

CAPE Business News

FOUNDED 1980

National Distribution

AUGUST 2023



'Devolve or we go to court'

Premier repeats call for greater power.



2

CMA celebrates 50 years

Promoting quality precast concrete.



10

Proposed changes to food labelling laws

Companies brace for cost implications.



11

Durban port privatisation move opens door for Cape Town

In an apparent policy about-turn, at last the TNPA has agreed to partial port privatisation.



By Sue Segar, Associate Editor

ON the back of the momentous announcement that the Durban port is to be partially privatised, the mayoral committee member for Economic Growth in Cape Town, James Vos, is calling for a meeting with the economic cluster of the national and provincial government to discuss “as a matter of urgency” the proposed privatisation of the Port of Cape Town.

In a first for Transnet, the Durban port will be partly owned and operated by the Philippines’ International Container Terminal Services.

Vos said “The development in Durban is massive, and it really opens the door for some exciting innovations for our own harbour. Durban is first out – and this is great for Durban and for Team SA.”

Vos said his proposition was in line with that of the Western Cape economic development department, who have ensured continued dialogue with all stakeholders, and that the first next step is to initiate a meeting with the Public Enterprises Minister and the Trade and Industry Minister. “I will be writing to these ministers to call for this meeting.”

“But I am now even more determined than before to achieve the same for Cape Town,

because we have willing partners in a willing private sector, to start working to privatise our port. We need to get the economic cluster in a room to talk business. We have no time to waste.

“Together with my provincial colleagues, I’ve been beating this drum for Cape Town since starting this position as MAYCO member. My business is talking to businesses – and the first thing they say to me is, ‘fix the harbour’. The door has been opened for Durban; now we want the same for Cape Town.”

Vos said he is determined to ensure the private sector is part of the conversation, including players like Exporters Western Cape. “They don’t come to complain; they come with solutions.”

Vos acknowledges the efforts of the port authorities’ team in Cape Town who are “working around the clock to make things work”.

Vos continued “As soon as you get the private sector involved, there is fresh thinking, there are new ideas – and a completely different approach to the way we do business. It is always a good thing when the private sector steps up and is willing to become involved in managing key infrastructure.”

Vos said for a country which relies on trade and exports, it is essential that goods



James Vos.

are moved through the ports as efficiently as possible. “Cape Town, at the southern tip cannot afford to have delays in our harbour, because companies will go to other ports if they experience too many hiccups.

“We need to get the economic cluster of the state in one room, where we can sit down with each other, look each other in the eye, and talk business. We need to discuss what privatisation entails, who pays for what, and what the private sector contributions are and what is their say over operations. The government needs to understand that business is a crucial player when it comes to ensuring there are no interruptions in the value chain.”

Harbour Carriers’ Association of Cape Town representative, Vernon Rawstorne, who is a director at Container Domestic Services, said that “any change is a good change when it comes to the ports of South Africa.”

Responding to the news on the privatisation of the Port of Durban, Rawstone said his industry hopes for privatisation of the ports “in any form or fashion”.

“The sooner the better. It cannot happen quickly enough. Five years ago, we were able to take five containers per vehicle per day out of the port, with no issues. Today, we can get between one and two containers out of the port if we are lucky – because of inefficiencies at the port and equipment failures.

“The number of containers we can move is directly determined by the efficiency of the port and at the moment it is shocking.”

Call for proposals: Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP-SA)



Picture credit: <https://www.siempelkamp.com/en/we-are-siempelkamp/innovation/>

THE Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is an entity of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). TIA is mandated through the Technology Innovation Agency Act, No. 26 of 2008, to promote the development and exploitation of discoveries, inventions, and innovations to improve the quality of life for all South Africans by bridging the innovation chasm between research and commercialisation.

TIA’s objective is to support the state in stimulating and intensifying technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans through the development and exploitation of technological innovations. TIA extends an invitation to SMEs with innovative clean technology solutions to submit applications for the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP-SA) annual business accelerator and competition. The GCIP-SA Accelerator offers extensive mentoring, training, access to investors, opportunities to showcase innovations to the market, and a chance to win a cash prize and an overseas trip to compete with the best innovators globally.

