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MARCH 2025

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Earned Wage Access in South Africa: How Paymenow is reshaping payday



Front row, left to right: Willem van Zyl, Chief Technical Officer. Bryan Habana, Chief Client Officer. Back row, left to right: Gerbrand Potgieter, Chief Digital Officer. Deon Nobrega, CEO.

By Larry Claasen

FOR many South Africans, payday is a long and often painful wait. With monthly salaries but daily expenses, workers struggle to manage finances—making Earned Wage Access in South Africa a vital solution for transport money, electricity top-ups, and groceries while trying to stretch their wages over four weeks.

Enter Paymenow, a fintech company, founded in 2019 by Deon Nobrega, former Rugby World Cup winner Bryan Habana, Willem Van Zyl and Gerbrand Potgieter, which is now rewriting the script on how employees access their earnings.

The growing demand for Earned Wage Access in South Africa

The fintech group offers Earned Wage Access (EWA), a model that allows workers to withdraw a portion of their salaries before payday. This eases short-term financial pressures without resorting to high-interest loans.

The idea behind Paymenow was conceived by Nobrega, who was a university roommate with Habana, who at the time

was looking for new opportunities after his rugby career had come to an end.

Nobrega, who has a banking and tech background, had seen how EWA had taken off in the US and the UK. He told Cape Business News that they saw an opportunity for a similar product in South Africa, where unlike in the US or UK, where workers are often paid weekly or fortnightly, most South Africans receive their wages once a month - yet their expenses are daily.

"Instead of waiting for payday, you've theoretically already earned some money as you work. Why can't you get access to some of that because it's really owed to you, instead of borrowing money," says Nobrega.

Habana points out to Cape Business News that the economic pressure on South African employees is more acute than that experienced by those in the US and the UK, and that local workers could easily fall into debt with micro-lenders.

A financial lifeline, not a loan

Paymenow isn't a payday lender. Instead, it partners with employers to give workers early access to wages they've already earned—typically up to 20% of their sal-

ary. The decision to offer the service rests with employers, who set limits on how much their staff can withdraw.

Since launching, Paymenow has grown from processing R20 000 in transactions in March 2020 to nearly a quarter of a billion rands in January 2025. The company now serves over 500 000 workers, partnering with major employers like Shoprite, Pick n Pay, Boxer, and PEP.

How Earned Wage Access in South Africa is changing financial behaviour

A major concern with early wage access is the risk of overspending, but Paymenow's data tells a different story. Despite having access to 20% of their wages, most users only withdraw around 10%, showing a surprising level of financial restraint.

It has also changed their financial behaviour for the better.

"I think 75% to 80% say they don't have to borrow from payday lenders or informal lenders anymore," says Nobrega.

Workers are extremely happy with the service, with 9 out of 10 reporting improvements in their quality of life according to reports compiled by 60 Decibels, an impact measurement company.

The role of employers in Expanding Earned Wage Access in South Africa

Beyond benefiting workers, Paymenow is also proving to be a win for employers. With 60% to 80% of eligible employees signing up, companies gain valuable insights into their staff's financial health. This allows them to make data-driven decisions on workplace benefits and support systems.

A 60 Decibels report also says that Paymenow has benefited businesses when it comes to reducing absenteeism, with 4 in 10 employers saying the level of absenteeism has dropped since introducing it.

"They are always at work and on time and not really worried about stuff like transport to work or money during the month," according to a financial and payroll administrator in one of the reports.

For many businesses, it also removes the burden of salary advances. Instead of

Continued on P2

Scania Southern Africa's opens new vehicle assembly plant



By Larry Claasen

SCANIA Southern Africa says the opening of its new Regional Product Centre (RPC) this February will not only improve the production of its range of commercial vehicles, but should also be seen as a vote of confidence in South Africa.

This was underlined by Erik Bergvall, MD, Scania Southern Africa, at the launch, who said that the group saw itself as a partner in building the country.

"Our dedication extends far beyond selling vehicles. We are here to create lasting solutions, build a strong industry and contribute meaningfully to the economy and local communities. Scania's presence in South Africa is more than business."

This can be also be seen in the new plant enabling it to offer an improved service to its customers.

"With this facility, we are positioning ourselves to better serve our customers with high-quality, locally assembled products, ensuring faster deliveries and enhanced support," said Bergvall.

Though the new facility does not increase the number of locally assembled vehicles, it produces them more efficiently, and enables Scania Southern Africa to scale up production if required to do so.

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Earned Wage Access in South Africa: How Paymenow is reshaping payday

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HR deciding who gets an advance and who doesn't, this system automates the process, making it fair and efficient, says Nobrega.

The future of Earned Wage Access in South Africa: What's next?

As Paymenow expands, its growing user base is giving it leverage in the

market. With thousands of transactions flowing through the system, the company can negotiate bulk-buying discounts on necessities, passing those savings onto workers.

This has seen it able to pass on zero-fee deals on essential purchases like groceries, electricity, and airtime. The knock-on impact of using this service is

far-reaching as it means workers are no longer paying 30% interest on payday loans and also gaining in having these deals passed onto them.

"You don't even need money in your bank accounts, as long as you've worked for some of the hours in the month, we'll give you R200 worth of food or electricity or R10 data at

zero fees, and it will only come off your salary at the end of the month," Nobrega tells Cape Business News.

To reinforce responsible financial behaviour, Paymenow has built financial literacy tools into its platform. Users earn rewards—similar to Discovery's Vitality programme—for completing finan-

cial education modules.

Looking ahead, Paymenow is doubling down on financial wellness, recently adding a savings product that allows workers to put money into a zero-fee, interest-earning money market account.

It started as a way to access wages early, but it's becoming a full financial wellness platform, says Habana.

Western Cape working to secure funding for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure

"THE Western Cape Government is making progress with the creation of an innovative financing mechanism, the Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Financial Facility (SIDAFF) Programme, which will unlock both local and international funding for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure," Anton Bredell, Western Cape Minister for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning said in February, at a ceremonial signing where the partners recommitted to the next phase of the project.

Bredell said that high-performing non-metro municipalities such as Drakenstein, Stellenbosch, Overstrand, Mossel

Bay, Swartland, Breede Valley, George, and Saldanha Bay were considered for this project. An initial cohort of 17 water and wastewater projects across the municipalities, totaling over R2,2-billion, have been identified and are currently in prefeasibility stages.

Grant funding of R72-million has been secured from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SEC), and R35-million from the DANIDA Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF), a division of the Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU).

"These financial contributions are helping us to get to the R110-million required for the next phase of this project, where the iden-

tified projects will be taken from feasibility to bankability.

The French Development Agency also played a pivotal role in the successful completion of the first two phases of the project, and GreenCape has been a support partner throughout the entire project. We are thanking each role player for their input so far," said Bredell.

The SIDAFF facility is unique in its capacity to aggregate projects from different municipalities into a unified portfolio. This aggregation allows the facility to access investment from major international funding institutions that may not be structured to support smaller-scale, individual projects.

"The facility will be

able to blend local and international finance, grants, and donor money, introducing much needed additional funding into catalytic municipal water and wastewater infrastructure," Minister Bredell added.

Bredell said that several factors are contributing to making water security and water quality the next major challenge for towns and cities in South Africa: "Climate change is anticipated to make the Western Cape hotter and drier, and our growing population continuously adds more pressure on the available water resources. Wastewater works that operate beyond their design capacity are polluting our rivers and ground water sources, which poses growing health

and economic risks. In addition to these, is the deterioration of government finances, contributing to municipalities struggling, or failing, to keep up with water and wastewater infrastructure maintenance and development."

"Our ambition is to scale the SIDAFF Programme to include all municipalities in the Western Cape, provided they meet prudent financial management criteria. To facilitate this, a municipal special-purpose vehicle will be established, transitioning responsibility from the Provincial Government to municipalities. This will enhance financial independence while maintaining investor confidence through WCG oversight," Bredell said.

South African startup Sensor Networks secures landmark partnership with global geyser giant Ariston

IN a groundbreaking achievement for local innovation, South African startup Sensor Networks has secured a strategic partnership with Ariston, the world's largest geyser manufacturer based in Italy. This collaboration will bring cutting-edge smart water heating solutions to South African households in 2025, marking a significant milestone for homegrown technology on the global stage.

The partnership follows months of rigorous product development, refinement, and certification, culminating in the rollout of Ariston geysers integrated with Sensor Networks' smart geyser devices across leading plumbing retailers in South Africa.

This marks the first time that a locally de-

veloped smart-geyser technology has been adopted at such a scale by a global heating powerhouse, reinforcing South Africa's position in the smart energy solutions sector.

Consumers will now benefit from Ariston's world-class water heating systems, enhanced by Sensor Networks' industry-leading smart technology. The locally developed Sensor Connect mobile app will give homeowners direct control over their energy use, allowing them to monitor, manage, and optimise household electricity consumption while securing significant savings on their energy bills.

"This partnership is a triumph for South African innovation," says Mark Allewell, CEO at



Smart geyser prototype testing station - kettles are used to test the devices

Sensor Networks.

"As a local startup, we have developed a smart geyser solution that meets global standards, and to have our technology integrated into Ariston's product line is an incredible achievement. This collaboration enables us to scale our impact, helping thousands more South Africans reduce their

energy costs and carbon footprint."

Wayne Vertue, country director at Ariston, adds: "As the global leader in water heating, Ariston is committed to providing sustainable, high-performance solutions. Sensor Networks' cutting-edge smart geyser technology aligns perfectly with our vision of energy efficiency."

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New FM certificate for higher viscosity values of foam proportioners - FireDos

THE FireDos foam proportioners with high-viscosity foam concentrates were again subjected to FM tests – with convincing results: The optimised proportioning systems have shown that they can also admix foam agents with even higher viscosities than the previous models.

They therefore achieve FM-approved viscosity values for so called 'Variable Viscosity Foam Proportioners' that are unique on the market.

A proportioner classified as a "Variable Viscosity Foam Proportioner" is a device that can be used to accurately admix foam

concentrate to water for any viscosity below the tested viscosity values. In practice, this means that the proportioner can handle both low viscosity (Newtonian) and high viscosity, pseudoplastic foam agents within the tested flow rates and back pressures to produce premix at a constant proportioning rate.

Admixing high-viscosity foam agents

According to the latest FM test results, the viscosity values of the FireDos foam proportioners not only significantly exceed those of the previous models, but also those of the

FM-certified competitor products within the "Variable Viscosity Foam Proportioner" group. On average, the certified viscosity is 12% higher - as of December 2024.

Low pressure loss with a large operating range

When using high-viscosity foam concentrates, the pressure loss of many proportioning technologies is significantly higher than with low-viscosity foam concentrates. It is therefore all the more remarkable that, according to the FM test results, FireDos proportioners have only a low pressure loss at maximum

extinguishing water flow.

FM-certified flow meter as a useful accessory

The electromagnetic flow meter for measuring the foam agent volume flow is also FM-certified. Installed on the return line, it reliably measures the extinguishing agent flow and enables the proportioning rate to be determined. According to FM, a general estimate of the extinguishing water volume flow in the range of 20 % to 100 % of the maximum flow rate can be made with the optional, calibrated tachometer.

Wesgro looking to grow tourism from China and North America



WESGRO says it was honoured to be part of the delegation who welcomed the first group of tourists from China who arrived in Cape Town under the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS).

"The Virtual Roadshow allowed exhibitors to engage directly with American and Canadian travel advisors..."

This initiative by the national government streamlines visa application processes for group travellers from China and India, making travel to South Af-

rica more accessible. This is a crucial intervention which will contribute meaningfully to the Western Cape's ambition of doubling tourism, said Wesgro.

"We warmly welcome these visitors to Cape Town and the Western Cape and look forward to strengthening economic ties with China through tourism, trade and investment," said Wesgro.

Aside from fostering tourism links from China, Wesgro, which is the official tourism, trade, and investment promotion agency for the Western Cape also looked to develop relationships with North America tourism.

As part of their dis-

tribution channel initiatives to build brand affinity, and facilitate market access, South African Tourism (SAT) North America hosted a 3-day Virtual Roadshow, which took place 19 – 21 February 2025.

Wesgro participated as an exhibitor to showcase Cape Town and the Western Cape, joining other provincial tourism authorities as well as South African tourism products.

The Virtual Roadshow allowed exhibitors to engage directly with American and Canadian travel advisors – targeted by their specialty – and created a more focused dialogue and engaging experi-

ence for both travel advisors and exhibitors.

Exhibitors and travel advisors engaged through scheduled one-on-one meetings, as well as walk-in inquiries.

2024 has seen the US become the first top arrivals market, with recovery reaching 99% of the 2019 levels. US is expected to exceed 2019 levels in 2025.

Wesgro has also opened applications for its Leisure Tourism Event Partnerships. The online application process ran from 17 February to 7 March 2025, and invited event organisers to apply for collaboration opportunities that aimed to promote the diverse tourism offerings in the province.

The goal of the partnership is to provide a platform for smaller, niche leisure events, creating economic impact and job opportunities while boosting tourism in less-visited towns and communities. The focus is on events that combat seasonality and contribute to a sustainable event pipeline in the region.

South Africa's geopolitical dance

By Chris Hattingh



THE repeated injections of geopolitical, trade, and investment uncertainty delivered by the second Trump administration have hit various governments, not least of which US allies, hard.

Constant recalibration is taking place, with allies and adversaries engaging with Washington publicly and behind the scenes as they try to navigate a more transactional, deal-making geopolitical and foreign policy space.

It is in this space that the low-growth South African economy finds itself. The latest GDP data from Stats SA indicate the economy grew by a mere 0,6% in 2024. This was less than the population growth rate for last year, meaning GDP per capita once again declined. The positive sentiment afforded by the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) has been seen in markets, but not in the areas of real foreign direct investment and Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF).

South Africa.

It is fully within the GNU's purview and control to speed up the reforms and implement the policies necessary to increase real investment in the country. Even in the current period of heightened geopolitical tensions and uncertainty, markets and investors are looking for jurisdictions where the basics of governance, from trade infrastruc-

with its own challenges emanating from Washington, South Africa can build on already established and strong trade, skills, and human capital ties.

Amidst the uncertainty and whiplash continually coming from the US, and likely to continue for the next four years, South Africa has the ingredients to make a compelling growth and investment case not only in Washington, but also to other current and potential trading and investment partners. For Washington specifically, the wins will be easiest attained not from the position of supplicant or going to 'explain oneself'; rather, to go with clear, actionable plans and steps around reforms of labour markets and BEE, strengthening property rights, and where the investment cases are for US businesses.

The new geopolitical reality cannot be wished away. It is for the GNU, policymakers and lawmakers to acknowledge this reality as it is – not as they might wish it to be – and make sure, working with business and civil society, that they equip South Africa to navigate the risks and take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

"The new geopolitical reality cannot be wished away. It is for the GNU, policymakers and lawmakers to acknowledge this reality as it is..."

The National Development Plan sets a 30% GFCF as a percentage of GDP by 2030. The only year the country was anywhere near that target was 2007/08. A higher GFCF level indicates real and meaningful investor (domestic and foreign) confidence in an economy and country. It measures investment in roads and bridges, heavy plant equipment and machinery, as well as assets that can be moved out of a country relatively quickly. Should this measure trend upwards it will be a reliable indicator of future higher growth rates for

ture to the rule of law, to crime and security, are taken care of. The weaknesses in South Africa in these areas are not contingent on any other government to fix.

Additionally, South Africa's geostrategic position and value, the naval base at Simon's Town, and the country's role in the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, make it ideally situated to take advantage of increased interest from all manner of international trading and investment partners. From the European Union especially, having to deal

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Scania Southern Africa's opens new vehicle assembly plant



By Larry Claasen

SCANIA Southern Africa says the opening of its new Regional Product Centre (RPC) this February will not only improve the production of its range of commercial vehicles, but should also be seen as a vote of confidence in South Africa.

This was underlined by Erik Bergvall, MD, Scania Southern Africa, at the launch, who said that the group saw itself as a partner in building the country.

