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ACTOM to spend R400-million on expanding production capacity

The industrial group aims to spend this money by 31 March 2026 and has followed it by investing R220 million in capital expansion over the past year.



ACTOM's LH Marthinusen division launches new R32m industrial fan factory.

By Larry Claasen

ACTOM, the largest manufacturer and supplier of electromechanical equipment in Sub-Saharan Africa, plans to invest R400-million in expanding production capacity over the next few months, according to its CEO, Mervyn Naidoo.

Speaking at the launch of its subsidiary, LH Marthinusen's R32-million industrial fan production facility, in Germiston, Gauteng, Naidoo said the group was looking to spend a further R400-million on not only "new production capacity for manufacturing, aftermarket services, but also in terms of acquisitions of businesses to increase our capacity thereby."

ACTOM plans to spend this amount by 31 March 2026.

This commitment to invest in increasing production follows its already spending R220-million on capital investment to grow its manufacturing and aftermarket services

in its factories throughout the country and the other countries it operates in over the past year.

This latest commitment to increase capacity came after ACTOM invested R100-million in expanding its Pretoria plant in 2023.

Aside from investing in LH Marthinusen's industrial fan production facility, ACTOM has also invested in a new training centre facility that offers a variety of apprenticeship programmes at its premises in Germiston, in November 2024.

LH Marthinusen, which was founded in 1913, will support Eskom's air pre-heater infrastructure. These fans are crucial for Eskom's power generation facilities, as they play a key role in managing airflow and regulating temperature levels.

ACTOM's move to expand production came as South Africa was about to see large investments across a range of industrial sectors, said Naidoo.

"We at ACTOM are really starting to see this manifest in terms of tangible projects

in the IPP [Independent Power Producers] space, as well as various other initiatives like the Transmission Development Plan manifesting in terms of actual projects on the ground that are formed to deliver loading to our factories."

The government announced the appointment of eight preferred bidders for Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme in December 2024, and the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) plans to spend R112 billion on increasing grid capacity over the next 10 years.

"We've seen in the media capital projects announced of the value of approximately one trillion rand spanning across all of these various sectors," noted Naidoo.

He saw this increased investment not only as a way to grow the economy, but also as an opportunity to grow its industrial base.

"For me, it is crucial that we as a country use this demand as a catalyst to unite the re-industrialisation of our country."

He said this could be done by the localisation of product manufacturers, as well as the aftermarket support of these products.

"This will lead ultimately to the creation of jobs that are desperately needed in the country, but also in terms of increasing our economically active population that takes away from the social burden of the state and thereby would become a major stimulus to GDP growth."

Naidoo said in this regard, South Africa should consider emulating China, which used its industrial sector to drive economic growth.

"The Chinese economy, when they peaked growth rates above GDP growth rates of 10% per annum, one of the key things worth noting was that manufacturing was about 40% of their GDP."

He said there was also an opportunity to leverage this economic potential by encouraging African countries to trade with each other.

Continued on P2

SEW-EURODRIVE energy audits help farmers drive down irrigation costs



With a focus on centre pivot irrigation, SEW-EURODRIVE provides robust gearboxes and motors, alongside tailored audits that optimise energy use on farms.

SEW-EURODRIVE is expanding its support to South Africa's agricultural sector by leveraging its world class expertise in energy audits for drive systems - helping farmers unlock cost savings and improve operational efficiencies in irrigation applications.

As part of its full-service offering to the farming community, SEW-EURODRIVE not only supplies robust and energy efficient gearboxes and motors for centre pivot irrigation systems, but also conducts in-depth energy audits to identify inefficiencies and recommend optimised drive solutions tailored to each operation.

"Electricity is one of the fastest growing input costs in agriculture, placing enormous pressure on farmers who depend on irrigation for consistent crop yields," explains Willem Strydom, business development manager: Electronics at SEW-EURODRIVE. "Our energy audits take a holistic view - assessing everything from motor and gearbox performance to how effectively power is used across the system."

Read full article on page 26



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ACTOM to spend R400-million on expanding production capacity

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“I think it’s important that we leverage that demand and try to optimise what we do for Africa, by Africa, in Africa, using the resources on the continent. And on the back of that, we need to look at the African continental free trade area and free trade agreements, to use that as a means of leveraging off that demand and use that as a stimulus to grow industrialisation in the continent.”

Intercontinental trade in Africa is less than 15% of Africa’s GDP, and could be an important mechanism when it comes to stimulating industrialisation on the continent.

Naidoo noted that ACTOM was doing its bit to facilitate such trade.

“At the moment we’ve got factories in five African countries, and in 2023 we established a business in Kenya, bought a business actually in Nairobi, that today employs about 70 people, and that’s the ACTOM industrial hub for East Africa.”

Manufacturing: Key to job creation and economic transformation

AS Africa seeks sustainable economic growth, the expansion of manufacturing in Sub-Saharan Africa has emerged as a strategic priority. The Manufacturing Indaba, taking place on 15–16 July 2025 at the Sandton Convention Centre, will spotlight the region’s immense industrial potential and explore how strategic investments can drive inclusive growth, employment, and competitiveness.

Sub-Saharan Africa’s manufacturing sector currently contributes less than 12% to regional GDP, yet it holds vast untapped potential. According to the African Development Bank, the continent could double its manufacturing output to over US\$1-trillion by 2030, driven by rising consumer demand, resource endowment, and demographic growth.

Key industry opportunities

The region offers significant opportunities across key sectors including:

- Agro-processing – transforming

agricultural output into value-added goods.

- Textiles and apparel – benefiting from a young workforce and preferential trade agreements.
- Automotive assembly and components – supported by regional integration and industrial zones.
- Pharmaceutical and chemical production – addressing growing health and

industrial needs.

- Green technologies and renewable energy solutions – supporting climate-smart manufacturing

With over 12 million young Africans entering the job market each year, manufacturing is critical to creating sustainable employment and reducing dependency on imports. Industrialisation also strengthens value

chains, boosts exports, and improves resilience in the face of global supply chain disruptions.

A platform for collaboration

The Manufacturing Indaba 2025 will bring together policymakers, manufacturers, investors, development finance institutions, and innovators to accelerate industrial development across the continent. The con-

ference will focus on practical enablers such as infrastructure, skills development, digital transformation, access to finance, and regional trade integration.

“Sub-Saharan Africa’s manufacturing future is not just a possibility—it’s a necessity,” said Liz Hart MD of the Manufacturing Indaba. “We must act boldly to unlock growth, innovation, and job creation across the continent.”



Opinion: Data Centre Guardians – Resilience in the face of disruption

By Jacques De Jager, COO at Digital Parks Africa

IN South Africa’s volatile environment, daily disruptions to power, water, or connectivity are unavoidable. For data centres, success hinges not on avoiding these disruptions, but on preparation, agility, and precision - especially in the critical “Golden Five Minutes” after an outage begins.

Robust resilience starts with skilled personnel trained in scenario-based response. Consistent, proactive maintenance and operational redundancy are equally vital, particularly as local centres contend with diesel quality, power

instability, and fibre diversity.

Outdated equipment poses major operational risks, making it essential to track performance trends and adopt structured technology refresh strategies. Vendor lock-in and geopolitical risk further necessitate a multi-vendor approach, demanding broader skills and careful diversification.

This industry doesn’t rely on traditional academic training. Every facility is unique, and operational competence stems from hands-on experience, complemented by specialised education through partnerships.

A multi-site infrastructure strategy spreads risk, ensuring



continuity even if one location fails.

As the industry evolves, it demands more than technical excellence - it calls

for human resilience, strategic foresight, and disciplined operations to keep pace with the demands of a connected world.

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NOVACOM reimagines telco events with tech-powered precision



By Adrian Ephraim

IN an era when tangible outcomes increasingly measure corporate events and return on investment, NOVACOM Summits sets a new gold standard for what B2B events can deliver. By fusing cutting-edge technology with high-touch hospitality, this Africa-born tech company is solving one of the events industry's most pressing challenges: efficacy.

NOVACOM Summits are invitation-only events, connecting C-Suite leaders and innovative solution providers in African telecoms. It is 2.5 days of game-changing insights and connections, all in five-star locations.

NOVACOM summits guarantee opportunities for 80 hand-picked guests in the telco industry to meet 1-on-1 for high-quality meetings and networking. 15 sellers and 50 buyers will get 12

meetings over 2 days that are on time and to the point.

At its core, NOVACOM is not just an events company. It's a technology firm disguised as an event organiser - one that has developed and refined proprietary AI matchmaking software designed to maximise the value of every interaction at its gatherings.

Cracking the code of meaningful engagement

Traditional conferences often struggle to justify the time and cost for C-suite executives and sponsors, many of whom leave feeling overwhelmed by vague networking and unqualified leads. NOVACOM flips this model on its head by using intelligent algorithms to engineer one-on-one meetings between vetted buyers and solution providers. The result? Conversations that convert.

Each delegate arrives with a tailored schedule of pre-booked, high-value meetings—an experience that is further en-

hanced by the company's custom-built app, which also enables real-time deal tracking, feedback collection, and seamless communication throughout the summit. This creates not just a better event, but a data-rich environment that can demonstrate measurable ROI for all participants.

"The event has surpassed my expectations and I am delighted to have been part of it," said the CTO of Telekom Networks Malawi, echoing the sentiments of many of NOVACOM's past attendees.

Built for scale - and impact

Since 2022, NOVACOM Summits has facilitated over 720 high-impact 1-to-1 meetings across four events in key African markets, helping senior executives and technology providers forge strategic partnerships that drive the sector forward. But the vision doesn't stop there.

With a highly scalable model and flexible operations that can be

deployed anywhere in the world, NOVACOM's proprietary tech and event formula can be adapted to other industries - whether fintech, healthcare, green energy or beyond. The company's platform is already attracting attention from global buyers looking to expand into new verticals or integrate Novacom's event tech into existing conferences.

A tech company that happens to run events

What sets NOVACOM apart isn't just the luxurious venues or the calibre of attendees, though both are world-class. It's the technology-first mindset. Led by a founding team with deep roots in digital infrastructure, product design, and creative storytelling, NOVACOM has built an engine that enables frictionless execution and maximum efficiency.

Whether it's the intelligent weighting of preferences for matchmaking, AI-enhanced scheduling, or deal-flow visibility that lets organisers track ROI in real time, NOVACOM is redefining what it means to run an effective B2B event.

The future of events is personalised, measurable, and scalable

In a time where budgets are tight and expectations are high, NOVACOM is helping the events industry pivot from volume to value. With an eye on both experience and outcomes, the company is proving that meaningful connections don't happen by chance - they happen by design.

As the business prepares for its next phase - expanding into new markets, licensing its tech, or potentially partnering with larger event groups - it's clear that NOVACOM is more than a summit organiser. It's a future-facing connector of industries, people, and possibilities.

Connecting futures, one meeting at a time.

For more information:
www.novacomsummits.com

South Africa's G20 Presidency: What it means for global trade & investment

By Chris Hattingh

SOUTH Africa's G20 Presidency provides the host country with numerous diplomatic, economic, and cultural opportunities. With a main summit (22-23 November in Johannesburg) preceded by numerous side conferences and engagements focused on a range of areas and sectors, South Africa's G20 Presidency offers multiple chances to make a positive impact on international diplomatic and business counterparts.

In his address to the World Economic Forum meeting in January President Cyril Ramaphosa captured South Africa's opportunity as follows: "As a leading forum for international economic cooperation, the G20 plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on major international economic issues. For the first time in its history, the G20 is being hosted on the African continent following the admission of the African Union as a member of the G20."

South Africa's G20 Presidency and its impact on global trade

South Africa is now afforded these G20 opportunities, with a special focus on the new US administration that has undertaken its work with great speed. By drilling into the areas of the economic growth (investment) as well as security interests, South Africa can find overlap with what will likely be a more pragmatic, deal-making focused, America First foreign-and-trade policy on the part of the Trump administration.

Economic growth and investment under South Africa's G20 Presidency

The economic context in which South Afri-

ca hosts the G20 is as follows. Gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP is a useful leading indicator of future growth rates. The National Development Plan set SA's target at 30%. The highest point reached (since 1994) was 21.6%, in 2008/09. Apart from that, the yearly performance hovers between 12% and 15%. With lower rates of capital formation come lower rates of growth - and fewer business and job opportunities. Between 2013 and 2023 annual GDP growth averaged only 0.8%; to increase real GDP per capita (and the average citizen's quality of life) growth rates nearer 5% are needed.

How South Africa's G20 Presidency can attract foreign investment

With the national fiscus under constant debt servicing obligations, it is unlikely that South Africa can domestically spend the amounts needed for more and larger infrastructure and other capital-intensive projects. Foreign investment is an avenue that should be explored at every opportunity. Building on the positive work done over the last 7 months by the Department of Home Affairs, South Africa can show it is open to highly-skilled businesspeople. A subdued but aspirant domestic consumer market is available to international goods. And by speeding up reforms on the railway networks and ports the government can communicate its seriousness (in deed, not merely in action).

South Africa's well-developed links with the Sub-Saharan African region play to its geostrategic advantages - coupled, of course, with the built-in global trade route that the Cape of Good Hope provides.

On the political



front the ideological and policy differences within the Government of National Unity (GNU) could yet undermine South Africa's investment case, if these differences result in the GNU's fracturing. For the time being, though, South Africa presents a relatively more stable political offering than countries such as Germany, France, and South Korea, that can play to its global advantage.

A more pragmatic US foreign policy and trade footing will be more volatile and countries seeking opportunities should expect curveballs. But 'volatile' is not the same as 'uncertain' and 'unpredictable.' With the necessary data and objective, dispassionate analysis countries will be able to identify the key trends and driving forces behind seemingly irregular US foreign policy moves.

With all the above factors taken into consideration South Africa can formulate its positioning towards the US as follows: A relationship that is economically to the benefit of the US, coupled with no or relatively few geopolitical downsides for the US. Of potential investment and trade partners for the US on the African continent - and the US will always seek such opportunities, regardless of the more charged rhetoric of the day or which party holds the administration - South Africa has within its ability the choices to make a very compelling economic, security, and trade case.

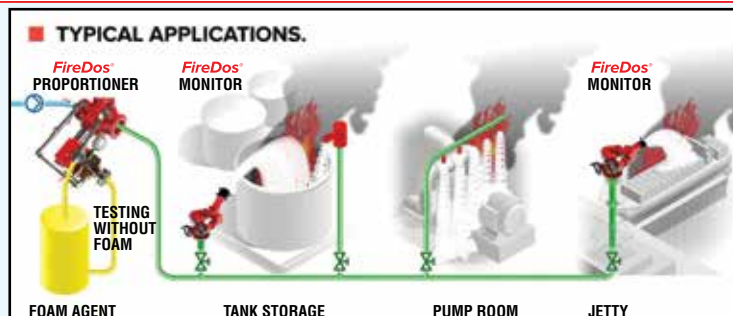


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Collective strength: how the BCCEI is building South Africa's future



Through fair labour practices and strategic engagement, the BCCEI is shaping a more resilient civil engineering industry.

IN an industry where clarity, compliance and continuity are essential, the Bargaining Council

of six collective agreements offers clarity on employment terms, fair wages, retirement

static. They evolve with input from the four official parties - the two employer organisations and two trade unions that govern the BCCEI - ensuring that negotiated outcomes are practical, fair and future-focused.

One of the BBCEI's most active and essential roles is played by its Compliance Department and designated agents. Deployed nationwide, they offer on-the-ground engagement with contractors and employees including those in remote locations. These designated agents don't just enforce rules - they serve as educators, advisors and liaisons, helping to prevent misunderstandings and promote participation in

the BCCEI's structures.

"This type of dedicated sector-specific support is invaluable," says Fourie. "It reduces conflict, builds trust and creates a working environment where projects can proceed without unnecessary disruptions."

The BCCEI also focuses on collaboration with external stakeholders to assist in addressing various industry challenges. Through these strategic partnerships, the Council is able to align its efforts with broader sector priorities, drive meaningful engagement and ensure that the interests of all parties are represented in decision-making processes.

She says that by doing this, the BCCEI contributes to the development of sustainable solutions that support stability, promote fair labour practices and enhance the overall resilience of the civil engineering sector.

"In a sector tasked with building the infrastructure that underpins progress, the BCCEI provides the essential scaffolding of labour stability, fairness and opportunity. Our efforts are not just about today's projects, but about securing South Africa's tomorrow," Fourie concludes.

"In a sector tasked with building the infrastructure that underpins progress, the BCCEI provides the essential scaffolding of labour stability, fairness and opportunity."

for the Civil Engineering Industry (BCCEI) has emerged as an indispensable pillar of strength. As a statutory body tasked with regulating employment standards in civil engineering, the BCCEI provides the structural integrity needed to build both physical infrastructure and economic resilience.

The BCCEI's work goes far beyond traditional labour relations. "We exist to support the sector's ability to function effectively and grow sustainably," says Lindie Fourie, operations manager at the BCCEI. "From dispute resolution and compliance to addressing industry challenges and collective bargaining, our mandate touches every part of the value chain."

Its unique framework

funding, registration requirements and dispute resolution - all carefully structured to reflect the complex nature of the civil engineering sector. Importantly, these agreements are not



As a central platform for industry negotiation in the civil engineering sector, the BCCEI ensures adherence to labour standards and agreements.

KfW backs €17m for IDC green hydrogen projects

By Larry Claasen

THE Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) signed a €17-million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Germany's KfW Development Bank to mitigate potential funding gaps that may arise from the increasing demand for green hydrogen-related projects.

The MOU formalises a framework for co-operation between the development funders that will enable them to continue to strengthen cooperation when it comes to ramping up a local green hydrogen economy.

The MOU was signed by KfW directors, Stefan Hediger, Conny Tittman and Rian Coetzee, the IDC's acting divisional executive for industry planning and project development, at the Africa Green Hydrogen Summit, which took place from 12-13 June 2025 in Cape Town.

The signing of the MOU followed KfW agreeing to provide €23,1-million for a promotional programme to build a sustainable hydrogen economy in partnership with the IDC in 2023.

Speaking at the summit, Trade, Industry and Competitions Minister Parks Tau said the latest agreement between the IDC and KfW laid a solid base for the development of a green hydrogen sector in the country.

"Through the Industrial Development Corporation, we have also secured €23-million in grant funding from the German government via KfW Development Bank. These funds will be used to de-risk and fast-track key catalytic green hydrogen



Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa.

projects. Of the 24 projects identified as Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs), several have already completed their pre-feasibility study phase. We have also established the Just Energy Transition Green Hydrogen Programme Management Office, hosted by the IDC, to coordinate the implementation of the green hydrogen chapter of the JET-IP implementation plan," said Tau.

