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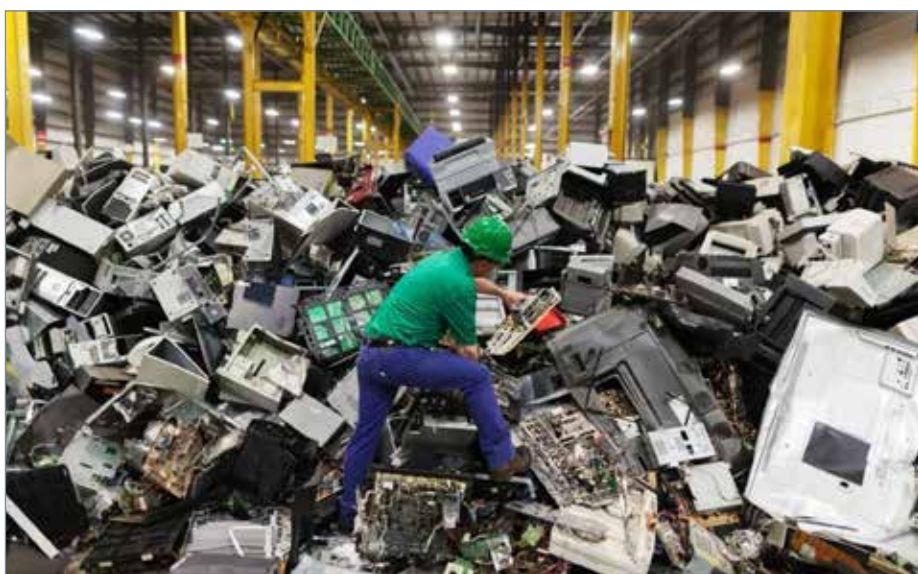
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Extrupet eyes silver lining amid global recycling crisis



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ERA leads South Africa's e-waste recycling under EPR



By Adrian Ephraim

SOUTH Africa's electronic waste landscape is undergoing a fundamental transformation, driven by Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations that are reshaping how manufacturers handle their products' end-of-life obligations.

At the centre of this shift is ERA (Electronic Recycling Association), a Producer Responsibility Organisation pioneering sustainable e-waste management across the country.

Under South Africa's EPR regulations, manufacturers, importers, assemblers, and retailers now bear legal responsibility for taking back their products when they reach end-of-life. This "compulsory take-back" obligation represents a seismic shift from traditional waste management models, placing accountability squarely on those who profit from placing products on the market.

"The onus is on producers – whoever places the product on the market is obligated to take back their products," explains Ashley du Plooy, CEO of ERA.

Rather than cluttering retail spaces with waste products, ERA provides a dense network of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) drop-off infrastructure, enabling producers to fulfill

their obligations efficiently.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) is moving beyond gentle nudging. Currently issuing demands to known "free-riders" – companies avoiding their e-waste responsibilities – the department plans criminal prosecutions for non-compliance in the near future.

Building accessible infrastructure

ERA has deployed 200 collection bins across Makro and Pick n Pay stores nationwide, with plans to add 50 more this year and 100 next year. Combined with GeT Metal's 13 buy-back centres, consumers can now access collection points through ERA's interactive online map at www.eran-pc.co.za.

This infrastructure serves dual purposes: convenience for consumers and compliance pathways for producers. The system allows ordinary South Africans to responsibly dispose of electronic devices while ensuring manufacturers meet their legal obligations.

Recognising that informal waste reclaimers already play a crucial role in South Africa's waste ecosystem, ERA has developed innovative integration strategies. The organisation pays an additional R1 per kilogram above gate prices when informal

reclaimers trade e-waste with GeT Metal, with plans to extend this remuneration through other recycling service providers.

Beyond financial incentives, ERA provides safety training for informal reclaimers, ensuring they can handle e-waste without health risks while maintaining their livelihoods within the formal recycling value chain.

Driving awareness and participation

Public education remains critical for system success. ERA employs multi-channel communication strategies, from radio campaigns and social media outreach to partnerships with Cartoon Network for child-focused messaging.

The organisation has distributed 10 000 A1-size educational posters to 2 600 schools nationwide, with downloadable resources available online.

Annual campaigns around International E-Waste Day (October 14) feature incentivised bring-back programmes, while provincial imbizos with DFFE's Deputy Minister target rural and peri-urban communities often overlooked in traditional awareness campaigns.

ERA operates two consumer incentive models: regular trade incentives through buy-back centres where consumers receive payment based on material content, and annual incentivized campaigns offering vouchers or discounts on replacement items.

While still early days, EPR regulations are beginning to influence product design. Requirements for recyclability, increased recycled material content, and enhanced reparability are pushing producers toward zero-waste products driven by both regulatory compliance and ESG commitments.

Government enforcement against free-riders is creating momentum toward a fairer, more reliable system. As remaining non-compliant producers join the fold, costs will decrease for early adopters while system stability improves.

"When the remaining free riders come into the fold, the EPR system will stabilise, become fairer and overall, a lot cheaper for the very small handful of producers that are currently compliant," notes du Plooy.

Naamsa: SA vehicle exports to US collapse before tariffs



By Staff Writer

THE latest export numbers to the US showed that even before the introduction of the trade tariffs the industry was taking strain, as there was an 82,7% collapse from 9 574 in the second quarter of 2024 to 1 562 in the second quarter of 2025 in US exports.

This is according to Naamsa's Quarterly Review Of Business Conditions: New Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Industry/Automotive Sector: 2nd Quarter 2025.

The collapse in vehicle exports underlined concerns by a trade and industry think tank that the local vehicle manufacturing industry could feel the brunt of the steep rise in US trade tariffs is already being borne out.

Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), an economic research institution, said in a policy brief that the sector, which exported R26 billion in assembled vehicles to the US in 2024, could see the 25% tariff rise drive away investment in the industry.

"The reciprocal tariffs on African automotive exports could deter foreign direct investment driven by US market opportunities. The higher costs of African-made vehicles in the US market will make production in Africa less appealing to investors targeting American consumers."

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Previously, under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, vehicles manufactured in SA could be exported into the US tariff-free. This has come to an end as a 25% tariff came into effect on 7 August 2025.

The local vehicle manufacturing industry has already felt the impact, with Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa, confirming last month that it was looking to cut 470 jobs at its Silverton car assembly plant in Pretoria, and at its Struandale engine plant in Gqeberha.

"These changes are part of our ongoing efforts to optimise production and respond to evolving market demands," said in a statement to Reuters.

The reduction in staff came after Ford invested R15,8 billion in its man-



ufacturing operation in 2021, which increased manufacturing capacity from 168 000 to 200 000. Aside from this investment, Ford also invested R600 million in its Struandale Engine Plant in 2021.

The industry is not blind to the danger, as was pointed out in Naamsa's review.

"South Africa's automotive industry has long depended on a thriving export engine to sustain production volumes and attract investment. However, the trade policy shifts at present, particularly from the US, pose a real challenge to that model," it said.

Naamsa noted that lower production was already affecting employment. The average monthly vehicle manufacturing industry employment number for 2024 was 33 154 compared to the 33 509 in 2023.

"Employment in the vehicle manufacturing industry is generally linked to production and the decrease in employment in 2024 related to lower vehicle production and vehicle exports for the period under review."

Naamsa pointed out that the new US tariffs will have a far-reaching impact on the local industry.

"South Africa's as well as all other markets' automotive exports to the US will now face material cost disadvantages, raising concerns about pricing competitiveness and profitability for multinational OEMs operating domestically."

The tariff hike could also have an unnoticed knock-on effect. With 25 000 in annual vehicle exports to the US now under threat, Naamsa warned that the industry could be facing a secondary threat from other countries in a similar position, which would be competing with SA for alternative export markets.

Comtest wows channel partners

Spotlights, rock anthems, and a full house at the Barnyard Theatre – that's how COMTEST, together with FLUKE, set the stage for an unforgettable afternoon as they welcomed over 80 Channel Partners to their annual celebration of excellence at The Emperor's Palace, Gauteng. This wasn't your typical corporate meeting.

The Annual Gathering had one goal: to celebrate Comtest's incredible stakeholders, share the latest prod-

uct knowledge, and recognise excellence - delivered with plenty of energy, excitement, and entertainment.

Barend Niemand, Comtest Group CEO, shared how the company is embracing change and re-inventing itself to become a South African market leader. "Our mission is clear," he said. "We're all about service excellence - from customer support to warehousing, the accounts team, and ultimately, our amazing sales crew."

Barend emphasised that teamwork and high ethical standards are the secret ingredients to achieving these goals. "When we work together and stay true to our values, everyone wins—customers, suppliers, employees, and shareholders alike."

And the results speak for themselves. Since 2022, Comtest has been smashing records, with projections for 2025 set to once again outpace SA GDP. Barend gave a special shoutout to Brolin Moonsamy (Fluke South Africa) and Kristo Engelbrecht (Fluke Africa) for their ongoing support.

Looking even further ahead to 2026, Comtest plans to focus on business partners who share their vision—partners who see Comtest as a trust-



ally and want to make a real impact in their own markets while growing together. These are the partners who go the extra mile for end-users and embrace Comtest's "Go-to-Market" model.

Guests also got a peek at Fluke's latest technologies, including the 2052/2062 Cable Finders, the Fluke iSee Mobile Thermal Camera, the SB140 Sound Beacon for the Motor & Aviation Industries, and the 729 PRO Pressure Calibrator—just a few highlights from a line-up packed with innovation.

Awards made to Channel Partners:

- Legacy Partner Award** - Tycom
- Best New Channel Partner** - Top Dog Tool Shop

- Best Electrical Wholesaler** - Adendorff Machinery Mart
- Best Overall Performing Channel Partner** - Bolt and Engineering

Best Performing Channel Regional Partner:

- North West - Voltex Rustenburg
- Mpumalanga - Bolt and Engineering
- Gauteng - Communic Vaal Triangle - Corel Instrumentation & Controls
- KwaZulu-Natal - Magnet Electrical Supplies
- Limpopo - JPC Wholesaler
- Western Cape - I&D Electrical

The Extra Mile Award:

- Vaal Triangle - Corel Instrumentation & Controls
- North West - Applecon

- Limpopo - Giant Marketing
- Mpumalanga - HMF Technologies
- KwaZulu-Natal - Magnet Electrical Supplies
- Gauteng - Lamba Automation
- Western Cape - Technosales

Finally, Barend saluted "The A-Team"—Comtest's rockstar Sales Team—who've visited over 2 000 end-users, running demos, training sessions, commissioning advanced diagnostic tools, and hosting Technology Days.

And with the serious business wrapped up, the lights dimmed, the amps turned up, and guests tucked into lunch while rocking out to Barnyard's More than a Feeling show—a perfect finale to a day of recognition, camaraderie, and celebration.

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Transnet rail opens access for private operators



By Staff Writer

COMPANIES which were not selected to operate on Transnet's freight rail network can apply again. As part of its plan to increase the amount of freight tonnage on its rail network, Transnet has selected 11 out of 25 companies to proceed to the next stage of contract negotiation.

The additional capacity brought by the private companies will increase freight moved by rail to 250 million tons per annum by 2029.

At a briefing last month, Transnet CEO Michelle Phillips and Transport Minister Barbara Creecy said 11 companies, which were not named, were selected to operate on a total of 41 routes and six corridors.

Phillips said the door was not closed to the companies that were

not selected. She said Transnet was prepared to work with these companies to meet the requirements. Those who did not qualify this time around can apply when slots become available in the 2026/27 timetable.

The move to open up the rail network to private operators is different from the concession model that had seen Transnet being taken to court by losing bidders. With a concession, a private company gets to run a part of Transnet's operation on its own, but with the third-party access model, private companies get to compete against each other and Transnet on the network.

Creecy said the introduction of private operators would bring much-needed investment into South Africa's rail infrastructure.

"The Rail Policy encourages rolling stock

investment by the operating companies and the establishment of the rolling stock leasing companies by both state-owned companies and private entities. This could be a key intervention for revitalising rolling stock and unlock as much as R100-billion in new investments."

Creecy later underlined the importance of bringing in the private sector in her keynote address at the 14th Southern African Railways Association (SARA) International Rail Conference and Exhibition.

"This is a significant step in our rail reform journey and makes open access to freight rail a reality in our country. It will contribute to a more efficient, reliable and sustainable rail system that can promote inclusive growth and ensure job retention and job creation."

The initial route allocations are:

- North Corridor: six new entrants, 15 routes for transportation of coal and chrome.
- Iron Ore Corridor: one new entrant, one route for transportation of iron ore
- Cape Corridor: two new entrants, two routes for transportation of manganese
- Northeast Corridor: six new entrants, 16 routes for transportation of coal, chrome, magnetite, fuel, containers
- Central Corridor: one new entrant, two routes for transportation of coal, containers (manganese)
- Container Corridor: four new entrants, five routes for transportation of containers, coal, sugar

As Transnet will be both a competitor and also issue contracts to the private operators, to ensure fairness, the newly created Interim Rail Economic Regulatory Capacity (IR-ERC) has the mandate to manage the consultation process on Transnet's draft Network Statement. The Network Statement outlines the terms and conditions under which all operators, including Transnet, can access the rail network.

Slow GNU reforms threaten South Africa economy

By Chris Hattingh



THE Government of National Unity (GNU) has not been able to deliver on the expectations created in the wake of its formation in June 2024. The initial hope was that the new government would introduce significant reforms that would trigger higher levels of growth.

This was reflected in the significant value appreciation of shares of companies exposed to the South African market, including in sectors such as construction, retail and food manufacturing, in the second half of 2024. In those six months, the share prices of retailers appreciated by 32%, construction companies by 48% and food producers by 29%, as reported by the Daily Investor.

By contrast, in the first half of 2025 investors switched out of these sectors to shares in companies with greater exposure to faster-growing foreign economies, including such industries as telecommunications, mining, and tobacco.

The skittish approach of investors to South Africa is reflected in the fact that they invested in quick-to-move financial assets rather than long-term fixed assets.

Investment in fixed assets, as recorded in the rate of gross fixed capital formation, declined by 1.7% in the first quarter of 2025, following a 0.5% drop in the fourth quarter of 2024, according to Stats SA.

Our read is that the initial tentative optimism that greeted the GNU is now dissipating. Reforms are moving too slowly and are too limited in scope to kickstart faster economic growth. In addition, they are focused exclusively on infrastructure while neglecting policy.

In the policy space, rather than eliminating obstacles to growth, barriers are being reinforced through

measures such as the Expropriation Act, the National Health Insurance Act and the amended Employment Equity Act. From 1 September, employers are forced to start complying with highly intrusive racial and gender requirements for their workforces under pain of significant penalties.

And yet, in theory, there is considerable upside potential. If South Africa were able to attract some capital even while positioned as a low-growth and hostile investment environment, it could attract exponentially more by embarking on a reform course that decisively addresses its weaknesses.

Counder Conference to bring global leaders to Cape Town

FOLLOWING South Africa's G20 presidency, global network Counder is bringing private sector leaders to Cape Town for the Counder Conference 2026, held from January 27-29. The event reflects the country's growing global significance and aims to sustain this momentum through private sector engagement.

