clients to deploy their K-line-fitted drone.

"Drones can safely and quickly access areas that may be too dangerous or inaccessible to firefighters," he says. Putting out small-scale fires before they spread or become out of control is critical to preventing catastrophic damage to property and the loss of human life.

Magidimisha says he wants to assure other SMMEs that there are many more commer-

cial opportunities waiting to be unlocked with the K-line technology, especially considering South Africa's booming space industry and the fact that wildfires are becoming more frequent and disastrous due to climate change.

According to Simphiwe Mkwelo, CSIR impact area manager for optronic sensor systems, the K-line technology can be integrated into space satellite observation systems for global wildfire surveillance, fire monitoring systems for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) used in tactical firefighting and ground-based systems on elevated platforms.

"The K-line UAV technology will be a game changer in the toolset of firefighters as it will reduce the cost of firefighting significantly. It also ensures access to hard-to-reach places and provides fire spread dynamics that will help with tactical decision-making," says Mkwelo.

For more information: <https://autonosky.com/>

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The LEDNOVA complies to Zone specifications whilst providing a highly reliable and energy-efficient lighting solution at AlcoNCP Distillery.



BEKA Schröder has launched their first Z1 classified luminaire: the LEDNOVA Z1 bulkhead

A Z1 classified luminaire is a lighting fixture designed for Zone 1 hazardous areas, where explosive gases, vapours, or dust are likely to be present. These luminaires are built to prevent ignition sources from causing explosions, featuring robust materials, sealed enclosures, and explosion-proof designs. They are commonly used in industries like oil and gas, chemical processing, and mining.

About the LEDNOVA
The LEDNOVA offers optimal photometric

performance and high reliability to reduce energy consumption and maintenance in all types of lighting applications. Designed and manufactured in South Africa, the LEDNOVA range 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.

"The LEDNOVA range can also be used in hazardous environments where a Zone 1, 2 or 21/22 rated luminaire is required"

This LED bulkhead is available in the standard surface mount version, and an optional pole mount version. This makes it truly versatile. The LEDNOVA range can also be used in hazardous environments where a Zone 1, 2 or 21/22 rated luminaire is required. The optional battery back-up version is the perfect solution for power supply interruptions. It provides up to four hours of back up lighting, and utilises a fast-charging inverter, hence it charges up in time for the next power supply interruption cycle.

The LEDNOVA takes advantage of the latest photometric innovations. It uses the LensoFlex®4 or Hi-Flex™ photometric engines, which have been developed around the ideas of performance, compactness, versatility and standardisation.

If you want to find out more about our LEDNOVA Z1 product or have any other lighting requirements for your industrial application, contact Phillip Vermeulen at ind@beka-schreder.co.za or +27 11 238 0000.

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Skills Development Levy: benefits, deadlines and insight

By Diane Silcock

COMPANIES with an annual payroll of over R500 000, religiously pay over to the South African Revenue Services (SARS), their monthly skills development levy (SDL). But are employers taking advantage of the government funding available for employee training and are they familiar with the process of applying for grants?

What is the purpose of the SDL and how are the levies distributed?

As stated by SARS, ‘SDL is a levy imposed to encourage learning and development in South Africa and is determined by an employer’s salary bill. The funds are to be used to develop and improve skills of employees’.

The levies are distributed via the government’s Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA). There are 21 SETA’s representing all sectors of industry.

What companies need to know before applying for government funding for training

Cape Business News spoke to Schalk Kotzé, skills development facilitator for the National Employers’ Association of South Africa (NEASA), an organisation that assists companies to maximise the benefits of skills development. He agrees that there is a lack of knowledge around the subject.

“Every SETA has specific Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes,” he says, “so it’s important to ensure that employers register with SARS for SDL under the correct codes so that they are allocated the SETA appropriate to their industry.

Each SETA promotes skills and development in their industry sector. If a company is outside of that particular SETA’s scope, it’ll be very difficult for them to acquire additional funding.”

Kotzé says that to apply for funding, companies first need to ensure that their skills levies are up-to-date and that they have a valid SDL number as registered with SARS. But before they can submit their training reports to SETA, and claim back mandatory grants, they need to have implemented training.

“If companies do not implement their training programmes, they won’t get back their mandatory grants,” Kotzé stresses.

NEASA deals with all SETA’s and extensively with merSETA, the Manufacturing, Engineering, and related services SETA, where there is a big demand for training, and therefore a sector where much of their work takes place.

“Funding for an apprenticeship through merSETA discretionary grants, for instance, amounts to R206 290,” says Kotzé. “It is this kind of money that can be made available to employers to utilise for staff training. Even training for unemployed learners can be applied for, so it’s not limited to their own employees. Both internal and external training counts for mandatory grants, from induction training for new employees, to an employee furthering their studies through a tertiary institution.”