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tends far beyond selling vehicles. We are here to create lasting solutions, build a strong industry and contribute meaningfully to the economy and local communities. Scania's presence in South Africa is more than business."

This can be also be seen in the new plant enabling it to offer an improved service to its customers.

"With this facility, we are positioning ourselves to better serve our customers with high-quality, locally assembled products,

ensuring faster deliveries and enhanced support," said Bergvall.

"Our goal is to develop vehicles and services that reduce environmental impact while providing unmatched value to our customers."

Though the new facility does not increase the number of locally assembled vehicles, it produces them more efficiently, and enables Scania Southern Africa to scale up production if required to do so.

"This new plant provides us with the capability to ramp up production, ensuring we remain agile and responsive to the needs of our customers across South Africa. But this is more than just a facility upgrade, it's an evolution in the way we operate," said Bergvall.

The plant is stra-

telegically positioned right next to its parts distribution and storage centre, which strengthens synergies between its assembly operation and its parts supply chain. This integration means faster turnaround times, improved logistics and ultimately also better experience for our customers.

The new facility also sets up the commercial vehicle group for a greener future.

"As demand for Scania's sustainable transport solution grows, we must have the infrastructure to meet these demands in an efficient way," he said.

"Our goal is to develop vehicles and services that reduce environmental impact while providing unmatched value to our customers. We are building a future where transport is smarter, cleaner and more efficient. A future where Scania leads the way in creating solutions that benefit businesses, communities and the planet," he added.

The plant will also open up opportunities for Scania Southern Africa's staff and the country.

"This expansion means greater job opportunities, it means skills development and a stronger contribution to South Africa's economy. By investing in local talent and

"This new plant provides us with the capability to ramp up production, ensuring we remain agile and responsive to the needs of our customers across South Africa."

infrastructure, we are helping to shape the future of transport in the region."

The setting up of the RPC was just the latest milestone for Scania Southern Africa, as it came a year after relocating its head office to Constantia Kloof and coincided with the group's 30th anniversary in South Africa.

The RPC represents a significant investment in Scania's regional operations, designed to enhance service efficiency, streamline product distribution, and further support customers with top-tier transport solutions.

"We are thrilled to inaugurate our new RPC, which will play a key role in supporting our customers and reinforcing our strong presence in Southern Africa," says Christian Håkansson, RPC manager, at Scania South Africa.

"As we celebrate 30 years in South Africa, this expansion signifies our long-term commitment to our customers, employees, and partners," said Håkansson.

Industry, academia, and government unite to launch PowerUp, a renewable energy skills platform

SOUTH AFRICA's renewable energy sector takes a leap forward with the launch of PowerUp, a South African first, online platform designed to equip the country's workforce with the skills required to meet industry demands. Developed as a key initiative under the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM), PowerUp connects industry stakeholders with training institutions, facilitates the development of new qualifications, and addresses critical skills shortages.

PowerUp is a joint initiative spearheaded by key stakeholders such as the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA), GreenCape, SAPVIA, SAWEA, MerSETA, TIPS, QCTO, and others with the United Kingdom Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) Programme as the development funder. The platform fosters collaboration between industry, academia, and government and creates pathways to employment within the renewable energy value chain.

The initiative brings together key industry players, academia, and government representatives to ensure that South Africa's renewable energy workforce is future-ready. The platform was launched at an event hosted by EWSETA and GreenCape on 4 March 2025, and its impact was further highlighted at the Africa Energy Indaba's Energy and Investment Hub.

The British High Commissioner, Antony Phillipson, expressed his enthusiasm that UK PACT has contributed to the development of PowerUp and highlighted the platform as a vital initiative to equip South Africa's renewable energy industry with much-needed skills to push the industry forward.

"By engaging key stakeholders, PowerUp will help ensure the availability of skills for job opportunities in the green industry sector, foster greater collaboration between academia and industry, and identify inclusive opportunities for youth and workers in transitioning regions."

Mpho Mookapele, CEO of EWSETA, highlighted the rapid expansion of South Africa's green economy, "Success for PowerUp is not only measured by the number of users on the system, but by the moment a TVET graduate completes their qualification and enters the job market equipped with relevant, in-demand skills that are made possible through the collaboration between PowerUp and industry."

Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy, Samantha Graham-Maré commended PowerUp as an exemplary model of public-private collaboration.

"This innovative new platform aligns with the collaborative ethos of the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM), which prioritises skills development as a key driver in unlocking the growth potential of the renewable energy sector."

SAREM is due for final adoption by cabinet, but its implementation will need continuous collaboration and working partnerships.

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BMG celebrates a year since the opening of a dedicated VSD support centre in Cape Town



BMG's dedicated VSD workshop at the company's Cape Town Engineering facility, marks a year since its official opening at the beginning of 2024. This specialist VSD facility is an approved warranty centre for BMG's Danfoss/Vacon and Synergy VSD products.

BMG's dedicated VSD workshop at the company's Cape Town Engineering facility marks a year since its official opening at the

beginning of 2024.

"Our specialist VSD facility is an approved warranty centre for BMG's Danfoss/Vacon and Synergy VSD

products," says Sean McCree, business unit manager: electronics, BMG.

"This ElectroMechanical facility is

manned by a team of globally-trained experts offering specialist services to customers throughout the Western Cape. Services include repairs, maintenance, option fitment, pre-commissioning, software loading/upgrades and testing applications, as well as small panel manufacturing. The team also provides on-site technical assistance for trouble shooting, commissioning, maintenance and repairs."

"BMG has made a significant investment in distribution, engineering facilities and technical skills in strategic parts of Africa."

The conveniently situated engineering facility also holds strategic stock of BMG VSDs to clients from all industries, includ-

ing the marine sector. In addition, BMG's branch network in the Western Cape area also stocks a wide range of VSD's in various voltages and power sizes to suit the immediate needs of the market.

BMG was appointed by Danfoss Drives in 2019 as the first authorised Danfoss DrivePro® service partner in Africa and this official certification has been renewed each year. This prestigious appointment gives customers the assurance that BMG meets stringent requirements to offer customised support and technical assistance for Danfoss VLT® and VACON® frequency converters.

Danfoss DrivePro® services, which cover the entire lifecycle of Danfoss and VACON® AC drives, are designed to improve productivity and performance, minimising

"This ElectroMechanical facility is manned by a team of globally-trained experts offering specialist services to customers throughout the Western Cape."

downtime and giving peace of mind to every user.

BMG has made a significant investment in distribution, engineering facilities and technical skills in strategic parts of Africa, that include electronic workshops and a technical resources centre for the repair, maintenance and commissioning of Danfoss VLT® and Vacon® products and services.

Many clients insist on official OEM certifications before services can be conducted and with BMG's extensive experience and specialised training, the team is well-positioned to meet these requirements. BMG

also offers specialised training to customers and shares expert knowledge about advanced VSD technology that enhances plant productivity.

BMG's other dedicated VSD workshops are based in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. The company's comprehensive range of equipment and components includes bearings, seals and gaskets; power transmission; hydraulics and pneumatics; fluid technology and filtration; drives, motors and controllers; materials handling; fasteners and tools.

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

Reducing the CO₂ footprint in asphalt production - Benninghoven

PIONEERING technologies for increasing efficiency are a focal point of Benninghoven at bauma 2025. Benninghoven is a supplier of asphalt mixing plants, machines and services to the construction industry and a subsidiary of the Wirtgen Group

Benninghoven offers a number of innovative solutions, including for reusing asphalt and temperature-reduced asphalt, for dust collection and for the use of hydrogen as a fuel of the future, as a way to increase the sustainability in asphalt production.

CO₂ free asphalt production with 100% green hydrogen

This saw Benninghoven present the MULTIJET burner generation and MULTI JET Control burner control at bauma 2025, which was held in Munich. This burner generation can use four different fuels at the same time, regardless of their physical state – whether solid, liquid or gaseous. In addition to new plants, the burners can also be used as part of a retrofit, regardless of the manufacturer of the existing plant.

A special feature of the MULTI JET burners is the use of mixed fuels, allowing for example the simultaneous

use of hydrogen, LPG, HVO, biogas and natural gas through separate nozzles. Fuels can be switched on the fly, without shutdown or downtime.

This means that the system ensures a reliable supply of different fuels, offering owners a high level of flexibility when selecting the most cost-effective and most readily available energy source. This significantly contributes to lowering operating costs, also with respect to future CO₂ prices.

In addition to this, the noise emissions of the new burner generation was reduced by 5 dB(A), which corresponds to cutting the perceived noise level in half. The electrical power consumption was also reduced by 20% while maintaining the same feed capacity.

Dust collection solution from Benninghoven optimises asphalt production

With the newly developed dust collection system, the specialist for asphalt mixing plants that actively contributes to sustainability and process quality in asphalt production. Dust collection systems optimise the smooth operation of asphalt mixing

plants. The dust generated during the mixing process, especially stone particles and bitumen vapours, has to be extracted and filtered efficiently.

This is not only relevant to the process, but is also subject to strict official emissions requirements. As these regulations are being tightened up increasingly in many countries and regions, effective dust collection solutions are becoming more sought after.

The key features of the new dust collection system are the flow-optimised design, a good overall energy balance, low residual dust values, a high level of process reliability, a large filter surface and easy access for service.

Maximum recycling: more profit with the recipe generator

The aim of maximum recycling is to enable reuse of high-quality materials in order to maintain or even improve the original material quality.

Another advantage of maximum recycling is a significant reduction of the CO₂ emissions. Studies have shown that up to 20% CO₂ can be saved with a recycled materials content of up to 60%.



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Industrial equipment rental leader Rand-Air transforms industry



WITH over 50 years of experience in the industrial equipment rental market, Rand-Air, part of the global Atlas Copco Group within the Atlas Copco Specialty Rental division, is transforming the rental industry by offering its customers specialised solutions that cover air, power, flow, and temperature needs.

Traditionally, Rand-Air focused on air compressors and generators, however, the company has transitioned to meet the needs of the market,

its reach across the continent, operating as Atlas Copco Specialty Rental Africa.

Rand-Air expands industrial equipment rental to include flow and temperature needs

Mpho Ngamlane, Rand-Air's lead generation and communications manager says, "We have evolved significantly as a company and we are particularly proud to be the first in the rental industry to offer temperature-related products, which



Mpho Ngamlane, Rand-Air's lead generation and communications manager

by adding to its fleet, steam boilers, chillers, pumps and nitrogen membrane generators.

With branches in all major provinces in South Africa, Rand-Air's footprint is solid, enabling it to serve a diverse customer base locally and in Sub-Saharan Africa. The company is also well positioned to expand

includes our three-ton and eight-ton steam boilers plus our multi-scroll chillers, the latter being particularly suitable for the wine industry.

"Added to this, under the banner of flow, we have introduced dewatering pump, dredging and hydro mining solutions – some of the best in the industry

– following the Atlas Copco acquisition in late 2024 of the well-established company Integrated Pump Rental (IPR)," she says.

What sets Rand Air apart in the market is the diverse range of equipment it rents under one roof, enabling companies to work with a single supplier. Companies such as power utilities, those in the oil and gas, construction and drilling, manufacturing, mining, and food and beverage industries, as well as event companies, can conveniently deal with Rand-Air for all their rental needs.

"We have evolved significantly as a company..."

Total industrial equipment rental solutions provider

Working with the customer to provide a solution that best suits their needs is what is key to Rand-Air. The company is focused on making agility count for its customers: offering an adaptable, flexible, and responsive partnership to address their technical and business challenges.

"Our detailed approach when it comes to projects entails putting a team of experts together, conducting a study of the customer's plant and determining the requirements. Our technicians and sales representatives are highly skilled and experienced in this area and can assist the customer in their decision-making by informing them of the most optimal solution," says Ngamlane.

The most recent ad-

ditions to their fleet, such as their chillers that are ideal for the wine industry, strengthen Rand-Air's specialty rental offerings enabling them to grow their business in sectors of industry like agriculture, and food and beverage where pumps, generators and nitrogen are also extensively used.

Atlas Copco brand: One and a half centuries of pioneering industrial innovation

Being part of the global Atlas Copco group, Rand-Air's customers are assured of the highest quality products that form part of over 150 years of industrial innovation. The company is triple ISO Certified in terms of Quality, Environment, Health and Safety.

Rand-Air is proud to provide quality products and safety is a priority. "It's not just about getting the equipment out there," says Ngamlane, "we want to ensure that our customers and employ-

"It's also about looking at a sustainable way of doing business, thinking of the future, thinking of the environment."

ees are safe. It's also about looking at a sustainable way of doing business, thinking of the future, thinking of the environment. It's these attributes that make us trailblazers in the industry."

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

Electric Delivery Vehicles: MellowVans gains traction with major brands

The Stellenbosch company explains why businesses are starting to take their vehicles seriously.



By Larry Claasen

IT hasn't been an easy ride for MellowVans when it came to developing its electric delivery vehicles and creating a market for them.

In the last few months, however, its efforts have started to pay off, as large corporations like DHL, Takealot, Spar and Woolworths have all deployed them as part of their delivery fleets.

Aside from local interest, there is also growing overseas interest in MellowVans vehicles.

MellowVans founder Neil du Preez explains to CBN what led him to come up with the concept of an electric vehicle (EV) to be used as a commercial delivery vehicle, why it makes economic sense for businesses to use it, and the pros of operating from Stellenbosch.

CBN: What led you to come up with the idea of developing battery-powered commercial vehicles?

When I was younger, I spent some time in the Far East, where I noticed small electric vehicles starting to emerge in various forms. The humble tuk-tuk, still the primary mode of transport for much of Asia,

was everywhere.

However, I found the tuk-tuk to be a rather unpleasant and outdated vehicle. That's when the idea struck me—to completely modernise the tuk-tuk, making it sleek, safe, and electric.

The delivery functionality came later, driven by the rise of e-commerce and the challenges brought on by the pandemic, which highlighted the need for efficient and sustainable delivery solutions.

CBN: What was the bigger challenge; developing the technology or getting the market to buy into the concept?

Both were exceptionally challenging. Developing the technology was one thing, but conforming to regulations was an entirely separate hurdle.

Hardware development is notoriously expensive and slow, regardless of where you are. Doing it in South Africa added another layer of difficulty due to our geographic isolation and other unique factors.

CBN: What has led to so many businesses using the MellowVan?

The main reason businesses choose MellowVans is that they

save money. Operating costs are as low as 15 cents per kilometre, and the vehicle offers 2,5 m³ of cargo space—significantly larger than competitors.

This allows clients to deliver more parcels in a single trip compared to delivery motorcycles. Additionally, MellowVans replace expensive delivery vans, which are not only costly to operate but often oversized for most urban delivery applications.

CBN: Can you keep up with demand?

We can comfortably meet Southern African demand from our Stellenbosch facility.

However, as demand in Europe and other regions continues to grow, we'll need to explore localised assembly or production to keep up and better serve those markets.

CBN: And how is it being based in Stellenbosch?

It's a fantastic location with a great lifestyle, close proximity to the university, and access to a skilled labour force—all of which make it an ideal place for our operations.

Your home for specialised rental solutions

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Data science dynamos shape a better future with support from TFG



TFG CEO Anthony Thunström

JSE listed retail clothing group TFG (The Foschini Group) says its financial support for data science master's students will have far reaching implications for the country.

From water quality and HIV treatment, to mapping the responsiveness of health services, the support by TFG for the students will see them applying their talents to some of the thorniest social

towards their master's degrees at various leading South African universities.

Luyanda Cebekhulu grew up in an orphanage in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, an experience that she says inspired her to put her skills to use in improving healthcare and education. Her MSc research aims to improve healthcare service delivery by predicting the responsive-

and Khwezi Shusha, from Mpumalanga, will be focusing on the application of data science and predictive analytics in logistics.

In addition to TFG's annual financial support of over R2-million, the TFG Data Science and Leadership Fellowship provides a comprehensive mentoring and support programme to ensure the success of the beneficiaries. The inaugural intake saw four exceptional candidates complete their master's degrees, and the second intake has six fellows currently completing their second year of studies.