The conference will bring together 500 carefully selected global leaders, including family office principals, institutional investors,

and venture capitalists. The agenda will focus on global trends like AI, renewable energy, and biotech, with a special emphasis on opportunities within Africa.

Key themes related to the continent include:

- South Africa: At a Crossroads—Examining its role as a gateway to continental markets.
- Nigeria: Bold and Untapped—Exploring its potential in fintech, energy, and

manufacturing.

- Egypt: Past Meets Future—Investigating opportunities in North Africa's economic hub.
- The Continent's Century—Broad discussions on Africa's demographic dividend and emerging market dynamics.

Confirmed attendees include leading figures from South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, and other countries.

"South Africa's G20 presidency showcases the country's excellence in convening world-class global conversations," said Michel Weiss, Counder CEO. "We are convinced Cape Town should host the world's most influential private sector leaders as well."

The conference will use expert-guided roundtables and a proprietary matchmaking system to facilitate meaningful connections and collaborations.

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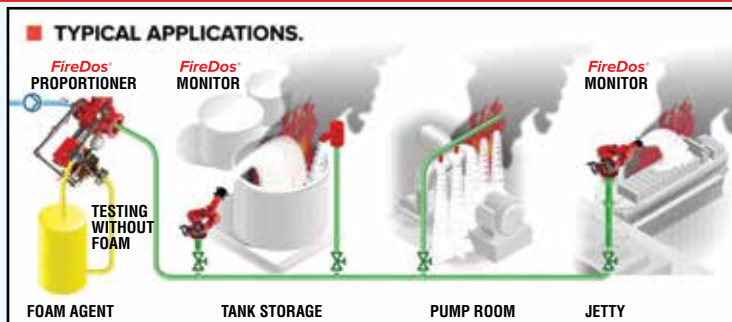
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South Africa's Green Hydrogen potential faces hurdles



By Staff Writer

THE African Green Hydrogen Report says South Africa has the potential to be a significant player in the sector, but the country has to first overcome some hurdles.

Published by the German development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the report looked into Africa's potential to develop a Green Hydrogen industry.

Green Hydrogen is the practice of using electrolysis to extract hydrogen from seawater, and the report said South Africa had enormous potential when it came to fostering a Green Hydrogen industry, as it had all but 3 of the 22 critical minerals needed to develop the industry.

It said the country's capacity to process resources locally to increase the economic value of exports was an advantage, but also pointed out that issues like an electricity supply crisis, rapidly escalating electricity prices, and logistics bottlenecks have led to a reduction in the size of the iron and steel and ferroalloy industries.

This was in spite of beneficiation being a policy objective in South Africa since the late 2000s. It pointed out that despite the

country historically being a "mining powerhouse," since the mid-2000s, mining production has been trending downwards.

The report said this downward trend was a result of the depreciation of South Africa's gold mines, labour unrest, an electricity supply crisis and sharply increasing electricity costs, and logistics bottlenecks. Policy and regulatory uncertainty, and the lack of an efficient system for managing mining rights and applications, also contributed to the decline.

"South Africa's attractiveness as a mining location is falling relative to other Sub-Saharan African countries, and its global share of exploration is falling from a high of 5% during the early 2000s to around 1% currently," the report said.

Even so, despite the decline in mining production and the slow uptake of beneficiation, the report said the Green Hydrogen industry was an opportunity to revive the local mining sector.

"The rapidly increasing demand for minerals to supply green energy technologies, coupled with South Africa's rich endowment of many of these minerals and its extensive mineral extraction and processing experience, however, is seen as an opportunity to revitalise the South African

mining industry."

The report noted that President Cyril Ramaphosa included harnessing critical minerals for inclusive growth and sustainable development as one of his four priorities for South Africa's presidency of the G20 in 2025.

He also called for a G20 framework on green industrialisation and investment to promote the beneficiation of critical minerals close to their source of extraction.

"The processing of critical minerals to support the energy transition is currently concentrated mainly in China, but the distribution of critical minerals shows that Africa has an opportunity to grow its mining sector due to increased demand for Green Hydrogen and Green Hydrogen related renewables sector goods."

This message was echoed by Minister of Electricity and Energy, Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa in the report's foreword.

"Under the banner of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and South Africa's G20 Presidency, we are advancing a vision of energy that is just, inclusive, and transformative. This report aligns with our shared commitment to three pillars: energy sovereignty, social equity, and regional integration."

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Cape Town industry expos debut October 2025

Exhibitors are invited to tap into Africa's innovation capital from 21 to 23 October 2025

SECUREX South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management Expo, and Fireexpo — four of the country's leading industry trade shows — will make their Western Cape debut from 21 to 23 October 2025 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

"Cape Town is a powerhouse of innovation, entrepreneurial energy, and future-focused investment," says Mark Anderson, Portfolio Director from show organisers Specialised Exhibitions, a division of Montgomery Group. "With a robust tech corridor, growing demand

undeniable. The Cape Town–Stellenbosch corridor is home to over 450 tech companies employing over 40 000 people — more than Nairobi and Lagos combined. Nearly 60% of South Africa's startups are based in the city, with standout names like Yoco, Aerobotics, SweepSouth, Pineapple, and JUMO reinforcing the region's global appeal.

Add to that the city's impressive digital infrastructure — including one of Africa's largest open-access fibre networks, high internet penetration, and an abundance of co-working spaces and accelerators — and you have a setting primed for progressive business engagement.

For exhibitors, this means:

- Access to a forward-thinking, tech-enabled audience across key sectors.
- Opportunities



to connect with global investors, corporates, and startup talent.

- Alignment with public and private innovation initiatives.
- Exceptional venue and logistics support in a globally recognised destination.

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Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management

Expo, and Fireexpo have long been a cornerstone of industry engagement. The Cape Town edition builds on this legacy, creating a new gateway for Western Cape-based businesses — and those expanding into the region — to showcase security, safety, facilities management, and fire safety solutions to a high-quality local market.

With safety-focused policies like the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) driving demand for innovative technologies, and economic

development agencies like Wesgro and the Western Cape government actively supporting investment and innovation, the October shows are poised to become a landmark event in the Cape Town business calendar.

"Exhibiting in Cape Town means positioning your brand at the intersection of technology, safety, and sustainable growth," Anderson concludes. "We're inviting forward-looking companies to take advantage of this fresh, future-focused opportunity

to connect and grow. Find out more about the co-located expos and register for free attendance at www.securex.co.za, www.aosh.co.za, www.fmexpo.co.za, and www.fireexpo.co.za."

Organisations wishing to exhibit at Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management Expo, and Fireexpo in the Western Cape in 2025, can contact the four-shows team at dijan.vandermerwe@montgomerygroup.com to book a space or capitalise on a sponsorship opportunity.

This inaugural Cape Town edition brings the highly successful format of the Johannesburg shows to the heart of Africa's most dynamic innovation and technology ecosystem. It's more than just a change of scenery — it's a strategic move that offers exhibitors direct access to one of the continent's fastest-growing and most tech-savvy markets.

for advanced safety and security solutions, and a thriving business environment, the city offers an ideal platform for companies wanting to showcase their offerings to a highly engaged regional audience."

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Stainless steel fasteners supplier Fastenright marks 15 years



Fastenright sales team.

FROM keeping the MeerKAT radio telescope securely grounded in the Karoo to restoring Milnerton's iconic wooden bridge, Cape Town-based Fastenright – South Africa's leading specialist supplier of high-quality stainless-steel fasteners – is celebrating 15 years of steady growth and holding the country's most ambitious projects together.

With an extensive stockholding of around 10 000 product types across four warehouses – and a fifth under construction – Fastenright ensures fast, efficient and reliable service to meet the growing needs of diverse industries.

Even the smallest fastener failure can halt production, so the company prioritises swift delivery to avoid or minimise costly downtime.

Reflecting on Fastenright's journey, MD Rainer Lutz highlights the challenges of building a specialised supplier from the ground up. Despite their extensive expertise, the team had to gain a deep understanding of market needs while building a broad inventory offering. "We started modestly but with a vision to deliver unmatched quality and service that would set us apart," Lutz says.

"Through a lot of hard work, dedication of our team, and the support of our key partners, namely Eric and Pat Hasselbach, and at the time, Bernd Rabus, we began to build the foundation of what we are today."

Holding South Africa's projects together

Fastenright's stainless steel fasteners support a wide spectrum of industries and applications – from construction, manufacturing, and routine maintenance to major infrastructure projects. With an extensive stockholding of standard A2 and A4

fasteners, customers benefit from reliable supply and quick delivery when they need it most.

The company's products have played a crucial role in high-profile projects. More than 15 000 bolts, nuts, and screws were supplied for the restoration of Milnerton's historic wooden bridge, while corrosion-resistant fasteners secured the MeerKAT radio telescope in Carnarvon, Northern Cape.

Beyond landmark projects, Fastenright's A4/316 stainless steel fasteners are trusted in water and effluent treatment plants, where corrosion resistance is critical, and in marine and coastal environments where long-term durability is essential.

The company is renowned for sourcing and supply of specialised fasteners such as acid-resistant Grade A4-80, which combines high tensile strength with corrosion resistance, as well as duplex stainless steels 2205 and 904L – ensuring even the most demanding project requirements are met. With

selected sizes available ex-stock, urgent orders are fulfilled quickly and reliably.

Looking ahead: renewable energy and new opportunities

Fastenright is positioning itself as a key supplier to the renewable energy sector, par-

projects currently import materials directly, the company is actively building partnerships with international project leaders to demonstrate its strength as a competitive local alternative – offering extensive stockholding and rapid delivery.

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customer satisfaction will always remain the foundation of our business. Thanks to the hard work, passion, and commitment of the Fastenright team, we will continue to grow and build lasting partnerships with both new and longstanding customers in South



Fastenright supplied stainless steel fasteners for the MeerKAT radiotelescope in Carnarvon, Northern Cape.

ticularly solar projects, where stainless steel's corrosion resistance is critical. Although many large-scale solar

in business, Lutz reaffirms Fastenright's commitment: "Our focus on quality, exceptional service, and

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KSB believes trade shows are vital in the era of low-cost imports



IN an era of low-cost imports from global manufacturing hubs, South Africa's local pump and valve industry faces intense pressure. For KSB Pumps and Valves, which maintains significant local manufacturing capabilities, events like the recent IFAT Africa trade show are crucial. It's not just about selling products; it's about asserting long-term value against a tide of cheap imports.

"We need to be seen," says Hugo du Plessis, an area manager at KSB. "If customers don't see us but the economy-priced opposition is present, they'll ask questions. Trade shows are where we tell our story and show the difference between initial price and true long-term value."

"Municipalities and contractors chase the lowest price, but they end up with failures, maintenance nightmares, and no spare parts..."

Du Plessis explains that many importers lack established support networks in South Africa, leading to major issues for clients. "Municipalities and contractors chase the lowest price, but they end up with failures, maintenance nightmares, and no spare parts," he notes. "If something goes wrong three years from now, who's going to fix it?"

In contrast, KSB uses these events to highlight its commitment to local manufacturing and after-sales support. "We have over 400 people in our factory. We're not going to turn it into a warehouse for imported pumps," Du Plessis says.

He points to KSB's new anti-clogging wastewater pump, designed and manufactured entirely in South Africa. A prototype has been running in the Western Cape for over 130 days without a single issue, unlike a competitor's pump that clogs weekly. This local innovation is a prime example of KSB's investment and technical expertise.

While digital marketing has its place, Du Plessis insists nothing beats face-to-face interaction. "There are stories you can't tell in a short video," he says. "When someone

learns that our pumps have been running reliably for 50 or 60 years, the message truly sinks in."

KSB's message is clear: quality and technical support can-

not be replicated in a container shipment. "We've seen big competitors falter because they focused on price for too long and lost touch with their customers," he concludes.

"In an industry where equipment must perform for decades, it's not just about the initial price. It's about who will still be around to pick up the phone in ten years' time."

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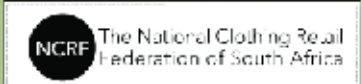
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SOUTH AFRICA'S CLOTHING SECTOR BATTLES GLOBAL DISRUPTION



SOUTH AFRICA'S clothing and textile industry stands at a crossroads. With 200 000 retail staff and significant manufacturing operations, the sector faces unprecedented challenges from offshore online giants and structural inefficiencies that threaten its survival.

Michael Lawrence, Chair of the National Clothing Retail Federation (NCRF), paints a sobering picture of an industry under siege. "Shein and Temu and others are welcome to the game," he says, but the welcome comes with a warning - these platforms could cost South Africa over 34 000 jobs if current trends continue.

GLOBAL DISRUPTION IN SOUTH AFRICA CLOTHING INDUSTRY

Chinese e-commerce giants Shein and Temu have fundamentally altered the competitive landscape. Lawrence acknowledges their sophistication: "There must be real hard cash behind all of that because they've got some very smart business models."

These platforms leverage artificial intelligence for personalised pricing and have established integrated supply chains. "They've got design copying which does not happen from people. It's actually digitally generated," Lawrence explains, highlighting the technological gap South African retailers face.

Five years ago, the NCRF signed a master plan to boost local manufacturing. The results show promise - participating retailers increased average local content sourcing from 35% to just over 46%. "And average means some people are even over 50%," Lawrence explains.

However, fundamental challenges persist. Lawrence describes manufacturing as burdened by "legacy equipment" and outdated models. "Most of our manufacturing sector has legacy equipment that needs to be sweated 20 hours a day, not six hours a day."



Michael Lawrence, Chair of the National Clothing Retail Federation (NCRF)

SOUTH AFRICA CLOTHING SECTOR SCALE AND SKILLS GAP

Manufacturing operations need significant scale to justify quality management. "You're really optimised at about 150 staff members. Ideally you want about 300," Lawrence says.

The sector also suffers from operational constraints. Manufacturing facilities operate limited hours while service industries remain open weekends. "We have a million service industries that are open on a Sunday. But manufacturing closes down Friday at 12:00," Lawrence says.

The skills shortage is equally critical. "Who goes to high school these days and says I want to work in clothing manufacturing? Nobody," Lawrence says bluntly. This contrasts sharply with competitive markets where workers actively plan entrepreneurial ventures while employed.

"We need people who know how to work numbers, who can walk into a factory and put together logic sequences necessary for optimising machinery," he explains.

Lawrence criticises the regulatory environment as "unnecessarily burdensome," advocating for the government to act as facilitator rather than transactional player. "Business does not work like that. We need an environment that gives a lot more flexibility."

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA CLOTHING SECTOR

Despite challenges, Lawrence sees potential in regional expansion. The federation sources from Madagascar, Mauritius, and other SADC countries. "We still sell in excess of 2 billion units of clothing in this country collectively," he notes.

The African Continental Free Trade Area presents opportunities with over a billion consumers, while seasonal differences between hemispheres could enable export-focused manufacturing models.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP GAP IN SOUTH AFRICA'S CLOTHING INDUSTRY

Lawrence identifies a critical entrepreneurship deficit compared to competitive markets. In countries like Vietnam and Cambodia, workers systematically plan their businesses from day one. "By age 30, they know everything about running a factory and can show they know everything," he explains.

In contrast, "my average 30-year-old in this country is only interested in joining a union for a set salary."