Mandatory grant submissions

NEASA’s experienced skills development facilitators collaborate with a company’s team to plan and execute effective skills training strategies, including assisting with



Schalk Kotzé, skills development facilitator at NEASA

the submission of their Workplace Skills Plan/Annual Training Report (WSP/ATR) and liaising with the relevant SETA.

2025 deadlines

The legislative timeframe for mandatory grant submissions to SETA’s generally opens up around the end of January/February with a deadline of 30 April. Therefore, it’s important for companies to keep up-to-date with the requirements of the various SETA’s as this can vary quite significantly from SETA to SETA, even in terms of documentation requirements.

For further information, visit www.NEASA.co.za

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CAPE Business News

Chairman:

Rudi Leitner
rudi.leitner@hypenica.com

Publisher:

Robin Dunbar
robin.dunbar@cbn.co.za

Editor:

Larry Claasen

Production Manager:

Elise Jacobs
elise.jacobs@cbn.co.za

Sales & Marketing Director:

Robin Dunbar
robin.dunbar@cbn.co.za

Sales Team:

Heather Ferreira
heather.ferreira@cbn.co.za
Shaun Austin
shaun.austin@cbn.co.za

Client Liaison Officer:

nyameka@cbn.co.za

Cape Business News Enquiries

sales@cbn.co.za

Plastics SA Academy for learning and development launches South Africa’s first-ever plastics-related trade apprenticeship



THE Plastics SA Academy for Learning and Development has announced an exciting new initiative with the launch of the country’s first-ever plastics-related trade apprenticeship programme, entitled Plastics Manufacturing Machine Setter (SAQA ID 110308).

Kirtida Bhana, head of the Academy, says this Occupational Qualification at NQF Level 5 falls within the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) and, as the first plastics-related Trade Qualification, is a significant milestone for the industry. It reflects years of dedication to creating expertly curated and peer reviewed training content.

“This initiative represents a bold step forward for the South African plastics industry. It is a testament to our commitment to excellence and our belief in the power of training to transform businesses and individual lives. Investing in trade apprenticeships like this ensures a skilled workforce and positions South Africa as a global competitor in plastics manufacturing,” she says.

The programme focuses on three-volume manufacturing processes, equipping apprentices with the cutting edge expertise required in this highly specialised field.

“Through this training, companies can revolutionise their workforce, enabling employees to achieve a trade qualification that sets them apart as leaders in the industry,” Kirtida explains.

Why invest in trade apprenticeships?

Upskill your workforce: Tailor-made training materials have been designed to develop the skilled setters the plastics industry has long envisioned.

Lead the industry: Qualified Plastics Manufacturing Machine Setters gain a competitive edge, helping companies establish themselves as trailblazers.

Future-Proof Your Business: Investing in workforce training ensures long-term sustainability and adaptability in an ever-evolving market.

“By enrolling their staff members for ongoing training and skills development with Plastics SA’s Academy for Learning and Development, businesses access industry-specific training material that guarantees quality and effectiveness from the outset.

Although we may not be the first to launch this programme in our industry, we are committed to doing it right the first time.

Don’t miss the opportunity to set your team on the path to success. Enrol your learners today and take the first step towards achieving the transformation your organisation has been waiting for.

For more information and registration, please contact:

Gauteng: Fridah Matuludi | Email: Fridah.Matuludi@plasticssa.co.za | Tel: 011 653 4788

KwaZulu Natal: Desiree Munsami | Email: Desiree.Munsami@plasticssa.co.za | Tel: 031 702 7222

Western Cape: Zikhona Nokama | Email: Zikhona.Nokama@plasticssa.co.za | Tel: 021 591 5512

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Making hay out of the forthcoming food waste ban

GOVERNMENT policy changes can often open up a range of opportunities for businesses. The Western Cape government's plan to ban all organic material from landfill by December 2027 is one of them.

From then on, food and other green and organic waste will not be allowed into municipal landfills. This marks a significant shift in how such waste is managed in the province.

The reasons are sound. Landfills are filling up fast, while space and funding for new ones are difficult to find. Food waste decomposing in anaerobic conditions in landfill releases methane, which is a greenhouse gas more than 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

The provincial government has tasked municipalities with implementing the ban. They are focusing their initial attention on economic sectors that generate most of the organic waste, such as the hospitality industry.

Cape Town is a major tourist destination with hundreds of restaurants. It was awarded the world's best food city for 2024 by Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Awards. Much organic waste will need to avoid

being landfilled. Each year, the Cape also produces many thousands of tons of fruit, dairy products, and cereals. Losses occur during harvesting and packing. When it is processed for sale, food waste also happens. Supermarkets have unsold and spoiled food to deal with. All of this must soon take the circular economy route and be diverted to regenerative uses rather than being buried.