He added that the scale of funding required to develop a green hydrogen ecosystem is immense; therefore, collaboration is not just a recommendation, but a necessity.

"We will explore a range of mechanisms, including project feasibility and development funding, tools to de-risk investments, support for green premiums during the early stages of cost curve reduction such as contracts for difference, investment in supporting infrastructure, and funding that facilitates ecosystem development, including policy support, capacity building, technology transfer, sustainability, and inclusion," Tau said.

This agreement was not the only one concluded between the parties at the summit, as they also agreed to fund the Prieska Power Reserve, a green hy-

drogen and ammonia production facility located in the Northern Cape.

Stretching across 1 900 hectares within the Siyathemba Local Municipality's industrial zone. It aims to produce 80 000 tons of green ammonia annually by 2027 and scale up to 500 000 tons by 2030.

The Prieska Power Reserve is expected to create about 400 direct jobs and support more than 300 small businesses.

"Prieska is the first green ammonia and hydrogen project to receive funding approval from the KfW grant. This marks a significant milestone for the project," stated Meta Mhlari, Director of Prieska Power Reserve.

Martin Walzer, also a director at Prieska Power Reserve, said: "With KfW's support and our ongoing partnership with the IDC, we are well positioned to reach financial close and move into project execution."

Also speaking at the summit, Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, said the green hydrogen economy is a new frontier for clean energy as it emits low carbon emissions, coupled with a global potential of at least \$300-billion in global exports over the next three decades.

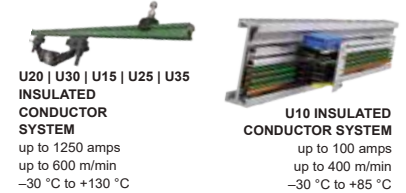
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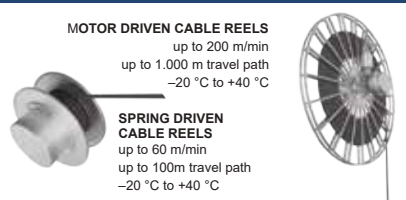


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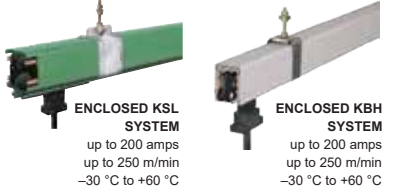
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up to 400 m/min
-30 °C to +85 °C



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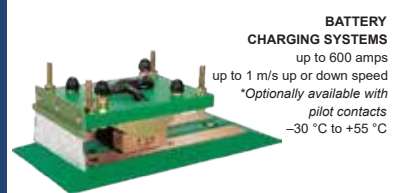


ENCLOSED KSL SYSTEM
up to 200 amps
up to 250 m/min
-30 °C to +60 °C

ENCLOSED KBH SYSTEM
up to 200 amps
up to 250 m/min
-30 °C to +60 °C



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Innovation Hub

Johannesburg, South Africa

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LAUNCHES THE FIRST REGISTERED INNOVATION HUB IN AFRICA

Schneider Electric, the global leader in energy management and automation, and recognised sustainability leader, has unveiled the first registered Innovation Hub in Africa – a milestone development that forms part of the company's long-term investment on the continent.

Located at Schneider Electric's new, state-of-the-art English-speaking head office in Midrand, Johannesburg, the Innovation Hub is a testament to the company's continued commitment to Africa and its valued partners.

Furthermore, it brings Schneider Electric's vision for sustainability and digitalisation to life, ensuring that customers, partners, and stakeholders across the continent have direct access to groundbreaking innovations that can transform industries and drive meaningful progress.

The Innovation Hub also joins the ranks of Schneider Electric's over 40 registered global Innovation Hubs, standing shoulder to shoulder with its international counterparts, offering the absolute latest in technology and sustainable solutions.

Like its global peers, the hub is a fully interactive environment where visitors can explore the company's integrated solutions spanning critical segments such as energy, buildings, data centres, industry, and power and grid.

"We are building an ecosystem that thrives on collaboration, innovation, and relevance to the African context, one that values local talent, fosters local partnerships, and drives local solutions. The Innovation Hub is an important step forward in enabling our customers and partners with leading technologies that can shape Africa's future while advancing global sustainability ambitions," says Canninah Dladla, Cluster President for English-speaking Africa at Schneider Electric.

A tailored, engaging experience

The Innovation Hub offers a fully customised and guided experience for every visitor, ensuring they interact with the newest innovations in the Schneider Electric portfolio.

Visitors are introduced to the company's story through an interactive touchscreen before exploring tailored spaces, including:

- **The Software Portfolio**, featuring AVEVA Operations Control, eTAP, and various EcoStruxure software solutions.
- **Industrial Automation Solutions**, showcasing live conveyor systems, EcoStruxure Plant and Machine control units, sensors, and industrial intelligence.
- **Building Solutions**, demonstrating advanced control technologies for access, lighting, HVAC, and room management.
- **Power and Grid Solutions**, featuring Schneider Electric's acclaimed SF₆-free AirSet switchgear, protection relays, and microgrid solutions.
- **Secure Power displays**, including a live server room demonstrating Schneider Electric's data centre and UPS solutions.

Designed as a flexible, evolving space, the Innovation Hub constantly adapts to ensure the latest innovations from Schneider Electric are always on display.

The hub is also accessible to partners, consultants, and system integrators, who can book the space to demonstrate specific solutions to their clients. Each session can be tailored to showcase industry-specific applications, ensuring that businesses and stakeholders receive real-world insights into how Schneider Electric's technology can drive success.

The Innovation Hub is backed by a team of skilled Innovation Hub Managers and Operations Specialists, ensuring expert guidance and a tailored visitor experience. Additionally, Schneider Electric is expanding its global Innovation Hub Ambassador Programme, training even more employees to bring a wealth of expertise from across the organisation, enhancing every visit to the facility.

Designed for sustainability

The Innovation Hub is housed within Schneider Electric's new English-speaking headquarters, which truly represents the pinnacle of sustainable building design and operations.

With a 20% smaller footprint than its previous premises, the headquarters delivers significant sustainability gains, including:

- 37% lower energy consumption per month.
- 34% less water usage per month.
- 32 tonnes of CO₂ emissions reduced monthly.

Further amplifying its environmental performance, the headquarters boasts a 200 kWp rooftop solar installation, mitigating 15 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each month. Also, plans are underway for a full microgrid solution with battery energy storage (BESS), reinforcing Schneider Electric's drive toward renewable and sustainable energy practices.

Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure Buildings Operation and Power Monitoring software seamlessly integrates into the Innovation Hub, providing intelligent control over lighting and HVAC systems in customer-facing areas.

Through the Innovation Hub, Schneider Electric is undoubtedly strengthening its commitment to its partners and customers across the continent, ensuring that Africa's industries benefit from the very best in technology, innovation, and sustainability.

Life Is On

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Reserve your spot now and take the first step towards innovation!

Event Management - Festival of Eventing Cape Town 2025

A groundbreaking industry gathering for Africa’s event organisers: 8-9 August 2025



Devi Paulsen-Abbott, co-founder of Festival of Eventing.

THIS August, Cape Town will be host to a pioneering industry-first-of-its-kind event: the Festival of Eventing, an immersive, two-day gathering designed to unite, upskill, and inspire Event Management professionals and anyone involved in organising or hosting any type of large or small event across Africa’s eventing ecosystem.

Taking place in the heart of Cape Town at the Century City Conference Centre, this modern, high tech and sustainable venue could not be more fitting for this inaugural festival. With more than 1 000 attendees expected over two days, the fes-

tival promises not only innovation and practical insights from Africa’s top event leaders, creative visionaries, and global experts, but also a vibrant celebration of human connection.

Event Management: An Africa-centric event created by industry professionals

Founded by seasoned industry professionals Devi Paulsen-Abbott, Betty Sichivula, and Keshni Reddy, all of whom have extensive experience working with major trade show organisers, the Festival of Eventing is the result of years of shared vision

and conversation. “We realised that there was a big opportunity for professionals in the industry to build a community, firstly, and secondly to obtain the best practices, knowledge, training, and information around the sector’s trends,” says Paulsen-Abbott. “Many people don’t choose the events industry – they fall into it – with very little formal training and skills development support. Our aim is for the festival to be about personal development for professionals in the industry.”

She says that with Africa burgeoning as a continent with more events taking place, it’s an ideal space to connect eventing professionals across the continent.

More than a conference: An immersive, multi-sensory experience

Departing from traditional conference and exhibition formats, the festival’s showcase area has been designed to stimulate all five senses. Instead of shell-scheme booths, attendees can expect a fully immersive experience with interactive technology demonstrations, experiential elements,

and innovation zones that invite touch, taste, sight, sound, and smell into the learning journey.

“...with Africa burgeoning as a continent with more events taking place, it’s an ideal space to connect eventing professionals across the continent.”

“We have some great entertainment lined up with some really nice tech surprises that will be sprinkled on our attendees throughout the experience. And a particularly exciting highlight will be a mini Metaverse event curated by one of our partners, Mann Made Media – the team behind Africa’s first metaverse,” says Paulsen-Abbott.

Event Management strategies for insightful learning and practical skills

The Festival of Eventing’s programme is extensive with over 70 local and international speakers already confirmed, plus approximately 100 different technologies will be showcased across the two days. Leadership focused discussions will take place in morning and after-

noon sessions, and in-between, Masterclass Circles will focus on specific topics that promote leadership,

engagement and innovative practices in the events industry.

Two dynamic keynote speakers who attendees can look forward to, are Lorne Sulcas (The Big Cat Guy) international speaker and game changer, exploring leadership lessons from the African bush, and Nikki Verd, a respected digital futurist discussing the human connection in a tech world. There are also speakers from Ghana, Uganda, Norway, and from Nigeria the executive director from the Centre for Disability and Inclusion Africa will speak on the important matter of catering for physically-challenged people at events.

Coinciding with South Africa’s Women’s Day on the Saturday, there are a number of women panels plus a celebration lined up for the industry.

A focus on pressing industry topics

“We don’t think enough about what an event needs to be representative of; the community that we’re serving,” says Paulsen-Abbott. “And especially around Women’s Month, you need to have a really good mix of culture, gender, and age on speaker panels. And then also presenting your events in a way that caters for everyone, is really important.”

“The Festival of Eventing isn’t just for event agencies. The organisers have created a space for a broad range of professionals who influence, plan, or execute events in any format...”

There will be sessions around health and safety compliance in South Africa, sustainable event design, experiential marketing, event operations and strategy, and how to champion diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in a business and at events. And a representative from the South African Presidency, will lead a Masterclass course on protocol management for events that host VIPs.

Festival of Eventing: Where ideas ignite, leaders rise, and the future of events takes centre stage

The Festival of Eventing isn’t just for event agencies. The organisers have created a space for a broad range of professionals who influence, plan, or execute events in any format – from corporate marketing managers to executive assistants, freelancers, and even sporting event organisers.

With the many local and international partnerships supporting

this upcoming Festival of Eventing, it is set to transform the future of eventing in Africa.

“It’s our aim to give people the opportunity to be more connected in terms of the incredible technology and the variety of services available to them in this industry, with the hope to make their lives easier, and enrich their experiences,” concludes Paulsen-Abbott.

For more info visit <https://festivalofeventing.com/>



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Jaltech and Wetility seal R500-million deal to solar power thousands of SA homes



Derrick Hyde, co-founder and partner at Jaltech.

SOUTH Africa's fastest-growing solar-as-a-service provider has successfully secured a R500-million structured capital partnership with Jaltech, a leading funder of solar energy projects in South Africa. The transaction marks a milestone in Wetility's mission to provide clean, reliable, and cost-effective solar energy to over one million homes and businesses across the country.

The capital provided by Jaltech will be utilised to fund solar and battery systems, enabling Wetility to add over 16 MW of solar capacity to the national distributed energy footprint, as well as avoid over 250 000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions.

"This funding unlocks the next phase of our growth, empowering thousands of homeowners and SMEs who

want more predictability, control, and savings in the face of a volatile energy landscape. It's a strong endorsement of our model and mission, and we're proud to partner with Jaltech, which shares our long-term vision. Together, we're driving scalable, inclusive access to clean energy, one roof at a time," states Dawid Swart, Wetility's CFO.

The R500-million funding structure comprises a tailored blend of senior and equity capital, structured to match Wetility's rapidly scaling operations. Jaltech, known for pioneering private market investment opportunities in sectors underserved by traditional financiers and generally inaccessible to private investors, identified Wetility as a high-impact business with strong potential to reshape South Africa's residential and

SME energy landscape over the coming year.

"Over the years, Jaltech has assisted Wetility with portions of its growth plans, but we are now ready to stand firmly behind them and back their mission to deliver reliable energy to thousands of homes," said Derrick Hyde, co-founder and partner at Jaltech.

Energy unavailability – including load shedding, load reduction and other planned and unplanned utility interruptions – remains one of South Africa's most pressing socio-economic challenges. This makes innovative private partnerships, such as Wetility/Jaltech, crucial to fostering resilience, energy independence, and inclusive growth.

About Wetility

Wetility is South Africa's fastest-growing solar-as-a-service provider, delivering solar and storage solutions to homeowners and businesses through its innovative all-in-one solar subscription bundles. Wetility enables customers to take control of their electricity needs, reduce their energy bills, and contribute to a more sustainable future.

About Jaltech

Jaltech is an alternative investment fund manager with over R2-billion under management across more than 1 300 retail investments. As a core focus, Jaltech provides long-term, cost-effective



Dawid Swart, Wetility's CFO.

Wetility and Jaltech anticipate that this deal will serve as a blueprint for future funding rounds to support a national scale-up strategy, enabling the deployment of solar energy to hundreds of thousands more homes and businesses

funding solutions for commercial solar projects across South Africa. With a strong track record and deep sector expertise, Jaltech has successfully funded over 250 solar installations to date, helping businesses across most sectors.



Absa partners with top research firm Absolute Strategy Research



Quintus Kilbourn, head of equities at Absa CIB.

ABSA Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB), a division of Absa Group, and Absolute Strategy Research Ltd (ASR), a globally respected independent macroeconomic research provider, are pleased to announce a new strategic partnership aimed at enhancing Absa's global research capabilities and expanding ASR's reach to key African markets.

Founded in 2006, ASR is consistently ranked as the top independent macroeconomic research provider by Institutional Investor and Exel. The firm is fully independent – it does not provide execution services, manage client money, or trade on its own account – ensuring that its insights remain impartial, considered, and research-led.

Peter McGahan, CEO at ASR, commented: "We are delighted to partner with Absa to bring our research to a wider audience across Africa. This relationship reflects our shared belief in the importance of objective, high-quality analysis to support our clients' long-term investment decisions."

This partnership provides Absa clients across South Africa and Africa with access to ASR's full suite of research and proprietary content. This includes access to leading analysis in economics, equity and FX strategy, investment strategy, asset allocation, multi-asset views, and climate macro strategy. Clients will also benefit from exclusive webinars, monthly teach-ins, and in-person engagements led by ASR founders and senior analysts, tailored to client-specific themes and priorities.

Quintus Kilbourn, head of equities at Absa CIB, added: "Our

strategic partnership with Absolute Strategy Research marks a significant step forward in strengthening Absa CIB's global research capability. Through this collaboration, we not only enhance the quality of our in-house research product and client conversations but also reinforce Absa's commitment to providing African institutions and corporates with the same depth of global market intelligence typically reserved for clients of global banks."

complex global macro environment.

The partnership further enhances Absa's ability to provide robust, globally informed insights to corporate and institutional clients. As macroeconomic dynamics, geopolitical developments, and climate-related risks increasingly influence African markets, this collaboration ensures that Absa clients are better equipped to navigate global shifts with confidence.

For ASR, the relationship marks an

"Our strategic partnership with Absolute Strategy Research marks a significant step forward in strengthening Absa CIB's global research capability."

In addition, Absa and ASR will collaborate on several co-branded thought leadership initiatives – including the Annual Absa Investor Survey and integration into ASR's established Asset Allocation Survey (Africa subset) – providing deeper insights into market sentiment and peer positioning.

These insights will enable Absa and its clients to make more informed decisions within an increasingly

important step in expanding its research distribution into high-potential African markets through a regionally embedded, trusted financial institution.

By combining ASR's independent global research with Absa's pan-African expertise, the partnership supports smarter, more strategic investment decisions and reinforces both firms' commitment to empowering clients with world-class intelligence.

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CFAO - Does your waste operation have the right equipment?



WITHOUT an effective waste management system, a country faces significant public health and environmental challenges. In 2024, South Africa generated approximately 108 million tonnes of waste, with 90% ending up in landfills and only 10% being recycled.

Meeting the waste management challenge

Sonia Pretorius, national sales manager for 600SA, a division of CFAO Equipment, which supplies waste compactors to operations serving municipalities and businesses nationwide, emphasises that South Africa has much to do to reduce landfill waste and establish a circular economy.

“At 600SA, we are aware of the larger issues in the waste management sector and the role we play in ensuring that waste is efficiently collected, compacted, and disposed of. In this regard, choosing the right equipment is crucial.”

Innovative waste compaction solutions

The company supplies Orakçi waste compactors to waste disposal operations. “Our waste compactors reduce waste volume by up to 85%, shrinking it

to just one-sixth of its original size. This ensures the waste occupies less space at landfills and decomposes more rapidly,” notes Pretorius.

Orakçi compactors are distinguished by their high level of customisability. “The compactors we import are not standard Orakçi units; they have been specifically modified to meet the unique demands of the South African market,” explains Pretorius. A recent innovation involves repositioning the sensors from the top of the compactor to either side of the tailgate, protecting them from damage by overhanging tree branches. Additionally, the rear steps of the trucks have been extended to reduce the risk of waste collectors falling, especially when navigating potholes and other common road challenges in South Africa.

Durability and adaptability

Orakçi reinforced the sub-frame of its compactors with additional steel for added durability to suit African markets. Compactors operate in more rugged conditions, and previously, the steel on top of the truck chassis was excessively jolted, causing cracks. Since

adding the steel, this issue no longer occurs.

“Every year, Orakçi makes adjustments - some big, some small - but this continuous improvement aims to make waste collection in our country as seamless as possible,” asserts Pretorius.