The industry needs genuine entrepreneurs, not just self-employed individuals. "We need people who can prove entrepreneurial skill. I actually think there is money" for the right ventures, Lawrence believes.

For entrepreneurs entering the sector, Lawrence emphasises the importance of long-term planning. "Nobody's going to give you an order for the next six months. Someone's going to give you an order for 18 months. That's your space."

Lawrence's vision requires addressing structural issues: modernising equipment, improving operational flexibility, developing skills, and creating enabling environments. "It's never too late," he insists, but success demands coordinated action.

Manufacturing needs to move beyond limited operational hours and embrace technologies that allow 20-hour daily operations. The sector must also develop fabric manufacturing capabilities once product manufacturing establishes clear input demands.

"We've got roads that run, but the government must fix the potholes," Lawrence concludes. "We need proper substantive dialogue on how to address this as a problem at scale."

CLOTHING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY FACES GLOBAL CHALLENGES



TWENTY years after its founding, the Cape Clothing and Textile Cluster continues to champion a sector that has weathered significant storms - from post-apartheid liberalisation and Chinese competition to COVID-19 disruptions and the recent surge of fast-fashion giants like Shein and Temu.

The industry, employing an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 people and representing around 14% of South Africa's manufacturing employment, stands at a critical juncture as local manufacturers face mounting competitive pressures.

SHIFTING FROM LABOUR COSTS TO PRODUCTIVITY

Courtney Grant, Principal Consultant at BMA and Chief Facilitator of both the Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Clothing and Textile Clusters, emphasises that the industry's narrative around cost competitiveness has evolved significantly. "This is no longer a conversation within the sector of that sort of old and historic mentality of labour's too expensive," Grant explains. "We actually don't have globally expensive labour. What we do have is a productivity issue."

The productivity challenge, according to Grant, extends beyond individual worker performance to encompass systemic issues. "It's hard to be productive when load shedding happens and your machines can't work... It's hard to be productive when your fabric doesn't arrive on time because you've got port issues," she notes, highlighting how infrastructure constraints compound the sector's challenges.

THE MASTER PLAN VISION

The Retail-Clothing, Textile, Footwear and Leather (R-CTFL) Master Plan, signed in 2019, aims to grow local market share to 65% by 2030. Grant, who serves as programme manager, describes it as "a social compact between retail, national government, labour and manufacturing to grow the local value chain by making it more competitive."

"We all ultimately want the same thing. We want growth, we want profitable factories, we want to employ people in good compliant jobs," Grant emphasises.

The emergence of Chinese-owned fast-fashion platforms presents perhaps the sector's most visible contemporary challenge. Until November 2024, companies like Shein and Temu could sell into South Africa without paying full 45% duties, creating what Grant describes as an uneven playing field.

"I'm deeply concerned about the rise of offshore online retail," Grant states. "The main concern from industry has been they're taking significant market share and the playing field isn't even." While recent legislative changes have addressed duty avoidance, concerns persist about market access without local sourcing obligations.

Despite challenges, the cluster maintains a strong focus on technological advancement and global best practices. Grant describes extensive learning initiatives, from local factory visits to international trips to Spain's Inditex headquarters and upcoming visits to China's largest textile machinery show.

"We call it global best practice exploration. It's a significant pillar of the work that

we do as a cluster," she explains, noting how automotive industry lean methodologies have been successfully adapted for clothing manufacturing.

While global trends favour sustainable fashion, Grant observes a complex reality in South Africa's diverse market. The country's economic disparities create what she terms "two countries in one," where different consumer segments have vastly different purchasing priorities.

"There is a niche that is going to make sustainability environmental sustainability decisions, but... until a green product is the same price as a non-green product, I don't know if we're going to necessarily have people paying more for green," Grant notes.

Beyond market dynamics, Grant identifies infrastructure as a critical constraint. "Our ports are a significant chokehold in our supply chain," she explains, emphasising how delayed raw material imports undermine manufacturing efficiency and export potential.

The enabling environment extends to basic services where, Grant notes, the Western Cape's superior infrastructure creates competitive advantages. "We have a government in the Western Cape who gets the basics right, our roads are good."

A BOLD VISION FOR REVIVAL

Looking ahead, Grant advocates for fundamental policy reform to incentivise manufacturing investment. Her "magic wand" solution involves restructuring tax policy to reward labour-intensive manufacturing operations that create jobs and add community value.

"Could we not re-look at our tax incentives?" she asks. "If you are investing and running a labour intensive manufacturing operation which creates jobs and adds value... your tax rate should be reduced."

This approach, Grant argues, could eliminate the need for grants and loans while creating genuine incentives for industrial investment - a critical shift for a sector that currently offers returns equivalent to fixed deposits.

As South Africa's clothing and textile industry navigates between global pressures and local opportunities, its success will depend not just on individual company competitiveness, but on addressing the systemic challenges that constrain productivity and growth. The cluster's collaborative approach, combining global learning with local partnership, offers a template for industrial resilience in an increasingly complex global economy.





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The newly planned Sonata House will be the latest addition to the Klein D’Aria development. Offering approximately 4000m² of premium grade office space over two floors, Sonata House will be constructed above two levels of naturally ventilated structured parking.

Purchasers of premises in Sonata House will acquire parking in a ratio of 4.8 bays per 100m² purchased. The upper parking garage will house a bicycle storeroom and bathrooms for cyclists and runners wishing to exercise on their way to the office. Sonata House is also located at one of the entrance points to the Tygerberg MTB trails as well as Majik Forest, for those wishing to exercise during their lunch break.


The standard of the interior finishes to the foyers and bathrooms will emphasize the premium offering. Access from the parking garage to the two U-shaped office blocks will be by means of lifts located in each office tower. The lifts will be supported by a back-up system to enable use during power outages. This back up system will be linked to solar power which will serve all common areas.


Completion of the development is envisaged for the end of 2026.




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South Africa's plastic pipe problem risks infrastructure



By Adrian Ephraim

SOUTH Africa's plastic piping industry faces mounting quality challenges driven by a dangerous combination of cost-cutting, poor installation practices, and inadequate oversight, according to Jacques van Eck, Quality Manager at the South African Plastic Pipe and Pipe Fittings

Manufacturers Association (SAPPMA).

"About 90% of pipe failures are not because of the pipe product itself, but from installation where people don't have a clue what they're doing," van Eck reveals. This sobering assessment highlights a systemic problem plaguing the industry, where the pursuit of cheap solutions creates far more

expensive long-term consequences.

Price-quality trap in South Africa's plastic pipe industry

The root of the problem lies in procurement practices that prioritise upfront savings over lifecycle value. With raw materials comprising 80% of plastic pipe costs and oil price volatility

adding pressure, buyers often gravitate toward suspiciously cheap alternatives without understanding the implications.

"If all manufacturers are selling at R10 and you find something at five rand, alarm bells should ring," van Eck warns. "But buyers are price-conscious and forget the long-term effects of buying cheap products."

This shortsightedness creates a cascade of failures. Non-compliant raw materials lead to substandard products that may function initially but fail within years rather than delivering the expected 50-year design life. Recent testing suggests high-quality HDPE pipes could last over 100 years when properly manufactured and installed.

Installation issues drive South Africa plastic pipe failures

Van Eck describes pipe failures as "a comedy

of errors" involving multiple stakeholders. While product quality issues exist among non-SAPPMA manufacturers, installation problems dominate failure statistics.

The proliferation of cheap Chinese welding machines lacking proper documentation compounds installation challenges. Unlike European manufacturers who provide comprehensive 30-40 page manuals with detailed welding tables for different pipe specifications, Chinese alternatives often include basic single-page instructions that leave installers guessing at critical parameters.

"Plastic is very forgiving, so people assume they don't have to follow procedures exactly," van Eck explains. Critical steps like proper face cleaning with specific chemicals and non-fibrous cloths are often skipped, with installers using wet rags instead. Even fingerprint oils on cleaned surfaces can compromise weld strength.

SAPPMA solutions to South Africa's plastic pipe problem

SAPPMA addresses quality challenges

through rigorous oversight of its members. Beyond mandatory certification from accredited bodies like SABS or SATAS, SAPPMA conducts unannounced audits twice yearly, focusing specifically on product compliance rather than general operations.

The organisation also bridges knowledge gaps between engineers and plastic technologies. Many engineers default to familiar materials like steel or copy outdated asbestos cement specifications without understanding plastic-specific design requirements like thermal expansion.

"We help engineers write specifications, guide installation requirements, and ensure proper depth, compaction, and testing procedures," van Eck says. SAPPMA's involvement in technical committees also helps refine national standards based on real-world experience.

Success stories highlight infrastructure risk solutions

Drakenstein Municipality exemplifies the benefits of quality focus, achieving only 11% non-revenue wa-

ter compared to the national average of 36% after transitioning to plastic systems. This success demonstrates how proper specification, installation, and oversight deliver measurable results.

Van Eck's solution centres on end-user education and accountability. "If end users don't demand quality, they won't get it," he emphasises. "It's like selling someone a Volkswagen with a Mercedes badge – if they don't know the difference, they'll accept it."

The industry needs buyers who understand that paying 20% more upfront prevents costly failures and replacements. In construction projects worth millions, pipe costs represent a small fraction, making quality specifications economically sensible.

"We want to make sure the highest standards go in there so that our children and their children still reap the benefits of what we do today," van Eck adds. In an era of infrastructure challenges and water scarcity, this long-term perspective on quality becomes increasingly critical for South Africa's development.

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Scarcity and demand fuel Cape Town, Durban industrial property boom

SOARING demand and limited land are making industrial and logistics properties in Cape Town and Durban highly sought after by investors. While global supply chains are being reshaped by e-commerce and climate risk, these two cities have become key investment markets in Africa due to their resilience and strategic appeal.

Cape Town's market is thriving, with rising rents and low vacancies driven by strong governance, limited land, and an influx of people from other provinces. According to Shane Howe from Cushman & Wakefield | BROLL, demand is fueled by a "flight to quality" and the expansion of e-commerce. Development hotspots are expanding in areas like Brackengate, while gentrification is unlocking opportunities



in older nodes.

In Durban, chronic land shortages and high operational costs have created a market that favors landlords. Anthon van Weers of Cushman & Wakefield | BROLL notes that viable land is scarce, and vacancy rates are at historic lows. While municipal rates are high, Durban remains attractive to investors due to stable demand from logistics operators located near the port, which offers a significant cost advantage.

Both cities are expe-

riencing accelerating rental growth, especially in areas with high demand and low supply. This trend signals a unique opportunity for strategic investment. The value of logistics and industrial assets is now increasingly tied to their resilience and future-proofing, with investors and tenants considering factors like water security and energy independence. This shift aligns with global best practices, where climate-resilient assets are achieving stronger lease uptake and higher returns.

Kwikspace modular solutions for South Africa

FOR almost 50 years, Kwikspace has been the industry leader in providing 'Kwik', high-quality accommodation and infrastructure solutions for South Africa's building and construction sector and beyond.

ries, classrooms, clinics, kitchens, storage, change houses, ablution facilities, or temporary structures for shows and events, making them ideal for the fast-paced requirements of construction sites, rural

use a thicker steel grade than the industry norm, and units are insulated with polyurethane foam instead of standard expanded polystyrene (EPS), providing superior strength and thermal performance. Panels are covered with up to 0.47 mm Aluzinc-painted steel, offering improved corrosion resistance as well as greater durability and longevity, which is critical for buildings exposed to harsh site conditions.

aged through Kwikspace's ISO 9001-certified processes. Their high standards are further complemented by their registration with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC), Agrément South Africa and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

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

Kwikspace customers can choose to purchase or rent. With the largest modular buildings rental fleet in Africa, the company ensures delivery within days, a major advantage for construction projects with tight timelines.

Two options are available for purchase:

- Fully assembled modular buildings, ready for immediate use.
- Kit form buildings



that allow customers to set up a customised site to their exact requirements using proven prefab panel technologies.

vides cost-effective solutions throughout South Africa and into neighbouring countries.

tion and humanitarian needs. Kwikspace also played an impor-

"Kwikspace buildings use a thicker steel grade than the industry norm, and units are insulated with polyurethane foam..."

The prefabricated units are manufactured for use as offices, mobile homes, dormito-

agricultural operations, and project-based operations.

Kwikspace buildings

Certified quality and standards in Kwikspace buildings

Quality is tightly man-



Kit form buildings are particularly useful for construction sites with limited access and for delivering essential services such as mobile clinics and emergency facilities to remote or underserved communities.

Kwikspace is a Level 1 B-BBEE certified company, with facilities in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Gqeberha. Through its extensive branch network, Kwikspace pro-

"Kwikspace customers can choose to purchase or rent. With the largest modular buildings rental fleet in Africa, the company ensures delivery within days..."

Kwikspace modular buildings supporting critical sectors

The company has supplied park homes and custom prefab buildings for schools, clinics, mining, construc-

tant role in providing screening, vaccination, and isolation rooms in support of the COVID-19 pandemic, further demonstrating the versatility of its modular solutions for critical infrastructure.



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Manitou Southern Africa welcomes new managing director

MANITOU Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd, the subsidiary of Manitou Group based in Johannesburg, South Africa, is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Maynard to the position of Managing Director of South Africa, effective 15 June, 2025.

“It is a privilege to lead Manitou Southern Africa into an exciting new era.”

Maynard brings with him over 11 years of experience within the Manitou Group, where he has held key leadership roles across sales, aftermarket, and dealer development. Most recently, Andrew served as Managing Director of Manitou Centre South Africa, where he successfully led commercial operations and oversaw the execution of

direct-to-customer business strategies.

Experience and leadership for Southern Africa growth

Maynard’s background in engineering and project management, combined with his strong commercial acumen, operational oversight, and leadership capabilities, makes him ideally suited to support the ambitious growth targets set for the Southern Africa region.

“It is a privilege to lead Manitou Southern Africa into an exciting new era. We will build on our strong foundation in mining while unlocking fresh opportunities in agriculture, construction, and industrial markets. These sectors are vital to our growth, and we are committed to serving them with the same passion and precision that define the

Manitou brand,” he says.

“Our mission is simple: deliver unmatched reliability, maximise machine uptime, and ensure the lowest total cost of ownership for our customers. In every interaction, our exceptional service will set us apart because in this industry, excellence isn’t an option, it’s our standard.”

This new role is critical to the Group’s development in Southern Africa. The Managing Director South Africa role requires a strategic focus on commercial performance, mining and agriculture market penetration, and dealer network expansion, all areas where Maynard has demonstrated strong capability. His deep knowledge of the Manitou portfolio, coupled with his operational and compliance management expertise, positions him to ensure the

continued success of the business.

Manitou Group global mission and innovation

As a world reference in the handling, aerial work platform and earth moving sectors, Manitou Group’s mission is to improve working conditions, safety and performance around the world, while protecting people and their environment.

Through its flagship brands – Manitou and Gehl – the group designs, produces, distributes and services equipment for construction, agriculture and industry. By placing innovation at the heart of its development, Manitou Group constantly seeks to bring value to all its stakeholders. Through the expertise of its network of 800 dealers, the group works more closely with its customers every day.

Is investing in South African property still a wise choice?

SOUTH Africa’s property market is always changing, but property remains a powerful way to build wealth and find a place to call home. As Tondi Sadiki, founder of the real estate company Buy The Block, says, “Don’t just buy into bricks and mortar, buy into a lifestyle, a location, and a future that makes sense for you.”