TFG has hired two of the four graduates from the programme to date, while another is pursuing a post-doctoral degree.

TFG CEO Anthony Thunström said TFG is committed to addressing skills development and youth unemployment in the country.

"The TFG Data Science and Leadership Fellowship is not just about funding education; it's about empowering individuals to become future leaders in data analytics, driving innovation and positive change in our society," added Thunström.

The Fellowship is open to all South Africans, with a strong emphasis on academic excellence, innovation, creativity, and leadership potential, reflecting TFG's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

challenges of the day.

The TFG Data Science and Leadership Fellowship is making great strides in developing highly qualified specialists to serve the needs of the country and the economy. The fellowship, which funds the first and second years of study towards a MSc in Data Science, one of the country's most scarce and critical skills, has accepted its third intake of students since it was launched in 2023.

The 12 fellows in this year's cohort are made up of 6 new students on the fellowship and 6 others who are continuing with their second-year studies

ness of health services through the analysis of Ideal Clinic Indicator Scores.

Ndumiso Ngcobo, also from KwaZulu-Natal, will research a critical area of water quality management impacting public health and the environment by providing data-driven insights for effective water quality management and sustainability.

Meanwhile, Tsholofelo Phasha, from Soweto, Gauteng, will analyse data on HIV patient outcomes to help improve health policy.

Data science is equally critical to the business community,

Localisation Support Fund boosts efficiency and builds capacity in the retail-clothing, textile, footwear and leather industry



Through this, Karma has unlocked 28.7% more capacity...



By Larry Claasen

THE Localisation Support Fund (LSF), a private sector initiative started in 2021, as a way to help local manufacturers increase their capacity and improve their competitiveness, has assisted two companies in the retail-clothing, textile, footwear and leather (R-CTFL) sector.

The non-profit initially received R340-million in funding from Coca-Cola South Africa and Air assisted Liquide Green Thread Manufacturing factory and KARMA Clothing factory by partnering with BM Analyst and Dizani Consulting.

The goal of the LSF's assistance was to improve efficiency and build capacity, optimisation their production lines, reduce Standard Minute Value (SMV), and review their processes.

Green Thread Manufacturing, which man-

ufactures products for Cape Union Mart's Old Khaki and Poetry ranges, was inefficient, with its average efficiency ranging between 40% to 50%, which in turn had an adverse impact on the factory's minute rate.

This saw it incurring consistent and growing losses, which meant it had little room to reduce prices.

An analysis of what was behind its inefficiency found that its line balancing - the process of organising tasks on an assembly line - was the biggest contributor.

After remedial action was taken, its finishing efficiency went from 41% to 60%. The knock on impact of the changes saw a R10-million swing in profit when measured year-on-year for the first months, put it in a position to consider dropping prices, and built a case for possible expansion.

The other company the LFS assisted was KARMA Clothing,

a maker of corporate wear and staff uniforms, which wanted to scale-up capacity by optimising its production lines, so as to increase current output by at least 25%.

This was difficult because the uneven demand it experienced put pressure on its capacity. KARMA Clothing was also not operating efficiently and had no formal operational process.

An analysis of its processes identified key bottlenecks, which led to the reconfiguring the factory layout, creating improved workflow.

This change had a positive outcome as KARMA Clothing unlocked 28,7% more capacity.

The intervention in these two companies were part of the government's R-CTFL Masterplan, which aims to grow employment in the sector to 330 000, increase local retail sales to R250-billion, expand local retail

procurement of local CTFL products from 45% to 65%, and improve competitiveness, technology, skills and transformation.

The LSF's role in this is to promote localisation by partnering with participants in the manufacturing ecosystem, on both the supply and demand side, to deliver on its mandate.

It does this by funding industry research and deploying technical experts and resources in an effort to accelerate or unblock opportunities for growth in the manufacturing sector.

LSF will measure its impact by the reduction of South Africa's import bill and increase in exports, the growth in local manufacturing revenue and capacity growth, the rise in the jobs created in the manufacturing sector, and the long-term viability and sustainability of local manufacturing.

For more information: www.lsf-sa.co.za

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SURFACE PREPARATION INNOVATION

Planetary gear units for high torque requirements - SEW-EURODRIVE



The SEW PPK planetary gear with a splined solid shaft and flange mount.

PACKING a compact design, along with high torque and low-speed outputs, the new SEW PPK and SEW P2.e planetary gear units from SEW-EURODRIVE offer new capabilities in continuous heavy duty applications where space is at a premium.

Speaking directly to SEW-EURODRIVE's 'close the loop' strategy, the arrival of the SEW PPK and SEW P2.e planetary gear opens up a whole new world of possibilities, particularly in heavy duty, challenging operating conditions with high torque and low speed requirements.

Typical applications in the mining industry include crushers, apron feeders, clarifiers and thickeners. Other industrial applications range from screw presses and slewing gears to wood panel shredders, ring pan mixers and batch plants, amongst others.

The SEW PPK planetary gear units complement SEW-EURODRIVE's product line in the torque load range under the proven P-series, explains Jonathan McKey, national sales and marketing manager at SEW-EURODRIVE.

Offering a torque range from 10 to 18 kNm, the SEW PPK covers a gear ratio range from 65 to 390:1. The ratio can be further reduced by adding a primary reducer before the planetary head, allowing for ratios up to 10 650:1 for a much lower speed capability.

Available with torque ratings from 2 to 124 kNm, the SEW P2.e range covers gear ratios from 15,2 to 332:1. While most planetary gearboxes have a three-stage design only, the SEW P2.e can also be supplied in a two-stage model. The SEW P2.e encompasses all the

benefits of the SEW PPK, but goes a step further with a broader spectrum of diversity in its speed – up to 100 rpm – as well as in ratio and torque.

"The high strength, durable materials with advanced heat treatment allow the gear units to withstand extreme loads and resist wear, thus making light work of high-torque requirements," says McKey.

"In essence, these planetary gear systems produce high torque by distributing the load across several gears and using gear ratios to multiply the input torque. The efficient and compact design allows for the high torque in a relatively small package."

One of the major talking points is the exceptional thermal limit rating, which is made possible by the integrated fan in the motor interface. The fan aspirates air radially, accelerates it and generates a cooling stream of air with a high flow rate.

"The SEW P2.e is the only planetary gear unit on the market with an integrated fan coupled directly between the motor and the planetary head. Consequently, it boasts a large cooling area (two to four times larger than some of the competitor offerings in this size class) – a condition which is central to the high thermal limit rating. Despite its

high power density, the SEW P2.e series therefore boasts a best-in-class thermal limit rating," explains McKey.

Reduced weight is another major benefit of going the SEW P2.e route. With its lightweight gear unit design, the SEW P2.e is 24% lighter and 10% shorter in length, compared with some of the same-sized units on the market.

Given its nearly century experience in developing and constructing gear units for numerous customer applications, SEW-EURODRIVE has over the years amassed vast tribological expertise. Based on this and the results of long term testing, the company has developed a special formulation for its premium gear unit lubricants.

"By using our premium gear unit lubricants, end users have peace of mind that their investments are protected – a high level of resistance to ageing reduces wear and increases the service life. Customers can expect up to 50% longer service intervals and a long shelf life of up to six years if they are using the special SEW-EURODRIVE approved lubricants and implementing appropriate maintenance conditions," concludes McKey.

For more information: www.sew-eurodrive.co.za

Cape Town's zoning law amendment: WCPDF backs changes but flags concerns

By Larry Claasen

THE Western Cape Property Development Forum (WCPDF) supports the City of Cape Town's proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning By-law (MPBL) but has raised significant concerns about their implementation.

The amendments, which aim to streamline development processes and promote densification, have been met with cautious optimism by the property development industry. The changes, which are still being finalised, are meant to address long-standing bottlenecks in Cape Town's development approval processes.

Key changes include the introduction of Incentive Overlay Zones (IOZs), for specific areas in Athlone, Maitland, Parow/Elsies River, Bellville and Diep River, which aim to stimulate investment in these areas by offering enhanced development rights, such as increased building heights and additional use rights.

Deon van Zyl, chairperson of the WCPDF, said the forum is "very positive" that the city has recognised densification as a key issue. However, he warned that the proposed changes cannot be implemented without proper community engagement.

"The challenge is that communities must be co-opted into proposals such as those around the Incentive Overlay Zones," Van Zyl said. "By incorporating these without proper community engagement, all the amendments will do is result in the inevitable further public opposition to development applications."

Van Zyl described the IOZs as "a good concept in principle," but stressed that they must be aligned with infrastructure, environmental constraints, and community needs.

He also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the City of Cape Town officials are equipped to process applications efficiently.

"The amendments must define a strategy that gets officials on board to process such applications and indeed all development applications efficiently, and within legal timeframes succinctly," he said.

The proposed changes come as Cape Town grapples with a growing demand for housing and economic development. The scale of the crisis can be seen in the city's Human Settlements Strategy (HSS) projecting a shortfall in the development of housing opportunities of between 22 970 and 27 980 every year between 2018 and 2028.

As a way to address the crisis, the city has identified

194 areas where developers can build up to 8 to 12 small-scale affordable rental units on residential plots without needing land-use approval, provided the projects comply with the new rules. This move is part of a broader strategy to promote densification and address the housing shortage.

However, the WCPDF has cautioned that the success of the amendments depends on the City's ability to engage communities and provide adequate infrastructure to support increased density.

Van Zyl also noted that the administrative burden on land use applications remains a concern, despite efforts to streamline processes.

"What we do welcome is the city endeavouring to streamline land use applications in the amendment but the amendment still obviously has a long road to travel."

The WCPDF's comments come amid ongoing consultations with stakeholders, including community groups, professional associations, and private developers.

Van Zyl emphasised that it will take time to see the full impact of the amendments.

"It will therefore be some time before we see what difference the MPBL amendments will make to development projects," he notes.

Over 2 000 signatures in 3 days to save King David Mowbray Golf Course

By Mike Flax, Chairperson of the King David Mowbray Golf Club (KDM)

A groundswell of community opposition against the proposed mixed-use development of the King David Mowbray Golf Club (KDM) has realised. A petition to save KDM has surpassed 2 000 signatures in just three days.

At the first public participation meeting held in February, residents and stakeholders rallied to protect this vital community asset, emphasising its significance as more than just a recreational space.

The 115-year-old KDM stands as a beacon of inclusion, development and heritage within Cape Town. The

proposed development threatens to end the club's role in supporting local employment through golf tourism, providing access to disabled golfers, fostering youth development programs, and preserving vital green spaces in the city.

"This is not just about a golf course, it's about preserving a community cornerstone," stated Trevor Steensma, KDM's GM.

"We have over 25 000 rounds played by overseas visitors every year. KDM also has a unique local history as a true melting pot, uniting members from three clubs - the King David, Peninsula and Mowbray clubs."

Petitioners believe that the city's needs - including urgently



addressing affordable housing through mixed-use developments - is possible without sacrificing irreplaceable community assets like the club.

"We are calling on city officials to explore

alternative solutions. There are so many vacant and unused portions of land throughout the metro. Why destroy a working asset?" asked Steensma.

At the first public participation meeting held

in the Pineland Town Hall on the evening of 26 February, attendants highlighted the severe pressure a large development would place on already over-burdened school capacity in the area.

"Petitioners believe that the city's needs - including urgently addressing affordable housing through mixed-use developments - is possible without sacrificing irreplaceable community assets like the club."

In the formal presentation to the attendees it was also highlighted that five traffic intersections surrounding the potential development site are already highly strained, raising fears of future traffic deadlock in Pinelands, should the development realise. Other concerns included that the course functions as a crucial flood barrier for two adjacent rivers.

"KDM is also the national home and head office of disabled golf,"

said Lily Reich, operations manager at the South African Disabled Golf Association.

"We are anxious about the future. Relocating our activities to another golf course is simply not an option. Without our partnership with KDM, we simply would not have the resources to continue the programme. Hundreds of disabled players and disabled beginners on school level find meaning through our programmes every week," said Reich.

Nedbank's new Mid-Corporate offering set to boost underserviced business sector



By Larry Claasen

SOUTH Africa's mid sized corporates will now get a specialised offering from Nedbank Commercial Banking.

The launch event, for the new offering was held in Sandton in February, and brought together Mid-Corporates, key industry stakeholders, business leaders, and Nedbank executives to discuss the economic landscape, market trends, and the role of financial institutions in supporting the growth ambitions of Mid-Corporates and their commercial banking needs.

Nedbank says it came up with the offering because of the needs of Mid-Corporates, which it describes as sizable enterprises that are generally family-owned or un-

listed, and have an annual turnover of over R1-billion, and are more niche than most realise. This means they need services and products that are beyond that of business banking, but are not provided by corporate banking.

Though they are large businesses, many of them do not have the internal skill sets that large corporations have to deal with changes they have to implement to drive growth.

This is why Nedbank came up with a Mid-Corporate proposition to provide strategic financial advisory, helping businesses navigate regulatory complexities, access capital, and unlock new growth opportunities.

"Mid-Corporates are the backbone of our economy yet often

face a complex banking landscape that doesn't fully cater to their specific requirements. Nedbank Mid Corp was created to change that," said Herman de Kock, executive: mid corporate coverage for commercial banking.

"Our bespoke solutions, relationship expertise, and deep industry insights ensure that mid corporates receive the financial support and strategic guidance they need to thrive."

Nedbank's offering is built on four key pillars, which are customised financial solutions, industry-specific expertise, relationship-driven banking and advisory services, as well as technology-enabled services. It provides businesses with flexible credit facilities, working capital solutions and growth capital structuring, to support sustainable growth. Importantly, it aligns with Nedbank's broader commitment to sustainability, incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into its approach.

De Kock gives the example of how a business might not have ESG skills internally, but can now tap into Nedbank's offering to implement changes in the organisation.

The new offering can also be used in cases like a merger and

acquisition. Large corporations have these skills internally but a family owned business likely does not, so can turn to Nedbank to help them through such deals.

This offering will put these businesses onto a higher growth path says Mark Rose, executive head: strategy and new business development, Nedbank commercial banking.

"With Mid Corp, we're not just providing financing, we're unlocking growth potential. Our high-touch dedicated banking model and deep industry expertise position Nedbank as a long-term partner, helping businesses scale with confidence in an unpredictable economy."

Nedbank says its Mid-Corporate offering leverages a dedicated team of specialists with extensive experience across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and professional services.

By maintaining low banker-to-client ratios, augmented by a team specialising in financing, treasury management, global and domestic trade, and digital banking services, the division ensures meaningful engagement and a holistic approach in servicing and solutioning for the distinctive needs of Mid-Corporates, it says.

Women break barriers as forklift technicians - CFAO



WOMEN in South Africa are making significant inroads into the industrial equipment and material handling industry as forklift technicians. CFAO Equipment is spearheading efforts to attract women into this technical role.

CFAO equipment's learning and development manager, Pumza Sikaka, says the percentage of women in the company's forklift apprenticeship programme has risen to 27% since 2022.

"While we are incredibly proud of the increase in representation, we aim to increase the percentage of women to 50% in the coming years."

Women have embraced the forklift technician role, demonstrating a high degree of professionalism, a strong work ethic, exceptional attention to detail and strong communication skills.

what aspects they need to expose the apprentices to, for each module. It's the journeyman's job to highlight areas of excellence or improvement and sign a log book at the end of each aspect," notes

representation, encouraging us to place greater emphasis on attracting women," says Sikaka.

Initially, there was some resistance to having female forklift technicians at work sites, but they proved themselves to be meticulous, reliable and resourceful. In fact, they did so well that CFAO Equipment customers began to ask for specific individuals to do their maintenance and repairs.

To join the programme, applicants need a minimum N2 qualification with technical drawing, mathematics and engineering science. "We have to ensure that the applicants who want to join the programme do so because they have a passion for technical work," says Sikaka.