Ensuring peak fleet performance

Effective waste management requires ensuring fleets operate at their peak, reducing downtime. Pretorius says waste compactors and skip loaders are tenacious workhorses. “They work hard consistently, which means they must always be properly maintained. Generally, units need to run from Monday to Friday. If they don’t, it’s extremely difficult for operators to catch up. Operating on weekends also translates into overtime costs for municipalities.”

Ongoing support and partnership

This is why 600SA has introduced Saturday or weekend services. The company supports waste management companies by reminding them when services are due. “Our role does not stop after a unit is sold. We continue working with contractors to ensure their equipment is always functional,” adds Pretorius.

A broader consulting role

With nearly 60 years in the industry, 600SA is well-positioned to play a broader consulting role for waste collection operations. “We don’t just sell waste compactors; we partner with our custom-

ers today to help them build a legacy for generations to come,” says Pretorius.

Recently, the company was approached by a potential customer who awarded a contract to operate in one of the provinces, collecting waste in seven municipalities. The operation sought an equipment quote, but 600SA delivered much more. The 600SA team helped create a comprehensive business plan, addressing how many compactors would be needed, the terrain the compactors would cover, how to save on fuel costs, whether renting or buying would be more viable, where the equipment would be stored overnight, and how many waste collectors would need to be employed, among other considerations.

Commitment to customer success

Pretorius says the operator was grateful for the input and recognised 600SA’s commitment to going the extra mile and being a trusted partner for customers. “We are more than an equipment supplier; we prefer to partner with our customers. After all, there is no greater endorsement for us than their success.”

She adds that South Africa, with all its challenges, is a beautiful country. “We don’t need a war to create havoc. If our waste is not managed reliably and efficiently, our communities will suffer from health issues, and our environment will be at enormous risk. With our landfill sites severely strained and our population constantly expanding, now is the time for everyone to think and act in ways that drive sustainable impact.”

Actionable steps:

- Evaluate the current waste management equipment and identify areas for improvement.
- Consider investing in customisable waste compactors to meet specific needs.
- Implement regular maintenance schedules to ensure equipment reliability.
- Explore partnerships that offer consulting and ongoing support services.

Solar power, battery storage changing the energy landscape – SRK



RAPIDLY evolving battery electric storage systems (BESS) have added another dimension to the energy mix, giving added value to renewable sources like solar and allowing businesses to be even more creative in developing power solutions that suit their specific conditions and budgets.

“The falling cost of solar energy infrastructure in South Africa has helped to make renewables an essential part of local businesses’ response to load shedding and the steep rise in electricity costs,” said Andrew van Zyl, MD of SRK Consulting (South Africa). “BESS now adds another valuable dimension to the flexibility of hybrid energy solutions being developed.”

“A key advantage of solar and battery solutions is that they can be added incrementally as a company’s budget allows,” said Van Zyl. “This makes them highly accessible technologies that progressively build up a business’s energy resilience, cost-efficiency and sustainability.”

He pointed out that a growing number of businesses today are employing a combination of energy generation sources – including grid power, diesel generators and photovoltaic systems. Battery storage now adds the possibility of fine-tuning a hybrid solution to use less of the more expensive or carbon-intensive modes of energy generation.

“Taking into account their respective needs for baseload en-

ergy, businesses can now tweak their hybrid systems to better suit their applications,” he explained. “In many cases, a user can employ BESS to start overcoming the intermittency of renewable sources like solar – while retaining other baseload sources in the energy mix.”

BESS uptake in the US between 2020 and 2024 has been over 1 000% – rising from 2,4 GW in 2020 to 27 GW in 2024. Projections from S&P Capital IQ suggest that installed capacity of BESS in the US is expected

to exceed 170GW by 2030. There are similar trends in Europe, driven by the growing use of wind and solar power in countries like the Netherlands, Germany and the UK. Here, the proportion of intermittent renewable electricity sources in the installed capacity mix has increased from 25-40% in 2015 to 50-60% in 2024, and is expected to reach up to 80% by 2030.

“A key advantage of

solar and battery solutions is that they can be added incrementally as a company’s budget allows,” said Van Zyl. “This makes them highly accessible technologies that progressively build up a business’s energy resilience, cost-efficiency and sustainability.”

According to Philippa Burmeister, partner and principal environmental scientist at SRK Consulting (SA), business’s proactive embrace of solar energy has – over just five years – been the equivalent of gifting the country another power station.

“Rooftop photovoltaic installations around the country have added about 5,5 GW of energy generating capacity over the past five years or so,” said Burmeister.

“This solar capacity is equivalent to one new coal-fired power station; it was added in about one third of the time it would have taken to complete such a power station – and at no cost to Eskom or the government, beyond the tax incentives offered in 2023.”

She noted that this demonstrates the potential of solar and BESS, highlighting that – as BESS becomes steadily more affordable – the growing levels of solar energy being generated can be more usefully employed across the production cycle in many industrial sectors at even lower costs.

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PPO unpacks outsourcing myths to drive business growth

BPO Sector a strategic asset in tough economic times.



AS businesses face mounting economic pressures, many are turning to Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) to stay competitive. Yet, misconceptions still cloud its value. Programmed Process Outsourcing (PPO) debunks the myths, highlighting BPO as a strategic tool that drives efficiency and growth.

What is BPO?

BPO involves contracting certain business functions to external service providers. These providers specialise in specific processes, allowing companies to focus on their core competencies while optimising efficiency, reducing costs, and gaining access to expert skills and advanced technologies.

Myth 1: BPO is limited to low-skilled tasks

One of the most enduring myths is that BPO is only suitable for simple, repetitive work. In reality, reputable BPO providers handle complex, high-value tasks, offering expert-level capabilities across various domains. From financial services to data analytics, BPO supports knowledge-intensive processes that demand specialised skills, making it a tool for transformation—not just task delegation.

Myth 2: BPO is only for large companies

Another misconception is that only large corporations benefit from BPO. In truth, BPO services are scalable and customisable, making them accessible and beneficial for businesses of all sizes. Smaller companies, in particular, can gain a

competitive edge by outsourcing functions they cannot efficiently manage in-house, enabling them to access resources and expertise otherwise out of reach.

Myth 3: Cost-cutting is the only reason for BPO

While cost reduction is a well-known benefit, BPO delivers far more than just savings. It enhances operational efficiency, improves service delivery, introduces innovation through advanced technologies, and mitigates business risk. A strategic BPO approach focuses on productivity, growth, and long-term value—not just short-term financial gain.

Myth 4: BPO is only for customer service

Though often associated with call centres, BPO encompasses a broad range of services beyond customer support. Businesses can outsource functions such as HR, payroll, IT services, finance, warehousing, logistics, and supply chain management. BPO enables organisations to streamline multiple non-core functions, improving overall business performance.

Myth 5: BPO is restricted to offshore locations

BPO isn't confined to offshore destinations. While offshoring suits certain services like 24/7 customer support, many companies opt for onshore or nearshore solutions, especially when closer collaboration or regulatory compliance is needed. The ideal location depends on the nature of the process and strategic business goals.

Embrace BPO as a catalyst for sustainable growth

To truly unlock the power of BPO, companies must shift their mindset—seeing BPO not as a cost-cutting measure, but as a strategic partnership that fuels innovation, efficiency, and long-term success. By moving beyond outdated perceptions, businesses can fully integrate BPO into their value chain and gain the agility, scalability, and specialised expertise needed to thrive in today's competitive market.

Now is the time for businesses to redefine their operations



Willie du Preez, Managing Director of Programmed Process Outsourcing (PPO).

and take control of their growth trajectory. PPO's business process outsourcing solutions are designed to help manufacturing businesses streamline processes, optimise resources, and build sustainable momentum.

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Customer-experience BPO market preps for boom across Africa

THE global Customer Experience and Business Process Outsourcing (CX-BPO) sector is poised for unprecedented growth, with Africa, particularly South Africa, about to play an increasingly strategic role.

A recent Global Customer Experience Business Process Outsourcing (CX BPO) Market Study forecasts the global CX-BPO market soaring from roughly US\$93-billion in 2023 to over \$259-billion by 2032, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 12%.

Why the surge? Tech and talent integration

Technology is driving this transformation. AI-powered chatbots, virtual assistants, predictive analytics and cloud-based communication platforms are reshaping how outsourcing firms engage, resolve, and learn from customer

interactions. These innovations allow routine queries to be handled by bots, freeing skilled agents to focus on complex, high-value interactions.

South Africa's climbing profile

In 2023, South Africa's CX-BPO market pulled in approximately US \$1.33-billion, with projections to reach \$2.19-billion by 2030 - a healthy CAGR of 7.4%. The country already represents about 1.4% of the global total and is expected to dominate the broader Middle East and Africa region by decade's end.

Local operators are rapidly adopting omnichannel strategies - voice remains dominant at 83% usage, closely followed by email at 82% - with digital enhancements layering seamlessly into traditional voice call centres.



Major providers scaling up

Leaders driving this growth include global firms like Accenture, Teleperformance, TTEC, Sitel Group, and Concentrix.

Concentrix acquired Europe-based Webhelp for €4.8 billion in March 2023, gaining entry into over 25 new countries and expanding into new markets, including Africa.

TTEC, with some 60 000 employees across 21 countries (including South Africa), has also bolstered its tech stack, blending robotic pro-

cess automation with human-driven engagement.

Outlook: Hybrid and data-driven CX

Africa's BPO landscape is evolving into a hybrid model, powered by AI yet anchored in human talent. The gig economy is reshaping hiring practices; contract and remote work are becoming mainstream solutions to skills shortages. Meanwhile, analytics-driven insight into customer data is enabling predictive service improvements and pre-emptive resolution of issues.



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- Willie Du Preez, Managing Director

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DRIVING EFFICIENCY



Xylem Africa wins gold for safety at the RoSPA Awards 2024

XYLEM Water Solutions & Services nets 18 awards for safety excellence, accountability, and care. Xylem Africa, the continent's leading vendor for pure water solutions and inno-

ventions, has been awarded the Gold Award for health and safety performance by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), the world's largest health and safety programme.

For 2024, Xylem won a total of 18 RoSPA Awards, 15 Gold and 3 Silver, awarded to Xylem Water Solutions and Services (WSS). Xylem's Cape Town site won its second consecutive Gold award,

and Xylem's Kempton Park site in Johannesburg achieved its first Gold award. The RoSPA Award recognises organisations that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to high safety standards. Earning so many awards is no small feat, a clear reflection of Xylem's vigilant and accountable safety culture, where care is front and centre.

"At Xylem, safety is the foundation of everything we do. Today, I'm proud to recognise our Water Solutions and Service team for their outstanding achievements in safety performance. By continuing to lead with safety, we build a stronger, more resilient WSS. Congratulations and thank you to every colleague who made this recognition possible," said Chetan Mistry, Xylem Africa's strategy and marketing manager.

The ultimate benchmark of safety and excellence

Sponsored by the UK's National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH), the RoSPA Awards scheme is the longest-running of its kind in the UK.

Now in its 69th year, the awards receive almost 2 000 entries annually from over 50 countries, covering more than seven million employees.

"NEBOSH is delighted to be the headline sponsor of the RoSPA Awards. These awards serve as a powerful reminder that employee safety and wellbeing transcend borders, and looking after our people so they can go home safe, healthy, and happy every day also drives sustainable success and resilience," said Dee Arp, NEBOSH chief quality officer and the Head Judge of the RoSPA Awards.

In 2024, Xylem employees completed 36,000 safety training hours, covering areas like compliance and risk management.

"RoSPA regards Xylem as a strong example of the importance of making accident prevention central to any successful organisation, not just for the benefit of employees, customers and clients, but also society as a whole," said Julia Small, RoSPA's growth director.

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Correct storage of AdBlue® vital to avoid drawbacks – WearCheck Water



General manager of WearCheck Water, Thelma Horsfield, recommends taking extra care in storing AdBlue®/DEF to ensure that it is not contaminated, and therefore unable to perform effectively.

AS the demand for cleaner diesel technology grows, WearCheck, a specialist condition monitoring company, emphasises the importance of proper storage and handling of AdBlue®/Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF).

The company's water analysis division, WearCheck Water, op-

erates ISO 17025-accredited laboratories to test AdBlue®/DEF, ensuring top-tier quality control for DEF used in commercial vehicles.

Fleet operators use AdBlue®/DEF to reduce harmful emissions from diesel engines through Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology. NOx (nitrogen oxide) is a major contributor to air pollution and is subject to strict environmental regulations.

Importance of correct AdBlue®/DEF storage

General manager of WearCheck Water, Thelma Horsfield, emphasises that AdBlue® plays a critical role in reducing NOx emissions. "However," she says, "its effectiveness depends heavily on correct storage and handling practices."

"We have recently witnessed an increase in the number of warranty claims with OEMs being rejected due to poor

AdBlue® quality. A potential cause of this is AdBlue® suppliers and wholesalers not storing it correctly, leading to on-site contamination from soils, microbes, oils and greases."

Horsfield offers the following guidelines for proper AdBlue® storage, based on ISO 22241:

- Store AdBlue® between 0°C and 30°C to prevent degradation.
- Shelf life: 12 months (stored at 30°C), 18–24 months (stored at 25°C or below).
- Avoid direct exposure to sunlight.
- Use dedicated containers (high-density polyethylene or stainless steel) to prevent contamination.
- Ensure dispensing systems remain unsoiled.
- Keep storage containers properly sealed.

- Avoid cross-contamination - never use diesel/oil containers to store or handle AdBlue®.
- Label containers clearly.

Risks of incorrect AdBlue® storage

Improper handling can lead to contaminated fluid, resulting in SCR system damage, reduced emission efficiency, and costly repairs. Contamination also poses environmental risks.

Horsfield underscores the need for industry-wide awareness: "WearCheck Water ensures that transport operators have access to reliable AdBlue® testing services in Africa. Ensuring proper storage and fluid integrity is not just about vehicle maintenance—it's about meeting global emissions standards and protecting our environment. WearCheck Water is committed to

supporting fleets with accurate analysis and guidance on best practices for DEF management."

Contaminated AdBlue® can have serious consequences for a diesel engine's SCR system, including:

- Clogging of SCR system.
- Corrosion and damage to components.
- Crystallisation and deposits, clogging of injectors and pipes.
- Warning lights/limp mode activation.
- Increased emissions and legal non-compliance.

In short, says Horsfield, here's what not to do with AdBlue®:

- Don't store in metal drums (unless stainless steel).
- Don't expose to extreme heat or freezing.
- Don't mix with water, fuel, or any other liquid.



WearCheck offers tips on the correct handling and storage of AdBlue® to avoid contamination and other factors which decrease its effectiveness.

- Don't reuse fuel/diesel equipment for handling AdBlue®.

ing ISO 22241-1 to ISO 22241-4 standards," concludes Horsfield.

As emission regulations tighten, WearCheck Water remains at the forefront, helping fleet operators to maintain compliance, optimise vehicle performance, and reduce environmental impact through rigorous testing and expert guidance.

Visit www.wearcheck.co.za or email marketing@wearcheck.co.za for more info.



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CASE STUDY – Locations: Umhlanga (KwaZulu-Natal) and Sandton (Gauteng), South Africa



INNOVATIVE ONLINE LEAK DETECTION AND WATER-SAVINGS SYSTEMS

TRIALLED BY PROPERTY OWNERS AND MANAGERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Background

All kinds of properties require water for a variety of purposes. The water reticulation system that supplies water to the property is designed to be efficient and durable, with the expectation of providing many years of trouble-free service. However, the installation can be faulty and not discovered. Furthermore, a failure of the reticulation system causes a water leak, water loss, and water damage to the properties.

Most of the damage caused by water leaks and flooding occurs hours after business closes. Nobody can discover a loss of water from the water dispenser at night or perceive the rupture of the pipe; it could cause losses, innumerable damage and damage the reputation of the management company causing high losses without necessity.

Challenge

Water leaks in buildings present a significant challenge in South Africa, contributing to water scarcity and infrastructure deterioration. Leaks account for a substantial portion of the country's unaccounted for water, costing billions of Rand annually. These losses, stemming from faulty plumbing, inadequate maintenance, and aging infrastructure have severe economic, social, and environmental consequences.

The property owners and managers were looking for an innovative water saving system to:

- Online leak detection (hidden and visible leaks) in real-time to avoid severe damage.
- Monitor water consumption in real-time and discover uncontrolled irregularities.
- Protect their assets.
- Minimise maintenance costs.
- Conserve water and enjoy significant savings of water and unnecessary expenses.
- Remote on/off of the water valve and flow by mobile app.

ABOUT MEB

MEB is a subsidiary of an international company operating in South Africa since 2010, with over 25 years of experience worldwide and a proven successful track record in the water, energy, oil & gas, telecommunication and smart cities technologies for municipal, industrial, and the private sectors.

The company local office is in Umhlanga, KZN, and in Maputo, Mozambique.

The company has provided engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC), as well as the management, operation, and maintenance (O&M) and support to several water and wastewater projects in Africa, including:

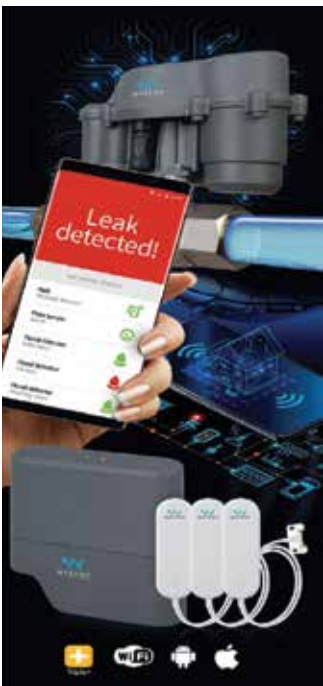
- Seawater Desalination, Richards Bay, South Africa
- Freshwater Treatment, Maputo, Mozambique
- Solar Farm and Brackish Water Treatment, Chigubo, Mozambique
- Direct Potable Municipal Wastewater Reuse, Durban, South Africa
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- Online leak detection and water saving in office buildings, Umhlanga, South Africa
- Online leak detection and water saving in a shopping mall and office towers building, Johannesburg, South Africa

Solution Overview – WASENS

WASENS systems offer 24/7 protection from major water damage and enables real-time water consumption monitoring, online leak detection, and remote control of water flow via a mobile application and web dashboard. The systems can be configured to meet the needs of any property such as:

- Private Homes
- Office Buildings
- Residential Properties
- Commercial Properties
- Industrial Properties
- Municipal Properties
- Clinics and Hospitals
- School Institutions

The system identifies irregular water flow anomalies that may result from small and/or large leaks in the water supply system. Real-time notifications will be sent to your smartphone through the application about irregular water flow that results from a leak, burst in the water lines, temperature changes, and low battery percentage.