Sadiki offers five key truths for anyone looking to enter the property market:

Stay sharp about the market: The market moves quickly, with interest rates and neighborhood trends changing overnight. Staying informed gives you an edge.

Choose with intention: A home is where your story unfolds. Find a space that excites you and that you’re proud to own.



Location, always: The right location shapes your lifestyle. Factors like safety, accessibility, and the overall vibe are just as important as the size of the house.

Respect the market’s resilience: While markets can be volatile, property has staying power. Demand for rentals continues to grow, and those who invest for the long term often find success.

Own the lifestyle,

not just the loan: This is about more than a financial transaction; it’s about finding a place where you belong and where you can grow.

Buy The Block, founded by Sadiki in 2023, is dedicated to helping clients navigate this process. The company is known for its honest and passionate approach, ensuring clients feel confident and supported in what is often one of the biggest moves they’ll ever make.



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CRDC transforms plastic waste to build South Africa



By Adrian Ephraim

CAPE Town's looming landfill crisis and South Africa's mounting plastic waste problem have set the stage

even included a green infrastructure clause in its standards and guidelines for roads and stormwater. The enabling framework exists. Now the challenge is implementation."

ditives and extruded into a hybrid mineral polymer aggregate. The process accepts all resins (1-7), inclusive of contaminated material from rivers and dumpsites. The coarse and open-cell structure of RESIN8 bonds mechanically and chemically with cement paste.

Independent studies, including research from Stellenbosch University, confirm that concrete products using RESIN8 meet or exceed applicable South African National Standards (SANS).

Projects in Cape Town that have already demonstrated RESIN8's potential.

- Garden Cities diverted 1.1 tons of plastic waste in a pilot kerb project.

- Bitprop uses RESIN8 bricks in housing projects, keeping millions of chip packets out of landfill.
- The V&A Waterfront built the world's first steel-reinforced concrete deck with RESIN8, diverting 2.4 tons of plastic - 1.2 million chip packets.
- The AZ Berman MyCity bus lane project in Mitchells Plain has already diverted 71 tonnes of plastic, saving 284 tonnes of natural aggregate.

management and landfill budgets.

"We tell the City: yes, it may cost slightly more on your infrastructure budget, but you save significantly on your waste budget," Avenant says. "It's a small premium - less than 0.2% on a typical low-cost housing project - that delivers massive environmental, social, and long-term financial returns."

CRDC's model ensures that value is created across multiple economic sectors; waste management companies gain landfill alternatives for their clients, RESIN8

who want to increase their development's green star ratings.

The company's The Bag That Builds programme also integrates communities into the solution, rewarding schools and households for plastic collection while creating jobs and ensuring non-recyclables are put to use instead of being discarded in a landfill site.

Where to from here?

The next step is for all stakeholders - municipalities, developers, contractors, and private investors to move



for action and scale. "Our message is clear," says Avenant. "The technology is tried, tested, and approved. The policies are aligned. What's missing is the resolve to mandate green alternatives. The construction sector is large

"On a single 500-unit housing project, 204 tons of plastic waste will be diverted from landfill," Avenant explains.

for urgent innovation. While less than 10% of the world's plastic waste is recycled, the remainder ends up incinerated, in landfills, or polluting rivers and oceans.

In South Africa, the recycling rate is slightly better at around 16%, thanks largely to informal waste collectors - but the bulk of plastic still escapes the recycling net.

Plastic waste innovation in South Africa

In response to this challenge, CRDC South Africa (Centre for Regenerative Design and Collaboration), led by CEO Abraham Avenant, has developed a breakthrough process to transform all types of plastic waste - dirty, mixed, and contaminated - into RESIN8™, a patented eco-aggregate that is incorporated into commonly used building materials, for example, bricks, pavers, kerbs and asphalt.

"The City of Cape Town has done a remarkable job putting the legislative framework in place with its Green Procurement Action Plan, its Supply Chain Management Policy, and its Waste Sector Strategy," says Avenant. "The city has

"On a single 500-unit housing project, 204 tons of plastic waste will be diverted from landfill," Avenant explains. "That's 45 million chip packets. At the same time, reducing pressure on natural aggregate mining, transport emissions, and improving insulation of the homes being built."

Buying into a greener future

The City of Cape Town has taken the lead by enabling green procurement in its policies; however, the uptake remains slow.

There is an economic benefit to using waste in construction materials that can be offset against waste



creates opportunities for concrete and asphalt companies to offer green materials and for end-users like property developers

decisively from policy to practice. The City of Cape Town's green procurement framework has already set the stage; now it's time

enough to divert tons of waste from landfill through the specification of various available green building materials."

Turning plastic waste into an eco-aggregate concrete

The CRDC recycling process granulates the plastic, which is then mixed with mineral ad-

Find Out Why RESIN8® has been called "A Game Changer In The Concrete Industry"

Enriching plastic waste into an Eco-Aggregate for use in alternative green concrete & asphalt building material solutions.

LET US SHOW YOU HOW

igus expands 3D printing capabilities



MOTION plastics supplier, igus South Africa, has introduced a new 3D printing service capable of producing custom parts in two engineering-grade polymers with exceptional strength and without the need for lubrication.

This step bridges the gap between traditional injection moulding and fast-turnaround additive manufacturing allowing engineers to get custom parts in days rather than weeks without compromising on durability or performance.

According to igus South Africa product specialist, Juan-Eric Davidtz, the igus solution is unlike standard 3D printing filaments which lack the load capacity or wear resistance required in industrial applications. The new solution uses iglidur 150 and iglidur 190 materials. These are the same engineered polymers used in ig-

us's injection-moulded plain bearings and other parts. As a result customers get the same benefits including low friction, dry-running operation and zero lubrication requirements but with the flexibility of custom geometries and rapid prototyping. The polymers include:

- iglidur 150 which is a versatile, food-grade material ideal for general-purpose bearings and sliding elements. It offers excellent wear resistance, good chemical stability and is certified to meet strict EU Regulation 10/2011 requirements making it a strong

choice for packaging machinery, food processing and general industrial applications.

- iglidur 190 which is a heavy-duty material formulated for higher load capacity and impact resistance. It is particularly suited

to parts exposed to high stress, shock loading or abrasive conditions such as gears, racks and pulleys.

By pairing these specialist materials with precision 3D printing, igus delivers an engineered solution that easily outperforms conventional printed

plastics in every measurable way. The result is a printed part that lasts longer and needs no ongoing maintenance like its injection-moulded counterpart.

"The real advantage here is that customers can get the same proven igus polymer performance in a custom one-off or low-volume run. For our customers manufacturing or maintaining machines, as well as designers this means faster time to delivery, reduced downtime and a reliable path from prototype to production," concludes Juan-Eric.

Industrial applications

The introduction of its advanced polymer 3D printing service has paved the way for rapid turnaround of one-offs, small production runs or working prototypes from the same material as its world-renowned injection moulded products. These are the Top 10 Industrial Applications although walk-in business of any type is also catered for:

- Bushes and Plain Bearings – Self-lubricating, wear-resistant components for machinery, conveyors and automation systems.
- Gears and Gear Wheels – Low-friction, high-load gearing for indus-

trial drives, robotics and packaging machinery.

- Rollers and Idler Wheels – Smooth, maintenance-free rotation in transport systems and printing presses.
- Linear Slide Pads and Carriages – Precise, lubrication-free motion for CNC, pick-and-place and cutting equipment.
- Custom Wear Pads and Strips – Protect surfaces in high-friction zones, extending machine life.
- Chain Guides and Cable Carriers – Durable supports for moving cables and hoses in automated systems.
- Valve Seats and Seals – Chemically resistant, low-maintenance components for fluid handling and processing.
- Robotic End Effectors – Lightweight, low-wear grippers and tool mounts for repetitive high-speed tasks.
- Housings and Brackets – Custom mounts that combine strength, chemical resistance and reduced weight.
- Specialised Conveyor Components – Low-noise, high-durability parts for bottling, packaging and food processing lines.

WINTEC t-win 6500 with MuCell: Faster, Lighter, Smarter



AT K 2025, ENGEL is showcasing a high-performance manufacturing solution from its WINTEC brand for automotive interiors.

At the centre is the t-win 6500 two-platen injection moulding machine with 6500 kN clamping force, equipped with MuCell technology for physical foaming. This combination enables the efficient production of a B-pillar trim from mineral-filled polypropylene in just 50 seconds, with significant material savings.

MuCell introduces nitrogen or carbon dioxide into the melt, producing a fine cell structure with excellent dimensional stability and surface quality. The exhibit part, weighing 290 grams and moulded from SABIC's polypropylene F9015, demonstrates how complex interior components can be manufactured

more sustainably and cost-effectively. The process reduces both weight and material use, delivering lasting unit cost savings.

ENGEL provides tailored, high-innovation solutions, while WINTEC focuses on cost-optimised, proven standard machines carrying ENGEL's expertise. Both brands guarantee quality, but WINTEC emphasises reliability, efficiency and accessibility.

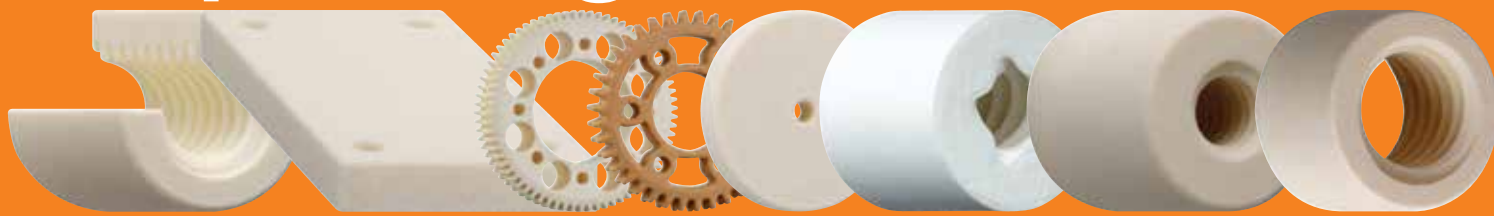
The t-win stands out for its robust two-platen design, short cycle times, servo-hydraulic drive and compact footprint. High energy efficiency, easy maintenance access and durable components ensure a fast return on investment. WINTEC machines feature the intuitive C3 control unit for streamlined process management, while the integrated Viper 20 linear robot automates part removal, enhancing stability and optimising cycle times.

Digital assistance systems further increase efficiency. iQ hold control automatically determines the sealing point during setup, cutting adjustment times. iQ weight control reacts in real time to changes in melt viscosity, reducing scrap rates by up to 85% and ensuring consistent part weight. The iQ process observer continuously monitors parameters, detects deviations early, and provides recommendations to maintain quality and productivity.

This fully automated system shows how WINTEC delivers modern interior part manufacturing: reduced material use, low energy consumption, and consistent performance. Injection moulders benefit from short cycles, reliable machines, and compact solutions that integrate seamlessly into existing production. WINTEC offers efficient plug-and-play technology with excellent value for money – giving manufacturers a clear competitive advantage.

3D printing service for wear-resistant parts with fast delivery.

3D printing in no time



for wear-resistant parts

Due to the solid lubricants within the iglidur® tribofilaments® and laser sintering materials achieve an up to 50 times longer service life compared to standard 3D printing materials. In 2019, for example, more than 120,000 wear-resistant parts were additively manufactured at igus®. Improving application lifetime and reducing costs throughout.



Total failure
Standard 3D printing material



Self-lubricating iglidur®
Plain bearing produced via 3D printing



* Wear test rotating without external lubrication, p = 20MPa, v = 0.01m/s, counter partner 304 SS



Extrupet PET recycling leads South Africa forward

By Adrian Ephraim

WHEN international plastic pollution talks fell apart in Geneva this month, it sent ripples through the recycling world. But for Chandru Wadhvani, who heads up Extrupet, Africa's biggest PET recycler, there's a silver lining to this cloud.

"Sure, we didn't get a treaty," Wadhvani reflects, "but at least people are finally talking about plastic pollution as the global crisis it is."

Since 2000, Extrupet has lived by a simple truth: bigger is essential when it comes to recycling. "It's pretty straightforward," says Wadhvani. "Critical mass is essential to be able to afford the capital investments required as well as to ensure the most economic solution"

This matters now more than ever, with plastic production set to jump 70% by 2040. While a global treaty would've helped manage this surge, South

African recyclers are rolling up their sleeves and getting on with it.

Local operations boost Extrupet PET recycling impact

Take Extrupet's Western Cape plant, for instance. The company's focus on food-grade production exemplifies this local approach. By establishing operations closer to both feedstock sources and end markets, Extrupet has achieved "considerable cost savings on transport up and down," while creating local employment opportunities. It's a win-win.

Despite global challenges, South Africa's PET recycling sector has achieved remarkable success rates. With collection rates between 64-65%, the country significantly outperforms the global average where only 9% of plastic gets recycled. Wadhvani attributes this success to PET's unique characteristics as a polymer.

"PET is unique because as a polymer, there aren't a lot of grades," he explains. "Whether you're picking up a soft

drink bottle or a juice bottle or a water bottle or a peanut butter jar... it's all the same raw material that started to make those products."

This uniformity, combined with the recycling principle of "good in, good out," makes PET recycling more predictable and economically viable than other plastic types that suffer from design complexity or contamination issues.

Regulatory challenges for PET recycling in South Africa

When South Africa introduced new recycling rules in 2021, some industry groups tried to undercut each other with rock-bottom fees. Wadhvani isn't impressed. "Sure, cheaper fees sound great," he says, "but what's the point if you're not hitting your targets?"

"Sadly, there are too many PROs that sold, I think a false promise to their members on the back of cheaper fees," he says. "But that doesn't help the brand owner if the targets aren't met as per Section-18 EPR leg-

islation."

Extrupet's strategy focuses on partnering with PROs that meet regulatory targets, even if their fees are higher. This approach ensures compliance and supports the company's long-term sustainability goals.

While government support isn't what it used to be, Extrupet keeps pushing forward. They've been in Mauritius since 2004, have a foothold in Nigeria, and are eyeing East Africa. "Times are tough for everyone," Wadhvani acknowledges. "When money's tight, environmental concerns often take a backseat."

The treaty's failure highlighted a critical tension between environmental goals and development needs. Countries like India argued that restricting plastic packaging could leave millions hungry due to increased food waste.

The trade-off between plastic use and public health

"The absence of plastic packaging meant food delivery to millions of



From left to right: Honourable Dr Dion George - Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Chandru Wadhvani - Joint Managing Director, Extrupet, His excellency Nelson Muffuh - UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa, Dr Meseret Zemedkun - UN Head for Environmental Program for Southern Africa

people would be compromised," Wadhvani says. "The trade off in reducing plastic use came at quite a significant direct cost on public health and livelihoods."

This "Faustian paradox" - being "damned if you do, damned if you don't" - underscores why the developing world remains dependent on plastic packaging solutions.

ing solutions.

"It's a real catch-22," Wadhvani admits. "Cut plastic use, and you might end up with more societal issues."