Applicants are sourced from Further Education and Training (FET) colleges and technical high schools in the communities that CFAO Equipment operates in. "We have actively communicated our goal to recruit more females in an effort to dispel myths and stereotypes that this particular career is purely for men. The women we have in the business have proved this – that they can do it just as well," notes Sikaka.

CFAO Equipment has 54 apprentices, currently on the programme nationally, with another 38 expected to on-board in 2025, bringing the number up to 89. This is welcome news for an industry where forklift technical skills are scarce and there are limited programmes in place to nurture interested candidates.

"There was never a ban on women, but the trade was seen as a predominantly male role and women shied away from applying."

The company's four-year forklift technician apprenticeship programme is a combination of theoretical classroom training and practical on-site training, with apprentices learning every aspect of forklift maintenance and repair. Modules cover everything from mechanical and electrical components, to hydraulics and internal combustion.

Sikaka says everything learnt in the classroom has to be successfully implemented before apprentices can move onto the next phase of learning.

"Each phase – which is made up of several modules – takes a year to complete, with an assessment or exam conducted at the end of each phase. There are four phases in total – hence the four-year programme."

Each apprentice is assigned a journeyman to oversee different aspects of the development work and provide progress reports to the trainers.

"The journeymen work closely with the trainers to identify

Sikaka.

As a training and funding partner to CFAO Equipment, the log book is a requirement of the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (MERSETA).

Once apprentices have completed the programme, they achieve a trade qualification – forklift mechanic – recognised by MERSETA.

Sikaka says when the apprenticeship programme was introduced in 2003, a limited number of females applied for the trade.

"There was never a ban on women, but the trade was seen as a predominantly male role and women shied away from applying."

In 2014, the programme started to gain traction amongst women, due to the company's concerted efforts to attract women, a move that really started to bear fruit in 2022.

"Our MD Richard Cox, wanted to see a paradigm shift in the business. He believes in transformation and

The R200-million economic impact of Decorex Africa



OVER the three decades of its existence, Decorex Africa has transformed into the continent's most unique marketplace, offering both business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) engagement opportunities for design and decor.

The platform has become the definitive meeting point of supply and demand,

positioning Africa as a global design force while actively driving the commercialisation of creative enterprises.

This transformation extends beyond commerce – it's reshaping industry standards through innovation and sustainability while allowing exhibitors to simultaneously connect with trade professionals and end consumers, maximising

their market reach.

This evolution has established Decorex Africa as the continent's most powerful creative-economy catalyst, with Johannesburg's showcase alone driving over R200-million in deals annually, about 75% of which are concluded by returning trade visitors. The event creates about 1 000 jobs (more than 400 permanent and 500 temporary positions) while engaging over 3 000 external suppliers.

The platform's impact in 2024 set new benchmarks across both cities. The Cape Town showcase, with its emphasis on sustainable design and innovation, generated over R60-million in media value and

attracted 21 446 visitors to its 10 000m² venue. The Johannesburg exhibition, anchored by the prestigious 100% Design Africa platform, drew 28 554 visitors to its 19 000m² space. Together the shows featured over 600 exhibiting brands.

Revolutionary networking opportunities through the sophisticated Business Matchmaking programme have transformed how African design enterprises access global markets.

In Johannesburg alone, 689 high-value business meetings were facilitated, while the carefully curated Hosted Buyers Programme welcomed 15 influential buyers from 11 African countries.

A trio of Liebherr cranes goes to T3 Projects in South Africa



Robust and safe – LRT rough terrain cranes

The two Liebherr rough terrain cranes – an LRT 1100-2.1 and an LRT 1130-2.1 – are ideal for use in rough, uneven terrain, such as the conditions in mining projects. With their robust design, the cranes can withstand a wide range of weather conditions.

Carroll says: “LRT rough-terrain cranes are known for their advanced safety systems, which helps us to achieve our goal of maximising safety on all projects. At the same time, their simple operation ensures additional safety and increases efficiency.”

The telescopic boom on the LRT 1100-2.1 has an impressive length of 50m. In addition to a maximum lifting capacity of 130 tons, the LRT 1130-2.1 features a powerful telescopic boom with a total length of 60m.

Carroll says, “The cranes are easy to transport and set up, which saves a considerable amount of time and resources on sites. This will improve our overall project and cost efficiency.”

“We are delighted that we will be able to handle a wider range of projects with the new cranes.”

A trio of Liebherr cranes goes to T3 Projects in South Africa DUE to the increasing size and complexity of its recent construction projects, South African company T3 Projects decided to purchase three new mobile cranes from Liebherr.

The LRT 1100-2.1 and LRT 1130-2.1 rough terrain cranes are ideal for hoisting work in inaccessible, remote areas, while the LTM 1300-6.3 mobile crane supplements the performance of the T3 Projects fleet with its maximum lifting capacity of 300 tons.

At the Moma Mine in Mozambique, the three new cranes are being used in the construction of a floating platform. Heavy mineral deposits are mined at Moma using three

artificial ponds.

“The new cranes represent a significant expansion of our current fleet and deliver unprecedented opportunities for high capacity hoisting work that our current equipment cannot handle,” says Richard van den Barg, MD at T3 Projects, adding: “We will use the cranes for loading heavy materials, erecting structures and carrying out high precision hoisting work.”

“As we often work in harsh conditions, we rely on high-quality, robust and powerful equipment. We therefore opted for Liebherr cranes, as they are widely recognised for their reliability and durability. Liebherr’s customer service also has an excellent reputation. The rapid support in

the event of problems, comprehensive maintenance packages and the high availability of spare parts ensure that downtimes are minimised and our projects run smoothly,” says Donovan Carroll, operations director at T3 Projects, underlining his confidence in the German crane manufacturer.

Based on his many years of experience in this sector, Carroll also adds that the Liebherr remote diagnostics system is very important. Despite the remote sites, a Liebherr service employee can connect to the crane control system of the crane from his office. If a problem arises, the Liebherr expert can provide immediate support without having to undertake a long journey.

FUCHS lubricants for mobile cranes ensure optimal performance and longevity

MOBILE cranes are complex machines that play a critical role in various industries, from construction to logistics. These machines, which can range in capacity from 30 t to over 1 200 t, are subjected to demanding environments, requiring high-quality lubricants to ensure smooth operation and extend their lifespan. FUCHS provides a comprehensive range of lubrication solutions that meet the specific needs of mobile cranes.

Sales representative Freddie Eloff stresses the significance of tailored lubrication packages for mobile cranes. “Mobile cranes, like any heavy machinery, require specialised lubrication in their engines, gearboxes, hydraulics, and transmission systems. Our offerings are designed to cover all the essential components, ensuring optimal efficiency and performance,” he says.

Hydraulic systems are at the heart of mobile crane functionality. Whether the crane is lifting, extending, or moving, the hydraulic oil ensures that the ma-



Freddie Eloff (left) and Rocco Van Schalkwyk from FUCHS Lubricants South Africa.

chine operates smoothly. FUCHS offers high-quality hydraulic oils that maintain optimal performance. The correct hydraulic fluid helps prevent stuttering, maintains consistent pressure, and reduces wear and tear, all of which are essential to avoid costly downtime.

Mobile cranes are equipped with powerful gear systems that require robust lubrication to handle the high stresses of daily operations. FUCHS gear oils are specially formulated to reduce friction, minimise wear, and extend the life of critical gear components. As these cranes evolve, the de-

mand for synthetics in gear oils has increased, with FUCHS adapting its range to meet these needs.

FUCHS’ RENOLIT grease range is ideal for mobile cranes, ensuring that booms extend and retract efficiently, even in harsh environments. The company’s STABYL TA, a white grease, serves as an environmentally friendly option that can be easily seen on the machine, ensuring that it is applied properly to reduce friction.

For operators who work in harsh conditions, FUCHS also offers RENOLIT FLM 2, a black grease that provides crucial lubrication to ensure the crane’s boom operates smoothly, increasing its lifespan and reducing downtime.

“Crane motors may idle at capacity for extended periods, and using a reliable engine oil prevents any differentiation in performance. Poor-quality engine oils, however, can lead to reduced productivity, damage to the system, and more frequent maintenance,” explains Eloff.

FUCHS’ engine oils, such as 15W-40 CI-4, have been a mainstay in the industry, but with the ongoing evolution of machinery, newer formulations such as CK-4 and 10W-40 graded oils are increasingly in demand.

The right engine oil is crucial for protecting components from wear, reducing fuel consumption, and ensuring that the crane’s engine operates smoothly over time. Eloff highlights the importance of selecting lubricants with the right additive packages, particularly for cranes that experience long idle periods and high temperatures, common in South Africa’s climate.



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Science to sustainability: VEGA is redefining synthetic fuel production

THE mobility revolution stands out as a key force behind climate protection efforts, with synthetic fuels derived from renewable energy sources emerging as a promising solution to reduce CO₂ emissions.

A prominent player in this field is the Polish company Ekobenz, which specialises in producing bio-hydrocarbons. The company utilises advanced manufacturing techniques where VEGA sensors monitor levels and interfaces, essentially overseeing separation layers.

Synthetic fuels are created through chemical synthesis and represent a viable alternative to fossil fuels, particularly those derived from petroleum. One of their significant advantages is that it can be used in existing vehicles, allowing the replacement of conventional fuels and considerably cutting down on CO₂ emissions.

To produce synthetic fuels, Ekobenz harnesses ethyl alcohol obtained from waste products with a catalyst triggering the bio-hydrocarbon synthesis. This process generates bio-butane-propane (bio-LPG), liquid bio-hydrocarbons (bio-petrol), and aromatic bio-hydrocarbons.

“To help reduce CO₂ emissions, we’ve developed unique technologies worldwide,” explains Piotr Kobic, head of production at Ekobenz. The company boasts a cutting-edge processing plant outfitted with innovative automation solutions and top-notch instrumentation technologies. A vital component of this plant is the VEGA sensors, which facilitate reliable monitoring of critical process parameters.

In a 3-phase separator, the VEGAFLEX 81 sensors, based on the guided wave radar principle, measure the hydrocarbon/water interface. The data they provide is essential for managing the amount of water pumped from the container to the wastewater treatment plant, thus preventing any unintended escape of hydrocarbons. Continuous level measurement within the columns’ floors is also a necessity.

Stable monitoring of the medium’s level in the production process is crucial. This is achieved with multiple VEGAFLEX 86 radar sensors installed in a bypass tube, delivering precise measurements even under extreme

pressure and temperature conditions.

VEGA’s measuring instruments are recognised across industries for their accuracy and maintenance-free operation. Before deploying VEGA sen-

sors, Ekobenz utilised level transmitters with magnetic floats that underperformed due to complex operations, measurement inconsistencies, and frequent cleaning requirements. VEGAF-

LEX sensors offer reliable measurements for nearly any liquid, even in challenging conditions such as buildup, steam and foam.

These sensors can endure constant high temperatures, ranging

from 140 to 280 °C, and meet the company’s Ex certification requirements following ATEX standards.

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



VEGAFLEX 81 guided wave radar sensors measure the separation layers in the 3-phase separator.

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VEGA HOME OF VALUES

Slurry pump monitoring. KSB Pumps and Valves drives a new era in pump wear technology

THE efficient operation of slurry pumps in the mining industry is critical and pump wear technology is playing an increasingly significant role in monitoring and maintaining pump performance.

"KSB GIW® SLYsight utilises custom sensors, in strategic locations, to measure the actual wear rate of a slurry pump's parts including the internal clearance between the suction liner and the impeller - also known as the "nose gap."

An innovative solution that is making waves in the industry is the KSB GIW® SLYsight technology. This advanced slurry pump wear monitoring technology is changing the way pump wear is detected and managed and is leading to improved pump per-

formance with longer equipment lifespans.

According to KSB Pumps and Valves' market area manager for mining, Jacques Pretorius, the transportation of abrasive and corrosive mixtures in mining operations is the task of slurry pumps. The nature of this duty inevitably results in wearing of sacrificial components.

It is crucial for slurry pump users to manage the results of this wear in relation to maintaining optimum pump efficiency. Although traditional methods of monitoring and managing pump wear through manual inspections and scheduled maintenance are common, they come with limitations such as time and resource expenditure.

"Additionally, such approaches are reactive, meaning wear is often only identified after it has impacted pump efficiency leading to higher main-

tenance costs and potential downtime.

Therefore, there is a pressing need for a more advanced solution that can offer precise and timely insights into the wear status of slurry pumps, enabling a more proactive approach to maintenance.

"KSB GIW® SLYsight utilises custom sensors, in strategic locations, to measure the actual wear rate of a slurry pump's parts including the internal clearance between the suction liner and the impeller - also known as the "nose gap."

The data collected by the sensors as the pump runs is shared through periodic reports.

"This enhanced monitoring system delivers data during nose gap adjustments that not only contributes to the pump's maximum wear life but also enables operators to make an efficient and safe adjustment while the pump is operating,"



KSB Pumps and Valves, manager: market area mining, Jacques Pretorius

says Pretorius.

He adds that integrating KSB GIW® SLYsight technology can prevent unforeseen shutdowns and streamline operations. At the same time, the technology helps avoid pre-

mature replacement of sacrificial components before they reach their maximum service life.

By implementing this system, slurry pump maintenance planning becomes more straightforward,

eliminating uncertainty.

The greatest advantage is its ability to supply maintenance teams with data that was once inaccessible. This technology enhances the understanding and management of pumping equipment wear by providing visual data reports and monitoring capabilities.

By comparing KSB GIW® SLYsight technology to traditional wear monitoring practices it becomes clear that the field of pump maintenance is shifting. The limitations of periodic inspections and human intervention including subjective interpretation and variations in precision are intrinsic to traditional methodologies.

Although these approaches served their purpose, they often lead to strategies that only address wear once it has already impacted pump performance.

KSB GIW® SLYsight by comparison

employs real-time monitoring of wear and introduces an objective lens that enhances accuracy and eliminates guesswork. This technology enables much more informed decision-making that can pre-emptively counter potential wear and tear issues before they escalate. By freeing up resources and allocating time and manpower more efficiently, the new system is a clear improvement over traditional manual inspections.

KSB is one of the world's leading suppliers of pumps and valves and related services. The company has been represented in South Africa since the early 1900s by agents. In 1959 KSB Pumps (SA) was established with the objective to be closer to the customer by having strong local sales, operations and service.

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



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Entrepreneur completes business park 54% under budget in project-management triumph

COMPLETING a project on time and within budget is a difficult achievement in the notoriously variable construction industry. Doing it 54% under budget is an astounding feat and an indicator of some serious project management skills.

The quantity surveyor contracted by Business Partners Limited, which financed the completion of the Winvest Business Park in Hartbeespoort Dam, couldn't believe it, says Jabulani Tshabalala, the entrepreneur behind the project. Tshabalala is the owner of

the WinVest Africa Group, which bought a one-hectare plot for R2,5-million in 2018, and proceeded to turn it into a fully tenanted business park worth R55-million at its latest valuation. He has used his own resources to build the first two phases of the office park and needed outside finance for the last two phases.

Even though a bank had agreed to lend him the money, Tshabalala went with the offer of a loan of R9-million from Business Partners. He liked the thoroughness with which they evaluated the pro-

ject and saw in them a valuable future growth partner, especially if he could impress them with his ability to come in under budget.

Tshabalala tackled the project with very specific strategies to achieve just that. First, he took charge of the project management himself and kept the involvement of outside professionals to a minimum. Relying on his very experienced foreman allowed him to bring in a construction engineer right at the very end for sign-off only, for example.

As project manager he maintained ob-

sessive focus on the timing of the various stages of construction so that there was never any idle labour on site. Materials were brought on site just-in-time so that it would be used on the same day, thereby avoiding the risks of pilfering.

Tshabalala kept hiring costs down by using his own plant and equipment and saved huge amounts of money by engaging in "serious negotiations" with material suppliers with whom he built solid relationships. He worked hard at cutting out middlemen and negotiating a 15% discount at a local hardware supplier.

Such project-management skills do not develop overnight, says Jabulani, who, at 44 years old, describes himself as a serial entrepreneur. Having grown up with the fam-

ily lore of his grandfather, a renowned livestock farmer in KwaZulu-Natal, Tshabalala knew he wanted to become a businessperson from an early age.