The system is cloud-based and is controlled remotely by the application or desktop management software. According to the user's settings, the water can be shut off manually or remotely. The system includes a schedule for automatic opening and closing the water valves according to the property owners and manager's needs.

The system connects to the internet via wired, wireless or cellular communication and can be integrated into a building management system via API.

Results

Property owners and managers are achieving and enjoying the following benefits by implementing the WASENS system:

- Significant reduction in water usage and monthly utility bill.
- Monitor water usage in real-time using the system's mobile App and get alerts via Text, Phone, or Email in case of any leaks, burst pipes, and abnormal water flow or usage.
- Pinpoint location of problematic areas ensuring immediate response by our plumbing contractor.
- Automatically shut off the water supply using the mobile App once leaks are detected, saving water, and preventing damage to the property.
- Sets various schedules to automatically turn off the water supply during periods when the building is not occupied.
- Remote control of building's water valves and flow using a mobile App.

WASENS solution implementation has significantly reduced water consumption for the client up to 75% within the first month of installation.

ABOUT WASENS

WASENS is a global company founded in 2014. WASENS has a keen awareness and understanding of the economic, environmental, and existential value of water.

One of the five elements in nature, water is a precious resource. WASENS is strongly committed to preserving and conserving water, and with the appropriate management, protects its customers' assets from water damage. WASENS focuses on innovative technologies in the water sector, where its skilled R&D team aggregates and analyses data generated from IoT and smart home devices, to develop and produce viable water-saving systems for leading US-based companies.

WASENS provides a comprehensive service and technical support system for its customers, ranging from plumbing consultants, contractors, and property managers to private customers.



MEB continues to bring innovative, sustainable and reliable solutions to businesses and communities worldwide.

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Ensuring clean and safe water: Endress+Hauser disinfection sensors



Endress+Hauser offers a range of disinfection sensors for applications such as the drinking water network, process water, utilities, marine and fish farming, and desalination plants.

WATER is a fundamental resource, essential for all life, and it plays a critical role across various industries and their processes. The quality of water is therefore vital, especially in the water and wastewater industry within Southern Africa. Effective disinfection methods are required to ensure safe levels of drinking water for human consumption and to ensure that wastewater treatments meet regulatory standards.

"As the demand for high quality water continues to grow, so does the need for effective disinfection processes."

Endress+Hauser's comprehensive range of disinfection sensors are designed to monitor and control disinfectant levels in water treatment processes. These sensors are equipped with the capability to detect and measure disinfectants such as chlorine, total chlorine, free chlorine, ozone and bromine. With disinfection processes set to become increasingly important, the correct sensor for a customer's application is imperative.

Disinfection sensor technology offered by Endress+Hauser

Endress+Hauser disinfection sensors use Memosens 2.0 technology which means digital data is transmitted electronically, thus ensuring high accuracy and reliability. The raw, measured values are easily converted into digital signals which are then transferred to a transmitter.

The sensors are "plug-and-play", therefore easily connected and commissioned. They are delivered pre-calibrated from the factory. Other features of the sensors are their quick response time ensuring efficient process control. Furthermore, the sensors store data, including calibration information which simplifies sensor maintenance and prolongs the calibration intervals.

With reagents not being required for operation, overall operating and maintenance costs are reduced. The sensors are also robust and reliable, designed to operate in harsh environments, including high humidity, extreme temperatures and under aggressive chemical conditions.

Applications in the water and wastewater industry

Municipal water systems

The Memosens CCS51E is an ideal sensor for any municipal water system application as it is designed to monitor chlorine levels in the drinking water. This ensures that the chlorine levels are within the stipulated regulatory requirements, thus ensuring the water is safe for human consumption.

By ensuring that this process is continuously monitored, any deviations are easily identified, thus ensuring that corrective actions can be taken as soon as possible.

Wastewater treatment plants

In wastewater treatment plants, there are strict regulatory requirements that need to be met while still ensuring optimal operational efficiency. Disinfection thus plays an important role in these processes. The Memosens CCS58E ozone sensor ensures that ozone levels in the wastewater treatment

process are monitored. By ensuring accurate and real-time data is provided, the disinfectants are dosed optimally. With this continuous measurement, chemical usage can be reduced to minimise environmental impact.

Industrial water reuse

With an ever-increasing focus on sustainability, reusing industrial water has become a critical practice. Endress+Hauser disinfection sensors can be used in industrial water plants to monitor and control the quality of reused water. By ensuring there is accurate measurement of disinfectant levels, this ensures that reused water meets the required safety standards and helps to support initiatives for supporting sustainable water management practices.

Industrial plants are able to optimise their water reuse processes, reduce chemical usage and ensure the safety of their water supply. This is particularly important in industries such as food and beverage plants, where the quality of water is critical to product safety and quality.

As the demand for high quality water continues to grow, so does the need for effective disinfection processes. Endress+Hauser's disinfection sensors can be relied upon to provide accurate, cost-effective solutions for monitoring disinfection levels. Endress+Hauser is committed to ensuring excellence in measurement processes and disinfection practices, thus ensuring the water and wastewater industries are able to meet their disinfection needs and to ensure a sustainable and safe water supply for future generations to come.

Allmech brings Runxin wireless water leak detection valve to SA market

DESIGNED to prevent water leakage by automatically shutting off the water supply when a leak is detected, the Runxin F104 Wireless Leak Detection Valve is one of the latest offerings from Allmech. The company, a leading South African manufacturer of boilers and supplier of water treatment components, is the sole authorised dealer for Runxin products in Southern Africa.

Anelia Hough, water treatment consultant at Allmech, says the wireless leak detection valve is suitable for a wide range of applications. "Water damage can be costly and disruptive, but the Runxin F104 leak detection valve offers a smart, automatic solution to safeguard your home or business. It can prevent damage in homes by detecting leaks in geysers, solar heaters, and water filtration systems, making it perfect for residential use, but it's also something we think will be of use to our water bottling clients," she says.

"It helps prevent water damage and water loss where clients have installed water treatment plants by detecting leaks in key areas. Once the leak is detected, the automatic ceramic ball valve is closed to prevent any further water loss or damage to the area. It's also great for clients using water cooling systems, or operating boilers, water softening systems, pre-filtration systems and reverse osmosis (RO) or demineralisation plants."

Other applications include hotels, offices and factories, where the valve can prevent



water damage and water loss in areas such as production lines, laundries, and kitchens, where a high volume of water is consumed. "If water pipes burst during non-operating hours, the valve detects the leak and shuts off the water supply," says Hough. "The valve can connect to multiple leak sensors, allowing real-time detection across different locations. It will also work well in places like gym pool rooms, where heating and filtration systems are located."

She says companies supplying water treatment solutions should consider supplying this valve as a value-add product for their clients' peace of mind. "Unlike conventional detection systems that only alert users to a problem, the F104 automatically closes the water supply when a leak is detected, preventing damage."

How the system works to prevent water damage and water loss

"The wireless water immersion detection valve needs to be installed in the most likely place for a leak to occur," says Hough. "When the leak detector probe comes into contact with water, the

indicator will flash and the main control valve will receive a signal, which will then close the ball valve. The whole process takes between 10-15 seconds. The indicator light on the unit will continue flashing until the alarm has been reset and the leak has been attended to. It also functions during power failures, making it suitable for areas with unstable electricity supply."

The main control valve can support up to five wireless water immersion detectors. The unit is sold with one main control valve and one wireless water immersion detector, but additional wireless water immersion detectors can be purchased separately.

The valve uses DN20-DN50 fittings and has a simple wiring setup that connects easily to the power adapter and leak detection sensors, requiring minimal electrical work. Once installed, the system operates without manual intervention, shutting off water automatically when a leak is detected. After fixing a leak, the valve can be reset with a single button, eliminating complex reconfiguration or unnecessary callouts for repairs.

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Vaughan Chopper pump aces functional performance tests



The Vaughan Chopper Pump available from Monitor Pumps & Systems.

MODERN wastewater treatment systems face increasing challenges today due to

the introduction of difficult-to-process materials, which are notorious for causing

blockages. If a pump is inefficient in breaking, passing and clearing waste, it can clog the

system and even lead to system failures. For this reason, it has become crucial to identify pumps capable of efficiently handling solid waste to prevent costly repairs, operational downtime and early equipment replacement.

To address these challenges and assess pump performance, the Vaughan Chopper testing team simulated real-world wastewater conditions using a three-cubic-metre (approximately 106 cubic feet) tank filled

with pre-saturated dry wipes. Vaughan Chopper Pump model HE6W8CS-118 was tested for its ability to process this waste without clogging.

Vaughan Chopper pumps undergo rigorous real-world testing

The functional performance test measured Vaughan Chopper Pump's immediate effectiveness under normal conditions. Artificial wastewater was introduced in the testing apparatus in three separate processes—representing low, medium and high concentration contamination levels with varying number of wipes. The dry weight of the wipes was measured before and after each cycle.

Total clogging was then calculated based on the weight of waste that remained in the pump, helping determine functional performance.

above 0,70 indicate very good functional performance and the pump's effectiveness in handling waste.

Vaughan Chopper Pump demonstrates excellent performance, receiving near-perfect scores

In 2024, Vaughan Company's model HE6W8CS-118 (300mm) horizontal chopper pump underwent the Berlin team's testing. In this scenario, the pump used has a flow rate of 300 cubic metres per hour (1 320 gallons per minute), a total dynamic head (TDH) of 9,6 metres (31,5 feet), an efficiency point of 71,7 percent and a rotational speed of 1,460 revolutions per minute (RPM). In both the functional performance test as well as the long-term functional performance test, the chopper pump demonstrated outstanding results,

maintained this strong performance, scoring 0,93. Finally, in the high contamination stage, where the pump processed 300 presaturated wipes, the chopper pump's proficiency continued to excel, achieving a near-perfect score of 0,98.

The Vaughan Chopper Pump operated equally well in the long-term performance test, where artificial wastewater was circulated in the set for over an hour. During the low-level contamination cycle, the chopper pump successfully passed more than 85 percent of solid waste and received a score of 0,85 out of 1. The pump's efficiency further increased in the subsequent medium and heavy contamination cycles, clearing a higher percentage of waste and earning a score of 0,9 in each.

In all the tests, Vaughan's chopper pump demonstrated exceptional performance, consistently securing scores much higher than the established 'very good' benchmark of 0,70. A reliable solution, Vaughan Chopper Pump's performance underscores its ability to manage increasing levels of solid waste consistently over its service life. This, in turn, demonstrates Vaughan Chopper Pump's suitability for challenging wastewater applications.

Vaughan Chopper Pumps is represented in Southern Africa by Monitor Pumps & Systems.

For more information, email wim@monitorpumps.co.za or visit www.monitorspray.co.za

"If a pump is inefficient in breaking, passing and clearing waste, it can clog the system and even lead to system failures."

In an analogous assessment, the long-term functional performance test evaluated the pump's ability to prevent clogging over time. In this test, artificial wastewater with the three varying contamination levels was circulated in the testing equipment in a loop for 60 minutes per cycle. The total waste introduced to the system was then compared to the waste accumulated in the impeller while also factoring in pump efficiency. These values helped measure the pump's proficiency in passing and clearing solid load over its service life.

After both tests, the pump's performance was graded on a scale of 0 to 1, where a higher value means better performance. Scores

achieving consistently high scores across various levels of contamination.

In the low contamination stage of the functional performance test, where 75 wipes were introduced, the chopper pump achieved a score of 0,94, indicating excellent proficiency in handling the solids load. During the medium contamination stage, with 150 wipes, it

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Energy, water efficiency key to mining sustainably in Africa



Weir works closely with its customers to operate more sustainably by identifying where the company's equipment can improve processing efficiency.

ACHIEVING Weir's ambitious sustainability goals requires active participation from every region and site across its global footprint, and Africa plays a vital role in this effort.

In fact, according to Chris Mortimer, Weir's director of Safety, Health & Environment for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), the continent's limited

power availability and often dry climates make it even more critical to focus on energy efficiency and water conservation.

"We understand that building a sustainable future hinges on the shift to renewable energy, and that this shift relies heavily on the supply of essential minerals and metals," says Mortimer. "That's why

our solutions and equipment are designed to help our mining customers operate at peak efficiency, enabling them to support the global energy transition while also achieving their own sustainability goals."

As a major contributor to the global mining sector, Weir has pledged to cut its carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. This commitment is

being realised through clearly defined targets at site, regional and global levels - all aimed at using less energy, conserving water and minimising waste.

In Africa, sustainability efforts include a strong drive toward renewable energy adoption, helping to reduce reliance on carbon-intensive electricity sources such as those prevalent in South Africa.

"Our most energy-intensive operations are our manufacturing plants and foundries, so we are actively working to lower their carbon footprint," says Mortimer. "At our Isando facility, for example, we installed solar power two years ago. This not only reduces our dependence on the national grid but also enhances our operational resilience during power disruptions."

Additional solar generation capacity is currently being installed at Weir's Alrode manufacturing plant, south of Johannesburg, with the

goal of eventually running the entire facility on renewable energy.

Similarly, the company's Heavy Bay Foundry (HBF) near Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape is also progressing toward greater reliance on renewables.

"The first phase of transitioning HBF to cleaner energy involves installing a solar generation facility," Mortimer

explains. "The second phase will introduce wind power, which we plan to procure from the second half of 2026. This will be done in collaboration with other industrial users in the region through an agreement with an independent power producer."

Mortimer adds that community engagement is a vital part of Weir's ESG commitment,

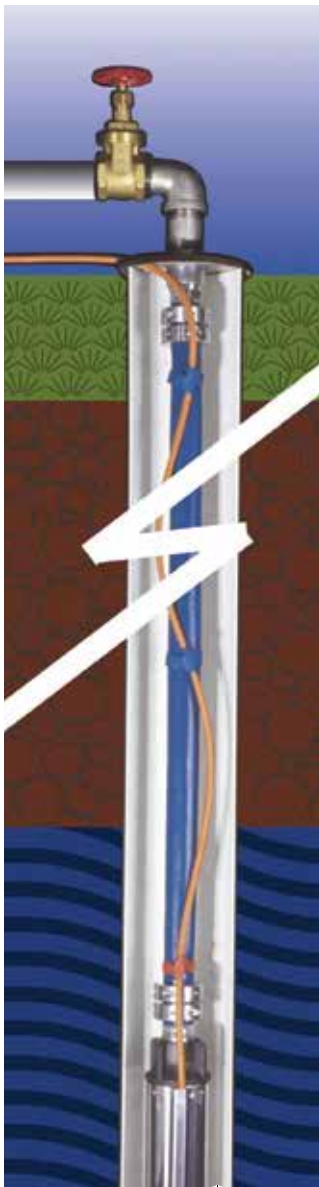
emphasising that the well-being of local communities and the company are closely connected, particularly in African countries facing economic challenges. He notes that Weir's service centres and local sites play a key role in driving community initiatives, aiming to make a positive impact wherever the company operates.



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Mattei compressors maximise efficiency, minimise energy costs



The Mattei RVD 55i compressor

SUPERIOR performance, eco-sustainability, energy savings, high-tech content and innovative control, cooling, and lubricant recovery systems, are the elements that characterise the RVD and RVDi compressor series; the latest releases from Mattei. The Innovation and Industrialisation department

of the Milan-based company designed the range to maximise efficiency, minimise energy costs and contribute to the fight against global warming. The RVD and RVDi compressor series is available in South Africa from Rotorvane Compressor Sales, the official distributor of Mattei compressors in

Southern and Sub-Saharan Africa. **Designed for efficiency and sustainability** Using Mattei-patented rotary vane technology with zero-wear vanes and bushings, the RVD and RVDi series of compressors are the first machines to feature Mattei's lat-

est innovation: isolated cooling with oversized radiators. This is a system that, by separating the radiators from the rest of the components, allows for lower temperatures inside the bodywork and keeps them cleaner. In addition, they are equipped with easily accessible panels to carry out cleaning operations safely and effectively, in maintaining the radiators in dirty hostile environments.

Advanced features deliver energy and cost savings

The innovations and benefits of this range are numerous and in keeping with the high technological profile of the latest generation of Mattei products. In addition to isolated cooling, the RVD 30-55(i) series includes a quick-disconnect fitting for depressurising the delivery line, located in a convenient po-

sition on the machine, to which a blowgun hose can be connected to also serve for easier maintenance. It also comes with a separate air-intake line that improves performance and extends the life of the two-stage filter element, guaranteeing financial savings. Other features include Xtreme communications technology and maintenance-free lubricant recovery technology, which optimises energy efficiency, and reduces recirculation losses whilst improving air quality. Finally, the series is equipped with a pumping unit with integrated oil filter and an air/oil separator filter that has a 10 000-hour lifespan that is directly coupled to the motor shaft, which guarantees low noise and eliminates the efficiency losses found in competing belt or gear driven transmissions. Whilst all this equip-

"...the RVD and RVDi series of compressors are the first machines to feature Mattei's latest innovation: isolated cooling with oversized radiators."

ment comes as standard, further additional options are also available: a water-cooled version, the addition of a moisture separator and condensate drain, the possibility of installing a heat recovery system, an oil quality sensor, an IE4 motor for maximum energy efficiency, as well as a version

with integrated refrigerant dryer. The RVD and RVDi ranges are robust and reliable and benefit from the Mattei MyCare 6 extended warranty plan that covers all service costs for six years. For more information: <https://www.rotorvane.co.za>

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Automotive manufacturers in South Africa decarbonisation



Malben Engineering, ran a 'green', low-carbon steel trial in 2024.

By Larry Claasen

THE local vehicle manufacturing sector understands the need to decarbonise their operations according to a study conducted by the naamsa, the body that represents vehicle manufacturers.

The carbon-readiness study found that 60% of its respondents understood the need to decarbonise, especially given the stipulations of the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

Automotive manufacturers in South Africa: Setting the Decarbonisation Agenda

CAAM is essentially a carbon tax which is designed to put a carbon price on imports of certain carbon-intensive goods, aiming to prevent carbon leakage and encourage cleaner industrial production outside the EU.

The EU is an important market for the local vehicle manufacturing industry, which recorded

sales worth R147,1-billion in 2023 into the trade block.