Extrupet PET recycling solutions for the future

Despite everything, Wadhvani stays positive. His recipe for success? "Design products to be truly recyclable,

not just "technically" recyclable, and make sure markets are mandated to buy the recycled material," he says. "Get those right, and the rest falls into place."

While the world waits for its next shot at a plastic treaty, companies like Extrupet show that local action and smart business can move the needle on recycling.

15 YEARS OF INNOVATION, DEDICATION AND EXPERTISE

Extrupet, the leading name in South Africa's recycling industry, is celebrating 15 years of producing high-quality food-grade rPET using advanced technologies like Vacunite, Vacurema and Starlinger.

Since our establishment in 2000, Extrupet has become one of the largest and most advanced recyclers of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottle materials on the African continent. We specialise in reclaiming and converting waste PET bottles into various grades of PET flakes and chips.

We continuously strive to innovate and improve recycling technologies by closely monitoring international developments and ensure that we stay at the forefront of sustainable practices and new regulations that aim to reduce plastic pollution.

Our state-of-the-art laboratory and testing facility ensure all products can be guaranteed and certified as fit for purpose within the specified industry.



CONTACT US:

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Waste Synergy boosts ESG scores with waste management



SINCE 2011, Waste Synergy has been redefining waste management in South Africa, offering clients more than just compliance solutions.

With a leadership team that brings over 60 years of combined industry experience, the company has positioned itself as a trusted partner for businesses seeking to

"... customised strategies that fit seamlessly into a client's operations."

strengthen their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance while improving operational efficiency.

What sets Waste Synergy apart is its commitment to tailored solutions. Every engagement begins with a free waste audit, designed to uncover opportunities and inefficiencies unique to each client.

Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, the company develops customised strategies that fit seamlessly into a client's operations. This prac-

tical, hands-on methodology ensures that waste management plans are not only sustainable but also financially beneficial.

Circular economy and recycling solutions

At the heart of Waste Synergy's model is a holistic approach to the full waste stream. From daily sorting of recyclables, hazardous materials, and general waste to handling niche categories such as e-waste, food waste, and composites, their trained teams manage every detail.

For waste that cannot be recycled through conventional methods, Waste Synergy works with a network of specialists to repurpose materials or channel them into waste-to-energy solutions. This focus on circular economy principles transforms waste into value, reducing landfill dependence and supporting long-term sustainability goals.

Sustainable waste reporting and compliance

Transparency and accountability are em-

bedded in the company's operations. Clients can opt for daily updates on waste volumes and recycling rates, backed by photographic evidence and on-site inspections.

All collections are logged and weighed, and certificates are provided to confirm safe disposal or composting. Consolidated reporting, including a single monthly invoice, makes administration simple and clear, while aggregated recycling volumes across multiple clients help secure better rates, the benefits of which are passed directly back to businesses.

Training and awareness in waste management

Waste Synergy also understands that successful waste management depends on people as much as processes. The company invests in training and awareness campaigns for client staff, delivered in multiple African languages to ensure accessibility across diverse teams.

By empowering employees to reduce contamination and improve collection systems, businesses not only see higher recycling rates but also foster a culture of accountability and shared responsibility.

Regular audits form another pillar of Waste Synergy's service. These audits provide insights into the types and volumes of waste being generated, enabling companies to

refine their strategies and set measurable improvement targets. In practice, this means less waste to landfill, higher recovery rates - often between 70% and 95% depending on the industry - and more opportunities to repurpose, sell, or donate materials that would otherwise be discarded.

ESG reporting benefits of waste management

For companies focused on ESG reporting, the benefits are clear. Waste Synergy's services directly strengthen the environmental component by minimising waste and embracing circular economy principles.

They contribute to the social dimension through job creation, training, and community engagement. And on the governance front, transparent reporting and strict compliance protocols reduce risk and enhance credibility with regulators, investors, and stakeholders.

By combining technical expertise with a people-centred approach, Waste Synergy delivers more than waste management. It offers businesses a pathway to measurable ESG improvement, operational savings, and genuine environmental impact. In a world where sustainability has become both a moral and business imperative, Waste Synergy stands out as a partner capable of turning waste into opportunity.

Stop pretending waste pickers don't exist

SOUTH Africa has high recycling rates thanks to waste reclaimers, but refuses to treat them as real workers. They collect up to 80% of recycled packaging, yet remain invisible to policy, unpaid, and unprotected.

Regenize doesn't just recycle; its REACT solution digitalises and formalises reclaimers' work, removing generations of exploitation with fair pay, provides Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and gives dignity to their role.

According to Chad Robertson, Regenize co-founder and CEO, there are an estimated 60 000 - 90 000 waste pickers in South Africa who collect as much as 80% of the country's recycled paper and packaging. "Yet they operate in dangerous, unregulated conditions, sorting waste by hand, moving through landfill sites and city streets with no guarantee of income or social protection."

"Regenize doesn't just recycle; its REACT solution digitalises and formalises reclaimers' work, removing generations of exploitation with fair pay, provides Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and gives dignity to their role."

Robertson stresses that municipal or private recycling systems rarely interact meaningfully with this workforce. "Without proper infrastructure, access to clean recyclables, transport, PPE, or formal recognition, they remain uncompensat-



Chad Robertson, Regenize co-founder and CEO

ed essential workers in a broken supply chain."

Each decentralised recycling hub created by REACT provides reclaimers with access to clean recyclables from at least 1 200 households, increases income by up to 300%, provides uniforms, PPE, tablets for tracking, and formal

ed instantly and can be converted into tangible resources either online or through our network of shops in our operational community.

Within the next 12 months, REACT will be setting up another 31 decentralised recycling hubs, taking them to 36 in total in the Cape Town region. These hubs will provide their free recycling collection service to 43 200 households, create 180 jobs for waste reclaimers, while diverting around 5500 tonnes annually.

"If South Africa wants credible recycling, it must honour - and compensate - its waste reclaimers. Regenize's REACT rewrites the narrative: reclaimers are not charity cases - they are frontline agents of sustainability. And when recycling becomes fair, participation and impact follow," he concludes.

integration into the recycling process - turning them into formally employed partners and they can enjoy the basic labour rights we all enjoy in South Africa.

Households earn Rmali points after each recycling collection. These points are credit-



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Plastics SA calls for balanced global plastics treaty

PLASTICS SA, the umbrella body for South Africa's plastics industry, has expressed concern over the failure of governments to reach agreement at last week's Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) session in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting, aimed at securing a legally binding global treaty on plastic pollution, ended without consensus.

Despite days of consultations and last-minute revisions, deep divisions over scope, financing, sustainable production, and design requirements stalled progress. The Chair adjourned proceedings without a clear way forward.

Anton Hanekom, Executive Director of Plastics SA, who attended as an observer, said compromise proved elusive. "While differences remain, particularly on regulating specific products or chemicals, there were signs of flexibility. Although INC-5.2 ended without consensus, the process highlighted both challenges and opportunities."

Call for practical, balanced solutions

Plastics SA reiterated its support for coalitions such as the Global Partners for Plastics Circularity (GPPC), emphasising the need for practical, implementable solutions.

"A workable treaty must balance environmental goals with economic realities and respect the needs of developing countries," Hanekom said. "South Africa supports approaches that incentivise sustainable design, promote recycling investment, and expand waste management to the billions without access. The plastics industry is already investing heavily to keep plastics in the economy and out of the environment."

South Africa entered the talks committed to advancing both domestic and international efforts. During the negotiations, Environment Minister Dr Dion George met with industry, civil society, and business stakeholders to strengthen national partnerships on the circular economy.

"Our industry remains united in opposing the inclusion of chemicals within the plastics treaty framework, advocating instead for clear, risk-based assessments," Hanekom added. "The priority is practical solutions that advance circularity without un-

dermining progress already underway."

Local progress in recycling and circularity

Hanekom highlighted significant strides at home. South Africa has implemented Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations,

holding producers accountable for the life-cycle of their products.

"Our EPR system is driving investment in recycling infrastructure, encouraging product design innovation, and strengthening collaboration across the value chain," he said. Projects include packaging reuse, improved

sorting, training waste pickers, and river catchment clean-ups.

The results are measurable: in 2024, recycle use rose by 67% over the past decade. Per capita plastic consumption remains stable at 27 kg—well below the global average. Despite 39% of the population lacking formal

waste collection, South Africa recycled and reused 458,000 tons of plastic waste last year, achieving an output rate of 28.4%—more than double the global average.

"These measures show that we are not waiting for a global treaty to take action," Hanekom said.

Momentum will continue despite Geneva's setback. South Africa will host the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministerial in Cape Town in October 2025, with plastics, waste, and chemicals high on the agenda.

"The world cannot afford failure,"

Hanekom concluded. "A global plastics treaty remains the best opportunity to coordinate action, accelerate the circular economy, and protect the environment for future generations. Plastics SA stands ready to contribute expertise and innovation to ensure negotiations succeed."



Clean-up & Recycle
S O U T H A F R I C A

Spring time is clean-up time.

This is the ideal time to turn our attention and efforts to cleaning up our environment. Every piece of litter that is carelessly discarded, makes its way via waterways, rivers and streams, to our oceans! As the weather warms up, head outdoors and make a difference wherever you are! At work, school or play, your smallest actions make the difference and create awareness!

SEPTEMBER 2025

15 – 20 Clean-up and Recycle SA Week	17 National River Clean-up Day	19 National Recycling Day	20 International Coastal Clean-up Day	20 Let's Do it World Clean-up Day
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The plastics industry and partners taking action
www.cleanupandrecycle.co.za
 supported by global networks.



Waste management for a cleaner safer South Africa



MODERN waste management is more than just about safe operations; it's about providing dignity to all South Africans and safeguarding communities and the environment for many generations to come.

With no new landfill permits granted to Gauteng over the past two decades and the province producing about 45% of South Africa's municipal waste, the country urgently needs to find solutions to counter the environmental and social issues that will inevitably arise, if not addressed.

"With about 90% of waste reportedly still going to landfill, our efforts need to be fast-tracked if we are going to make significant progress over the next five years."

Sonia Pretorius, National Sales Manager for 600SA, a division of CFAO Equipment, says while various governmental, corporate and civil society organisations introduced waste management initiatives nationally, South Africa has some way to go to meet its Vision 2030 goals as laid out in the National Development Plan, specifically as it relates to environmental sustainability.

"The country's Waste Management Strategy (2020) is premised on three pillars – cleaner communities, a well-managed and financially stable waste service and a culture of zero tolerance of pollution. Part of this strategy is aimed at diverting 55% of waste from landfill by 2030. With about 90% of waste reportedly still going to landfill, our efforts need to be fast-tracked if we are going to make significant progress over the next five years."

600SA waste management solutions for municipalities

She believes 600SA is well positioned to help municipalities deal with waste more effectively, creating safer environments for all South Africans. "Currently, Gauteng and its surroundings spend millions on landfill rehabilitation and dealing with illegal dumping every year."

"Additionally, 178 out of 420 waste compactors are not operational in the area this year, further stymying efforts to keep up with their heavy workloads."

Tackling illegal dumping with practical waste solutions

She adds that the millions spent on illegal dumping could be solved by placing large skips at strategic points – especially near informal settlements – to avert illegal dumping. "The reason many people dump their waste is that they do not have access to regular municipal services. The placement of skips close to these areas will not only help reduce illegal dumping, but it will afford communities greater dignity and safer environments to live in."

Municipalities should also be using durable and safe equipment that minimises spills, reduces contamination risks and ensures responsible waste processing. The equipment should be supported by maintenance contracts to ensure breakdowns are dealt with immediately, allowing municipal-

ities to operate at full capacity.

Pretorius says 600SA's Orakçi ORV Waste Compactor series boasts advanced safety features that are setting a new standard for environmental care in industrial waste handling.

"Spills and leaks have been a major annoyance for South Africa's populace in residential areas. That's why our compactor bins are fully welded on both sides, translating into zero leaks. The bins also have automatic tailgate locking, comprising a rubber section to the rear of the compactor, which creates a seal that prevents spills or leaks. The municipalities using our equipment noted a reduction in complaints from the populace."

Key to safe operation of the compactor is training. "When we deliver a new compactor, we ensure the recipient operators are fully trained on how the equipment works and all that needs to be done, to keep it well maintained."

To ensure regional support for its equipment, 600SA is establishing two local service centres – in Johannesburg and Tshwane. "This is part of an enterprise development initiative that we are extremely excited about. These centres will ensure there is somewhere for equipment to be maintained – without the need to travel long distances to do so," adds Pretorius.

She says 600SA has a vested interest in a cleaner, safer and more sustainable South Africa. "We want to be part of the solution to improve how communities live and dispose of their waste. We are invested in and support Vision 2030, with the belief that we need to act now to improve the spaces we live, work and play in."

ABB's mission to Zero™ Blueprint for a Net Zero future

ABB's Mission to Zero™ is a global initiative designed to advance a sustainable future with zero emissions, zero accidents, and zero waste. It reflects ABB's long-term commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility while aligning with global sustainability goals.

"Mission to Zero™ reflects ABB's commitment to sustainability, and our aim is to make a real impact by enabling both our own operations and our customers to lower emissions," says Bradley James, Product Marketing Director, EDLS, South Africa.

By combining advanced energy management systems with electrification and renewable technologies, ABB has committed to reaching net zero by 2030 across its factories worldwide. At the same time, it is helping customers and suppliers achieve their own decarbonisation goals.

"ABB can play a pivotal role in supporting South Africa's climate goals by accelerating renewable integration, promoting efficiency, and modernising the grid," James says.

Driving Zero emissions

A central focus of Mission to Zero™ is reducing carbon emissions and accelerating the shift to sustainable energy. ABB develops technologies that improve efficiency, integrate renewable energy sources, and lower greenhouse gas emissions across industries.

Through tailored energy architectures, customers benefit from reduced CO₂ emissions, lower energy loss, cost savings, and compliance with environmental product declarations (EPD) and certifications.

In South Africa, ABB supports decarbonisation through local manufacturing of Compact Secondary Substations (CSS) and the rollout of SF₆-free gas-insulated switchgear, alongside global initiatives such as its Dalmine, Italy, factory. There, ABB has installed photovoltaics (PV) and smart energy management systems that now generate more than 20% of the factory's summer energy needs and cut CO₂ emissions by over

2,200 tons in just two years.

Promoting circularity

ABB is also committed to minimising waste by embracing circular economy principles – reducing material use, recycling, and reusing resources wherever possible. Life cycle assessments (LCA) and EPD certifications ensure products and processes conserve resources while maintaining transparency.

"South Africa continues to face load-shedding and power shortages, which drives us to innovate," explains James. "At ABB, we are focused on generating, storing, and utilising energy more efficiently, reducing reliance on the grid while operating safely and sustainably."

Empowering local businesses

James highlights the Energy Efficiency Movement (EEM), a

global ABB-led initiative that helps industries accelerate energy efficiency solutions. It serves as a platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing, offering companies practical steps to reduce energy use.

"Local businesses can join the EEM, conduct energy audits, upgrade to energy-efficient equipment, and actively involve employees in energy-saving practices," says James.

With South Africa's energy challenges, ABB's solutions – including microgrids, storage, and smart power management – help municipalities and businesses optimise energy use, inte-



Bradley James, Product Marketing Director, EDLS, South Africa.

grate renewables, and strengthen energy security.