UNIDO launched the second phase of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme GCIP 2.0 at COP 27 in November 2022. UNIDO sees innovation as key to mitigating and adapting to climate change. UNIDO provides a platform for technology transfer, investment mobilisation and climate partnerships to accelerate this process.

The guiding principle of UNIDO’s activities is low-emission, climate-resilient development. This means promoting policies, technologies, and practices so that countries can take climate action and, in doing so, create millions of new, decent jobs.

Unit 1 Platinum Park
Platinum Crescent
Montague Gardens
Cape Town

Tel: 021 551 2660
www.bonfiglioli.com

IN THIS ISSUE

- 7 Transport, Automotive & Green Mobility
- 10 Industry Bodies / Institutes
- 11 Food / Bev / Dairy: Factory Engineering & Production Lines
- 15 Maritime / Harbour Services
- 17 Metals Fabrications & Engineering
- 18 Hydraulics & Pneumatics
- 19 Energy Sources: Green Hydrogen / Renewable / Wind / Solar PV / Bio Energy
- 26 On the Contrary

CAPE Business News



Scan here to subscribe - it's FREE

Premier allays fears of diesel shortfall



Image credit: Chevron Caltex.

By Sue Segar, Associate Editor

SINCE Cape Town's Caltex refinery has been out of operation for quite some time, will the province face a disaster should imported diesel supplies run out? That was the question posed to Western Cape Premier Alan Winde at a recent gathering of the Cape Town Press Club.

The issue is of particular concern since the Western Cape has become heavily reliant on Eskom's diesel-driven power station at Ankerlig – and on diesel generators installed widely at hospitals and schools and by the private business sector.

In reply, the premier revealed that the provincial administration has a sophisticated risk analysis system and, he said “our disaster management team really are world class. I am super proud of them.”

The possibility of such a diesel crisis was not far-fetched. “A couple of months ago, we almost ran out, well, we actually ran out of diesel - we had ships on the ocean, storms on the ocean and delays in delivery and we were in deep, deep trouble. On the other side of the equation, as soon as you have prolonged level six load shedding, we just burn through diesel like you cannot believe in this province – both in the private sector, in

the government sector and, most prominently, in the Eskom sector. The trucks taking diesel to the Ankerlig plant are running permanent relays, 24/7, because they don't have enough storage capacity and they burn diesel not like the peak-load only plant they were supposed to be, but as a base-load plant. And it was very close.

“I am very happy to say that production of diesel at the local Caltex refinery has now started again – but the issue is complex. Investment into major new refineries employing new technology across the world changed everything. The big refineries are producing

diesel or other energy products far more efficiently and are just shipping them around the world. As a result, the old refineries were no longer a viable proposition and most have closed down. But to achieve a demand-supply equilibrium, I am happy that we are producing diesel again. Thanks to the risk analysis team, I have a dashboard that can tell me how much diesel is in each hospital and in each school, and the private sector are doing exactly the same thing. They are building these platforms that they know exactly how much because of that crisis that we had.

“It's also about the energy mix - diesel

makes up a certain percentage, as does gas - at the moment, just LPG (liquid petroleum gas). I wish we had a component of liquid natural gas.

“We, in the province, are doing our own provincial Integrated Resource Plan, looking at our current energy use, what energy usages are there, what does the future look like, and what energy sources will we be using then. The pathway to green hydrogen, green steel ... there are so many things that we – and business - need to get right and to plan for, such as should they invest in another refinery or should we expand that current refinery,” the premier said.

Devolve or we go to court - Winde

By Sue Segar, Associate Editor

WESTERN Cape premier Alan Winde has repeated his call for greater powers to be devolved to provinces, saying that the DA-run

provincial government, instead of the national government, should be delivering services in transport and policing. Addressing the Cape Town Press Club on Friday 21 July, Winde said the provincial government's fight to have certain powers devolved to it from national government could go all the way to the Constitutional Court if intergovernmental processes do not achieve this goal.

In his address, Winde gave a strong motivation for the Provincial Powers Bill which has been proposed by the Democratic Alliance and which would see certain functions devolved from national to provincial government. The bill also proposes an expansion of powers such as policing, public transport, energy and trade, as well as harbours. It provides for the creation of a framework within which the delegation of national competencies can be considered and would create a mechanism for the legislature to introduce national legislation in the National Council of Provinces via its members.