Growing up among the mining towns of the present-day North West province where his father worked as an artisan, Tshabalala thrived at school and developed his leadership skills by becoming the Student Representative Council (SRC) president for his last two years at school. At the time such a position meant not only representing the student body, but actively fighting for change within the education system.

After school, Tshabalala studied mechanical engineering at a college in Pretoria and later commerce at Wits University, where



Jabulani Tshabalala, owner of WinVest Africa Group.

he obtained a master's degree and later an MBA. His first of many tries at building a business was supplying tools to the mining industry. Tshabalala describes his style of entrepreneurship as "a feat of marginal gains" – starting small, building up slowly and learning as much from his mistakes as his successes.

He also actively seeks out business opportunities in industries that have high barriers to entry, and so in 2015 managed the difficult feat of obtaining a pharmaceutical distribution license. This brought him to Hartbeespoort Dam, where he rented a warehouse for his growing distribution business.

Pioneering a greener construction future for Africa - Chryso Southern Africa



LC3 cements will make a huge advance in making cement greener around the world.

AS Africa's construction industry embraces greener practices in meeting its infrastructure needs, Chryso is on board with a re-branded focus on sustainability.

Having merged with GCP Applied Technologies under the Saint-Gobain banner, Chryso's new identity reflects its commitment to eco-friendly innovation, according to Sibuy Hlatshwayo, MD of Chryso Southern Africa. This focus is at the core of its mission to responsibly support Africa's infrastructure growth.

"We are addressing local needs while helping customers reduce CO₂ emissions," says Hlatshwayo. "Our new green branded identity signals our dedication to pioneering the future of construction by creating practical, sustainable solutions."

He highlights that Chryso's approach centres around four pillars: innovation, proximity, partnership and sustainability. An example of its innovative edge is the Chryso® Quad Range, which allows contractors to use local aggregates that fall below traditional standards, to minimise transport distances and reduce carbon emissions.

"Our Chryso Quad app complements our technical capability, guiding users to the best products based on specific aggregate characteristics, while our clay testing kit helps ensure quality results," he explains. "Our Chryso Enviro-Add Range further reduces the environmental impact of construction by lowering clinker content in concrete mixes, as clinker is one of cement's most

energy-intensive components."

Another breakthrough is Chryso's innovations related to limestone calcined clay cement (LC3), a more sustainable alternative to traditional cement that blends limestone and clay to produce a greener concrete.

"Proximity is also a critical aspect of Chryso's strategy, as we consider ourselves as a 'multi-local' business – rather than just multinational," he says. "Our African footprint is well equipped to meet specific local needs with our facilities and our sales and technical support teams. By expanding our network of local laboratories – recently opening a new facility in Kenya, for instance – we can test raw materials locally and quickly to provide optimised solutions."

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Concor powers progress on Fourways main roof works project



CONCOR has made substantial headway on the Fourways Main Roof Works Project, a pivotal component of the ongoing Fourways Mall Repositioning Project. As the largest shopping centre in Africa, with a Gross Lettable Area (GLA) of 178 000 m², Fourways Mall is undergoing significant upgrades to improve functionality and ensure future sustainability.

Martin Muller,

contract manager at Concor, emphasises the importance of this initiative. "This project is significant not only for its sheer size—covering 50 000 m² of roof—but also for the complex logistical and technical challenges it presents. Despite these challenges, we are on track for completion by June 2025, a testament to Concor's expertise in managing fast track projects in live retail environments."

The project involves constructing a roof over the existing rooftop parking on Level 7 to provide covered parking for visitors while enabling the future installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system. As part of the scope, a steel structure is being constructed to support an 10 200 m² PV installation on the Northeastern rooftop parking area, further enhancing the mall's sustainability. Additionally, Concor

is rehabilitating the access ring road, ensuring it meets the demands of the future.

Construction of the roof involves the installation of 550 concrete columns, ranging from 2,1 m to 4,8 m in height, to support a structural steel roof with sheeting. Rainwater drainage systems are being installed as part of the roof design.

Muller explains that the methodology requires the existing concrete surfaces to be prepped before drilling and dowelling the new columns into the mall's current column structure. This ensures the load from the roof is transferred safely through existing columns and beams down to the foundations.

"Lightweight construction methods are being employed due to load restrictions on the rooftop, with spider cranes and dumpers used for erection activities," he says.

When size matters: SAPPMA reports strong growth in large diameter plastic pipe market



THE Southern African Plastic Pipe Manufacturers Association (SAPPMA) has reported significant growth in the demand for large diameter plastic pipes, highlighting an industry-wide shift towards more efficient, durable, and sustainable piping solutions.

SAPPMA CEO, Jan Venter, reports that compared to previous years, the market has seen an increase in the volume of polymer being processed, leading to higher sales and increased production among SAPPMA members.

SAPPMA has long been at the forefront of advocating for high-quality manufacturing practices in the plastic pipe industry.

Large diameter plastic pipes are typically used for bulk water supply, stormwater drainage, sewer systems, and industrial applications. They are commonly installed in infrastructure projects, including municipal water and sanitation networks, irrigation systems, and mining operations.

"Plastic pipes are proving to be the preferred choice for various applications, thanks to their many advantages over traditional materials such as concrete and steel," Venter says.

"The industry has evolved significantly, with advancements in polymer technology and manufacturing processes enabling us to produce pipes that meet the highest standards of performance and durability."

Why plastic pipes?

Plastic pipes made from High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), offer numerous benefits over alternative materials. They are lightweight yet strong, making transportation and installation significantly easier and more cost-effective. Unlike steel or concrete pipes, plastic pipes are corrosion-resistant, ensuring a longer lifespan with minimal maintenance requirements.

Additionally, their flexibility makes them less susceptible to cracking under pressure or shifting soil conditions, reducing the risk of failure over time.

Types and sizes of large diameter plastic pipes

The market offers a wide range of large diameter pipes, with pressure ratings and sizes varying according to specific project requirements. Internationally HDPE pipes are available in diameters up to 2 m and in South Africa up to 1,2 m, making them ideal for high-pressure applications such as water distribution and wastewater management. PVC pipes, known for their strength and chemical resistance (available in sizes up to 1,2 m overseas and 600 mm locally) and are often used in gravity-fed systems such as stormwater drainage and sewer networks.

Ensuring quality and industry standards

SAPPMA has long been at the forefront of advocating for high-quality

manufacturing practices in the plastic pipe industry. The association conducts regular, unannounced factory audits to ensure that its members adhere to stringent quality standards and follow its Code of Conduct.

These rigorous checks are vital in preventing sub-standard pipes from entering the market and ensuring that plastic pipelines do not fail due to poor manufacturing practices.

"It is crucial that engineers, municipalities, and procurement officers specify pipes bearing the SAPPMA mark in their tender documents," emphasises Venter.

"This ensures that only top-quality products, manufactured in line with internationally recognised standards, are used in critical infrastructure projects. All plastic pipes must be produced in a SAPPMA-approved factory or, alternatively, in a facility that meets ISO 9001 requirements as well as the relevant SABS or ISO product standards. The contractor must provide proof of compliance with these standards, failing which the pipes will be rejected."

With the continued growth in the large diameter plastic pipe market, SAPPMA remains committed to upholding industry standards, promoting innovation, and ensuring that the benefits of plastic piping solutions are maximised across South Africa's infrastructure landscape.

For more information visit www.sappma.co.za

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BEKA Schröder brings solar highmast lighting solution to Sutherland



Solar highmast lighting solution at the Sutherland Community Health Centre, complying to the unique requirements of the Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area lighting standards.

BEKA Schröder is proud to have supplied the solar highmast lighting solution at the Sutherland Community Health Centre in the Northern Cape province, complying with regulations as defined in the Government Gazette regarding lighting within the Sutherland Central Astronomy Advantage Area (AAA).

The Sutherland Community Health Centre required an area lighting solution to enhance safety for both staff and patients visiting the clinic.

Solar lighting was selected to avoid adding strain to the existing electrical infrastructure, and it also proved to be the most cost-effective option over time compared to a grid-connected installation.

Additionally, a solar-powered lighting system aligns with sustainability goals, reducing carbon emissions and advancing green technology initiatives.

BEKA Schröder was the sole provider able to fulfil the unique requirements of the Sutherland Central AAA lighting standards. The South-African designed and manufactured SOLAR-FLOOD solar highmast lighting solution with Amber LED's, raked at 0° and dimmed to 30% to comply with regulations, was supplied.

The area was established to protect the quality of the night sky for astronomical observations. This area surrounds the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), one of the largest optical telescopes in the southern hemisphere.

The Sutherland Central AAA spans an annulus with an inner radius of 3 km and an outer radius of 75 km, centred on the SALT dome. The primary goal of this designation is to minimise light pollution and other environmental factors that could interfere with astronomical research and observations.

BEKA Schröder was able to meet the above lighting requirements with the SOLAR-FLOOD.

where it is needed.

BEKA Schröder is very proud to be associated with the Department of Roads and Public Works Northern Cape, the Department of Health

Northern Cape and MVD Kalahari Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers Kimberley in providing a successful LED solar lighting solution for this project.

View the video of the installation here: [Solar Highmast Lighting in Sutherland](#)

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The SOLARFLOOD is a sustainable off-grid solution with a superior lumen/watt ratio. The high-performing optics allow for mounting of up to 20 m, providing high-quality light



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Manitou Group appoints SGC as a new GEHL dealer

MANITOU Southern Africa, a subsidiary of Manitou Group, is pleased to announce the appointment of South Gear Co. (SGC) as the new authorised dealer for its GEHL brand of telehandlers, skid steer loaders and backhoe loaders. SGC will be responsible for sales, service, and support of GEHL equipment in the Southern Africa region, commencing on March 1, 2025. SGC will work in a close relationship with Manitou Southern Africa.

brand with SGC's commitment to providing exceptional customer service. Customers can expect a seamless transition and continued access to GEHL's high-quality equipment, backed by SGC's expertise.

SGC, while a newly formed company, is built on a foundation of extensive experience in the construction and agricultural equipment industry. Led by Gavin Leask and Quintin Vorster, formerly of Manitou SA, the team possesses in-depth knowledge of GEHL equipment, making them perfectly suited to support the brand. Their expertise ensures customers will receive knowledgeable guidance in selecting the right GEHL equipment for their needs, along with dedicated support to maximise performance.

"I'm excited about the prospect of working closely with Gavin and Quintin, who both have the necessary ex-



From left to right: Quintin Vorster and Gavin Leask (SGC), Darren Hall (Manitou Southern Africa)

pertise and experience in our product range," said Darren Hall, MD of Manitou SA. "I am confident that SGC will be successful in developing and promoting the GEHL product range across Southern Africa."

"SGC is excited to represent GEHL, marking the beginning of an exciting new

chapter for GEHL in South Africa," said Gavin Leask, CEO of SGC. "This strategic move allows SGC to be disruptive in the local market by offering world-class products that meet the diverse needs of industries and our customers. SGC is committed to delivering customer-centric solutions that go be-

yond just equipment, focusing on providing exceptional service and tailored support to ensure maximum value and satisfaction. With this, we aim to revolutionise the market, empowering customers with the highest quality machinery and unmatched reliability and solutions."

The GEHL brand

is synonymous with quality, reliability, and innovation. GEHL equipment is designed to meet the demands of today's construction and agricultural professionals, offering a wide range of solutions for various applications. With SGC

ing GEHL customers. SGC will honour all existing warranties and service agreements, and customers can continue to rely on the same trusted GEHL equipment they have come to depend on.

About Manitou Group

Through its two iconic brands - Manitou and Gehl - Manitou Group develops, manufactures, and provides equipment and services of handling, access platforms and earth-moving for the construction, agriculture, and industrial markets. It was founded in France by Marcel Braud, in 1958, who dreamt up the idea of a novel machine, which was to reverse the design of a farm tractor and add a lift mast and hydraulic steering to it. This led to the creation of first rough-terrain forklift.

For more information: <https://www.manitou-group.com/en/>

"The GEHL brand is synonymous with quality, reliability, and innovation"

as the new dealer, customers can expect the same high level of performance and durability they have come to expect from GEHL, along with enhanced customer service and support.

Manitou SA and SGC are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for exist-

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This strategic partnership combines the strength and innovation of the GEHL

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Vinyl flooring expert transitions from Polyflor SA to Polysales

Alongside its rebrand, Polysales has expanded its vinyl flooring offerings to include an exciting new range of price-competitive luxury vinyl tiles.



Polysales CEO Tandy Coleman.

POLYFLOR South Africa — a well-respected supplier of high quality, durable vinyl flooring used in healthcare, commercial and education environments — has entered a new chapter in its growth and development. The company is expanding its product portfolio to fuel growth across sec-

tors like commercial, retail, and hospitality, alongside embarking on a name change to Polysales. Since its inception, this three-generational company has proudly represented global commercial flooring manufacturer, Polyflor. Trading under its name, the company has grown to

over 50 employees over the last 30 years with solid technical and sales expertise, supplying a wide variety of vinyl sheeting and wall protection solutions across South Africa and into Africa.

Vinyl flooring expert rebrands and expands offerings

Polysales CEO Tandy Coleman explains the reason behind the company's name change and the exciting new range of products being launched.

"We've spent time listening to our customers, rethinking our strategies, and planning for the future. Change is inevitable, but it's also necessary to grow, innovate, and achieve greater things. Hence, we have broadened our portfolio to represent a larger basket of suppliers. In so doing, we wanted to honour all

suppliers equally and therefore felt it necessary to move to a more neutral brand name.

New partnership with NovoCore® brings latest trends in luxury vinyl tiles (LVTs) to South Africa

"For us, it's the start of a really exciting journey, especially with the launch of our new NovoCore® range of high-quality, well-priced LVTs that are suitable for commercial, retail, residential, and hospitality applications."

Coleman describes how partnering with NovoCore® is a perfect fit as the internationally-recognised brand meets the highest standards of manufacturing and environmental responsibility, aligning seamlessly with Poly-

sales' honour, ethics and dedication to customer service.

"There are three product lines aimed at different markets and the NaturTrend range is the first of its kind in South Africa. It's an innovative vinyl tile with an ultra matte finish that realistically resembles oiled timber," she notes.

Name change and product expansion launch in March

The new Polysales name and the NovoCore® range are officially being launched in March in Johannesburg as well as in other main centres around the country.

"We are thrilled to introduce NovoCore® LVTs as the first addition to our expanded product basket under our Polysales umbrella.

We continue to represent Polyflor, along with Gradus, Ecore and ACO," says Coleman.

Growth and expansion plans

Polysales has multiple growth and expansion plans on the horizon as they actively seek new products to add to their portfolio, aiming to deliver greater value to their customers both locally and across Africa.

They have an export arm that is focused on numerous projects across Africa via their distributors in Nigeria and Namibia.

Values that keep Polysales customers coming back

Coleman gives credit to her father and grandfather for establishing

the expertise, methodologies and strong unwavering values that remain instilled in the company today.

"Our passion is bringing to life what our customers design and envisage, without it being difficult or complicated for them. We really care about the end result and have the ideal products that are built to last. True to our new payoff line, we work hard at building enduring value to meet the customer's needs through constant problem solving to find the optimal solution. Moreover, our existing customers can now deal with us for a broader spectrum of requirements due to our more expansive product offering," she concludes.

Learn more at <https://www.polysales.com>

Mathe Group has seen its tyres recycled into non-slip paving and flooring for agricultural use, ballistics products and gym mats and rubber pavers



Dr Mehran Zarrebini, CEO of Mathe Group is pictured at the factory in Hammarsdale. In the foreground is the steel that has been removed from the tyres and in the rear are used tyres waiting to be recycled.

RADIAL truck tyre recycler, Mathe Group, processed its millionth radial truck tyre, bringing the total amount of rubber crumb produced for re-use in key industrial and construction applications to around 38 500 tons, according to CEO Dr Mehran Zarrebini.