Four pillars of mission to Zero™

For a site to qualify as a Mission to Zero™ operation, it must integrate ABB and third-party solutions to advance:

1. Planning – strategic energy roadmaps.
2. Innovation – deploying advanced electrification and automation.
3. Monitoring – real-time energy insights.
4. Sustainability – embedding efficiency and renewables at scale.

These pillars align closely with South Africa's Just Energy Transition (JET) objectives, which focus on decarbonisation, energy security, and inclusive socioeconomic growth. ABB contributes by decarbonising power systems, enabling clean-tech industries, and supporting grid resilience.

"ABB can play a pivotal role in supporting South Africa's climate goals by accelerating renewable integration, promoting efficiency, and modernising the grid," James says.

Digital technology is central to Mission to

Zero™, providing intelligence and control to manage energy more sustainably. ABB's Smart Substation Control and Protection (SSC600 SW) is the first virtualised protection and control solution for substations.

Unlike traditional systems, SSC600 SW is hardware-independent, allowing customers to optimise IT infrastructure and consolidate multiple systems onto one platform. This reduces equipment needs, streamlines maintenance, and enhances operational flexibility – further cutting costs and environmental impact.

"At ABB, we believe digitalisation is the key to unlocking a low-carbon future," says James. "Our technologies give customers the visibility and tools to turn ambition into action."

Electrifying a sustainable future

ABB Electrification, with over 50 000 employees in 100 countries, is a global leader in energy distribution and management. By combining global scale with local expertise, ABB delivers innovative technologies that improve efficiency and support a low-carbon society.

Learn more: go.abb/electrification

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FUCHS FRICOFIN LL 50 premium long life coolant

FROM the scorching heat of the Northern Cape to the breezy peaks of the Drakensberg, South Africa's roads are as diverse as they are demanding, and require reliable engine performance. FRICOFIN LL 50, a long-life, high-performance coolant by FUCHS LUBRICANTS SOUTH AFRICA, ensures your vehicle is up to the task.

Regardless of the application, FRICOFIN LL 50 is engineered to keep your vehicle running cooler for longer.

- Passenger Vehicles: Provides long-life protection for everyday reliability.
- Heavy-Duty Trucks: Combats corrosion and scaling even under extreme loads.
- Commercial Fleets: Extended drain intervals mean less downtime and more profit.

Unmatched protection and performance

As a ready-mixed coolant, FRICOFIN LL 50 is based on monoethylene glycol, offering robust protection against frost down to a chilling -40°C. It is meticulously formulated free of nitrites, amines, borates, silicates, and phosphates, utilising Organic Acid Technology (OAT) to deliver a stable inhibitor system. This advanced technology ensures long-lasting protection against deposits, cavitation, and corrosion.

Approvals

- CAT / MWM TR 0199-99-2091
- DAF 74002
- DEUTZ DQC CB-14
- DTFR 29D110 (MB 326.3)
- MAN 324 TYPE SNF
- MTU MTL 5048

Key advantages of FRICOFIN LL 50

- Ready-to-Use: Comes pre-mixed with demineralised water.
- Comprehensive Protection: Offers superior defense against freezing, overheating, and corrosion.
- Extended Drain Intervals: Designed for the longest change intervals,

reducing maintenance downtime and costs.

- Heavy-Duty Application: Successfully tested for heavy-duty applications without requiring an initial filling of Supplement Coolant Additive (SCA).
- Compatibility: Safe for use with seals, plastics, and non-ferrous metals, minimising wear and tear.
- Safety Feature: Contains a bittering agent to prevent accidental ingestion.

“Our commitment to developing innovative solutions drives the mobility of tomorrow - efficient, sustainable, and reliable,” says Gregory Tarr, the Application Engineers Manager at FUCHS LUBRICANTS SOUTH AFRICA.

“FRICOFIN LL 50 exemplifies this promise, offering technology that not only protects your engine but also adds value through reduced maintenance costs and enhanced vehicle performance,” Tarr adds.

As with all coolants, it is crucial to observe the manufacturers' compatibility and recommendations.

With over 90 years of expertise and a relentless commitment to innovation, FUCHS delivers tailor-made lubrication solutions for automotive, industrial, and specialty applications.

In South Africa, FUCHS is trusted by OEMs, workshops, and everyday drivers alike for its uncompromising quality and performance.

Choosing the right oil shouldn't be a gamble. With the FUCHS LUBRICANTS Oil

Chooser, it's never been easier to find the perfect lubricant for your vehicle.

Whether you're driving a rugged bakkie, a high-performance sedan, or managing a fleet of commercial vehicles, our intelligent tool matches your exact make and model

with the ideal FUCHS product - fast, accurate, and hassle-free.

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Steinmüller Africa rigger apprentices earn Red Seal



Rigging Training Officer Henry Ellis with Steinmüller Africa newly Red Seal certified apprentices.

EIGHTEEN rigger apprentices from Steinmüller Africa have reached a significant career milestone after successfully obtaining their Red Seal certifications. The Red Seal certification is South Africa's premier trade qualification, enhancing employability and providing artisan mobility both domestically and internationally.

The apprentices completed their rigorous two-year training programme that began in March 2023, demonstrating mastery of technical skills and workplace competencies required in the rigging trade.

"This achievement represents our dedication to building a skilled workforce that meets industry demands," said Francois Strydom, Senior Team Leader: Technical Training. The

comprehensive training programme combined theoretical learning with hands-on experience, structured mentorship, and continuous evaluation.

Steinmüller Africa celebrates certified rigger apprentices

The newly certified riggers are: Siyabonga Charles Thwala, Sifiso Johannes Mayisela, Queen Boitumelo Maseko, Thandiwe Victoria Mashego, Sibusiso Christian Mbokodo, Sfiso Gift Skosana, Colleen Thokozani Ngubeni, Melusi Dlamini, Rinae Mutele, Mpho Lamola, Nkosingiphile Nkosi, Siyabonga Jonathan Mhlangu, Sthembiso Samson Msibi, Bongani Themba, Sibusiso Ndebele, Marvelous Mkhubo Bongwe, Muzwakhe Junior Samuel Mabuza, and Sandile Mhlangu.

"We came from different homes but became a family. As rigging apprentices, we faced tough challenges and even loss, but we stayed calm, focused and kept learning. Thank you to our Training Officer, our leaders and Steinmüller Africa. These Red Seals were earned together, one goal, one team. Salute to the Riggers. We did it," said newly certified rigger, Muzwakhe Mabuza.

Five additional apprentices are currently preparing for their trade tests and will complete their certification soon. The programme, accredited by merSETA and QCTO, operates in partnership with NAMB and includes mentoring, academic support, workplace supervision, and emotional guidance throughout the training period.

Nexus Smart Crane and Lifting Management System

THE lifting industry is evolving and so are the tools that support it. At the forefront of this transformation is Nexus, a purpose-built asset and crane monitoring system from RGM Cranes that's reshaping how operators manage service, safety, and performance across their lifting equipment portfolios.

Unlike generic asset platforms, Nexus has been engineered specifically for the lifting sector, combining AI-powered analytics with real-time dashboards, predictive maintenance tools, and digital compliance tracking.

erating Officer / President at RGM Cranes. "It creates a new level of clarity. One where service decisions are data-backed, compliance is seamless, and performance is continuously improving."

Service and compliance features of Nexus

On the service side, Nexus digitises every element of asset tracking from inspections and repairs to load test registers and technician reviews. Its compliance-first design ensures all documentation is auditable and traceable, with digital sign-off, en-



David Dowling, Group Operating Officer / President at RGM Cranes.

"Nexus doesn't just digitise the lifting environment...It creates a new level of clarity..."

It's available as both an asset management system and an onboard crane monitoring solution, each designed to eliminate operational blind spots and streamline the way crane infrastructure is managed.

"Nexus doesn't just digitise the lifting environment," says David Dowling, Group Op-

erating Officer / President at RGM Cranes. "It creates a new level of clarity. One where service decisions are data-backed, compliance is seamless, and performance is continuously improving."

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Predictive maintenance and financial insights

One of Nexus' stand-out features is its use of AI to generate predictive maintenance alerts and highlight efficiency trends. Clients are no longer waiting for breakdowns. They're staying ahead of them. Financial analytics are just as powerful, offering a granular breakdown of service, breakdown, and supply costs across sites and buildings to support better budgeting.

For end-users, the result is higher uptime, faster audits, and improved trust. For operators and maintenance teams, it's the ability to manage cranes more efficiently, reduce excessive or duplicate repairs, and meet compliance obligations with confidence.

"At its core, Nexus is about enabling smarter, safer lifting," Dowling adds. "We're giving operators the tools to see risk before it becomes failure and to take action with confidence."

Innovation and safety in crane and lifting management

Nexus reflects RGM Cranes' commitment to innovation and safety in the lifting industry. Whether you're running a high-capacity manufacturing line or managing cranes across multiple sites, Nexus offers a smart, scalable way to improve reliability, ensure regulatory compliance, and drive operational excellence.

As the demands on lifting systems grow, so too must the systems that support them. Nexus is leading the way.



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- Piping technology
- Pipe supports
- Plant erection services
- Explosive welding

GET IN TOUCH WITH US:

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DOCKYARD OFFERS ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES

Armcor Dockyard is ISO 9001 certified and manages and operates the Naval Dockyard as the South African Navy's (SAN) third-line maintenance and refitting authority. The Dockyard, under the leadership of Advocate Solomzi Mbada, focuses on repairing, maintaining and supporting submarines, ships and shore-based facilities for the commercial and defence industries. Other services include manufacturing low- to medium-precision components through additive and subtractive manufacturing technologies.

WHY CHOOSE US

Dockyard offers a one-stop shop where all requirements for ship repair can be met. Workshop facilities are geared to support a range of vessels of different sizes and different hull structures such as frigates, fishing vessels, submarines, survey boats and yachts. Our dry dock has even accommodated the expeditionary vessel SA Agulhas.



SERVICES OFFERED:

Vessel and Facility Maintenance and Repairs – Dockyard's workshops are powered by highly skilled and effective personnel who ensure the necessary solutions for the maintenance and repair of vessel hulls, propulsion plants, primary systems, mechanical auxiliary systems, electrical systems, electronic systems, weapon systems, and offshore facilities.



Fabrication Solutions – A wide range of machining services, including turning, milling, boring, honing, and drilling, are provided to enable the production of low- to medium-precision components. Additionally, Armcor Dockyard runs a foundry that facilitates the casting of non-ferrous metals. The chemical cleaning bay (2m x 2m x 2m bins), spray booth (13 x 4.8m), and blast booth can assist parts that need surface preparation (11 x 6.5m).



Engineering Services – A materials testing facility is part of Armcor Dockyard and provides a variety of services, including corrosion surveys, non-destructive testing, condition-based testing, and metallurgy.



Docking and Carnage Services – The Armcor Dockyard is made up of a deep water port, covered repair sheds, graving dock, and synchro lift, all of which can provide the access needed for maintenance and where equipment must be removed and installed. The site is equipped with 2 sheds where weather critical work can be performed, and includes water and electricity supply for all vessels on the hard.



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION





Portal cranes for Ghana and Saudi Arabia

MINING engineering company FL Smidth (FLS) has expanded its workshop capabilities with new portal cranes in Ghana and Saudi Arabia, supplied by Johannesburg-based manufacturer Condra.

In Ghana, FLS has decommissioned a 10-ton Condra portal crane in Mozambique and re-located it to its workshop in Accra. This unit will be joined by two newly built 10-ton cranes of similar design and ca-

capacity. Meanwhile, FLS Saudi Arabia has taken delivery of two 15-ton portal cranes for its workshop in Dammam.

The four cranes, completed by Condra and dispatched in mid-August, fulfilled

orders placed in March by FLS's Sub-Saharan and West Africa Procurement Service. Condra and FLS enjoy a long-standing partnership, built on reliable, robust cranes backed by efficient service and maintenance across Africa and the Middle East.

Portal cranes for Ghana

The three cranes destined for Accra will be used for workshop maintenance. To meet FLS requirements, Condra customised the end-carriages with spaced nylon-treaded wheels, ensuring floor loading does not exceed 5 000 kg.

The Mozambique crane will be modified upon arrival to match the twin 10-ton machines. To maximise floor space and lifting height within the workshop constraints, Condra deployed Titan SH short-headroom hoists and vertically mounted geared drives. This design reduced the required floorspace by half compared to conventional mounts.

Additional features include digital loadcell hoist readouts, variable-speed drives on long travels, and pendant backup for remote control.

Portal cranes for Saudi Arabia

The two 15-ton cranes for Dammam share a similar configuration but run on conventional steel wheels and rails. Their design overcame strict space limitations - just 8.3 metres across by 5.4 metres high - by using Titan SH hoists.

These cranes also include Condra's signature features, but with two-speed drives instead of variable-speed. Assembly and transport were optimised using 3D modelling software, allowing each order to ship in just two containers.

Titan SH hoist advantages

Condra's Titan SH hoists are engineered to maximise factory space by reducing headroom requirements. Standard features include automatic rope tensioning, smoother travel, built-in load limiters, universal carriage design, and direct drives.

Installation and commissioning of the FLS cranes in Accra and Dammam are scheduled for late September, further strengthening FLS's operational capacity in West Africa and the Middle East.



THESE MACHINES HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED TO ENDURE

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

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Gold Pack matting solutions boost safety and efficiency

IN today's competitive market, businesses seek every advantage. While many focus on technology or logistics, flooring is often overlooked. The right matting system is more than a surface - it's an investment in safety, efficiency, and employee well-being.

Gold Pack (Pty) Ltd supplies a wide range of premium matting solutions tailored for diverse B2B environments.

High-quality matting reduces far more than slip-and-fall risks. Workplace accidents cause costly downtime and compliance issues that ripple across organisations. By addressing these risks proactively, companies protect their bottom line and foster a culture of care and inclusion.

Heronrib: For wet areas

Industries with wet-floor conditions - mines, gyms, and commercial kitchens - benefit from Heronrib Non-slip Matting. This non-porous PVC surface provides excellent slip resistance and drainage, while antibacterial and antifungal properties deliver superior hygiene. Flexible and easy to cut without tools, it adapts to uneven surfaces, making it ideal for showers, wash areas, and canteens.

Vynagrip: Heavy-duty protection

In industrial and food service environments, Vynagrip sets the standard. Its raised diamond tread ensures traction for foot traffic and equipment, reducing slips and skids.

Constructed from heavy-duty PVC, Vynagrip is resistant to fluids and low temperatures, perfect for freezers and spill-prone areas. Its two-layer grid supports drainage and cushions workers who stand for long periods, improving safety, comfort, and productivity.

Frontrunner Plus: Entrance control

Entrances are the first impression of a business. Frontrunner Plus Matting stops dirt and moisture before they spread. Its tread pattern scrapes footwear and wheels clean, while carpet inserts absorb moisture, keeping interiors safer and cleaner.

Easy to install in mat wells or surface-mounted, Frontrunner Plus is available in a variety of colours and styles—with logo customisation for a stronger brand identity.

Crossgrip: Roof walkway safety

For businesses with flat commercial roofs,

proper maintenance and safety are paramount. Crossgrip Roof Walkway Matting systems provide a safe, stable pathway for workers and protect the roof surface itself.