The importance of decarbonisation to the EU could be seen in it banning the sale of internal combustion engines and switching to zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

Automotive manufacturers' decarbonisation frameworks and best practices

Though the sector on the whole understood the importance of decarbonisation, there was uncertainty on how to incorporate this into their businesses, said National Association of Automotive Component and Allied Manufacturers (Naacam) policy and regulatory affairs head Beth Dealtry.

Speaking at a Nedbank Commercial Banking's Manufacturing Roundtable discussion on the matter, Dealtry said no one was particularly sure about what action to take, which could be seen in respondents saying they "don't know what to do."

Dealtry said a lot of the confusion would be dealt with if the industry put in place a common framework for decarbonisation. "A decarbonisation framework would answer a lot of questions."

South African vehicle manufacturers: Incentives and fiscal constraints

She said this was the next step, as a common methodology and methodology needed to be developed.

Dealtry said the industry should also look to what is being done overseas when it comes to decarbonisation. "We should look at what is global best practice. We could for example look at what a company in a subsector is doing in South Korea and look to do something similar here."

When it came to providing a way for the industry to adapt to decarbonisation, she felt there were mechanisms like the various incentive schemes which could assist the industry, but this should be

measured against the fiscal constraints of the country.

For decarbonisation to become a priority for the sector, Dealtry said it should be taken seriously by key decision makers in the industry, meaning it should be prioritised in the boardroom.

Automotive manufacturers: Consumer demand as a decarbonisation driver

She also pointed out that consumer pressure could also be a key driver for decarbonisation but this has not happened yet.

"The sector moves when customers require it, but a lot of customers are not requiring it or are requiring it in very specific areas."

Though the local vehicle manufacturing industry was still adapting to the requirements of decarbonisation, there are some companies in the sector that saw it as an opportunity.

Malben Engineering, a supplier of stampings and welding components, won a Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa's (Seifsa's) environmental award for running a 'green', low-carbon steel trial in 2024.

Speaking at the hand-over of the first-ever green steel coil at the company's Nigel manufacturing facility, operational Director Luca Smargiasso pointed out that the increased use of green steel – and the decarbonisation of the local steel supply chain – will be game-changers for the steel and automotive sectors in the years to come.

ACSA rolls out infrastructure maintenance and capacity expansion



On 19 June, Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) hosted a media conference to share key updates on their national infrastructure maintenance and capacity expansion programme.

ACSA is implementing a comprehensive infrastructure maintenance and capital expansion programme across all nine of its airports, reinforcing its commitment to operational excellence, passenger experience, and long-term economic growth.

ACSA's national maintenance programme has prioritised high-impact infrastructure, including sewerage systems, ablution facilities, and fire escapes. These efforts are complemented by enhanced safety and hygiene protocols in high-traffic and sensitive areas to improve security and user experience.

At O.R. Tambo International Airport (ORTIA), a phased refurbishment of ablution facilities is in progress, covering male, female, baby-change, and accessible amenities. This project, which began in December 2024, is scheduled for completion by December 2025. It will significantly enhance passenger comfort and hygiene standards.

Speaking at a stakeholder meeting with airline representatives on Thursday, ACSA CEO, Mpumi Mpofu noted that many of the current projects are scheduled for completion between late 2025 and 2027. She emphasised that ACSA continues to invest in infrastructure that supports the aviation sector's long-term growth and operational resilience.

"This programme is a strong signal of ACSA's recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic," says Mpofu.

"It reflects our return to financial sustainability and our ability to reinvest in critical infrastructure that will serve the aviation industry and the broader economy for years to come."

Major refurbishment and capacity enhancement projects

In addition to maintenance activities, ACSA is undertaking an ambitious programme of infrastructure upgrades across key operational areas designed to modernise infrastructure, improve operational resilience, and accommodate future growth. Highlights include:

- Jet Fuel Infrastructure at ORTIA: The installation of a new 20-inch jet fuel feeder line and the implementation of Jet Fuel Redundancy Phase 1 will boost reliability and supply continuity. These projects are complemented by the replacement of backup power generators at the airport to ensure uninterrupted critical operations.
- Passenger Loading Bridges (PLBs): Refurbishment and replacement projects at multiple sites, including structural repairs and upgrades to control systems and canopy covers. Key milestones are targeted for completion from November 2025 through 2026.
- Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS): A phased replacement of UPS units to strengthen energy

resilience at critical touchpoints. Completion is scheduled for 2026.

- People Movers: Ongoing replacement and refurbishment of escalators and lifts to address long-standing operational inefficiencies, with several escalator installations already complete and the overall programme concluding in 2027.
- Instrument Landing and Weather Systems: Replacement of Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) and Automated Weather Observation Systems (AWOS), with most milestones due by the end of 2026, enhancing aviation safety and compliance.
- Terminal and Roofing Works: From HVAC upgrades and terminal roof waterproofing to replace sprinkler systems and airside enhancements, these projects contribute to a safer, more comfortable airport experience.
- Fuel Systems and Fire Infrastructure: Significant refurbishment of fuel receipt meters, hydrants, and booster pumps is underway, ensuring safety and reliability in critical systems.

ACSA is working closely with government, airlines, and commercial stakeholders to ensure that these infrastructure investments are delivered efficiently, with minimal disruption to airport users.

Transnet Port Terminals' container sector continues to improve its operations

IN May 2025, Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) exceeded its targets for the arrival, berthing and departure of vessels, in line with its shipping agreements, across three of its five container terminals, handling various set volumes on time.

The Ngqura Container Terminal (NCT) achieved 96% compliance, while the Port Elizabeth Container Terminal (PECT) and the Cape Town Container Terminal (CTCT) achieved 86% and 83%, respectively.

The Durban Container Terminals (DCT) Pier 1 and Pier 2 continue ramping performance on the quayside. As such, DCT Pier 1 achieved 68% compliance, while DCT Pier 2 recorded 43%, but improvements have seen these two terminals improve to 100% and 50%, respectively in the first two weeks of June 2025. All terminals combined averaged a compliance rating of 80% in the first two weeks of June 2025.

TPT chief executive, Jabu Mdaki said, "Our

ongoing recovery continues to yield positive results two months and two weeks into the new financial year, with zero vessels at anchor across all our container terminals over an extended period now." He added that despite the delayed arrival of vessels owing to harsh weather conditions at sea, particularly affecting vessels from Europe and the Far East, year-on-year refrigerated container volumes for the 2025/2026 financial year were 5% higher as at the end of

May 2025.

South Africa is in citrus season with its exports destined for over 100 markets. The beginning of the season last month was strong, according to Mdaki, with increased volumes anticipated with the availability of Berth 108 at DCT Pier 2 and later assembly of the purchased ship to shore cranes. "We are creating capacity to make South Africa win. It's important to us to make our customers globally competitive," said Mdaki.

Historic fuel deal to reshape taxis, payment sector



IN A move hailed as a watershed moment for South Africa's taxi and informal business sectors, the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) Western Cape has unveiled the country's first real-time prepaid fuel payment sys-

tem, signalling a major breakthrough in financial inclusion and transport efficiency.

The game-changing solution, developed by fintech innovator BT-Corp in partnership with Umanyano Travel Services, the Western

Cape Transport Department, and Shell South Africa, marks the first time a major oil company has agreed to process fuel purchases from taxi operators without requiring traditional financial guarantees.

Digital fuel wallet sets new fintech benchmark

At the heart of this new system is the BTCorp Fuel Wallet, a secure digital wallet that allows taxi owners to pre-load funds and pay for fuel instantly at participating stations. The wallet uses stablecoin-backed payment rails to process transactions in real-time, eliminating the need for pooled funds or delayed settlements and drastically reducing financial risk for all parties involved.

"This is a real revolution in both fintech and transport," said Theo Barkley, CEO of BT-Corp. "We're not just solving a payment problem, we're changing how the industry manages liquidity, transparency, and operational control."

Taxi owners and drivers, many of whom operate in cash-based, high-risk environments, will now be able to manage fuel budgets more efficiently, avoid the dangers of cash handling, and

gain access to clearer financial records. The move is expected to unlock new levels of creditworthiness, data transparency, and financial participation for thousands of small business operators in the sector.

Shell signs on to pilot breakthrough solution

In a historic first, Shell South Africa has agreed to pilot the prepaid wallet system across selected fuel stations, positioning itself at the forefront of transport fintech innovation. Crucially, Shell's participation came without requiring traditional collateral or guarantees, an unprecedented step in the historically conservative fuel retail sector.

Aluwani Museisi, Country Chair at Shell Downstream South Africa, praised a new era for the transport industry. "It's been a long journey, nearly two years in developing the platform. The taxi industry is big in terms of fuel consumption. We normally

require large bank guarantees, but we've always believed in the taxi industry. So to be a part of a platform that rewards the drivers, taxi owners and dealers, every stakeholder, is a significant achievement."

Five years in the making, five regions set to launch

The solution, five years in development, is being rolled out across all eight taxi regions in the Western Cape beginning July 2025. The system was spearheaded by Umanyano Travel Services, SANTACO Western Cape's commercial arm, working closely with tech partners BTCorp, payments firm Ecentric, and the provincial transport department.

"This is a milestone. It's historical that Shell and all the other parties have decided to partner with the taxi industry, which conveys the poorest of the poor. We are excited that the breakdown of every litre of fuel and every cent makes its

way to even the driver. Our king of the business is the driver. We're thankful that this programme can support us financially, to achieve our financial goals," said Ivan Waldeck, CFO of Umanyano Travel Services and Treasurer of SANTACO Western Cape.

With over 200,000 taxis operating nationally, the minibus taxi industry is a cornerstone of South Africa's transport ecosystem and one of its most informal.

A new era of efficiency and accountability

Unlike legacy fleet cards or pooled accounts, each taxi owner's funds remain in their personal Fuel Wallet - accessible only by them. Every transaction is processed instantly, creating a clear audit trail and eliminating settlement delays between drivers, owners, and fuel stations. For the first time, SANTACO members will have complete oversight of fuel spending, down to the litre.



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TNPA approaches market for new Liquid Bulk Terminal at Port of Ngqura

TRANSNET National Ports Authority (TNPA) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the appointment of a Terminal Operator to fund, design, develop, construct, operate, maintain and transfer a liquid bulk terminal at the Port of Ngqura, for a concession period of twenty-five years.

The RFP is a ground-breaking milestone in the relocation of the tank farm from the Port of Port Elizabeth to the Port of Ngqura, in line with approved port development plans.

The move comes as

Transnet implements its Reinvent for Growth Strategy, which seeks to transform and grow the business. The new terminal will include liquid bulk storage tanks, road tanker loading gantries, pipelines and the necessary terminal operation infrastructure.

The landside operation of the proposed terminal is earmarked for the port's Liquid Bulk Precinct located at the eastern extents of the back of port land adjacent to the N2. Future developments planned for this precinct will be further developed for

energy-related commodities such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

"The development of the liquid bulk terminal demonstrates TNPA's commitment to relocate the liquid bulk operations to the Port of Ngqura. This terminal is intended to foster regional and national economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability," said the acting general manager for Commercial Services at TNPA, Dr Dineo Mazibuko.

TNPA takes pride in the Port of Ngqura being the only South African commercial seaport in

possession of an environmental authorisation for its port operation. In keeping with this green status, the appointed terminal operator will ensure compliance with all relevant environmental, safety and regulatory standards. Industry players, including new entrants and/or joint ventures in port terminal operations, are encouraged to submit bids in response to the RFP, which is accessible on the Transnet Tender Portal at: <https://transnetenders.azurewebsites.net/Home/TenderDetails?Id=79500>

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Toyota Material Handling: Celebrating 40 exceptional years



Toyota Material Handling proudly marks four decades of innovation, reliability, and trusted partnerships.

ON 13 June 2025, Toyota Material Handling, a division of CFAO Equipment, marked 40 years of success as a market leader and preferred supplier of material handling equipment in South Africa at a celebratory event held at The Galleria in Sandton, Johannesburg.

Addressing the gathering, CFAO Equipment MD Richard Cox reflected on the business's remarkable journey. "From humble beginnings, when our founders took a leap of faith by forging relationships with Toyota in Japan, we set out to transform a small operation into a globally respected distributor. Today, we celebrate four decades of growth, innovation and delivering value to our customers, employees and stakeholders."

Founding team honoured at Toyota Material Handling milestone event

The event brought together key stakeholders, including two of the company's original founders, Rob Dutton

and Don Bailiff, along with Masahiko Nakagawa from Japan, who played a pivotal role in establishing the business four decades ago.

Cox recounted the company's origin story: the first step was taken in 1984 when Bailiff, Dutton and the late Sydney Borsook secured the Toyota Forklift franchise and founded Saficon Industrial Equipment (SIE) in South Africa. "It was a bold move in a competitive market, but their passion and determination laid the groundwork for lasting success," he said.

Crucial to their journey was the support of Nakagawa, then general manager of Toyota Tsusho Corporation's Forklift Division. Backed by the strength of the Toyota brand, the founding team established a culture and foundation that would enable significant growth in the years to come.

Toyota forklift innovation through the decades

Over the decades, the company introduced

successive generations of the iconic Toyota forklift, starting with the 4-Series, followed by the 5-Series in 1987, the 6-Series in 1992, the Series-7 (distinctly named to differentiate it from BMW's 7-Series), and most recently, the 8-Series in 2007. Each iteration brought groundbreaking innovations focused on enhancing performance, productivity and safety.

A new chapter: Becoming part of CFAO and Toyota Tsusho

In May 2022, the company entered a new chapter with its acquisition by CFAO, a subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Corporation.

"We've found our home," said Cox. "Our alignment in values and culture, combined with strong support and a shared vision for the future, has allowed us to focus on what we do best. The remarkable results of the past few years are proof of that."

Strong footprint across South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa

"From modest beginnings, we've grown to employ over 1 100 people and built a strong footprint across South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, with 12 dealers and 15 branches, firmly establishing our position as market leader." Looking to the future, Cox concluded: "We remain committed to delivering exceptional products and solutions to our valued customers, supported by a dedicated and passionate team, for many years to come."

Quality counts in conveyor chain

ZMC stainless steel chains from BMG support hygiene and durability in food and pharma sectors

BMG's comprehensive range of power transmission components includes Italian-manufactured ZMC industrial conveyor chains, engineered to deliver dependable performance across diverse applications, particularly in food and pharmaceutical production and packaging. "BMG's ZMC solutions for the food and beverage sector span the full value chain—from processing raw ingredients to baking, bottle washing, packaging, and safe distribution," says Carlo Beukes, business unit manager for BMG's Power Transmission division. "We advise our customers in food and beverage plants to invest in quality-branded conveyor components made from food-compliant materials such as stainless steel. These materials are essential for highly specialised and safety-critical applications in food manufacturing and preparation."

Why stainless steel is key in conveyor systems

Stainless steel components offer several critical advantages, including corrosion resistance and thermal shock resistance, high durability, resistance to aggressive cleaning agents, and the ability to withstand extreme temperatures, from cooking to freezing. Most importantly, food remains unspoiled when conveyed by non-toxic stainless steel components.

"Stainless steel also has low magnetic permeability and exceptional resistance to both alkali and acidic environments, making it ideal for use in food-grade and clean-room environments," adds Beukes.

The ZMC portfolio, manufactured to stringent international quality standards, includes both

standard and specialised conveyor chains. These are available from BMG in a wide range of dimensions, mechanical characteristics, and configurations.

Customised chains for critical environments

BMG supplies both metric and imperial ZMC chains with solid, hollow, or extended pins. Variants are available with bushings, rollers, or bearings mounted at the centre of the links. Additionally, some chains feature link holes, allowing for the subsequent assembly of required components. BMG also stocks sprockets, available with or without hubs, matched to every chain type.

ZMC chains for specialised applications, especially in the food, beverage, packaging, and pharmaceutical sectors, are manufactured with precise combinations of materials, heat treatments, surface coatings, and geometries to address highly specific challenges.

BMG's experts guide the selection of suitable materials and coatings based on operating conditions such as load, speed, temperature, humidity, and exposure to process fluids or steam.

Precision chain assembly for reduced waste

BMG also offers a precision measuring service, enabling chain systems to be assembled with exact length matching. This ensures alignment in dual-strand conveyor systems, significantly reducing product waste and enhancing system reliability.

ZMC stainless steel chains play a critical role in agri-food applications, such as machines that sort fruits and vegetables by size or weight and systems that process and



BMG's ZMC portfolio includes standard and specialised chains manufactured in Italy to rigorous quality standards, available in a wide variety of dimensions and configurations.

package food products.

Applications in bakery and bottle washing systems

Bakery proofers, an essential component of industrial baking lines for bread, crackers, rusks, pizza, biscuits, and confectionery, benefit from ZMC's stainless steel conveyor chains. These proofers may incorporate vertical or horizontal conveyors to move trays, tins, or slats, depending on product size, system design, and performance requirements.

Key system design parameters include speed, load capacity, temperature range, and environmental conditions. Using various types of stainless steel, along with specialist coatings and components such as bushings and bearings, ZMC chains can withstand temperatures of up to 500 °C. For baking ovens, the two main chain configurations are horizontal wire net or slats. In wire net ovens, chains are typically made with hollow pins. For slat-based systems, ZMC offers a range of chains with attachments, some featuring protruding pins and outboard rollers. The company's Mecasec® self-lubricating chain technology supports operations at temperatures of up to 250 °C.

Reliable performance in canning and cleaning

ZMC's 50 mm pitch chain with protruding pins is recommended for peeling machines in the canning industry, while other designs feature hollow or protruding pins to meet different processing needs.

In bottle washing systems, chains require high strength and wear resistance, often operating without lubrication and while submerged in water with diluted detergents. Chains in this environment are subject to contaminants such as glass dust and paper residues. ZMC stainless steel bottle washer chains are engineered for these challenges and are available with attachments and welded internal screws to fix the crossbars used to transport bottles securely.

Broader industry applications

Beyond food and beverage processing, ZMC conveyor chains are also used in automotive assembly lines, cement manufacturing, timber processing, and sugar mills.

BMG's Power Transmission division also supports other leading chain brands, including Fenner, Tsubaki, Webb, and Rexnord.



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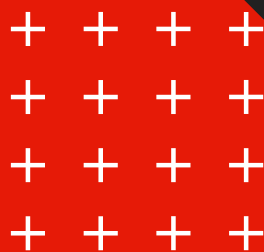


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Tomotex partners with Combustion Technology: Over 30% fuel savings achieved with advanced boiler upgrade



Boiler room after upgrade and installation.