Based on an infill of 100 tons of rubber crumb per full size artificial football field, this equates to 385 full size football fields or 700 full size hockey fields.

The amount of rubber crumb produced

would have provided the asphalt and seal needed to pave at least 8 000 km of roads.

Dr Zarrebini, a British investor who initially acquired iconic KwaZulu-Natal based carpet manufacturer, Van Dyck, discovered Mathe Group as a small operation with just 20 employees operating in New Germany in 2016.

He was looking for rubber crumb to manufacture acoustic underlays and acoustic cradles for flooring in high rise buildings — products that he has since improved and

continues to export.

Having acquired a 49% shareholding in Mathe Group, he relocated the company to its present site in Hammarsdale, significantly boosting production through ongoing re-investment in the plant over the past eight years.

Through its own research and development or through working with key partners, Mathe Group's repertoire of products has grown to include non-slip paving and flooring for agricultural use, ballistics products and gym mats, rubber pavers and the infill for sports fields.

Zarrebini says that a number of challenges have stood in the way of Mathe Group not achieving its important millionth tyre milestone far sooner. These include the pandemic which shut down the plant for 18 months, loadshedding, water shortages and ongoing legal battles and delayed implementation of the Industry Waste Tyre Management Plan (IWTMP).



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HERONRIB's non-slip matting is now being distributed in Africa by Gold Pack

HARD-WEARING, non-porous, slip-resistant, Heron Vynagrip PVC matting enables mines and associated industries to mitigate the risk of slip accidents on wet surfaces

to improve compliance with mine health and safety regulations.

Now, the UK's HERONRIB Matting is available to customers on the continent via Gold Pack (Pty)

Ltd in Durban, South Africa.

From a business perspective, accidents result in costly downtime to production and translate into loss of revenue.

Furthermore, it is not only the productivity of the worker that is impacted but all of the other departments that now have to deal with the outcomes of an accident.

HERONRIB wet area matting

Gold Pack supplies HERONRIB to mines and other operations to reduce slip accidents and provide comfort and

protection from bacterial infection in barefoot areas. This non-slip matting is highly recommended due to its unique features, convenience, and diverse applications.

HERONRIB wet area matting is suitable for showers and wash areas, canteens and kitchens, bars and pubs, in fact for any work area that may encounter liquid spills or splashes.

Unique features

The HERONRIB non-slip matting is ideal, due to the following features:

- It is slip-resistant and drains superbly.
- It has anti-bacterial treatments, anti-microbial and anti-fungal properties
- It is easy to cut and lay and will contour to uneven surfaces
- Exceptionally hard-wearing and can be fitted without tools
- Can be rolled up easily for cleaning underneath
- Embossed surface
- Two-layer construction and channelled underbars
- Made from flexible PVC
- UV resistant

The non-slip matting offers

- Four-way drainage
- Excellent hygiene, easy to clean
- Easy to cut to fit, contours to uneven surfaces
- Can be used indoors or outdoor

Fostering a positive culture

Besides improving productivity, the use of HERONRIB matting can indicate that a company cares for and highly values employees. This can foster a positive corporate culture in an organisation the following ways:

- Reduced sick leave and absenteeism
- Lower the rate of employee turnover
- Reduced hiring costs
- Higher levels of skilled employee retention
- Improved company culture and inclusion
- Increased age diversity and intergenerational collaboration
- Attracting top talent

Last but not least, Gold Pack guarantees prospective customers on the continent that the HERONRIB brand is of premium quality. It is made of the highest quality anti-slip materials with proven certified slip resistance (DIN 51097: C; ASTM 1677: 0.9/0.7).



HERONRIB

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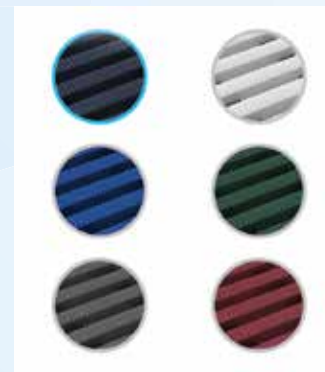
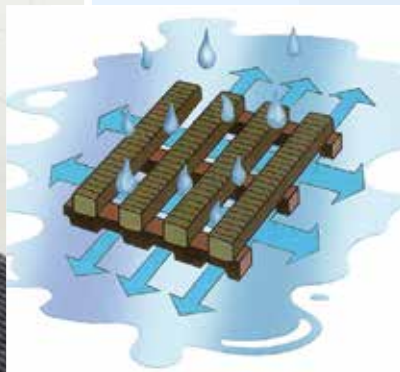
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Sidel's launches new 100% rPET lightweight bottle base for beverage sector



STARLITE®-R STILL is a new bottle base that employs Sidel's patented technology to ensure 100% recycled PET (rPET) integration, lightweighting, and high-speed production for water, juices, milk, and edible oil from 0,25L up to 2,5L.

"Mainstream food and beverage manufacturers are seeking designs that range from simple, lightweight options to more aesthetic shapes with optimised weights, yet all compatible with high-speed production," comments Mikael Derrien, manager packaging innovations at Sidel.

"They aim to reduce production costs through lightweighting, lower blowing pressures, and reduced energy consumption, while also striving to minimise their carbon footprint in response to regulatory pressures and consumer demand."

"Today there are bottle bases on the market suitable for lightweight designs and high production speeds, however, they're designed for virgin PET bottles. Sidel's StarLITE®-R STILL is the only solution on the market specifically developed to address recycled PET that achieves the high performance necessary in this competitive market space."

Balancing production speed, material type, and

bottle weight presents a complex challenge for manufacturers in maintaining high performance, but the StarLITE®-R STILL overcomes these with precise bottle base shaping and efficient material distribution.

Its innovative design can also be seamlessly retrofitted onto existing production lines ensuring versatility and the solution requires a low blowing pressure, further enhancing its sustainability credentials.

High performance with patented design and technology

The StarLITE®-R STILL bottle base features Sidel's patented technology which includes smooth material stretching and precise distribution; optimised venting for easy shaping; and an efficient base cooling circuit ideal for rPET which is likely to be processed at higher temperatures.

The new design ensures the base does not deform or break, crucial for maintaining the bottle's integrity during production, conveying, storage, transportation, and use.

The mould base's rounded-edge design makes it easier to shape during blow moulding, which increases the bottle base resistance to

defects such as bursts during the blowing process. This feature is particularly important for lightweight bottles, which are more prone to such issues due to the use of thinner material.

With a high base clearance, the structural design prevents deformation, ensuring functionality and stability even in high-temperature conditions. The bottle base also performs reliably during high-speed production, thanks to an efficient cooling. This cooling process prevents deformation and defects, maintaining consistent quality at rapid manufacturing speeds.

The bottle production process can use up to 20% less blowing pressure due to improved mould venting of the StarLITE®-R STILL mould base. The carefully designed grooves and venting holes in the mould ensure that air escapes efficiently, allowing the bottle base to take its desired shape perfectly, even at lower pressures. This reduces energy consumption and production costs while maintaining quality.

Improved sustainability and costs for still drinks and edible oils

By switching from virgin PET to 100% rPET thanks to StarLITE®-R STILL, manufacturers can benefit from a reduction in 2,400 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent each year.

This bottle base can also be blown at lower pressure, only requiring 16 bars - a reduction of up to 20% on standard air blowing operations, translating to a further saving of 51 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent and to €205,000 saved, each year.

Petco welcomes new CEO

ONE of South Africa's leading producer responsibility organisations (PRO), Petco, has bid farewell to industry stalwart Cheri Scholtz and welcomed a new CEO, Telly Chauke, as of 1 January this year.

Chauke replaces long-standing CEO Scholtz, who has helmed the organisation since its incorporation in 2004 and led its successful transition from voluntary to government-legislated mandatory extended producer responsibility (EPR), which came into effect in 2021.

The EPR regulations require that producers in the paper and packaging sector – brand owners, retailers and importers – discharge their obligations individually or collectively by joining a PRO to take responsibility for the full life cycle of their post-consumer packaging, so that it does not end up in the environment or landfill.

Experienced sustainability specialist Chauke joined Petco as CEO designate in September last year, beginning a strategic, planned leadership handover for one of the country's longest standing and most successful PROs.

She is the former chief sustainability officer for the Coega Development Corporation and was the specialist on environment, climate change and sustainability policies for the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for 10 years prior to that.

"We are exceptionally pleased to have someone of Telly's calibre on board in this role, as she brings a wealth of experience in navigating the public policy space," said Scholtz.

"But, more than that, as a climate and environmental scientist, she brings a unique additional skillset to the role. I leave Petco in very capable hands."

Scholtz was part of the industry-led team that kickstarted a voluntary mechanism for collection and recycling of PET in South Africa. The result was Petco, which developed a sustainable collection and recycling funding model almost two decades before the landscape of post-consumer packaging was legislated by the government.

During Scholtz's tenure, Petco surpassed its medium-term goal to collect and recycle 50% of post-consumer PET beverage bottles by 2015. Collection for recycling grew from approximately 10 000 tons per annum to over 90 000 tons, which represented an increase of more than 600% when considering the growth in the volume of PET placed onto the market during this time.

The most recent audited results show that Petco achieved 98% of legislated targets set by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFPE) for these products by volume.

In 2023, Petco achieved the required 64% collection rate and exceeded the 58%



New Petco CEO, Telly Chauke.

(60% achieved) recycling rate for post-consumer PET beverage bottles placed on the market by its members. It also achieved 80% of the legislated recycling target for its new EPR scheme for liquid board packaging (LBP), and followed this with 100% of targets met in 2024.

"I'm really proud that I was able to bring LBP into Petco, and I think that was incredible validation that the Petco model can work for packaging materials other than PET," said Scholtz.

She said building a sustainable value chain had been critical to the organisation's success so far.

"We've attended to the end-use market, created value for collectors and buy-back centres, encouraged

the development of recycling capacity and capability, and then worked to unlock the feedstock through enabling collection. I believe this balanced approach will stand Petco in good stead for continued success and resilience in the years to come."

Chauke said she looked forward to guiding members towards meeting their EPR targets and broader strategic sustainability goals.

"An enabling public policy regime and a healthy relationship between industry, the government and consumers are core to successful EPR; and I look forward to steering Petco in maintaining these relationships for the benefit of our members and recycling partners," Chauke added.



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Experience premium label printing with BradyPrinter i7500



THE identification specialist Brady Corporation's new BradyPrinter i7500 for 76mm core label rolls automatically adjusts all of its settings when new consumables are loaded. Ready to print in just 40 seconds, the printer also removes all calibration waste by printing the first label right.

The approach in most industries to high volume, high precision thermal heat transfer 76mm core (3" core) label printing to date has almost always been "set it up and don't touch". Crucial for traceability and compliance, yet excruciating to set up and calibrate, the 76mm core label printing experi-

ence has been a notorious pain point for many manufacturing, electronics, electrical and laboratory industries.

Not anymore. In a new proprietary printer model, global identification specialist Brady Corporation removed all label printing hassle to redefine the 76mm core label experience.

"The new BradyPrinter i7500 does not require users to adjust sensors, heat settings, define label dimensions or waste labels in calibration", says Ömer Adisen, Product Manager benchtop printers & software at Brady Corporation. "We call it LabelSense. The technology reduces the frustrating trial and error of manual printer calibration to print readiness in just 40 seconds. That includes loading Brady consumables, designed so they can only be loaded the right way."

The new BradyPrinter i7500 with LabelSense technology makes high precision 76mm core label printing a lot more intuitive, and efficient. There is no need to maintain multiple printers just to avoid the classic consumable and calibration hassle. "All optimal settings are

already preloaded and the printer automatically recognises every Brady consumable.

can print 76mm core labels from any manufacturer in manual mode. "When con-

"When combined with Brady Workstation label design, the software instantly recognises the dimensions of loaded Brady consumables for fast and intuitive label creation."

The i7500 offers considerable print flexibility by enabling users to switch from printed circuit board labels to rating plates, raised profile labels and cable sleeves, or between relevant specialised laboratory labels, in just 40 seconds. Even when loading the tiniest 3.18mm QR-coded labels, the i7500 prints the first label right, reducing waste and supporting sustainable label printing practices."

In addition to auto-calibration, the BradyPrinter i7500

considering a switch to the new label printing experience provided by the BradyPrinter i7500, there is no need to devalue current label stock. The BradyPrinter i7500 can print any 76mm core labels, from any manufacturer, with great speed and precision."

When combined with Brady Workstation label design, the software instantly recognises the dimensions of loaded Brady consumables for fast and intuitive label creation. Next to la-

bel design protection, Brady Workstation also includes an easy scan to print app and a data automation app to print labels at the right time with the right ERP-system data. The BradyPrinter i7500 supports print languages like ZPL, and can print labels via other label design software.

"The new BradyPrinter i7500 defines a new premium high precision printing experience for 76mm core labels", Ömer says. "Fully automated calibration enables printing on different consumables within 40 seconds. Supported by a clear user interface on a large on-board screen, the i7500 prints a wide range of labels without any hassle. We can provide a hands-on demo at your premises to show your teams just how intuitive label printing can be."

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Lackeby innovation transforms septic handling at Broby WWTP



The Lackeby Roto-Sieve® with extended lifting pipe and bag system in use at Broby WWTP waste water treatment plant in Sweden.

BROBY WWTP, a small waste water treatment plant in Sweden, had a pressing need to reduce the momentarily high biological load which occurred when receiving septic sludge (also known as external sludge). The high load caused instability in the biological treatment process which resulted in a waste water treatment plant with substantial problems in meeting the effluent terms of conditions.

To resolve this issue, Broby WWT needed to source a septic unit that combined a short truck off-loading time with a high screening capacity and which could immediately send the sieved efflu-

ent further on to the sludge storage.

The innovative Lackeby solution proves ideal for septic handling

With recommendations from the company in charge of septic recovery and transport in the municipality, Broby WWTP found a solution with the Lackeby Roto-Sieve® septic unit.

The septic unit is based on the well-known Lackeby Roto Sieve® drum screen which has been modified for septic receiving. The unit's updated design efficiently handles high flow rates of demanding septic sludge. Due to the sieve

drum design, there is an optimal separation of rocks, gravel and fibrous material without risk of clogging. When the off-loading is completed, an automatic release of accumulated liquid from the trough minimises odour in the surrounding area.

A successful result with no odour risk

All external sludge at Broby WWTP is now received through the Lackeby Roto-Sieve® septic unit, RSS 36. The sieve drum is made of perforated stainless-steel plates with Ø 6mm holes and handles flow rates up to 130 m³/h which means that the off-loading of a truck

with trailer is completed in just 15 minutes.

In addition to the septic unit there is a Lackeby Screw conveyor press, SCP 220, equipped with an extended lifting pipe and bag system. The screenings get efficiently dewatered with a small volume and high dryness as a result. Furthermore, it gets encapsulated with no risk of odour at storage and transport to incineration.

The control system and efficient wash function makes the unit almost completely self-cleaning. In combination with the integrated brush and a spray system with optimised run time, it keeps the need of manual cleaning to a minimum.

Swedish manufacturer Lackeby Products AB – represented in South Africa by Monitor Pumps & Systems - has more than 50 years of experience in designing and manufacturing high performance products for resource efficient heat recovery and wastewater recycling.

For more information contact wim@monitorpumps.co.za www.monitorpumps.co.za

Polyco and Pick n Pay equip over 2 500 schools with educational resources

POLYCO is excited to strengthen its partnership with the Pick n Pay School Club, established in 2020, by providing schools with educational resources focused on recycling.

Through this collaboration, Polyco is providing 2 675 primary schools across all provinces in South Africa with educational posters to promote awareness of plastic recycling and its positive impact on the environment.

This initiative is part of Polyco's Million+ programme, which, in collaboration with the Pick n Pay School Club, supports over 2-million learners and educators across 2 675 schools nationwide. The posters aim to empower the next generation with knowledge and skills to actively participate in recycling efforts, fostering environmental stewardship from a young age.