Available in various options tailored for different roof membranes, Crossgrip matting features cross-directional ribs

and an open-grid format for excellent grip and drainage. Elevating workers off the roof surface protects against damage from heavy foot traffic, dropped tools, and other maintenance activities. Quick and easy to install with-out tools or adhesives, Crossgrip is a maintenance-free

solution that ensures the longevity of your roof while prioritising safety.

Building a culture of care

Matting is more than a safety measure—it shows employees their wellbeing matters. Companies that invest in proper flooring see:

- Reduced absenteeism
- Improved morale and retention
- Lower hiring costs
- Increased productivity

With Gold Pack's solutions, flooring becomes a driver of performance, safety, and culture.



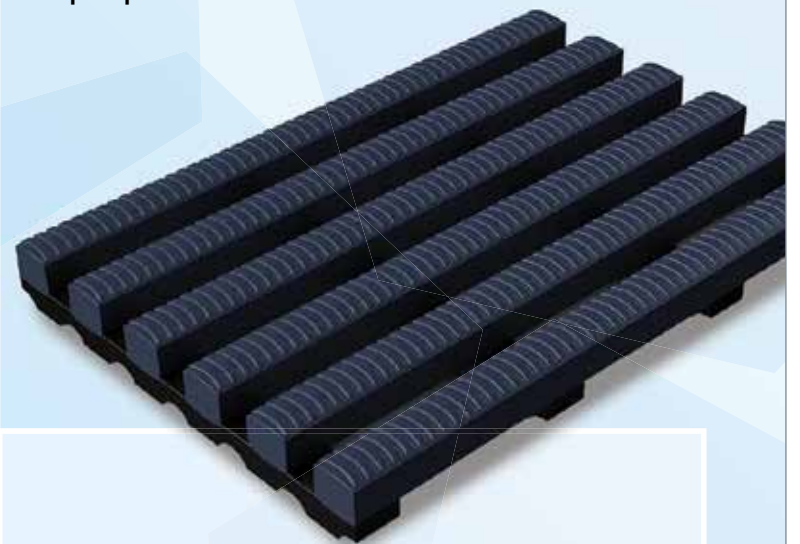
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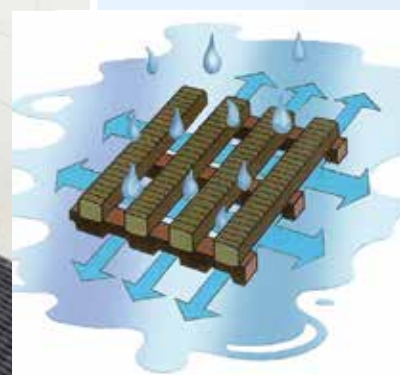
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THE AD SHOP 3103



VEGA differential pressure solutions for mining

CHALLENGES are found in any process environment, with the mining and chemical sectors facing a multitude, mostly in pressure management in extreme environments. Reliable and accurate pressure measurement ensures safety, efficiency, and operation-

al optimisation. For more than 40 years, VEGA has been a reliable partner in pressure measurement, known for providing durable instrumentation and dependable solutions. The VEGADIF 85 differential pressure transmitter has proven to be invaluable, improving

process control, even in the most unforgiving environments.

Differential pressure provides important information about flow rates, levels, and filter performance, ensuring the safe and efficient operation of processing facilities. The VEGADIF 85 excels at

delivering highly accurate measurements under fluctuating process conditions. In the mining and minerals sector, fluid compositions and pressures can vary significantly depending on the type of ore or tailings, and precise differential pressure measurement is

key for maintaining system stability. Similarly, in applications like chemical or petrochemical processing, controlling differential pressure is indispensable for optimising energy usage, which in turn leads to significant cost savings in the long term. Engineered for durability, the VEGADIF 85 thrives in environments where extreme conditions are common. Mining operations encounter high temperatures, abrasive materials, and wide pressure ranges, all of which constantly strain equipment. With its robust construction and advanced measurement capabilities, the VEGADIF 85 is designed to perform well and consistently in these conditions.

VEGADIF 85 goes beyond standard differential pressure measurement and can measure static pressure with exceptional precision, making it ideal for monitoring pumps, filters, heat exchangers, and pipelines. Constant accuracy is vital to maintaining operational efficiency, with processes often requiring swift adjustments to equipment and operations. Facilitated through real-time differential pressure measurements, operators can maintain precise control over slurry flows, ore processing, and tailings management. In chemical and petrochemical plants, VEGADIF 85 provides similarly critical support by monitoring pressure in key systems to promote both safety and efficiency. In heat exchanger systems, the transmitter monitors pressure drops across exchangers, guaranteeing energy-efficient operation, reducing energy consumption, and drastically lowering operational costs.

Setting the bar higher

VEGA measurement solutions are tailored to provide high performance in environments where precision is crucial, with the VEGABAR product range widely used across all industries to ensure optimal pressure control. With over four decades of expertise in pressure measurement, VEGA has established itself as a reliable and trusted partner. VEGA process instrumentation enables operators to take a proactive approach to system monitoring, ensuring that inefficiencies are identified early and corrected before costly equipment failures occur. VEGA delivers precision, reliability, and real-time control, aiming to optimise operations and protect equipment and profits.

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Everything is possible. With VEGA.

South African-engineered pinch valves set benchmark in African gold mining

A set of hydraulically operated Corflex pinch valves, installed in 2018 at a major North African gold mine, has delivered seven years of uninterrupted service in one of the continent's most demanding slurry-handling applications.

These robust pinch valves, which were designed and manufactured in South Africa by Corflex Engineering, in partnership with BMG Fluid Technology, offer a dependable solution that demonstrates sustained performance under abrasive, high-pressure conditions, with minimal maintenance. The valves also boast zero operational failures to date.

tem design. The core wear component - the sleeve - was pressure-tested to 40 bar, ensuring a 60 percent safety margin over system pressure. With no internal obstructions or mechanical components exposed to media, the valve body has required no servicing since commissioning.

"We didn't just supply a valve, we engineered a system," says Taylor Black, Business Development Manager, Fluid Tech Projects BMG's Fluid Technology division. "Seven years on, those units are still in service and still outperforming expectations. That's testament to proper specification, quality components, robust local manufacturing and successful technical partnerships."

The hydraulic power units, engineered by BMG and manufactured in South Africa, use premium hydraulic components and are tailored for the rigours of mineral processing environments. Key features include condition monitoring compatibility, simplified maintenance access and operational resilience in the event of power loss.

Corflex pinch valves - widely deployed across South African mines - are increasingly being selected for international projects due to their full-bore, low maintenance design and ability to accommodate challenging flow conditions. Units have been exported and installed in mining operations across Africa, Australia, Asia and the Americas.

The wear sleeve is the only wetted component and is designed for fast replacement, without removing the valve from the line, significantly reducing downtime. Each unit is individually tested to withstand pressures

up to 200 bar, ensuring consistent reliability in both greenfield and retrofit operations

Corflex Engineering and BMG Fluid Technology continue to collaborate on integrated solutions that align valve and hydraulic system performance with the operational objectives of the mining sector, including safety, uptime and lifecycle cost efficiency.

The seven-year milestone at this mine is a noteworthy example of the value delivered when fit-for-purpose design meets operational discipline.

The BMG Fluid Technology team designs and manufactures advanced lubrication systems, hydraulic power packs, bulk fuel filtration systems, grease systems, cylinders, manifold blocks and electrical panels.

This equipment is supplied for various projects, including crushers, thickener drives, tailings applications, ball mills, filter presses, stacker reclaimers, fuel and oil filtration, furnace and winder applications, as well as load out stations.



Robust Corflex pinch valves - which were designed and manufactured in South Africa by Corflex Engineering, in partnership with BMG Fluid Technology - offer a dependable solution that demonstrates sustained performance under abrasive, high-pressure conditions, with minimal maintenance. These pinch valves also boast zero operational failures since installation seven years ago.

"We didn't just supply a valve, we engineered a system..."

The installation comprised 400 mm pinch valves rated to 25 bar, each actuated by a purpose-built hydraulic power pack, which was developed by BMG. The system was commissioned with integrated PLC and SCADA functionality, allowing for full remote operation and automated safety responses. The system incorporates fail-safe closure, pressure-rated sleeves and a robust manifold configuration tailored to the application, also meeting stringent uptime requirements.

The reliability of this installation is attributed to both the valve construction and the hydraulic sys-



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Smarter motor protection for quarries facing Eskom's phase loss challenges



QUARRY operations across the Western Cape are no strangers to tough conditions. Dust, vibration, abrasive loads, and round-the-clock production put enormous pressure on motors driving crushers, conveyors, and slurry pumps. Add

South Africa's ongoing energy supply challenges to the mix—particularly the risk of phase loss from Eskom—and the result is an environment where equipment failure and costly downtime can quickly become the norm.

For quarries that rely

on consistent throughput, a single unprotected motor fault can bring an entire operation to a standstill. That's why forward-thinking operators are investing in protection systems designed specifically for the realities of heavy industry.

The LA Series Relay – built for harsh conditions

NewElec's LA Series electronic motor protection relay is engineered with quarrying applications in mind. Unlike traditional thermal bi-metal relays, the LA Series offers microprocessor-based protection that continuously monitors motor performance and reacts instantly when abnormal conditions are detected.

Key features that matter on the quarry floor include:

- Phase loss and unbalanced current protection, critical for safeguarding against Eskom's supply instabilities.
- Thermal overload protection,

ensuring motors are shielded from sustained high loads.

- Locked rotor and running stall protection, preventing mechanical damage during start-ups or jams.
- Fail-safe trip relay configuration and clear LED fault indicators, giving operators confidence and quick insight into problems.
- Compatibility with VSDs and soft starters, ensuring stability in modernised plants.

With models covering 1 to 250 amps straight through, and no need for additional CTs, installation is simple and retrofit-friendly, making it an affordable step towards

smarter protection.

Why phase loss protection matters for quarries

In quarry operations, power supply interruptions are more than just an inconvenience—they're a direct threat to production. Phase loss or imbalance doesn't just reduce performance; it leads to overheating, insulation damage, and eventual motor failure. Crushers, for example, face heavy mechanical loads, and a phase failure can escalate into catastrophic equipment damage if not managed in seconds.

The LA Series Relay detects these faults early, isolates the problem, and prevents escalation. By automating fault response

it ensures that small electrical issues don't spiral into large-scale production stoppages or emergency repairs.

Reduced Downtime, Safer Operations

Beyond protection, the LA Series helps operators achieve what matters most: predictable, continuous output. By catching early signs of motor stress and providing immediate feedback, the relay supports safer working conditions and reduces the pressure on maintenance teams.

For quarries working with tight margins and strict delivery schedules, this translates directly into improved efficiency and reduced costs.

Retrofit without overhauls

One of the biggest challenges for older quarry operations is modernising without massive capital expenditure. NewElec's protection relays are designed to slot directly into existing motor control centres, meaning upgrades can be done with minimal disruption. Operators gain modern protection features without complicated rewiring or replacing existing infrastructure.

A local solution, built for local challenges

Proudly designed and manufactured in South Africa, the LA Series Relay reflects an understanding of the country's industrial challenges—especially Eskom's unreliable supply. It's a practical, locally supported solution that equips quarry operations to keep moving forward, safely and reliably.

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Phase Loss Protection. Quarry Tough.

Stop costly downtime with the LA Series Relay

built in South Africa, for South African conditions



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- Thermal Overload Protection
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WearCheck Oil Analysis improves mining productivity



Neil Robinson, MD of WearCheck.

to assess the presence of trace elements of contaminants in the fluids. Different contaminants, and the concentration of the trace elements, indicate the presence (or absence) of potential mechanical problems.

Preventing downtime through predictive maintenance

THE scientific analysis of used oil and other fluids from machinery - to determine component wear patterns - is a key indicator of potential machine failure, and helps mining operations to avoid unscheduled production downtime.

Oil and fluid analysis is the core business of specialist condition monitoring company, WearCheck, which operates an expansive network of 16 world-class laboratories across Africa and beyond.

WearCheck laboratory technicians analyse samples of used oil, coolants, grease, fuel and other fluids, using a variety of testing techniques and laboratory instruments

With this forewarning, maintenance teams can plan to remove a particular machine from the production line and proceed with scheduled repairs, facilitating minimised disruption to productivity in the mine.

“We offer on-site sampling for mining clients, where required,” says Neil Robinson, MD of WearCheck. “Taking a sample correctly is critical to the accuracy of the test results – it is essential that no external contamination is accidentally included in the sample,” he explains.

“A good condition monitoring programme involves regular testing of samples from each machine, in order to establish a trend. In this way, if there is a deviation from

the pattern, it is quickly highlighted and flagged for remedial action, where necessary.”

WearCheck is dedicated to ensuring that mining and other industrial machinery operates at peak performance with reduced maintenance costs.

WearCheck expansion across Africa and beyond

Since its first laboratory opened in South Africa in 1976, the company has expanded across the continent, operating world-class laboratories in many countries across Africa and beyond, including RSA, Zambia, Namibia, DRC, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Mozambique, Dubai and India.

WearCheck has established itself as a leader in the preventative maintenance field, and serves as a condition monitoring hub. The company offers a selection of different monitoring techniques to enhance machinery performance and availability across various industries – mining, quarrying, power generation, agriculture, aviation, marine,

construction and many others.

WearCheck is committed to saving its customers time and money by helping to maximise machine availability and performance. Some of the additional predictive maintenance techniques offered by WearCheck include asset reliability

care (ARC), transformer oil analysis, water analysis, lubricant-enabled reliability (LER) services and advanced field services (AFS) such as non-destructive testing, technical compliance and rope condition assessment.

WearCheck’s condition monitoring pro-

grammes can be tailored for the different types of machinery that are common to different industries, and for varying operating conditions.