Winde's government has long called for the devolution of powers, particularly over policing, energy and transport but the bill has been criticised by the ANC and some other parties.

The constitution does allow for a devolution of powers, but this can only take place if assigned by the executive and, to date, the police and transport ministers have refused Western Cape requests for devolution of powers.

Winde said the bill would provide a framework within which the Western Cape government could work towards getting more powers. He was confident that the Constitutional Court would support such a bid if it could be shown that the national government is failing to provide the services.

He said, while the



Alan Winde.

bid for a devolution of power would be difficult, he has an “ally” in Gauteng premier, Panyaza Lesufi who is also lobbying for a devolution of policing and railway powers.

“He (Lesufi) and I say the same thing at lekgotlas in front of the president ... so I know I have allies in devolution. Gauteng is an absolute ally in getting devolution on rail. They want it just as much as

we want it because we know it's the backbone of getting a public transport system going.”

The DA introduced the bill in May as part of its bid to expand federal autonomy for capable provincial and local governments, and to give it the necessary powers to manage the functions devolved from national government. The deadline for public input was Monday 7 August.

SMALL PARTS STORAGE



3 Montague Drive, Montague Gardens
021 551 5790 | www.plasticsforafrica.co.za

100+ power packs for DRC mine

WITH well over 100 units already delivered, SEW-EURODRIVE in South Africa is set to continue supplying Ivanhoe Mines' prestigious Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a joint venture with Zijin Mining of China, with a wide range of its X.e-series power packs.

According to Willem Strydom, Business Development at SEW-EURODRIVE, the power packs – which are integrated units comprising gearbox, coupling and motor – will be part of Kamoa-Kakula's Phase 3 expansion. Since the mine's first phase of development over five years ago, SEW-EURODRIVE has worked closely with both Ivanhoe Mines and the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor.

"As in previous phases of the mine's development, our robust high quality power packs will provide reliable solutions in on-site applications such as conveyors,

agitators, and slurry pumps," says Strydom. "The size range in the order makes use of our wide capability range to provide a total solution, ranging from 55 kW units to 500 kW units."

The latest order includes several X.e Series power packs for conveyor applications, planetary gearboxes for feeder applications, and spare gearboxes. The equipment will be delivered in staggered shipments this year. While the mine typically undertakes the installation of the equipment, SEW-EURODRIVE sends technical teams to site to check final alignment and overall installation parameters.

The company has expanded its after-sales service teams considerably in recent years, allowing it to support the growing base of equipment throughout Africa. Its projects and engineering teams have also grown – developing a depth of experience to assist customers right from design phase

onwards.

Strydom notes that SEW-EURODRIVE has significantly developed its infrastructural foundation in South Africa, and plans to develop a physical representation in over 23 other African countries. As a priority country for the company's strategy, there is expected to be a representative in place in the DRC in 2023, he explains. Field service teams from South Africa are frequently at Kamoa-Kakula to assist with servicing of the existing power packs operating on the site.

"Our local assembly capability in our new facility in Johannesburg – combined with our ability to source from the group's other global operations – has allowed us to meet the tight delivery deadlines for this substantial order of equipment," he says. "Our global footprint and production capacity mean that we can deliver faster than most players in our field, and this is often an important fac-

tor for our market."

While the company previously imported the larger X.e Industrial gearboxes from Germany, it is now able to assemble these in the new South African facilities. As part of its service, SEW-EURODRIVE will also handle the logistics of getting this large volume of equipment to site. The company's training centre – the Drive Academy – in Johannesburg has also made a valuable contribution by providing training on the equipment and its maintenance.

In this project, the tropical climate was another important factor in the customer's design requirements. This required the inclusion of certain cooling and paint specifications in the contract. SEW-EURODRIVE Head of Engineering Andreas Meid explains that special breathers were part of the design in response to high humidity levels – and served to ensure no moisture in the gearboxes. In outdoor applications



Kamoa-Kakula is one of many projects in Africa to request the installation of SEW-EURODRIVE's monitoring equipment on the supplied product.

where sun exposure was high, covers were also included to reduce heat build-up. Cooling fans were also optimised in certain cases to ensure optimal performance.