Each school will receive ten interactive calendars highlighting the important environmental days throughout the year and teaching learners the three important steps to recycle at school. By integrating these resources into classrooms, educators are equipped to inspire meaningful discussions and actions around sustainability.

Patricia Pillay, CEO of Polyco, emphasised the significance of the partnership: "This collaboration with Pick n Pay School Club underscores the importance of educating young minds about recycling and environmental care. By equipping schools with engaging, curriculum-aligned resources, we are planting the seeds for a more sustainable future. Polyco is committed to empowering communities through education and innovation and we are proud to extend this



commitment to South Africa's classrooms."

Vaughan Pierce, Pick n Pay Group company secretary and Head of ESG added: "For over 50 years, Pick n Pay has been dedicated to uplifting communities. The Pick n Pay School Club embodies this commitment by providing free, curriculum-aligned educational content to schools across the country. Our partnership with Polyco allows us to integrate vital environmental education into our programme, encouraging learners and educators to take an active role in shaping a cleaner, healthier planet."

In addition to the educational posters, Polyco and Pick n Pay School Club are distributing back-to-school goodie bags to over 6 000 Grade one learners across the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal. Each drawstring bag includes a lunch box, bottle, and stationery kit. The schools will also receive educational booklets, providing practical tools to support environmental education in the classroom.

These school-focused initiatives form part of

the broader Million+ programme, which extends its reach into communities through public awareness campaigns. Among these is the #BreakingDownPlastics campaign, an eight-part video series that educates citizens about the different types of recyclable plastics, encouraging them to identify which materials can be recycled in their neighbourhoods to prevent unnecessary waste from ending up in landfills.

Complementing this is the Return the Favour campaign, where children demonstrate through short video messages how easy it is to integrate recycling into daily life at home, work, and school.

With over 140 projects and 300 000 tons of recycling capacity added through its partnerships, Polyco is actively contributing to diverting waste from landfills and promoting a circular economy. Polyco remains committed to transforming waste into valuable economic resources while promoting environmental responsibility at all levels of society.

For more information: www.polyco.co.za

Mondi's re/cycle SpoutedPouch replaces plastic tubs for paint

MONDI, a global leader in sustainable packaging and paper, collaborated with Sherwin-Williams, a global leader in paints and coatings, to introduce re/cycle SpoutedPouch as a refill option for its concentrated paint, sold on the UK market.

Leveraging the expertise in its Halle/Steinfeld plant in Germany, Mondi introduced a wider spout for easier filling and pouring, while ensuring the mono-material pouch

is designed to protect its contents.

The paint concentrate was developed to replace the traditional 5-litre pre-mixed paint in rigid plastic tubs. Consumers are encouraged to reuse these tubs to mix the paint concentrate and then recycle the refill's packaging. It comes in a lightweight 950ml spouted pouch with instructions for mixing clearly printed on the side. The spout offers excellent pourability to make it easy to mix

with water and create the needed amount of paint.

Mondi worked closely with Sherwin-Williams to deliver a solution tailored to their specific packaging needs. re/cycle SpoutedPouch is a pre-made pouch made from polyethylene mono-material and has a wider spout making it easier for Sherwin-Williams to fill the paint concentrate.

Mondi's SpoutedPouch reduces packaging waste and provides

ease of use to outdoor painting projects, along with minimising the space needed to transport and store paint.

The condensed size compared to regular 5-litre pre-mixed paint tins means 230% more units can fit on each pallet.

The pouches also take up less space on retail shelves and come packaged in shelf-ready tear-front boxes of five units, allowing easier stock replenishment compared to traditional tins.



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bpSA embraces change as it celebrates its 100th year in South Africa

BP Southern Africa (bpSA) celebrated its 100th year of doing business in South Africa on Wednesday, 9 October, with an in-depth dialogue on energy industry trends, followed by a gala dinner to celebrate the contributions of various stakeholders to the company's success.

"We are taking steps to ensure our business remains future-proof and relevant as we build a safe, more equitable bpSA."

The dialogue was anchored on the theme of "Reimagining Energy for the Future" where industry leaders explored some of the themes and challenges facing the energy industry. African Energy Chamber executive chairman, Dr NJ Ayuk

addressed the need for Africa to tackle its energy challenges head on, while bpSA CEO Taelo Mojapelo, spoke to the company's evolution in responding to a changing energy landscape.

"We felt it was important, as bpSA marks its 100th anniversary in South Africa

ca this year, to look at where we've come from as we look to the next century.

Over the past 100 years, bpSA has moved with the times, responding to the regulatory environment, changes in customer demand and broader

energy opportunities," Mojapelo said.

"Today the global and South African energy landscape faces new demands, including the move to a lower carbon world, changing consumer needs, increased competition in fuel retailing, and the imperative to have greater diversity in the workforce. These changes present us with new opportunities, and we are responding by prioritising the optimisation of our supply model, focusing on high-grading our forecast and convenience portfolio as well as emphasising diversity, equity and inclusion in everything we do."

The commemorative event was also used to launch bpSA's white paper on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, titled

Creating responsible business within the context of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I).

The white paper, which was published in collaboration with GIBS and Accenture, emphasises the importance of DE&I in fostering responsible businesses in South Africa, outlining the commercial benefits of a DE&I-aware organisation.

Mojapelo also took the opportunity to emphasise the company's commitment to doing business in South Africa.

"We are taking steps to ensure our business remains future-proof and relevant as we build a safe, more equitable bpSA that future generations can be proud of."

How Rotocarb became a leading sustainable purification provider



FOUNDED in 2016, Rotocarb was established with the goal of servicing the carbon-based water purification needs of South Africa.

Today, Rotocarb stands as an innovative and pioneering enterprise, dedicated to producing sustainable and locally made activated carbons to meet not only South Africa's, but the world's purification needs.

Utilising macadamia nut shells, a by-product of the nut industry, this biomass is transformed into high-grade activated carbons through a clean, eco-friendly and energy efficient thermal manufacturing process.

Rotocarb's novel technology operated under an exclusive license in conjunction with its strategic partners has created an agile, robust and competitive business that is able to offer premium grade activated carbons without the burden of

MOQs, long lead times and duties suffered by imported alternatives.

Rotocarb's operations span across three of the country's provinces which collectively see to the production of over 1 500 tons of activated carbon annually across 20 product ranges. Rotocarb's facilities harness solar power, harvest rainwater and employ innovative autogenous thermal processes in the manufacturing of its products.

Rotocarb's efforts towards global sustainability are particularly aligned with the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) for SDG6 - Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG7 - Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG13 - Climate Action.

It is South Africa's largest activated carbon manufacturer and is committed to growing the business locally and regionally whilst contributing to a sus-

tainable future with its novel and high-quality activated carbon products.

Purpose

Rotocarb's purpose is to provide world class activated carbon products to the filtration, purification and food processing industries whilst contributing to the socio-economic development of South Africa in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Product Features

- Virgin Steam Activated
- SANS: 52903 & 52915 Compliant
- Bi-modal Adsorbing Pore Structure
- Powder and Granular Activated Carbons (with Flexible Sizing)
- Several Ranges for Multiple Applications
- Impregnated Carbons Upon Request

ROMPCO a key participant at Africa Energy Indaba 2025

THE Republic of Mozambique Pipeline Investments Company (ROMPCO) participated at the Africa Energy Indaba 2025 from 4 to 6 March at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town, South Africa.

This premier event serves as a pivotal platform for energy professionals, policymakers, and investors to engage in discussions and collaborations aimed at addressing Africa's energy challenges and opportunities.

"These events assist with networking as it gets industry players in the same place at the same time to discuss issues of mutual interest. Some of the discussions lead

to business partnerships and potential unblocking of challenges," comments Motlokwe Sebake, GM of commercial and stakeholder management at ROMPCO.

"The Africa Energy Indaba is a catalyst for partnerships, investment, and policy alignment that directly support ROMPCO's growth, sustainability, and role in Africa's energy transition. Our aim is to also position us as a leader in gas transmission in the region," adds Sebake.

ROMPCO believes that natural gas is critical for a sustainable energy mix in Africa. Countries that have abundant natural gas resources include Angola, Mo-

zambique, Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Libya, and Nigeria. However, some or most of these resources are considered stranded, as they are far from markets where they are needed.

Natural gas is one of the cleaner options of the dispatchable energy when compared with other fossil fuels, as it has the lowest carbon footprint of all hydrocarbon fuels.

Natural gas plays a significant role in the South African economy. According to the Industrial Gas Users Association of Southern Africa (IGUA-SA), the current revenue is more than R500-billion a year, with over 70 000 people employed in the sector.

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African Energy Chamber Geneva Investor Event highlights Africa's expanding role in global energy trade



AT the recent African Energy Chamber's (AEC) investor breakfast in Geneva, Switzerland, industry leaders discussed Africa's evolving energy landscape, from Nigeria's refinery expansions to South Africa's fuel supply shifts to the growing role of traders in upstream financing. The event attracted a number of European investors, financiers and commodity traders, underscoring Geneva's pivotal role as a global hub for commodity trading.

"In the long term, South Africa has ambitions to revive its refining industry."

The event kicked off with technical presentations by industry experts from S&P Global Commodity Insights, focusing on commodity trading, downstream activities and crude oil trading in West Africa. With crude lifts from the Dangote refinery ramping up in 2025, Nigeria is set to become a net exporter of gasoline for the first time. Meanwhile, a wave of refinery rationalisations is on the global horizon, particularly in North America and Europe, with over 3 million barrels per day of refining capacity expected to shut down by 2030.

"In this context, Africa is becoming a very interesting market and a battleground for different regions targeting it as an export market," said Tanya Stepanova,

associate director, commodity insights at S&P Global, adding that several Middle Eastern NOCs are acquiring retail and refining assets – seeking to solidify or establish their presence on the continent.

The ramp-up of the Dangote refinery has reduced Nigeria's reliance on European imports, while also supplying jet fuel to Saudi Aramco and naphtha to Asian markets and the Lomé hub off Togo's coast, according to Matthew Tracey-Cook, senior price reporter at S&P Global.

Nigeria is also witnessing several other refinery developments, including the approval of a new 10 000-barrel-per-day refinery in Delta State, the resumption of operations at the Warri refinery, the planned restart of the Port Harcourt refinery and ongoing discussions to build a private refinery.

Turning to South Africa – sub-Saharan Africa's largest and most mature market – product growth has been slower. With refineries closing, the country faces critical decisions about the future of its fuel supply, balancing trader dominance with potential Middle Eastern influence, as middle eastern NOCs are reportedly considering the acquisition of Shell South Africa's downstream assets.

"In the long term, South Africa has ambitions to revive its refining industry. For South Africa, it's not just a matter of refining economics — there is a strong agenda for security of supply," said

Stepanova. "The question becomes: will it become a trader-dominated market, or will we see Middle Eastern influence? This is one of the issues to watch in 2025."

Regarding Africa's LNG prospects, the continent faces a competitive landscape as new LNG supplies from the US target European markets. Emerging markets like Mozambique could see ExxonMobil reach a Final Investment Decision (FID) on its Rovuma LNG project by 2026, while anticipated developments in TotalEnergies' Mozambique LNG project reflect upwards of \$10-billion in investments.

"For LNG, the demand is certainly there, but these projects need long-term commitments, particularly from offtakers, to happen. When we look at Mozambique, ExxonMobil just said that it's a key part of their global portfolio and they are looking at FID in 2026," said Verner Ayukegba, senior vice president, AEC, adding, "The only way to drive development in Africa is through trade and investment."

Regarding financing upstream investments, the event highlighted a recent easing of banking sector constraints following the exit of many international banks from fossil fuel financing. However, new upstream exploration continues to attract primarily major players with substantial balance sheets, though traders are playing an increasingly significant role.

Sasol, Anglo American, De Beers partner to generate feedstock for renewable diesel production

SASOL, Anglo American and De Beers entered into a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) in February 2025 to pilot the production of feedstock for renewable diesel. This is an important initiative for both companies as they endeavour to establish the value chain for renewable fuels in South Africa.

Signed against the backdrop of the Investing in African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, the objective of the JDA is to assess the technical and commercial viability of feedstock production, starting with Solaris and Moringa plantations to generate vegetable oil. Sasol's existing assets can take a variety of feedstocks, enabling them to produce renewable diesel using

vegetable oil quicker than greenfield projects and at lower costs.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Sarushen Pillay, Executive Vice President of Sasol's Business Building, Strategy and Technology portfolio, said: "Renewable diesel is transformative. It meets the technical standards of conventional diesel while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our customers can therefore, use it as a "drop-in" fuel in their existing equipment and machinery to meet their greenhouse gas reduction commitments. Partnering with Anglo American, we're investigating the development of a local and cost-effective supply chain for sustainable feedstock, utilising

vegetable oil to produce renewable diesel in our facilities. As we innovate for a better world, Sasol's ambition is clear — to help our customers navigate the energy transition while delivering high-quality, sustainable solutions for a low-carbon future."

Anglo American's Projects and Development Director, Alison Atkinson said: "This is an important initiative to strengthen our commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. It is an innovation that contributes to our sustainability journey as a business and our quest to maintain a healthy environment by creating carbon neutral operations.

"We worked closely with our De Beers

colleagues to conceive this partnership given their pre-feasibility studies on renewable diesel production trials within their mining operations and host communities.

De Beers is also providing the more than 20-hectare pieces of land on which the trial feedstock will be grown, in Blouberg, Messina; Marble Hall in Limpopo; and the Voorspoed mine closure site in the Free State".

Although renewable diesel production in South Africa is not yet at a commercial scale, recent market engagements indicate that the country's renewable fuels market is promising, driven by end customer demands and their decarbonisation targets.



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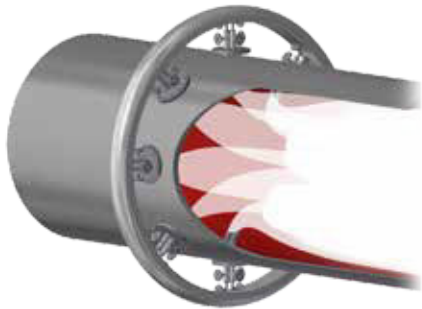


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Monitor's spray injectors ensure predictable performance at refineries



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WORKING with an engineering specialist with a proven track record in spray technology for operations in refineries, can mean the difference between acceptable performance and optimal performance/service life.

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Performance issues in refineries can be difficult to detect until degradation is severe, because once a piece of equipment is installed, it is out of sight and often out of mind. Therefore, when equipment is going to be installed inside of piping or another vessel, it is essential that it is designed properly for the application, that it can withstand the operating environment, and will deliver the required performance and service life.

"To avoid unscheduled shutdowns that are costly and disruptive," says Grant Orsmond, MD of Monitor Engineering, "it's vital to understand which type of equipment is best for the operation, (wash-

ing, cooling, injecting, quenching or humidifying), what the fabrication requirements are to ensure long service life, and actual performance with your process conditions prior to construction and installation."

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Spray equipment used in refineries is built-to-order to meet specific process conditions. Prior to equipment fabrication, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) is often recommended to validate performance and avoid costly and dangerous problems. Modeling the fluid flow, heat and mass transfer, chemical reactions and more, using actual operation conditions, will reveal potential costly problems such as wall wetting, refractory cracking, duct corrosion, premature equipment failures and unscheduled outages.

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It all starts with the nozzle

Orsmond explains that nozzle selection is an important first step, but it is just the beginning. If a refinery is using spray quills – pipes with splits or holes – the process efficiency is compromised as the fluid exiting the pipe is uninhibited. A spray injector which has pipes with one or more nozzles, corrects this problem.