WearCheck is the only condition monitoring company on the African continent with ISO 9001 quality certification and ISO 14001

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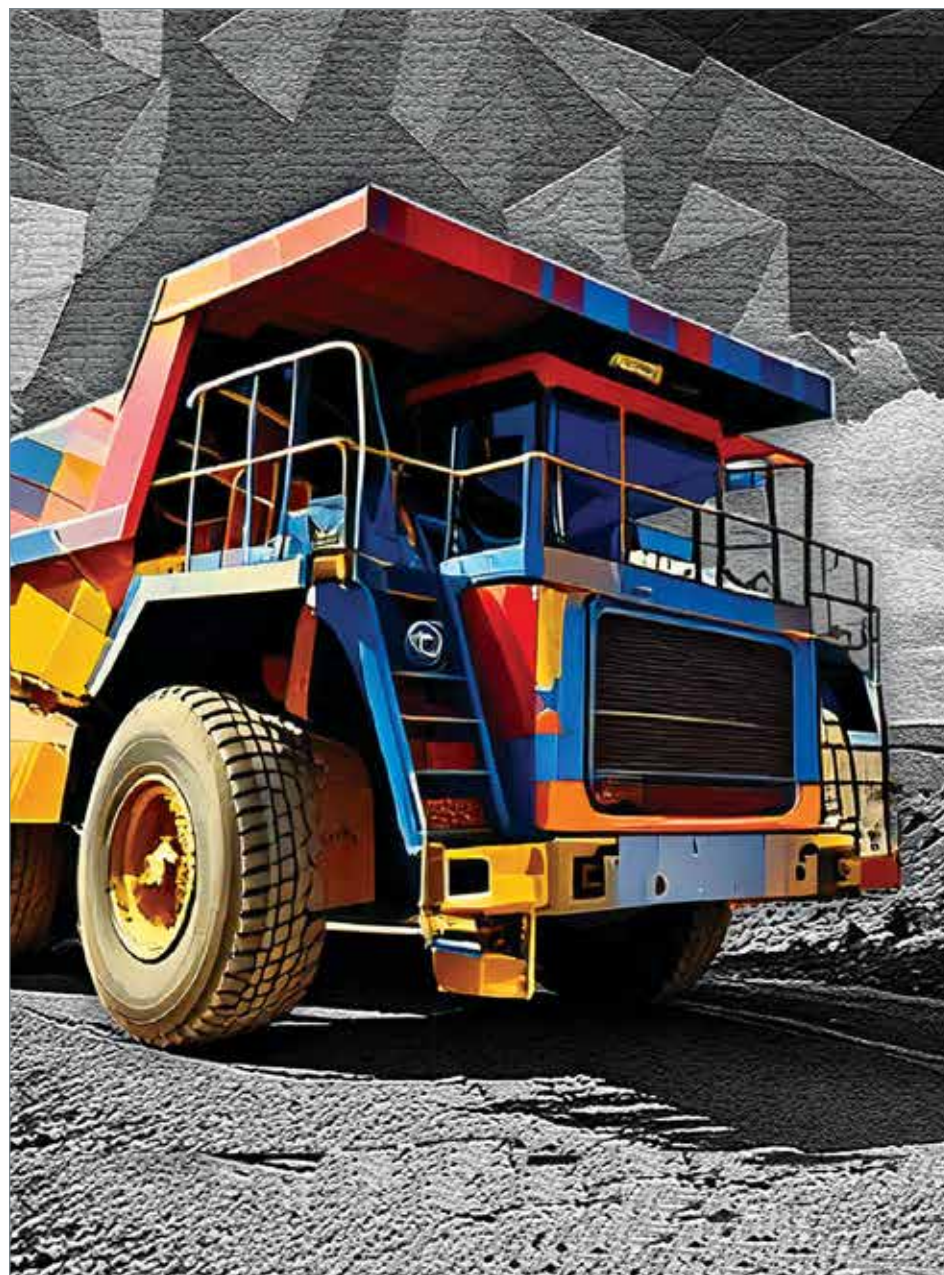
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WearCheck’s advanced oil, fuel, and coolant analysis enables you to identify hidden issues before they escalate. By detecting early signs of wear, contamination, or mechanical stress, we help you reduce maintenance costs, extend equipment life, and minimise costly delays.

Partner with us today — and keep your operation running smoothly.

Less downtime. More production.



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Tank mixing eductors enhance petrochemical processes



TANK mixing eductors from Spraying Systems Co. are highly effective devices used to achieve uniform mixing of liquids within tanks and vessels,

especially in demanding petrochemical applications.

Eductors harness the principles of fluid dynamics to induce mixing and circulation

without the need for mechanical agitators or moving parts. This makes them particularly advantageous in environments where reliability, chemical resistance, and low maintenance are critical.

Advantages of tank mixing eductors in petrochemical processes

In petrochemical operations, maintaining consistent fluid properties—such as temperature, concentration, and homogeneity—is essential

for process efficiency and product quality. Spraying Systems Co. – represented in South Africa by Monitor Engineering - offers a line of tank mixing eductors designed to optimise these parameters.

The eductors use a motive liquid—typically pumped from the tank itself or a nearby process stream—which flows through the nozzle and creates a low-pressure zone. This vacuum draws in surrounding tank fluid and discharges a high-velocity stream

that promotes thorough mixing. This entrainment process can circulate fluid volumes several times greater than the motive flow, enabling energy-efficient tank turnover.

Spraying Systems Co. designs its eductors using high-performance materials compatible with harsh petrochemical substances such as acids, caustics, solvents, and hydrocarbons.

Available materials include polypropylene, PVDF (Kynar®), stainless steel, and other alloys suited for cor-

rosive and high-temperature service, sizes up to 10”.

Eductors are often mounted on tank walls or floors to maximise circulation patterns and prevent stratification or settling of heavier components.

Energy savings and maintenance benefits of tank mixing eductors

The benefits of using tank mixing eductors in petrochemical facilities include improved product consistency, reduced energy con-

sumption compared to mechanical mixers, and minimal maintenance requirements. Since they have no moving parts, eductors offer enhanced reliability in continuous operation, even in aggressive chemical environments.

Find out how Spray Systems Co. helped a refinery optimise its tank mixing operations.

For more information, please contact Grant Orsmond at grant@monitorspray.co.za www.spray.co.za



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Sasol cushions impact of US tariffs with diversification

SASOL, South Africa's integrated energy and chemicals producer, is moving swiftly to blunt the impact of new U.S. tariffs on its chemical exports, which could cost the company around \$80 million annually. The measures come at a time when Sasol is regaining its financial footing, giving it room to respond with a mix of cost recovery, market diversification, and supply chain agility.

For the year ended 30 June, Sasol reported a return to profit with earnings of R10.60 per share, compared with a steep loss of R69.94 the previous year. The rebound was driven by higher chemical prices, disciplined cost management, and reduced impairments. This healthier balance sheet allows the company to absorb short-term shocks while it recalibrates its trade strategy.

CFO Walt Bruns said Sasol has already offset \$20 million to \$30 million of its tariff exposure. Part of this has been achieved by passing some of the higher costs on to U.S. customers, who have shown a willingness to accept increases. An-

other lever has been the redirection of export volumes to Asia, where demand for Sasol's chemical products remains robust.

CEO Simon Baloyi noted that the tariffs are not viewed as a major threat, given Sasol's substantial U.S. production base, which supplies a large share of its sales domestically. This reduces reliance on tariff-affected exports from South Africa.

Sasol is also assessing longer-term solutions, including identifying export categories that could qualify for tariff exemptions or refunds. Market diversification beyond the U.S. is another priority, particularly in Asia and Europe, though cost competitiveness and pricing dynamics will be carefully weighed.

South Africa's ex-

port profile adds resilience to Sasol's position. Only about 8% of the country's exports go to the United States, compared to roughly 20% each to the European Union and China. This gives exporters like Sasol multiple levers to shift volumes and minimize dependence on any single market.

Sasol's measured response highlights how large exporters can navigate geopolitical trade shocks. By leveraging financial stability, sharing costs with customers, and redirecting supply, the company is treating tariffs as a manageable disruption rather than a crisis. For business leaders, the case underlines the value of flexibility, diversification, and proactive engagement in sustaining growth amid global uncertainty.



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THE NEXT GENERATION

Internships, Skills & Development Programmes



Cummins launches its TEC Programme in Khayelitsha to Empower Youth with Job-Ready Skills

Cummins a global power technology leader, today officially launched the Technical Education for Communities (TEC) programme at the False Bay TVET College Khayelitsha campus, Cape Town, following an extensive renovation of the mechanical engineering training workshop.

The upgraded facility is now a dedicated technical training hub aligned to global industry standards, offering practical vocational and occupational training, career readiness support and access to workplace learning opportunities. The TEC programme is delivered in partnership with False Bay TVET College and forms part of Cummins READY, the company's global education strategy aimed at expanding equitable access to STEM and skills development opportunities in the communities where it operates.

South Africa continues to face one of the highest youth unemployment rates globally. Limited access to high-quality vocational training remains a key barrier, particularly in underserved communities. Programmes like TEC are designed to address this gap by providing a structured pathway from the classroom to the workplace.

"This is more than an investment in infrastructure – it's an investment in people and in partnerships that strengthen communities," said Victor Masuku MD, Cummins Southern Africa. "We are proud to work alongside committed partners who share our belief in the power of technical education. When industry, education and the public sector come together in the right way, the impact is real and lasting."

The False Bay TVET College Khayelitsha campus is part of Cummins' global TEC initiative, which began in 2012 and now spans 30 sites across 14 countries. Globally, the programme has supported over 4,300 graduates, with more than 70% securing employment within six months of graduation.



"False Bay College is honoured to be part of this collaboration with Cummins," said Christiana Nel, Deputy Principal Innovation and Development from False Bay TVET College. "This partnership brings together education and industry in a way that delivers real value to our students. Through TEC, we are not only improving technical training but also aligning it with what employers actually need. Together, we're creating meaningful pathways for young people to enter the workforce with confidence and purpose."

The TEC model is built on five core elements: market-relevant curriculum, qualified teachers and lecturers, career guidance, workplace learning, and strong industry partnerships. These components are adapted to reflect local conditions and employer needs.

"Our ambition goes beyond a single site," added Christian Ndomba Director, Technical Education for Communities "This programme demonstrates what's possible when we localise solutions for real-world challenges. We see a clear opportunity to replicate this success, and we welcome collaboration from those who are equally committed to developing the next generation of skilled professionals."

As demand for skilled technicians continues to grow, Cummins remains committed to expanding the TEC model through local partnerships that drive shared value.

To learn more about Cummins TEC, visit:
<https://www.cummins.com/company/esg/social/corporate-responsibility/technical-education-communities>.

To learn more about False Bay TVET College visit: <http://www.falsebaycollege.co.za>



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John Thompson celebrates 90 years of engineering excellence

FOR nine decades, John Thompson has been a cornerstone of South Africa's industrial and energy sectors. In 2025, the company celebrates its 90th anniversary, a testament to its enduring role in powering the nation's economy, from sugar mills to power plants.

"Our journey of starting out as a boiler-building pioneer to becoming a comprehensive energy solution provider reflects a proud South African legacy that combines local expertise with global reach..."

The company's story began in 1935, importing boilers from the UK to meet the country's growing industrial needs. But a pivotal shift occurred in 1954 when John Thompson's Bellville factory in Cape Town became fully operational, marking the birth of a proudly South African manufacturing legacy. Since then, the company has produced over 5 000 boilers, becoming the only Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of its kind in Africa. Its craftsmanship is legendary; in fact, one of the first boilers built at its Bellville factory was recently decommissioned after 70 years of continuous operation.

"Our journey of starting out as a boiler-building pioneer to becoming a comprehensive energy solution provider reflects a proud South African legacy that combines local expertise with global reach," says Jaco

Grobbelaar, CEO of John Thompson's Industrial Division.

Keeping the lights on

Beyond its industrial applications, John Thompson's commitment to the nation is most visible in its partnership with Eskom. Since 2002, the company has provided maintenance support across six of South Africa's power stations, with teams of up to 800 local workers during planned outages. This deep involvement underscores the company's critical role in energy security.

Gladstone Mbili, CEO of the Utilities Division, emphasises this commitment. "We have built and maintained a significant portion of the country's power infrastructure. Our in-depth involvement with Eskom and regional power stations illustrates our commitment to 'keeping the lights on'. We actively seek ways to improve energy availability and reliability to avoid load shedding."

As the world shifts toward greener energy, John Thompson is leading the charge in South Africa. The company's R&D programme focuses on helping customers optimise existing plants for lower emissions and converting them to cleaner fuels like wood chips. This includes developing a new range of package boilers designed to efficiently burn low-quality or green fuels.

"We are more than just manufacturers; we are committed to building a sustainable energy future," Grobbelaar says. "Our



From left to right: Jaco Grobbelaar, Chief Executive Officer at John Thompson Industrial Division, Gladstone Mbili, Chief Executive Officer at John Thompson Utilities Division, Mervyn George: Management Consultant – Strategy & Governance

expertise extends globally as we export our technologies and services around the world."

Building South Africa's engineering talent

John Thompson's legacy is not just about equipment; it's also about people. The company invests in the next generation of engineers through an annual intake of apprentices and trainees. It currently has 83 trainees in welding, fitting, and boilermaking, all

supported by an in-house apprentice school. "Skills development is a key part of our broader commitment to sustainability and innovation," Mbili notes. "By growing our own talent, we help strengthen South Africa's industrial capacity and resilience."

As John Thompson looks to the future, it remains dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that create lasting value for its customers, communities, and the environment.

Green building: Key to a low carbon future

By Diane Silcock

THE Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2024/2025 published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), states that the sector consumes 32% of global energy and contributes to 34% of global CO₂ emissions. The report noted that the sector relies heavily on materials such as cement and steel, which together account for 18% of global emissions and generate a significant portion of construction waste.

"The built environment clearly has a responsibility towards reducing its carbon footprint to achieve climate goals."

With this in mind, Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) – South Africa's certifier of green buildings and projects - is highlighting the urgent need to transform how buildings are designed, constructed, and operated to secure a sustainable future.

The Green Building Business Case towards reducing carbon emissions

During World Green Building Week 2025 (8–12 September), the GBCSA will launch its latest study, 'Green Building South Africa: A Guide to Costs & Trends', through a dedicated webinar. This is Southern Africa's definitive study on the cost of green-certified buildings, using empirical building costing data to understand how little going green truly costs.

Dr Danie Hoffman, Lead Researcher at the Department of Construction Economics at the University of Pretoria, will present the findings of the 4th Edition, and GBCSA's panel of experts will discuss the trends in the green construction cost premium.

GBCSA Head of Marketing and Communications, Georgie Chennells, says, "The study has received international acclaim and it's one of a kind globally. It essentially unpacks the cost of building a green certified building; Green Star certified versus non-certified." These costs are connected to the investment performance of certified buildings delivering a clear 'Green Building Business Case'.

Chennells says this study goes hand in hand with the MSCI South Africa Green Annual Property Index. The MSCI data shows that green-certified buildings consistently outperform non-certified ones, delivering higher returns, lower vacancy rates, and greater appeal to ESG-focused investors. Moreover, a green building may qualify for green finance.

18th Green Building Convention 2025 (11 to 13 November)

The GBCSA annual convention being held in Cape Town this November from the 11th to the 13th, is the premier platform for professionals in the built environment—and anyone with a passion for sustainability—to connect with industry thought leaders and explore the latest trends in green building.

"Through these initiatives, our aim is to inspire the business sector and global stakeholders to invest in green," says Chennells. "Big leaps are required if we are to reach climate targets, and part of that is building up to COP13. Our call to global leadership



Cape Town's Hotel Verde which achieved 6-Star Green Star Existing Building Performance, and Net Zero Waste: Level 2 - Operational Waste where 93% of its waste is diverted from landfill. Image credit: Hotel Verde

is to invest more in green buildings, green infrastructure, and the processes and policies that enable them."

The rating tools GBCSA employs to certify sustainable buildings are Green Star, Net Zero and IFC's EDGE. Beyond certification, they educate by providing green building training for all stakeholders in the built environment, advocate for policies that support an enabling environment for green building development, and engage in research. Through collaboration with international organisations such as the

World Green Building Council, as well as technical experts, members, government, businesses, and civil society, they drive systemic change, and champion green building excellence.

The built environment clearly has a responsibility towards reducing its carbon footprint to achieve climate goals. Green building certification not only supports this objective but also offers a powerful way for developers, owners, and investors to future-proof assets, mitigate risks, and demonstrate meaningful ESG performance.



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