He highlights that Kamoa-Kakula is one of many projects in Africa to request the installation of monitoring equipment on the power packs. This facilitates real-time monitoring, using specialised sensors to measure key indicators like vibration and temperature from anywhere in the world.

"This allows the operation to monitor the equipment remotely, receiving early warnings of any issues in performance," says Meid. "Responding timeously to this information can prevent serious damage and avoid unplanned downtime."

As a preferred supplier, SEW-EURODRIVE first delivered a multitude of X.e Series power packs between 2019 and 2021 for the mine's initial development phase. Motors ranging in motor from 7,5 kW to

500 kW as well as planetary gearboxes were supplied during this time for feeder applications, together with several spare gearboxes.

For Kamoa-Kakula's Phase 2 expansion, which doubled the concentrator plant capacity, SEW-EURODRIVE supplied many standard X.e Series power packs for the conveyors as well as planetary gearboxes for the feeders.

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

'Money4glass' initiative launched

ARDAGH Glass Packaging, South Africa (AGP), formally Consol Glass, has launched 'money4glass', an initiative that uses BanQu's web-based technology to improve effectiveness within the company's supply chain for recycled glass (cullet) in South Africa. The BanQu platform will not only help the company to track and monitor all cullet trades which ultimately bring cullet to its own plants but will also help to put money into the pockets of the recyclers in a faster, safer, transparent and more efficient way.

"This technology will enable us to identify traders, better understand the footprint of cullet recycling activity in the country and monitor the volumes of cullet traded in the different regions," explains Thomas Shaw, Supply Chain Executive of AGP. "Importantly, it will also allow us to make glass recycling financially viable across the width and breadth of the country through the application of targeted incentives and to ensure

that payments and incentives can quickly and efficiently reach all recyclers, particularly the informal recyclers who are at the start of the recycling process."

This supply chain includes three levels of recyclers.

- Level 1 are glass recyclers who sell directly to AGP in quantities of no less than 10 tons per month and are registered on the company's database.
- Level 2 glass recyclers typically sell to Level 1 buyers in smaller loads, and
- Level 3 recyclers are the informal traders (mostly waste pickers) who collect glass in bags or trolleys and sell to Level 1 or 2 buyers.

There are several incentives and subsidies that can be paid to certain qualifying recyclers to help drive growth in glass recycling in South Africa.

"Consumers are increasingly becoming more mindful of our impact on the planet,

starting with the products we buy and how they are packaged. In parallel, governments are implementing various mechanisms to ensure we reduce our environmental footprint and to create a circular economy" said Shaw.

In 2021, the South African government enacted the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. EPR is a producer-focused mechanism that aims to reduce waste by ensuring that producers of products take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products and packaging. The intention is to increase recycling, thus decreasing dependency on new raw materials, and to ensure the effective and efficient management of end-of-life products.

The BanQu technology will assist AGP to collate data that can be used for EPR Plan audits as well as B-BBEE audits, while at the same time reducing the ever-present risk of fraud, driving both recycling and transformation

in the glass recycling industry.

The easy-to-use platform is accessible on any internet enabled device and records transparent transactions between registered buyers and sellers at all levels. Besides creating a formalised and transparent trading platform, the technology has several benefits for traders, for the business and for the government's economic empowerment ambitions.

For traders, the technology allows transactions anywhere, anytime; enables electronic records and bookkeeping to replace paper or manual systems; offers instant cashless transactions to reduce the risk around cash and payments, which improves trust; and enables applicable subsidies and incentives to be paid quickly and easily.

Ardagh and other industry players will benefit from a growing network of connected recycling enterprises; real-time reporting and tracking across multi-

ple buying or processing sites; easily managed supply chain data in compliance with POPIA; and enhanced BEE procurement scores.

Importantly, the platform will empower downstream recycling value chain players through visibility and increased bankability; will enable enterprise development and visibility to base of the pyramid; and strengthen efficiencies of waste collection networks, including informal collectors. All this will drive economic empowerment and small business development.