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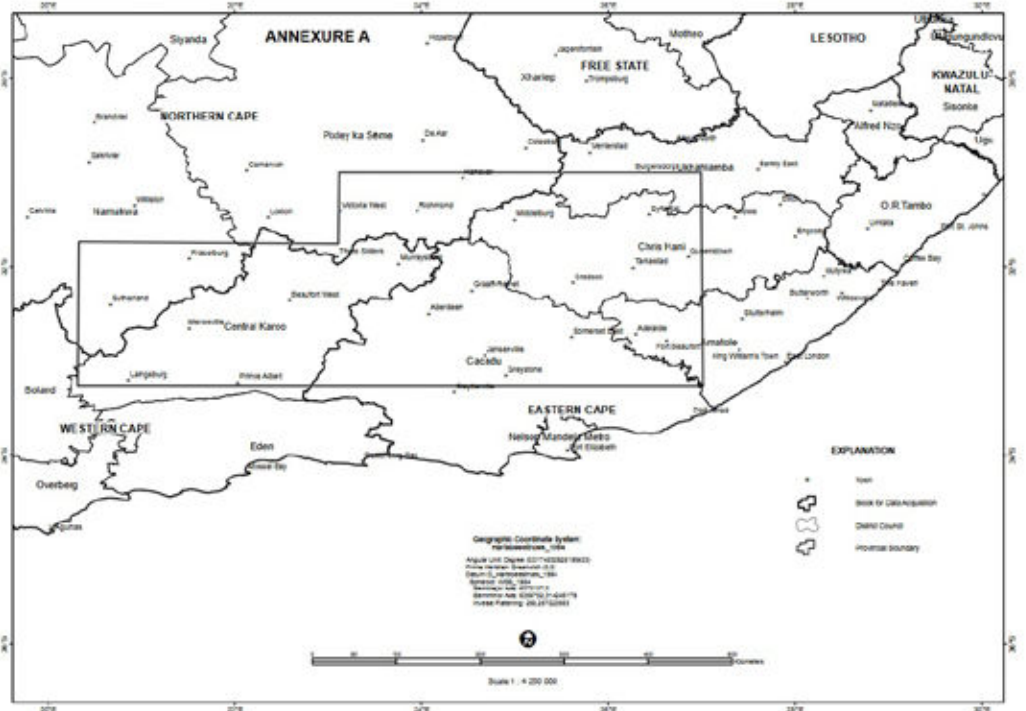
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South Africa launches major geophysical survey to unlock Karoo Basin's petroleum potential

The "microseepage" of oil in the region led to the government commissioning a survey to see if it was commercially viable to extract petroleum.



By Larry Claasen

THE Department of Mineral Resources and Energy is investigating the extent of petroleum resources of the Karoo for possible extraction.

The department approved a survey to assess the extent of "petroleum and assess any potential geological risks related to the exploration for and the production of petroleum" in the southern Karoo Basin, in the government gazette late last year.

Though the government has long seen the extraction of shale gas in the region as a way to increase energy independence, the move to assess the scale of possible petroleum deposits is new following the recent discovery of "microseepage of oil in the basin."

The survey, which will be conducted in parts of the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape will be carried out by the Petroleum Agency of

SA. It will consist of 2 246-line km of 2D reflection seismic surveys, 21 253-line km of airborne magnetic and radiometric surveys, and approximately 2 318 magnetotelluric stations, which will be deployed along the seismic profiles.

The department says the data obtained from this investigation will enable it to make informed decisions regarding the issuing of exploration rights in the area.

The survey is needed because the data collected between 1966 and 1971, by the former South African national oil company 1 SOEKOR, was outdated and of poor quality.

The new surveys will utilise advanced techniques, including vibroseis trucks, generate energy at 20 m interval offroad along roadside, and wireless nodal technology, to minimise environmental impact while delivering precise data.

The aeromagnetic/radiometric survey will be conducted us-

ing an aircraft with an attached magnetometer and installed spectrometer.

"As the aircraft flies, the magnetometer measures and records the total intensity of the magnetic field at the sensor. This measurement includes the desired magnetic field generated in the Earth as well as tiny variations due to the constantly varying solar wind and the magnetic field of the survey aircraft."

The aeromagnetic/radiometric surveys will be flown on a grid basis along survey lines with further perpendicular (tie) lines. Data will be acquired at 1 km line spacing, and the flight height will be 50 m Mean Terrain Clearance above ground level.

The Magnetotelluric (MT) surveys are a passive geophysical method that uses natural electromagnetic fields to investigate the electrical conductivity structure of the earth from 100's of metres to 100's of km depth below ground surface.

No disturbances to land and infrastructure are expected and any impact on people during operations is expected to be minimal to nil.

The land within the defined area consists of State-owned land, privately owned farmlands, commonage land, and communal land managed by tribal authorities.

The identified sensitive areas such as National and Provincial parks, and wetlands are excluded in the investigation.

The survey results will also inform the geo-environmental baseline research initiatives underway, such as implementation of a groundwater monitoring network, well risk integrity assessments and seismicity monitoring network.

The study will assist with the "identification and delineation of areas" that may be too risky from an environmental point of view and should therefore be excluded from shale gas development.



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SCAN ME



THE NEXT GENERATION

Internships, Skills & Development Programmes

Mr Price Foundation and Zapper launch bold initiative to combat youth unemployment

THE Mr Price Foundation and Zapper have joined forces to address South Africa's youth unemployment crisis. Mr Price Foundation is leveraging Zapper's streamlined digital payment solutions to raise awareness and drive donations for its Hope4Youth campaign.

Founded by Mr Price Group 20 years ago as a registered non-profit, Mr Price Foundation stands out as a leader in youth empowerment. Donations made through Zapper will directly support the Foundation's mission to empower youth (aged 15 to 34) with sustainable economic opportunities.

By allowing users to simply scan a QR code, Zapper breaks down barriers to giving, empowering individuals and businesses to seamlessly support the Foundation's transformative youth empowerment programmes.

Building on two decades of impact

With a commitment to empowering young South Africans, the Foundation has made significant strides in combating youth unemployment since 2005. The country's youth unemployment crisis affects 45,5% of youth aged 15 to 34. Challenges such as inadequate access to quality education, a skills mismatch, slow economic growth and structural inequalities underline the urgent need to expand initiatives like Hope4Youth.

"Through our partnership with Zapper, we have the chance to accelerate our programmes and rapidly extend our reach to more young people," said Mr Price Foundation executive director Octavius Phukubye.

"If every Zapper user and merchant contributes a small donation, we can drive a monumental shift for youth economic inclusion and economic growth aspirations," Phukubye said.

Transforming lives through Hope4Youth

Donations raised will directly benefit Mr Price Foundation's three flagship youth empowerment programmes: JumpStart, UpLift, and EduRise.

Since 2015, JumpStart has developed over 57 000 youth, with over 30 000 participants successfully transitioning into jobs. Offering a suite of demand-led work-readiness programmes in key labour-intensive sectors, including retail, manufacturing and tourism, JumpStart trained 7 252 unemployed youth in the 2024 financial year, with



Mr Price Foundation's JumpStart Retail Frontline Programme equips matriculated youth with essential skills for entry-level retail roles. The work readiness programme combines online learning, in-person training, interviews, and hands-on work experience helping young job seekers become more employable.

Photo: Pierre Tostee, Mr Price Foundation.

90% securing employment at leading retail partners.

Another 154 aspiring youth entrepreneurs were supported in the 2024 financial year through the UpLift entrepreneurship programme, which develops and supports sustainable small businesses, scale-ups and startups across various sectors, including retail, recycling, agnostic, and technology.

The EduRise programme, which focuses on enhancing tech-led literacy and numeracy and entrepreneurship development, impacted 25 214 learners and 40 lower socio-economic primary schools in the 2024 financial year, addressing the root cause of poor education and skills gaps.

Empowering youth through tech

"At Zapper, we're on a mission to use our technology not only to facilitate transactions but to drive meaningful social change. By creating a platform where donations can flow effortlessly into the Foundation's proven youth development programmes, we're making it easier than ever for our community to support South Africa's youth," said Zapper CEO Mike Bryer.

Since its launch in 2014, Zapper has established itself as a trusted leader in South Africa's digital payment space, serving over

1-million customers and connecting to 15-million more through partner apps.

By harnessing this significant reach, Zapper is set to raise R500 000 for Hope4Youth by the end of 2025.

Driving national engagement

Mr Price Foundation's Hope4Youth campaign will reach a national audience through Zapper's advanced in-app technology, including push notifications and geo-targeted messages, making it easy for South Africans to engage and contribute.

"This is the power of partnership," said Phukubye. "Every donation unlocks opportunities for a brighter future. Through skills development, we can ensure that every young person, regardless of background, has the opportunity to thrive."

To support the Hope4Youth campaign, simply scan the Zapper QR code or visit Mr Price Foundation's website. Every contribution has the power to create a more inclusive future.

For more information contact Mr Price Foundation's Head of Communications Pierre Tostee at PATostee@mrpricefoundation.org

DLO Partners with a chinese company to train 100 unemployed youth in De Aar

THE DLO Skills Initiative, which aims to ensure African labour, youth, and women are not left behind in the just energy transition, has partnered with Chinese renewable energy company Longyuan South Africa Renewables to provide 100 unemployed youth in De Aar with training in solar panel cleaning and maintenance.

Over three months, students were taken through both theoretical and practical training to equip them with the basic skills and knowledge required for solar panel cleaning and maintenance.

Youth unemployment in the Northern Cape currently stands at 42,4%.

"The province is home to some of the first renewable energy plants in the country, and we see an opportunity to do something beneficial for the communities. The goal for us is to see more local people taking up the various opportunities in the renewable

energy sector. I am most proud of the fact that this training went beyond the technical—we also exposed this cohort to opportunities for entrepreneurship, which is important," said DLO skills initiative CEO Linda Mabhena-Olagunju.

De Aar is home to several of the largest renewable energy projects, including the 342MW solar plant that is set to be the largest in South Africa. "We have seen a lot of interest in our students already from various plants in the area and are confident that most will be able to utilise their learning to better their future. During the training, we placed a huge emphasis on entrepreneurship because, ideally, we want to create more entrepreneurs in the area who, in turn, would be in a position to create more jobs."

Mayor of Emthanjeni Municipality, Cllr Gladwell Nkumbi, praised the initiative,

stating: "We welcome the work being done through the DLO Skills Initiative and its partners China Longyuan and Power 1. Youth unemployment remains high in our community and projects like this go a long way in equipping the youth with tangible skills through which they can find employment or become self-employed. We hope to see this programme expanded. De Aar is known for renewable energy, but it is extremely important that its people are trained to be able to take advantage of opportunities in this sector."

Over and above the three-month training, the DLO Skills Initiative has established an alumni network to facilitate peer support, information sharing, and career advancement opportunities. This network will serve as a platform for continuous learning and collaboration among graduates and industry professionals.

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- Compressors | Gensets | Plant Equipment
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Circular economy in South Africa: Driving business innovation with GreenCape

GREENCAPE's circular economy team helps businesses in manufacturing and retail to increase their competitiveness, investment and job creation by moving toward a circular economy. We asked Saloshnee Naidoo, Circular Economy programme manager at GreenCape to explain what the business benefits are and how GreenCape can help.

CBN - What is the business case for taking on circular economy principles and practices?

Changes in regulations are supporting sustainable innovation and driving eco-conscious practices in industry. Investors are more aware of these regulations and looking to invest in companies with strong ESG (environmental, social and governance) records.

Bringing circular economy practices into manufacturing and product design unlocks innovation and enhances competitive edge. Businesses can also better manage risk from supply chain volatility and price fluctuations associated with resource scarcity, especially if there is a strong reliance on virgin materials.

Because there is a focus on resource use and management, incorporating circular economy practices reduce wastage, while improving resource, energy and water efficiency - and making cost savings along the way.



Circular thinking helps materials retain their value by recirculating in the economy.

CBN - What kind of companies are best suited for the circular economy?

The circular economy is really about recirculating materials so they stay in the value chain for as long as possible at the highest value. There are many businesses that can take on circular economy principles. Product designers, manufacturers, retailers, brand-owners, waste management companies and recyclers are particularly well suited to maximise the value of their products and services.

CBN - Where does the impetus for a shift to circular principles and activities usually come from?

Many companies have a sustainability office, so the impetus would likely come from there. Collaboration across departments is also needed to implement circular economy strategies, so the initiative should sit with all departments.

'Circular economy' is not an isolated concept, but rather embedded in business strategy to reap the long-term benefits for a company.

It is a system change, so it may require an organisational culture shift to move from business practices that follow the traditional linear 'take-make-dispose' economy to moving their strategic compass towards the future.

CBN - How does GreenCape help companies who want to move into the circular economy space?

We work to identify opportunities that increase the competitiveness of businesses in the circular economy. The GreenCape team provides a range of information including market intelligence reports, industry and opportunity briefs and case studies. These are all freely available on our GreenCape website.

The Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme (WISP), funded by City of Cape Town and delivered by GreenCape, is a free facilitation service that supports companies to identify underutilised resources and enable business opportunities.

Our Green Finance desk facilitates the financing of green projects and businesses. There is also a free green finance database to help businesses locate financiers. Western Cape businesses keen to learn about the circular and green economy sectors, and how we assist, are welcome to reach out to our sector desk teams at info@greencape.co.za.

Hugh Tyrrell is the director of GreenEdge, a communication and marketing consultancy specialising in the circular economy.

Opinion piece: Empowering South Africa's IPP's for a renewable future

By Francois van Themaat, MD of large projects at Sustainable Power Solutions (SPS)



MANY crucial parts of the economy of the future will be hugely energy intensive, foremost amongst which will be electrified transport and the large data processing required by automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The transition towards sustainable energy has also gathered pace and renewable energy targets are now firmly entrenched in the Key Performance Indicators of most multinational businesses.

Successful economies will be those that

can ensure businesses and investors of a stable supply of low-cost renewable energy. South Africa has the opportunity to become a global leader in this regard, given the excellent solar and wind resources that the country has been blessed with.

Steering the IPP landscape – challenges and solutions

Since its inception in 2011, the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) has played a pivotal role in driving South Africa's shift towards renewable energy. Competition between Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have caused prices on each renewable energy bid window to come down significantly, which in time should lead to lower energy costs for consumers. There have been other successes following on initiatives by Eskom and the South African government to open up the grid, for example the effective scrapping of licensing requirements.

However, the greatest obstacle to unlocking South Africa's potential to become a leader in the renewable field, is available grid capacity and grid access.

There are two parts to this. The first is the fact that South Africa's aging grid requires significant upgrades and expansion in order to move South Africa from its current coal dependence to a largely renewable energy

driven energy economy.

These upgrades will take time and significant investment. There is, however, a vast amount of private capital and technical expertise ready to move into this sector. Eskom, with government's support, needs to welcome this and remove regulatory barriers in order to speed up grid upgrades.

The second part is regulatory certainty and the efficiency of processes to obtain grid access where this is technically available. This process is lengthy, costly and poses significant risks for developers.

Eskom has to advise where grid capacity exists based on rigorous scientific analysis and they need to establish clear processes for obtaining grid access whilst adhering to deadlines in order to remove the uncertainty for developers.

In the meantime, IPP developers will need to become more innovative in how to structure and develop large scale projects as both the regulatory landscape and the energy needs facing developers will be very different a decade from now. There will be fewer and fewer opportunities for developers to enter into 20-year offtake agreements with single clients.

We believe that a flexible approach is required in order to future proof projects as far as possible. Some examples that we are working on are shorter term wheeling deals with multiple off-takers, structures where the off-taker and/or landlord also has a stake

"IPP developers will need to become more innovative in how to structure and develop large scale projects as both the regulatory landscape and the energy needs facing developers will be very different a decade from now."

in the generation project and ensuring that plants are permitted to allow for the later addition of a battery component.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will play a key role to enable a larger portion of South Africa's energy needs to be met by renewable energy and to help stabilise the country's energy supply.

There are many roles BESS will play. Batteries can be used to shift daytime energy generated by solar plants into the evening hours.

This means that one could increase the size of a solar plant with a specific grid connection by almost threefold without having to obtain a larger grid connection from Eskom as the excess daytime energy can be stored in the batteries and fed into the grid at the 50 MW capacity.

South Africans all hope that load shedding is a thing of the past, but we are still seeing many businesses opting for battery solutions to provide back-up power in order to get operational and cost certainty.

For further information visit www.sps.africa



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