WHEN Tomotex, one of South Africa's premier textile and apparel manufacturers, needed a reliable, efficient, and cost-saving boiler solution, they turned to industry leaders, Combustion Technology. The result? A seamless boiler and burner upgrade that has already delivered fuel savings exceeding 30%, along with significant improvements in plant safety, reliability, and operational control.

A trusted name in textiles

Operating since 1999, Tomotex supplies high-quality fabrics and apparel to retailers nationwide, specialising in sustainable and ethically sourced materials. Their commitment to eco-friendly production and operational efficiency is matched by their need for reliable, energy-conscious infrastructure to maintain competitive pricing and quality output. However, the company's existing boiler system had become a growing concern. The ageing 10T boiler was riddled with persistent leaks, high maintenance demands, and no modern control or modulation capabilities - a dangerous, costly, and inefficient setup threatening both safety and productivity.

The challenge: Safety risks and soaring costs

With growing risks of downtime and safety incidents - and excessive fuel consumption pushing operational costs sky-high - Tomotex management made the strategic decision to invest in a full boiler system upgrade. After an extensive review process, Combustion Technology was appointed to deliver the

solution, thanks to its nearly 40 years of expertise, comprehensive end-to-end service, and cutting-edge combustion solutions.

The solution: Tailored engineering excellence

The project, awarded in January 2025, involved a complete removal of the old, leaking boiler system and the installation of a state-of-the-art Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) boiler and burner system.

The key components included:

- I.VAR BHP 4000 Steam Boiler – providing robust, reliable, and efficient steam gen-

eration tailored to Tomotex's process demands.

- Limpfield LCHO 30 Dual Fuel Burner – delivering exceptional combustion efficiency, reduced emissions, and flexible fuel capability.
- Autoflame MK8 MM Boiler Management System – offering 24/7 monitoring, real-time combustion tuning, fault detection, and performance analytics.
- Custom-Built Control Panel with Vortex Cooler – designed for high-temperature environ-

ments, ensuring system longevity and reliability.

Through expert system design, precise installation, and rigorous commissioning, Combustion Technology ensured the new solution delivered on every goal: improved safety, energy efficiency, control accuracy, and environmental compliance.

Real, measurable benefits

The numbers speak volumes. Since the upgrade, Tomotex has reported:

- Over 30% savings in fuel costs.
- Reduced water consumption.
- Improved steam output consistency.
- Enhanced plant safety and reduced risk of unplanned downtime.
- Empowered their boiler operator with a remote access and data-rich system diagnostics.

Sean Thompson, owner of Tomotex, confirmed the benefits: "Combustion Technology have been brilliant. The numbers don't lie. We've saved 30% on water and fuel alone. Our boiler manager now spends half the time in the boiler house thanks

to the remote Boiler Management System. It's transformed the way we work and we can see the savings every week."

Dom Viola, boiler house manager, added: "Before, we battled constant problems with the old boiler - leaking tubes, high costs, inefficiency. Since the upgrade, I have complete control over what's happening in my boiler room. I can monitor performance from anywhere, plan maintenance properly, and I'm already looking at more ways to optimise the system. Combustion Technology empowered us to save more and do more."

Combustion Technology's commitment

Tracey Bouah, general manager of Combustion Technology, reflected on the success of the project: "This was a fantastic project for our team - full of energy, collaboration, and positive problem-solving. From day one, we made it our mission to keep Tomotex's operations running smoothly without disruption. Our engineers worked relentlessly - even through unexpected challenges - to deliver the best possible result. The excitement and enthusi-



Junior service technician Nick Hass (left) gains valuable hands-on experience alongside Tomotex boiler plant manager Dom Viola during the installation of the new Limpfield burner and Autoflame controls.

asm across both teams made this project truly rewarding."

A sustainable, cost-saving future

This project has set a new benchmark in South African boiler plant optimisation and management through smart, modern upgrades. By replacing ageing infrastructure with a custom-engineered, energy-efficient solution, Tomotex now benefits from reduced costs, improved environmental perfor-

mance, and enhanced operational control - all while remaining committed to sustainable production.

Combustion Technology once again proves why they are South Africa's leading partner in industrial boiler and combustion solutions, delivering innovation, reliability, and savings where it matters most.

For more information: www.combustiontechnology.co.za

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Reimagining quality control for smart manufacturing



By Zaren Ramlugan,
Specialist Solutions
Manager at SYSPRO
Africa

WE already know that in today's rapidly evolving manufacturing landscape, businesses face unprecedented challenges, supply chain disruptions, fluctuating market demands, and workforce dynamics. To navigate these complexities,

manufacturers increasingly turn to advanced technologies to transform their operations from end to end. The goal is clear: achieve a more agile, responsive, and demand-driven business. Manufacturing Operations Management (MOM) is central to this transformation, providing a robust framework that redefines how modern manufacturing en-

vironments manage quality control and operational efficiency. **The need for advanced Manufacturing Operations Management** As manufacturers strive to maintain efficiency and profitability in a dynamic environment, integrating advanced planning and scheduling with MOM systems has become in-

dispensable. Effective manufacturing execution today requires that supply chain operation plans are not just theoretical but grounded in the actual conditions of the factory floor. This means having execution schedules that are dynamically optimised, balancing business needs with operational constraints across the entire manufacturing network. In this context, MOM plays a crucial role by enabling continuous optimisation within the plants. This involves minimising waste, reducing losses, and making intelligent trade-offs in flexibility. The integration with advanced planning and scheduling provides the critical link between high-level operational planning and the on-the-ground realities of the factory floor. This integration ensures that schedules are optimised for throughput, enabling the delivery of busi-

ness-critical orders on time, in total, and at the lowest possible cost. **Enhancing quality control through MOM** Quality control is a cornerstone of manufacturing success, and MOM systems significantly enhance this aspect by offering several key benefits. One of the big challenges facing manufacturers is creating and enforcing standardised operating procedures. This standardisation is crucial for maintaining consistency across production runs, reducing errors, and consistently applying quality control measures. MOM systems address this challenge by embedding these procedures. Equally, adhering to industry-specific and international standards is non-negotiable in many sectors, particularly for multinational or global manufacturers and distributors. MOM systems help manufacturers maintain compliance by providing the audit trails and documentation required for regulatory purposes.

"As manufacturers strive to maintain efficiency and profitability in a dynamic environment, integrating advanced planning and scheduling with MOM systems has become indispensable"

ious sensors and devices on the production line. This data includes quality metrics, defect rates, and production yields. By analysing this information using MOM systems, manufacturers can identify trends, pinpoint the root causes of issues, and implement targeted improvements. In today's regulatory environment, traceability is more important than ever. MOM solutions track the entire production process, from raw materials to finished goods, ensuring that any defective products can be traced back to their source. This capability is essential for managing recalls and im-

business. By integrating various functions such as production planning, scheduling, quality control, and inventory management, MOM ensures seamless operation from the shop floor to the delivery of the final product. The system integrates production management, resource planning, purchasing, and sales, providing a unified platform for overseeing all manufacturing operations. From the planning stage to the plant floor to the finished product, MOM ensures that businesses are well-equipped to respond swiftly and strategically to the challenges of today's manufacturing landscape.

For manufacturers, it goes further than just operational oversight - MOM serves as a powerful continuous improvement application by providing real-time visibility, control and optimisation of processes.

By enabling root cause analysis and facilitating data-driven decision-making, MOM empowers manufacturers to drive incremental, ongoing gains in productivity, making continuous improvement a structured and sustainable part of daily operations.

Reimagining quality control through the lens of Manufacturing Operations Management is not just about improving operational efficiency; it's about future-proofing your business.

As manufacturing continues to evolve, those who invest in advanced MOM systems will be best positioned to thrive in a world where agility, responsiveness, and quality are the keys to success.

"MOM is more than just a system; it's the backbone of any modern manufacturing business."

One of the most powerful features of MOM software is its ability to monitor production lines in real time. MOM systems can detect deviations and trigger alerts by continuously tracking the temperature, pressure, and cycle time. This helps manufacturers take immediate corrective action when needed, minimising the risk of defective products reaching the customer. Another key challenge for manufacturers and distributors is making sense of the vast pool of data streaming in from var-

plementing corrective actions. MOM software streamlines quality control workflows by automating inspections, tests, and approvals. This ensures that products meet the required quality criteria before they are delivered to customers, reducing the risk of returns and enhancing customer satisfaction. **Embracing the future of manufacturing with MOM** MOM is more than just a system; it's the backbone of any modern manufacturing



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Phoenix Contact revolutionises smart manufacturing with AGV Solutions

BY integrating its proprietary technology into autonomous guided vehicles (AGVs), Phoenix Contact is achieving safer, faster, and smarter production workflows.

At Phoenix Contact's G31 production hall, a new era of industrial efficiency is already in motion. As assembly workers begin their day, autonomous guided vehicles (AGVs) spring into action - delivering materials to machines, navigating tight corridors, and stopping instantly when people cross their path.

This seamless dance between man and machine is powered entirely by Phoenix Contact's automation and connectivity technologies.

Automation powered by PLCnext Technology

To bring their AGV fleet to life, Phoenix Contact built a fully autonomous system based on seven core pillars of automation: Control, Safety, Security, Navigation, Electrification, Communication, and Energy. Each function was developed using components from Phoenix Contact's extensive product portfolio.

At the heart of each AGV is PLCnext Control, managing everything from routing to load transfer. This is paired with the Axioline Smart Elements series, compact I/O modules that save up to 75% space in control cabinets, offering robust and flexible signal handling for a mobile application.

Safety and cyber protection: built-in and certified

In dynamic production environments, AGVs must safely interact with people. Phoenix Contact addressed this by incorporating the AXC F XT SPLC 1000 safety controller, enhancing the standard PLCnext Control with real-time safety functions.

But it's not just physical safety that matters. Cybersecurity is increasingly critical in connected production systems. Here, Phoenix Contact's AGVs benefit from TÜV-certified protection against cyber threats, complying with IEC 62443-4-1 ML3 and IEC 62443-4-2 SL2 standards, ensuring business continuity even under attempted digital intrusions.

Navigation and connectivity: seamless and scalable

One of the biggest technical challenges

was reliable and cost-effective path planning. While proprietary solutions offered precision, they often lacked flexibility and came with high costs.

Instead, Phoenix Contact leaned into the openness of PLCnext Technology, using standard interfaces like MQTT, REST,

and OPC UA to enable efficient and adaptable communication across systems.

Communication between each AGV and the central fleet management system is handled via the FL WLAN 1010 radio module, ensuring uninterrupted data exchange and vehicle coordination.

Power and energy - made to move

Phoenix Contact's AGVs are fitted with inductive charging systems that eliminate the need for manual recharging, improving uptime and workflow efficiency. Internal electronics are supported by in-house DC/DC converters, delivering a

stable 24V supply to all control components.

Energy usage, battery health, operational status, and error diagnostics are continuously monitored through a CAN protocol, fully managed by the PLCnext Control. This data provides clear insights into performance and supports predictive maintenance.

Smarter workflows, real-world value

Since implementing the AGV system, Phoenix Contact has significantly reduced material delivery times and improved inventory movement within production - the result of integrating hardware and software in a purpose-driven, real-world setting.

More importantly, the project has given Phoenix Contact valuable experience in deploying AGV systems using only its automation ecosystem.

By combining smart automation, safety, cybersecurity, and energy management in a single platform, Phoenix Contact is redefining what's possible in modern industrial environments.



PLCnext Technology

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ifm Machine light provides efficient illumination.

THE ifm machine light combines compliance with the strict requirements of the Ecodesign Directive with exceptional robustness and versatile application options. The device impresses with its elegant, smooth surface and hygienic design, making it perfect for use in demanding areas. The materials used are not only particularly robust, but also guarantee an impressively long service life.

LED strips for illumination and signalling

With a length of 250 mm and the option of connecting it via an M12 connection, it offers incredible flexibility. Up to four lights can be arranged in a row to create optimum illumination. The machine light not only impresses with its efficient white light, but also with its vibrant RGB signal colours – and at a price



ifm LED strips for machine lighting.

that can easily compete with conventional products that only provide white light. It is controlled via four 24 V DC channels, and the IO-Link integration via the DP1615 enables many different control options.

Robustness

Thanks to the tried-and-tested plastic injection moulding technology, the machine light

is extremely robust and resistant to chemicals. The sheathing reliably protects the electronics and guarantees a long service life – even in demanding environmental conditions.

Versatile mounting options

It is mounted using a universal mounting clip, which can be attached with a screw, magnet or ifm clamp.

Transforming pulp and paper with automation and digitalization

By Arvin Ramjee,
Account Manager, ABB
Pulp and Paper, South
Africa

THE South African pulp and paper industry is undergoing a significant transformation, shifting from traditional manual processes to automated, digitally enhanced operations. This evolution is improving efficiency, sustainability, and product quality across the sector. Digital technologies are now seamlessly integrated into traditional automation systems, pushing the industry toward autonomous operations. Automation spans the entire production chain, from raw material preparation to final product delivery, ensuring precision and consistency at each step.

With reduced demand for newsprint and graphic paper, the industry has pivoted toward renewable packaging, tissue products, and kraft paper – solutions aligned with sustainability trends. The pulp and paper sector is already highly automated compared to other industries, and is now exploring digitalisation to enhance productivity and extract further value from existing systems.

Improving both repeatability and runnability

Paper manufacturing is among the most complex industrial processes today. Visibility into product properties is crucial for minimising rejects and improving both repeatability and runnability. Modern Quality Control Systems (QCS) enable automatic controls that optimise production, reduce variability, and lower energy consumption – all while ensuring the final product meets stringent standards.

South Africa's pulp and paper sector is also investing in renewable energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. These efforts focus on energy, water, chemical, and carbon management. Innovative automation technologies support these goals by optimising energy use, adjusting operations in real time to meet fluctuating demand, and reducing emissions and waste.

ABB, with decades of global expertise, continues to lead this transformation through a comprehensive suite of automation and digital solutions for the pulp and paper value chain.



ABB's portfolio includes power distribution, electrification, paper machine drives, Distributed Control Systems (DCS), QCS, Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES), and ABB Ability™ Collaborative Operations—leveraging the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) for smarter decision-making.

On-spec production at lower cost

With ABB Ability™ QMS, paper mills can reduce rejects by keeping product properties within optimal ranges throughout the process. Combined with ABB Ability™ Expert Optimiser for Pulp, operators can further enhance efficiency and reduce raw material usage, ensuring on-spec production at lower cost.

Advanced Process Control (APC) and Model Predictive Control (MPC) systems adjust multiple variables simultaneously to optimise operations. These solutions reduce energy and fibre consumption while improving end-product quality. In refining, one of the most energy-intensive processes, APC contributes to significant cost savings and enhanced paper sheet properties. ABB's latest innovations include a tailored MES for pulp and paper, enabling full visibility from the shop floor to the enterprise level. This facilitates the shift from conventional connectivity to autonomous, smart manufacturing. Updated QCS products now offer higher-resolution measurements that directly impact product quality.

Make data-driven decisions

The ABB Ability™ Energy Management System (EMS) integrates forecasting and optimisation to improve sustainability and reduce energy costs. By auditing, monitoring, and optimising energy use, EMS empowers companies to make data-driven decisions balancing environmental, operational, and financial goals, all while advancing carbon neutrality. To address the industry-wide shortage of

skilled resources, ABB provides 24/7 global support through its ABB Ability™ Collaborative Operations platform. This digital solution gives customers access to a global pool of experts who can assist with operations and critical commissioning remotely.

ABB has also introduced Visual Remote Support, using augmented reality to connect customers with engineering support worldwide. This helps resolve issues quickly and enables the commissioning of key projects even in remote or resource-limited environments.

AI to improve productivity and performance

In the realm of AI and analytics, ABB Ability™ Genix combines industrial analytics and artificial intelligence in a powerful digital platform. It contextualises data using IIoT, unlocking actionable insights to improve productivity and operational performance across pulp and paper operations.

By bringing together AI algorithms, machine learning, and advanced analytics, Genix transforms massive volumes of industrial data into real-time decision support for manufacturers, enabling them to optimise operations and cut costs.

ABB supports the pulp and paper industry from start to finish, covering the entire value chain from the woodyard to shipment, and mill to the enterprise. With its deep industry knowledge and integrated product portfolio, ABB delivers end-to-end solutions that enhance productivity and sustainability.

ABB is a global leader in electrification and automation, committed to enabling a more resource-efficient future. With over 140 years of history and 105,000 employees, ABB helps industries operate more sustainably and efficiently. The company's Process Automation business, with approximately 20,000 employees, focuses on automating and digitalising industrial operations to support critical global needs.

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FUCHS LUBRICANTS powers South Africa’s agricultural machines



IN the business of agriculture, uptime is everything. From the tractor starting at dawn to the combine harvester wrapping up at dusk, the machinery demand is relentless. At the heart of these machines are a variety of lubricants that ensure seamless operation all year round.

The team at FUCHS understand just how hard agricultural machines work – and they strive daily to meet these demands with full-spectrum lubricant solutions that cover virtually every moving part in modern farm equipment. From engine oils and hydraulic fluids to gear oils and greases, including speciality fluids for advanced machinery technology, their goal is to keep agriculture moving.

As a part of the FUCHS Group, the world’s largest independent lubricant manufacturer, FUCHS LUBRICANTS SOUTH AFRICA blends international expertise with a strong understand-

ing of local industry needs which they serve through a national distribution network.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS: National distribution backed by local expertise

In the Western Cape, **FUCHS LUBRICANTS CAPE TOWN** is the driving force behind operations, providing lubrication solutions from Cape Town to the West Coast, Overberg, Garden Route, and beyond.

Trusted by industry leaders

Both as an OEM for machine manufacturers and in-field workshop services FUCHS has been a trusted source in the agricultural lubricant market for over 70 years. Their comprehensive range of products offer a one-stop solution that meets machine lubrication needs with technology, convenience, reliability, sustainability and cost saving in mind.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS: In-the-field reliability across South Africa’s seasons

Designed to withstand extreme outdoor conditions, FUCHS LUBRICANTS have proven to extend equipment life and reduce maintenance downtime throughout South Africa’s harsh seasons. This reliability ensures that farmers can focus on what truly matters: the harvest.

Sustainability focus

Committed to sustainability, FUCHS offers biodegradable and environmentally friendly lubricants, supporting farmers’ eco-conscious goals. These products help safeguard the land without compromising machinery performance.