Options for organic waste treatment

Several options are available for organic waste treatment. Composting is forgiving and will transform most of what it receives. Others, such as biogas, are more selective and prefer certain kinds of organic inputs, as do black soldier fly systems.

The City of Cape Town is requiring businesses that generate food or other organic waste to submit a management plan detailing how they will divert their waste from landfill.

Large companies are well advised to review their agreements with waste contractors to ensure compliance. They should also insist on monthly waste disposal certificates showing where their waste ends up.

Reducing the amount of organic waste where it is generated will certainly save on costs. So will putting separation-at-source systems in place to prevent other waste, such as plastic, paper, and metals, from contaminating the final compost product, which lowers its quality and value.

Support for businesses

A number of organisations have been set up to support businesses and industries in the transition to a no-organics-to-landfill scenario. The Organic Recycling Association of South Africa can provide comprehensive advice on composting.

The Food and Beverage Coalition is being formed by the province's Economic Development Partnership together with the City of Cape Town and GreenCape. At national level, the Food Loss and Waste Initiative is run by the Consumer Goods



Council and deals with material across the value chain.

These organisations will provide useful advice for those looking to invest, expand or start a business in this growing space opened up by changes in government policy.

Hugh Tyrrell is the director of GreenEdge, a marketing communications and business development consultancy specialising in the circular economy.

Africa's next crisis, water scarcity, looms as the continent faces dual threats of water and energy shortages - Standard Bank

By Dr Manessah Alagbaoso, head of business ecosystems and sustainability at business & commercial banking: Standard Bank Group



AS Africa increasingly contends with severe water scarcity, there is growing recognition that water, not just energy, will dominate the sustainability conversation in the years ahead.

South Africa, which has long grappled with the challenges of electricity load shedding, is now facing an additional, compounding crisis: water shedding. This reality, once unimaginable, has begun to impact South Africans' daily lives, bringing new urgency to discussions around water management and sustainability.

As the world shifts its focus towards energy transitions, South Africa's experience underscores how water scarcity is rapidly becoming the next major crisis demanding attention. While South Africa is at the forefront of this issue, the conversation about water management extends far beyond its borders, impacting various African countries.

Water scarcity isn't just about the absence of water – it's about the accessibility and potability of this vital resource. Over \$28-billion in annual productivity lost in Africa is due to poor access to clean drinking water and approximately \$1 600 is spent over a 5-year period by the average African household to boil water and treat water-borne diseases.

Floods and droughts exemplify the extremes of our relationship with water, underscoring the need for effective management.

For instance, the recent drought conditions in Zambia and Zimbabwe have led to dangerously low water levels in the Kariba Dam, critically impacting hydroelectric power generation. This resulted in over 24 hours of loadshedding daily in Zambia, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable solutions.

To address this challenge, Standard Bank is implementing comprehensive educational interventions – developing a sustainability learning module focused on water and wastewater management, targeting both internal staff and business banking clients.

By equipping clients with the knowledge needed to manage water resources effectively, we aim to foster a culture of sustainability that transcends the financial sector.

Our efforts also extend to innovative solutions for customers already facing water scarcity challenges. For instance, we are collaborating with a Cape Town-based

client that specialises in smart water metering technology, which not only tracks water usage but also detects leaks—helping to reduce wastage significantly. Such initiatives illustrate how technology can drive efficiency and promote sustainable practices in agriculture and industry.

Moreover, we are actively engaging with clients in Zimbabwe and Malawi, assisting them in moving away from heavy reliance on groundwater by promoting the recycling of wastewater for agricultural purposes. This not only conserves precious resources but also enhances food security in regions facing severe water stress.

In South Africa, the emphasis on water management is still in its nascent stages compared to energy concerns, yet there is a growing awareness among stakeholders. Both public and private sectors recognise the critical role water plays in the broader sustainability narrative.

Our partnerships with local and global agencies highlight the collaborative approach necessary to tackle these pressing

issues effectively.

As we move forward, it's crucial to understand that sustainability is not solely about mitigating risks or addressing challenges – it is also about seizing the opportunities that arise from these transitions. Standard Bank's Positive Impact is anchored on four pillars: financial inclusion, enterprise growth and job creation, infrastructure development and the just energy transition, and climate change and resilience. Each of these pillars aims to ensure that the social aspects of our initiatives are given equal weight alongside economic and environmental considerations.

Addressing water scarcity in South Africa and across Africa is not just a challenge – it is a call to action. Through education, innovative solutions and collaboration, we can make meaningful strides toward sustainable water management.

By empowering communities and businesses alike, we can build a resilient future that secures this essential resource for generations to come.

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