FUCHS LUBRICANTS: Sustainable, biodegradable solutions for modern engines

Noteworthy products like TITAN AdBlue are specifically formulated to

support the environmental needs of newer engine designs. It plays a crucial role in transforming noxious exhaust fumes into breathable components, thereby reducing the environmental impact of agricultural operations.

Products that perform

With both ISO 9001 and IATF certification, FUCHS’ commitment to quality is underscored. This rigorous quality management system ensures that every FUCHS product meets the highest standards, providing farmers with the confidence they need in their lubricant choices.

A few products from this innovative range include;

- **AGRIFARM UTTO MP:** An ultra-high-performance multifunctional oil with a range of OEM approvals. Suitable for farms operating a mix of legacy and modern machinery.
- **TITAN CARGO SAE 15W-40:** A diesel engine oil, suitable for modern engines and developed for vehicles with extended service intervals, exhaust after treatment and turbochargers.
- **TITAN SUPER-GEAR range:** High-performance gear oils for synchronised and non-synchronised transmissions used in transmissions and axles, reducing filling

errors and simplifying maintenance.

- **FRICOFIN DP 50:** Premium Performance Coolant Ready-Mix that forms a protective layer on metal surfaces, allowing for the highest change intervals, reducing costs and downtime. Suited for equipment with periods of high use and times when it is not in use at all.
- **FRICOFIN LL 50 (premix):** This premium coolant delivers exceptional protection for heavy-duty applications in farming equipment, passenger cars, and stationary combustion engines. It ensures high change intervals, reducing costs and downtime, and safeguards engines against frost, overheating, corrosion, and cavitation.

FUCHS’s further commitment to simplify farmers’ lives is seen in their ability and expertise to streamline and rationalise lubricant products used in a workshop, offering cost savings and reducing application errors.

For inquiries, orders, or to book a free Workshop Wellness Check, visit **FUCHS LUBRICANTS CAPE TOWN** in Bellville, or contact them at 021 862 8461. Follow FUCHS on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn or visit <https://www.fuchs.com/za/en/contact/>

South Africa Agriculture: Agri-Processing Recovery 2025

JUST a year ago, South Africa’s agricultural sector was reeling. Drought conditions decimated crops, foot-and-mouth disease disrupted livestock markets, and supply chains buckled under pressure.

Now, there are signs of a rebound. Statistics South Africa reports a 15.8% growth in agriculture’s gross value added in Q1 2025, driven by a surge in field crops and horticulture. For agri-processors, this signals renewed momentum in the harvest supply chain.

Rainfall spurs crop rebound

Widespread rainfall has rejuvenated grain, oilseed, and citrus production. A projected 18 million tonne spring crop marks a 16% year-

on-year increase.

In livestock, improved grazing conditions are stabilising herds, but biosecurity remains a key concern, particularly for meat and dairy processors rebuilding post-COVID.

Export momentum drives sector confidence

Agricultural exports reached US\$3.36 billion in Q1, up 10% year-on-year. Citrus, wine, and nuts from the Cape continue to shine in global markets. However, cold storage constraints, port inefficiencies, and last-mile logistics are still limiting efficiency, especially in remote regions like the Karoo and Overberg.

For agri-processors, this has triggered re-

newed investment in:

- On-site cooling and grading capacity
- Automated packhouse systems
- Third-party logistics partnerships (with temperature-controlled capabilities)

Midyear milestones shape future growth

As we reach the halfway point of 2025, July presents a critical inflexion point for the Western Cape’s agri-sector. Strategy reviews are underway, CapEx budgets are being recalibrated, and business leaders are asking: What must we do now to sustain this recovery?

For many, the answers lie in four areas:

1. **Scaling up post-harvest infrastructure to handle bigger yields**
Bumper crops strain

existing packhouse, grading, and storage infrastructure, especially in fruit-heavy regions like the Cape Winelands and Ceres Valley.

2. **Meeting strict EU and BRICS export standards**
Securing long-term growth, especially in competitive BRICS and EU markets, demands more than high-quality produce.
3. **Getting more produce into local markets, especially townships**
With production volumes rising, there’s a critical need to channel surplus into township and urban markets, especially in Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, and KZN.
4. **Building a more resilient meat and dairy supply chain**

The livestock industry is still recovering from the setbacks of 2024, including outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease that severely disrupted beef and dairy value chains.

The Cape’s competitive edge

While the national sector regains its footing, the Western Cape continues to distinguish itself through innovation, export leadership, and processing excellence. From Stellenbosch to Citrusdal, Paarl to George, agri-processors are showing what it means to lead with both climate resilience and commercial rigour.

July 2025 marks the beginning of that shift: from recovery ... to readiness.

Less Friction, More Savings.

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MOVING YOUR WORLD

Overhead cranes: BB Cranes boost grain planter efficiency



Overhead cranes installed at the agricultural machinery factory in Blackheath.

BB Cranes has completed the installation and commissioning of five overhead cranes at a new agricultural machinery factory in Blackheath, Cape Town. The project is set to significantly improve the production speed and efficiency of grain planters manufactured under the Syncro brand.

The cranes, custom-built at BB Cranes' facility in Rivergate Industrial Park, were ordered as part of a workflow re-engineering initiative aimed at reducing assembly time and enhancing workplace safety.

According to Jan Nel, manager at BB Cranes, the new system allows multiple planters to be assembled simultaneously without the need to move the cranes. "Each of the two double-girder cranes is fitted with six independently operated hoists. That's twelve hoists in total, allowing us to streamline the entire assembly process," he said.

Overhead cranes revolutionize Assembly workflow

Previously, Rovic's planter production relied on forklifts and

fixed gantries to move components to individual assembly points. The new process positions cranes over several assembly rows on the factory floor, enabling components such as chassis and planting units to be delivered precisely where needed using the hoists.

Each crane includes two 3.2-ton crab-mounted hoists for lifting chassis components and four 1-ton underslung hoists—two on each girder—for handling the planting units. With a wider-than-normal 2.5-metre girder spacing, the system allows precise positioning of components without moving the cranes themselves.

Hoist crane system optimizes component handling

All hoists are equipped with Optidrive variable-speed drives sup-

plied by iTek, providing smooth and efficient operation.

A third overhead crane—a 20-ton unit—has been installed to transport completed planters out of the factory, while two additional 2-ton single-girder cranes bring the total number of BB Cranes units on site to five.

Crane-driven production capacity Surge meets global

The streamlined system eliminates factory congestion, improves safety, and is expected to significantly increase production capacity to meet global demand for Rovic's Syncro-branded agricultural machinery. These include grain planters, mist blowers, spreaders, and tillage equipment.

BB Cranes is a division of South African crane and hoist manufacturer Condra.

SEW-Eurodrive energy audits help farmers drive down irrigation costs



With a focus on centre pivot irrigation, SEW-EURODRIVE provides robust gearboxes and motors, alongside tailored audits that optimise energy use on farms.

SEW-EURODRIVE is expanding its support to South Africa's agricultural sector by leveraging its world class expertise in energy audits for drive systems - helping farmers unlock cost savings and improve operational efficiencies in irrigation applications.

As part of its full-service offering to the farming community, SEW-EURODRIVE not only supplies robust and energy efficient gearboxes and motors for centre pivot irrigation systems, but also conducts in-depth energy audits to identify inefficiencies and recommend optimised drive solutions tailored to each operation.

"Electricity is one of the fastest growing input costs in agriculture, placing enormous pressure on farmers who depend on irrigation for consistent crop yields," explains Willem Strydom, business development manager: Electronics at SEW-EURODRIVE.

"Our energy audits take a holistic view - assessing everything from motor and gearbox performance to how effectively power is used across the system."

The audits typically evaluate the condition of installed equipment, the suitability of motor sizes for the application and the potential for savings by upgrading to premium efficiency IE3 motors. SEW-EURODRIVE has already standardised on IE3-rated motors across its irrigation solutions - a step ahead of many competitors that still supply lower efficiency IE1 motors.

"By replacing outdated or oversized components, our customers often achieve

a noticeable reduction in energy consumption and associated costs," says Strydom. "In many cases, the investment pays for itself within just a few irrigation seasons."

This proactive service is particularly valuable for large-scale commercial farms and irrigation-intensive operations, where even incremental gains in efficiency can translate into substantial savings.

It also aligns with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's recently implemented Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), which places increas-

ing emphasis on energy efficiency in industrial equipment.

"Our customers benefit from more than just superior products," adds Strydom. "They gain access to our nationwide network of service teams and technical specialists. We conduct on-site inspections of drive systems, identify opportunities for optimisation and provide practical cost saving recommendations."

SEW-EURODRIVE's 'closing the loop' strategy ensures a complete drive solution for centre pivot irrigation - from sup-

ply and installation to local assembly, inspection, repair and energy optimisation. This end-to-end approach is backed by extensive local stockholding and standardised internal gearing across gearbox ranges, enabling fast turnaround times for repairs and refurbishments.

"We are proud to offer more than just components; we offer long-term value," says Strydom. "Energy audits are just one of the many ways we are helping South African farmers become more efficient, resilient and sustainable."

Further enhancing its support capabilities,



Willem Strydom, Business Development Manager: Electronics at SEW-EURODRIVE.



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Distilleries save time/money with Spraying Systems Co



Spraying Systems Co. CU150A GunJet® spray guns offer high-impact, low-pressure versatile performance.

IN a process as dynamic as distilleries, purity and time are vital which is why Spraying Systems Co.'s specialised tank cleaning equipment is engineered to meet the stringent cleaning and sanitation requirements of distilleries.

Designed for efficiency, the tank cleaning nozzles ensure deep, reliable cleaning while minimising water usage and reducing overall cleaning time. From fermentation tanks to spirit stills and other processing vessels, Spraying Systems Co.'s solutions deliver exceptional performance and operational efficiency.

ing Systems Co., Monitor Engineering, has dedicated experts on hand who specialise in diagnostics and repairs so that distilleries can focus on what they do best - crafting exceptional spirits.

The TJ360 Fluid-driven TankJet, for tanks up to 30m in diameter, is the most durable and reliable tank cleaning machine on the market, combining all the features needed to handle the most serious tank cleaning problems in a distillery.

Distilleries: High-impact Pump Cart efficiency

The 15HP Pump Cart high-pressure,

significant amounts of time and money due to one hidden problem: low pump pressure. Tank cleaning operations using less than 7 bar result in running equipment longer, but longer run times come at a cost.

Time is money and running a pump at maximum output for extended periods will require more maintenance, a greater chance of complete breakdowns, and expensive repairs. The Spraying Systems Co. pump cart provides a solution to these problems.

The pump cart outperforms other fluid-driven units due to the more consistent impact over the entire

tems Co. which are ideal for distilleries include spray guns, and air knife solutions for bottle drying.

Distilleries: Advanced spray and drying solutions

CU150A GunJet® spray guns offer high-impact, low-pressure versatile performance with a variety of spray patterns. Specially designed handles improve control, used along with the optional swivel connectors with trigger lock which

will reduce operator fatigue. The hose will always remain connected with unrestricted flow at minimum pressure loss and is available as spring or manual rewind.

When it comes to bottling, with the right air knife package, water can be removed from the domes of empty cans between washer stages without knocking them over. For filled bottles and cans even the smallest drops can be removed. Spraying Systems Co.'s Wind-Jet® Air Knives have

"When it comes to tank cleaning and sanitising, many companies are unwittingly costing themselves significant amounts of time and money due to one hidden problem: low pump pressure."

a unique design that directs a high volume of air out of the knife in a straight, uniform, stream.

In addition to having the largest selection of sanitary tank cleaners, Monitor Engineering which has represented Spraying Systems Co. in Southern Africa for

over 75 years, provides local service and support, working with their customers to provide expert advice, providing optimal solutions to challenges and importantly, cost savings.

Contact grant@monitorspray.co.za for more information.



Spraying Systems Co. 15HP Pump Cart which maximises the impact of the tank cleaning machine.

Distilleries: Precision-engineered cleaning efficiency

Spraying Systems Co. tank cleaning nozzles are specially engineered for distilleries to ensure fast, thorough cleaning and quick maintenance turnaround to minimise the time that vats are out of service. Southern African representative for Spray-

high-volume unit, is designed to maximise the impact of the tank cleaning machine. This saves time, money and improves employee safety, while ensuring optimal fluid transfer, thereby reducing operational costs, and increasing productivity.

When it comes to tank cleaning and sanitising, many companies are unwittingly costing themselves

pressure range solutions. The high-impact, high-efficiency tank cleaning is ideal for hard-to-remove residues. All units are built-to-order, lightweight for easy portability, and compact to fit in small tank openings. There is the choice of dual- or triple-nozzle fluid-driven hubs.

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SCAN
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Securing South Africa's supply chains: How CGIC empowers resilient trade

IN a world of constant economic shifts and unforeseen disruptions, a robust supply chain is the lifeline of every successful business.

Yet even the strongest supply networks are vulnerable to risks beyond control—from late payments and client insolvencies to geopolitical shocks. That's where Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation (CGIC) steps in as South Africa's trusted partner in trade credit insurance, offering solutions that fortify your supply chain and unlock sus-



tainable growth. CGIC understands that the health of your supply chain hinges on the financial stability of your debtors. When your customers struggle to pay, your

cash flow suffers, putting your business and suppliers at risk. Our trade credit insurance protects your receivables, giving you peace of mind to extend competitive credit terms without compromising liquidity. By safeguarding your revenue against non-payment, CGIC helps you build stronger, more resilient relationships with suppliers and customers alike.

Credit Guarantee's strategic edge

Our commitment goes far beyond risk protection. We empower you with insights through comprehensive credit assessments and continuous monitoring of your debtors. This helps you make informed decisions about whom to trade with and on what terms. Our extensive database of businesses and global partnerships gives you a strategic edge, allowing you to navigate local and international markets confidently.

CGIC's support enables businesses across industries to keep their supply chain moving, even during economic downturns. By ensuring that suppliers get paid, we help maintain

the trust and continuity that every supply chain depends on. This stability not only prevents costly interruptions but also encourages suppliers to invest in capacity and innovation.

In addition, our solutions provide vital financial flexibility:

- Access more affordable financing from banks
- Improve working capital
- Reinvest in growth initiatives

Build a resilient supply chain

It's a ripple effect: your business thrives, your suppliers stay strong, and your entire supply chain becomes more competitive.

In these uncertain times, supply chains must be agile and secure to withstand challenges and seize new opportunities. Let CGIC be your ally in building a resilient, future-proof supply chain that drives success for your business and strengthens the South African economy.

To learn more about how our trade credit insurance solutions can empower your supply chain, contact CGIC at +27 11 889 7000, visit www.creditguarantee.co.za, or email us at info@cgic.co.za.

Together, we can safeguard your business, support your partners, and keep your supply chain moving forward with confidence.

Disclaimer: Credit Guarantee is a licensed FSP and non-life insurer

Groot Constantia: Here's to 340 years of exceptional winemaking

AS the oldest wine estate in South Africa, Groot Constantia stands as a beacon of the Constantia Valley's rich vinous heritage. This historic estate is gearing up for a remarkable milestone celebration on 13 July 2025, marking 340 years of continuous winemaking excellence.

A journey through time and terroir

Established in 1685, Groot Constantia is the cornerstone of winemaking in the Constantia region - a place steeped in tradition and the delicate art of vinification. Over the centuries, this storied land has witnessed division and reunion, each chapter contributing to the vibrant tapestry of Constantia's heritage.

Exploring Groot Constantia is like turning the pages of a living history book, each vineyard and cellar telling tales of resilience and triumph.

Visitors are invited to embark on a self-guided exploration of the estate through the Groot Constantia Visitors Route. This immersive experience includes access to the Manor House Museum and the historic Cloete Cellar, where the celebrated Grand Constance wine finds its roots.

What to expect:

- Audio Walking Tours: Three complementary audio tours guide you through the vineyards, manor house, and modern production cellar, offering deep insights into the estate's legacy.

- Educational Cellar Tour: Gain a deeper understanding of the vinification process through an enlightening cellar tour.
- Wine Tasting: Delight your palate with a sample of five wines, each a testament to the estate's mastery and unique terroir.

The historical evolution of Groot Constantia

Since Groot Constantia was founded in 1685, the estate has experienced significant changes, such as the 1712 subdivision that birthed Bergvliet and Hoop Op Constantia. Yet, like the vines thriving in its granite-rich soils, Groot Constantia endured, eventually reclaiming its historic expanse in 1975 by merging sections of neighbouring farms.

The allure of Groot Constantia even inspired poetry - former sea captain and VOC vice-admiral Harmens de Marre penned verses in 1713 celebrating the estate. This ode marked the beginning of the Grand Constance wine's esteemed reputation, favoured by royalty and celebrated globally with accolades like those from the 1878 Exposition Universelle in Paris.

A legacy of resilience and restoration

Despite challenges such as the devastating Phylloxera outbreak in the late 19th century, Groot Constantia's resilience has been unwavering. The estate's significance extends beyond the vines, as seen in

the 1925 fire that ravaged the Manor House, only to be restored and opened as a museum by 1927. The estate was declared a National Monument in 1984, cementing its place in South Africa's cultural heritage.

Commitment to conservation and ethical practices

Groot Constantia's dedication to sustainability is evident in its recognition as a Conservation Champion by the World Wildlife Fund and its partnership with the Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trade Association. The 1993 Groot Constantia Act ensured the estate's preservation as a not-for-profit, emphasising its commitment to maintaining South African wine culture for future generations.

Join the celebration

As Groot Constantia prepares for its 340th anniversary, it invites wine enthusiasts to participate in this historic celebration. A visit to the estate offers an educational journey through time, a chance to enjoy its exquisite wines, and an opportunity to engage with South Africa's rich winemaking history.

Celebrate Groot Constantia's enduring legacy with #GrootConstantia340.

For more information and to purchase your piece of winemaking history, visit www.grootconstantia.co.za or follow @grootconstantia.

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Who we are

Hazmat Protective Systems (Hazmat), a subsidiary of Armscor under the leadership of Advocate Solomzi Mbada, is a major manufacturer and supplier of purpose-designed quality respiratory and filtering products to the commercial and defence industries.

Activated carbon is impregnated in Hazmat's purpose-designed advanced carbon impregnation plant. Hazmat is one of only a few companies capable of impregnating activated carbon in respiratory and filtering products, and is a sole manufacturer of canisters in South Africa.

Why choose us

With a 30-year history of excellence, Hazmat is one of only a few companies capable of impregnating activated carbon for use in their comprehensive range of commercial and military respirator filter canisters and cartridges. As an ISO 9001:2015 certified facility, Hazmat is customer-centric, with processes in place to ensure that clients consistently receive high quality safe products at competitive prices.

Hazmat utilises in-house testing facilities and internal technical support from Protechnik Laboratories (an Armscor subsidiary). All canister and cartridge batches are compliance tested on site against the applicable South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) respiratory specifications.

Our clientele

Hazmat offers a wide range of services to various industries, including mining, pharmaceutical and health services, agriculture, pulp and paper, textiles, beverages, engineering; and chemical, including petrochemical commodities, pesticide chemicals, organic/inorganic chemicals, explosives, paint adhesives, sealants and cleaning chemicals, amongst others.

Hazmat's product range consists of the following categories:

- Full face mask respirators
- Double and single half mask
- Respirator filter canisters
- Respirator filter cartridges



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION



SA's green hydrogen: Navigating fire and life safety risks – ASP Fire



Michael van Niekerk, CEO of ASP Fire.

SOUTH Africa is positioning itself as a global leader in green hydrogen production, with the government spearheading initiatives to attract investment and develop infrastructure in this

burgeoning sector. While the environmental and economic benefits are substantial, the inherent fire and life safety risks associated with hydrogen infrastructure necessitate careful consideration.

The South African government has identified green hydrogen as a key component of its energy transition strategy. In 2023, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the launch of the SA-H2 Fund, aiming to secure \$1-billion in funding to develop green hydrogen projects through public-private partnerships. The initiative is supported by international partners, including the Netherlands and Denmark, and is expected to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

In addition, the European Union has pledged €32-million in grants to support South Africa's green hydrogen plans. These funds are intended to enhance infrastructure, such as railways, ports, and pipelines, and to develop the green hydrogen value chain.

"Michael van Niekerk, CEO of ASP Fire, underscores the importance of integrating fire safety considerations into the planning and development of hydrogen infrastructure."

Rapid hydrogen infrastructure growth spurs fire and safety challenges

Despite the promising outlook, experts caution that the rapid development of hydrogen infrastructure brings unique safety challenges. Hydrogen is highly flammable, and its small molecular size makes it prone to leaks. Furthermore, hydrogen fires are nearly invisible, complicating detection and response efforts.

About 25% of hydrogen fires reportedly result from leaks, emphasising the necessity

for proper handling and the implementation of appropriate fire safety and detection equipment. Moreover, the lack of experienced operators and the repurposing of existing facilities for hydrogen use may exacerbate safety risks. Ensuring consistent sources of renewable energy is also critical, as power interruptions can lead to business losses and potential safety hazards.

ASP Fire CEO calls for safety-first approach

Michael van Niekerk, CEO of ASP Fire, underscores the importance of integrating fire safety considerations into the planning and development of hydrogen infrastructure. "The unique properties of hydrogen require a comprehensive approach to fire safety. It is imperative that safety measures are not an afterthought but a fundamental component of infrastructure development," urges van Niekerk.

Training and technology key to hydrogen safety

He advocates for the adoption of advanced safety technologies, including predictive analytics and integrated safety systems, to monitor and mitigate risks effectively. He also stresses the need for specialised training for personnel involved in hydrogen projects to ensure a thorough understanding of the associated hazards.

Balancing development and safety in the hydrogen economy

As South Africa advances its green hydrogen agenda, balancing the drive for economic and environmental benefits with the imperative of safety is crucial.

Proactive measures, informed by expert insights and international best practices, will be essential in mitigating fire and life safety risks, ensuring the sustainable and secure development of the hydrogen sector.

Unitrans walks away with Rio Tinto Safety RockStar Award

UNITRANS has once again clinched the coveted Most Outstanding Contractor Partner Safety Award at the Rio Tinto RockStars of the Year Safety Awards, marking its second consecutive win. This recognition further underscores Unitrans' unwavering commitment to safety as a cornerstone for business growth.

Competing against approximately 18 000 other contractors across 35 countries on six continents, Unitrans attributes its success to a robust safety strategy integrated into a comprehensive supply chain solution. This approach ensures the safety of staff and clients while protecting products from theft at every stage.

"I'm exceptionally proud that we have won this award for the second consecutive year and that Rio Tinto's safety maturity model has been implemented across the operation at Richards Bay Minerals," says John Kettlewell, mining executive at Unitrans.

"This remarkable achievement reflects the power of partnership and Unitrans' dedication to safety excellence. Their journey demonstrates the positive impact of focus, commitment and collaboration, proving that meaningful change is possible when a team unites to prioritise safety," says Werner Duvenhage, managing director of Rio Tinto Iron Titanium - Africa Operations.

Meeting stringent safety standards

To meet Rio Tinto's stringent safety standards, Unitrans was required to demonstrate to international auditors that it had fully integrated the miner's safety culture and practices across all its operations. This included adopting a proactive approach to risk and safety management, such as conducting regular self-assessments.

Additionally, Unitrans must provide ongoing progress reports to the management team at Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), ensuring transparency and continuous alignment with safety expectations.

Unitrans also had to prove it had a strong focus on onboarding and supporting new employees to adapt quickly to RBM's safety processes. It stood out through its superior safety technologies such as collision avoidance and driver-fatigue alert systems.

In addition, the company demonstrated a commitment to employee feedback, ensuring a workplace that is inclusive, respectful, and continuously improving.

The pillars of safety

Unitrans' long-standing partnership with Rio Tinto at Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) is rooted in the miner's four-pillar safety approach: Care, Courage, Curiosity, and Collaboration. Their longstanding partnership with Rio Tinto at Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) is rooted in the miner's four-pillar safety approach: Care, Courage, Curiosity, and Collaboration.

"We start each day with the care principle through holding two meetings at which employee wellbeing and the previous day's experiences are discussed. In these meetings, we prioritise everyone's physical and emotional well-being. Through the structure of our meetings, we build respect and trust of colleagues, while also emphasising environmental sustainability," explains Sandile Shange, Unitrans' contract manager.

Care shows itself in a culture of being our 'Brother's keeper,' while courage empowers everyone to speak up about potential hazards, like spotting a new pothole, so that risks can be mitigated.

Curiosity flourishes in learning and improvement sessions where everyone learns from one another, and Collaboration ensures Unitrans' teams plan and execute together to meet performance targets.

Harnessing AI for safety and growth

As part of Unitrans' commitment to RBM, it integrated the latest in trusted artificial intelligence solutions to analyse data related to various aspects of safety, such as driver fatigue.

A complete safety strategy also boosts RBM and all Unitrans' other clients' growth through more cost-effective and streamlined processes, enabling Unitrans' customers to improve their profitability through better productivity.

"At the heart of our mission is empowering businesses with supply chain solutions rooted in uncompromising safety. This isn't just about risk mitigation; it's a strategic growth accelerator," says Edwin Hewitt, CEO.

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THE NEXT GENERATION

Internships, Skills & Development Programmes

Telkom Foundation equips young people with digital literacy skills

THE Telkom Foundation recently celebrated the successful completion by 115 Mpumalanga learners of its Coding & Robotics Programme at an event at the Ermelo Inn.

Introduced into two Mpumalanga schools in 2022, the three-year programme is part of the Telkom Foundation’s commitment to equip young people with digital literacy skills and the necessary tools to be economically active and to find employment in the new digital environment. It was fitting that the graduation event took place at the end of Youth Month, whose theme was ‘Skills for a changing world – Empowering youth for meaningful economic participation’.

Certified by IBM and IC3, the programme was rolled out during school holidays and included modules on technical, business and other soft skills.

“In order to be able to use technology in meaningful, creative, and practical ways, young people must be “digitally

ready,” which includes having the technical know-how as well as critical thinking and entrepreneurial skills to go out and find or create opportunities for themselves,” said the Telkom Foundation’s executive for Corporate Social Responsibility, Judy Vilakazi.

Integrating coding and robotics into the school curriculum is critical in preparing future generations of young people for the rapidly changing world of technology and artificial intelligence (AI), and this programme demonstrates the Telkom Foundation’s commitment to bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusivity by ensuring that all students, regardless of socio-economic status, have access to quality education that is aligned with 21st century skills.

The Foundation will be upgrading the facilities at the two Mpumalanga schools to implement custom-built coding and robotics laboratories as well as upskilling teachers so that they can include the subjects in their everyday curriculum.



Telkom Foundation’s executive for Corporate Social Responsibility, Judy Vilakazi.

“The Telkom Foundation congratulates each of the learners on this great accomplishment and looks forward to seeing many more young people go through the programme,” said Vilakazi.

The purple people changing the fortunes of a rural town



THE once-sleepy Overberg town of Caledon has experienced a purple-hued revival as young job seekers join the TFG Prestige clothing factory’s learnership programme in their hundreds, demonstrating this Youth Day that the future of rural South African youth could be in clothing.

From humble beginnings in 2008 starting as a privately owned company with eight workers operating in a modest factory, the Prestige Clothing factory in Caledon has expanded rapidly over the past 17 years to become the biggest employer in town. This growth was accelerated after being acquired by TFG in 2012 with a major milestone being achieved in 2016 when TFG built a state-of-the-art greenfield factory ensuring Prestige Caledon was housed in a world-class facility ready for future growth.

The factory has absorbed so much of the town’s available skills that it has begun recruiting from other towns in the Overberg region and as far afield as the coastal town of Hermanus, subsidising transport so that the 400 or so workers who commute daily can do so affordably.

TFG is a major driver of youth employment and skills development. With an investment of R150-million in youth development programmes in the past financial year, TFG has created over 2 700 youth workplace opportunities through Learnerships, Apprenticeships and Internship as well as through the YES initiative across its factories, stores and Head Office.

“We are dedicated to strengthening the local industry and nurturing the next generation of leaders in the textile and manufacturing sector. This commitment lies at the heart of our strategy for building a sustainable business and reflects our deep responsibility to the communities we serve,” says TFG CEO, Anthony Thunström.

In batches from 30 to 60 per cohort, and at a rate of 300 a year, TFG provides learnerships to school leavers and previously unemployed youth to equip them with the skills required to work on a modern clothing production line. At almost 900 workers today, and still growing, the workforce has been built entirely on learnerships, with classes hosted on site as well as the local community hall and at the golf club next door to the factory.

The students start with eight weeks of classroom and initial practical training in a controlled classroom environment before progressing to the factory floor for the remainder of their practical training. Sensitisation to the factory environment is provided for, every Friday in the early stages of their practical training where they are able to refine their skills alongside their future colleagues on the factory floor. Once they have successfully completed their twelve-month learnership, they are awarded with an NQF level-2 qualification with opportunities to further advance their training in Work Integrated Learning and then full-time employment at TFG Prestige Clothing.

Supporting South Africa’s localisation strategy for investment and job creation, TFG’s Prestige Clothing factory equips South African youth with a national qualification and exposure to world-class manufacturing technology and methodologies training them with modern machinery and manufacturing methodology – all within a compliant, industry leading factory environment.

TFG sources 81.6% of clothing locally – within South Africa and the SADC region, and Caledon is just one part of TFG’s broader manufacturing footprint, which now employs close to 5 000 people across the country in owned facilities.

The Caledon factory has the capacity to produce over 4 million garments a year and has recently expanded the range of items made there to include dresses and skirts, whilst continuing its supply of t-shirts and fashion fleece to TFG’s SportsScene brand.

“Ultimately, the Caledon factory supports our quick response model, which relies on local production to allow TFG brands to adapt their lines to market trends at speed, instead of placing an order and then waiting weeks for goods from Asia.

“This minimises overproduction and attracts lower mark-downs on products, contributing to better margins and less waste,” says Jacqui Moriarty, TFG’s head of design and manufacturing.

But, none of the company’s brands are obliged to buy from its factories – they all have to compete on an equal footing with other suppliers in the market. That means the young people in the learnership programme must meet the world-class standards expected of any supplier – showing what is possible for South Africa’s clothing industry with the right investment and training.

Today the factory’s small army of purple-apron clad employees is a familiar sight in Caledon each morning and afternoon as they make their way to and from work, and on Friday afternoons when they finish early to do their weekly shopping. This regular injection of money into the local economy has been a boost for businesses in the town, spreading the economic benefits of the factory throughout the community.

For more information please contact: TFG Media Office: Media@tfg.co.za

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The connection deception

By Natalie van der Merwe, Head of Telephony and Andrew King, Head Voice, Visual Comms and Microsoft at Vox

IN recent times, call centres have increasingly turned to mobile numbers for their outbound calls - a tactic that, while effective, stands in violation of regulations and poses significant risks to both reputation and brand perception.

According to the ICASA 2016 Numbering Plan Regulations, using mobile phone number ranges like 082, 083, or 072 for fixed-location services such as call centres is prohibited. The penalties for such non-compliance can be as high as R3-million per infringement.

Despite this, South Africans are enduring a dramatic rise in spam calls, with a large percentage emanating from mobile numbers. Many of these call centres exploit prepaid SIM cards with unlimited calling bundles or spoof mobile numbers to increase their answer rates. This makes returning calls impossible and reporting them becomes futile, as numbers are swiftly swapped out when flagged for abuse.

The effectiveness and risks

Despite being against regulations, the use of mobile numbers is undeniably effective. Call centres employing these methods report a connect rate of 69% compared to just 29% for traditional landlines.

This metric is crucial, as each successful connection increases the number of potential leads, which can ultimately translate into successful sales. In a challenging economic

climate, it's understandable why companies might be tempted to opt for this approach, despite its reputational and financial risks.

To date, the R3 million fine remains the only tangible consequence these companies face. For many, this fine is negligible when weighed against the potential R50 million revenue that could be generated. Thus, the choice for some companies becomes one of short-term gain over long-term brand integrity.

The call for ethical practices

As the barrage of spam calls continues, there's a pressing need for regulations to be stricter and more rigorous, particularly to protect consumers. However, companies have the opportunity to choose a more ethical path - one that minimises the impact of spam on customers and aligns with the efforts of organisations like the Internet Service Providers' Association (ISPA) and Vox.

In April, ISPA reached out to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), urging them to take decisive action against the unlawful use of mobile numbers by call centres operating out of fixed premises. The organisation is advocating for the use of legitimate, assigned geographic numbers and is supported by ISPs committed to protecting both consumers and the industry.

This practice of using mobile numbers is not just harmful to consumers but also detrimental to those companies that adhere to ethical standards. Those playing by the rules are not just falling behind but are also being unfairly judged alongside those engaging in

less scrupulous practices, leading to consumer frustration and disengagement.

The path forward

Change needs to originate from the brands themselves. By embracing ethical best practices and partnering with service providers who comply with regulations and prioritising brand reputation, companies can position themselves on the right side of change. This proactive approach ensures that when regulatory compliance becomes more stringent, they won't need to overhaul their systems or processes. Instead, they will already be ahead of the curve.

For industry leaders like Vox, taking a stand is essential. Trusted service providers ensure companies are not exposed to any contraventions of numbering or calling practices, offering value-added services that enhance success rates without compromising on reputation or risk. Aligning your contact centre with the law not only safeguards your brand but also ensures sustainability.

While mobile numbers may do a lot of the talking, customers do too. As word spreads about poor practices, companies that adhere to ethical standards are the ones that will thrive. Are you curious about how embracing ethical practices can set your brand apart?

Actionable Steps:

- Evaluate current call centre practices against regulations.
- Partner with service providers that prioritise ethical standards.
- Adopt geographic numbers for enhanced compliance.



Natalie van der Merwe, Head of Telephony.



Andrew King, Head Voice, Visual Comms and Microsoft at Vox.

- Engage with industry bodies like ISPA for support and guidance.

Reinventing data centre design: critical changes to meet surging demand



By Faith Waithaka, Cloud and Service Provider Segment Sales Lead: Anglo-phone Africa at Schneider Electric

AI technologies are pushing the boundaries of what's possible, presenting data centres with a whole new set of challenges. Enterprises, colocation providers, and tech giants are now rethinking their data centre strategies.

How can an industry undergoing such transformation shift gears at full speed?

Fortunately, as data centres research, plan, and implement change, several options are emerging. These include optimising design and infrastructure for efficiency, cooling, and management systems.

Rising energy demand

AI is increasingly vital in streamlining tech-driven tasks, but it's well-known that the energy trade-off is immense. The Electric Power Research Institute reports that a typical AI query consumes ten times the electricity of a traditional internet search, with AI-generated music, photos, and videos demanding even more power.

With 5.45 billion internet users, AI adoption is driving power consumption to unprecedented levels. AI's computing capacity is expected to double every 100 days, increasing global energy consumption linked to AI by 26% to 36% annually.

This extreme demand necessitates innovation, prompting data centre executives to adjust strategies and identify solutions for improved efficiency while maintaining reliability.

Data centres for the future

The rise of AI compels data centres to upgrade rack configurations, cooling systems, software management, and power optimisation technologies:

Rack configuration

AI workloads require thoughtful space planning to accommodate advanced cooling systems and increased infrastructure footprints. High-density racks house more servers in a smaller area, enhancing computing power without increasing space.

Integration of liquid cooling

AI-driven hardware generates significant heat, necessitating more efficient cooling systems. Liquid cooling offers a viable alternative, improving thermal management and extending equipment lifespan. Hybrid cooling solutions are gaining traction, ensuring flexibility and performance optimisation.

Flexible power distribution

Higher-density workloads require more robust power distribution. Data centres are adopting advanced uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and scalable power solutions for reliable energy delivery. Collaboration with utility companies is also increasing, helping data centres implement demand response programmes and leverage renewable energy options.

Leveraging waste heat

As data centres expand to support AI, they are repurposing waste heat to improve efficiency.

Waste heat can be used to warm nearby buildings, such as homes, offices, and public spaces. Examples include:

- Google's data centre in Hamina, Finland, supplies excess heat to a nearby paper mill.
- Equinix's Paris data centre directs waste heat to warm Olympic swimming pools.
- Multiple data centres use excess heat for indoor agriculture or greenhouses.

Rising above the AI surge

As AI adoption accelerates, data centres must remain agile. Strategic changes in facility design, power efficiency, cooling systems, and management practices are essential to maintaining peak performance.

Every data centre operator must ask, "Is our infrastructure future-ready?" Before implementing major changes:

- Conduct a thorough evaluation of existing infrastructure, tools, and processes.
- Identify key areas for improvement.
- Prioritise high-impact zones to maximise efficiency gains.

Investing in scalable, future-proof solutions ensures long-term adaptability. Engaging stakeholders and industry experts early in the process helps align strategies with business objectives.



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