"Sustainability is a business-critical focus for Ardagh, and we are acutely aware how important it is to drive increased recycling. We are confident that this initiative is going to take glass recycling to a new level in South Africa," concludes Paul Curnow, CEO of Ardagh Glass Packaging-Africa.

For more information, visit money4glass.co.za

Shell finds hydrocarbons in Namibia exploration well

By Ron Bousso, Thomson Reuters

SHELL has successfully completed drilling a fourth exploration well, Lesedi-1X, in Namibia that confirmed the presence of hydrocarbons.

Shell and France's TotalEnergies have made several oil and gas discoveries off the coast of the southern African country in recent years, leading to a sharp increase in exploration activity there.

In a recent statement, Shell said data following the successful fourth drilling confirmed the presence of hydrocarbons, adding "further evaluation is required to determine development potential".

Shell and its partners QatarEnergy and

Namibia's national oil company plan to drill two further wells in Namibia by the third quarter of this year, according to a filing to the government dated March.

The Namibian government has also approved a Shell application to drill another 10 exploration and appraisal wells in Namibia, a Shell spokesman said.

TotalEnergies made an oil discovery in February 2022 in the Venus well in Namibia's Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 56, which analysts at Barclays estimate holds 3 billion barrels of oil equivalent (boe).

Shell reported discoveries in the Graff, La Rona and Jonker wells in PEL 39, which together are estimated to hold 1.7 billion boe, according to Barclays.

Future proof your fire protection system with **FireDos®**

Speak to the company that knows foam systems best

Efficient • Effective • Easy to use & test

FireDos foam dosing proportioners and skids • Monitors and water cannons • Mobile dosing and monitor trailers • Bund, tank top and rim pourers



dosetech fire 30
special risk fire protection

+27 (0) 861 111 544 • Mike – mgf@dosetech.co.za
firedos@dosetech.co.za • www.dosetech.co.za

ALL INDUSTRIAL, MOBILE, SPRINKLER REQUIREMENTS

Referro partners with AMCI to bring PLC-based control solutions to Africa

REFERRO Systems, a sales and distribution company specialising in the supply and support of industrial electrical, automation and global software and hardware brands, announced its partnership with Advanced Micro Controls, Inc. (AMCI), a U.S. based manufacturer and global supplier of PLC-Based Control Solution products, position sensing and motion control solutions.

With a track record of more than 22 years in business, Referro Systems provides excellent pre and post-sales support to some of the world's leading brands, and are now able to extend their industrial reach by providing the AMCI product range within the African market.

Adrian van Wyk, Managing Director of Referro Systems, said in announcing the new partnership: "We are excited to bring the

AMCI range of technologically advanced specialized PLC-Based Control Solutions, position sensing and motion control technology to the African continent."

He added that AMCI's control solutions, and in particular PLC Networked products, specialty I/O, position sensing and motion control products, dovetail with their current range of products which will simplify deployment of their customers automation goals and add reliability to manufacturing processes throughout Africa.

"This is a win-win partnership - AMCI has found in Referro a successful partner and a partnership that can only grow the AMCI brand and technology presence within the African market. And for Referro, representing a premium global product offering that

will extend our reach into the automation space."

Founded in 1985, AMCI designs and manufactures all of its products in-house, conducting comprehensive testing of every component, enabling superior quality and innovation to their global customer base. Its commitment to excellence in all areas of the company; research and development, sales, distribution, and product support, mirrors our own culture, he says.

"Referro's technical sales team are ready to answer questions about selection, installation, configuration and operation of all AMCI products. Both Referro Systems and AMCI invest heavily in training and continuous development to ensure product and system reliability, and when needed, customer support is only a call or click away, Van Wyk concludes.

President's Climate Report is "flawed, simplistic and inadequate" - say FF & TIE

An industry response.

WE welcome the invitation to contribute substantively to the final Report.

The recently released Draft Report of the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) (the "Report") is disappointingly flawed, simplistic and inadequate. A dispassionate analysis shows it as lacking depth, expertise and professionalism according to industry experts.

This Assessment is a response to the Report and highlights the failures and omissions in the approach taken by the authors, who, curiously, are not named, which in itself is disturbing. We should know who is driving PCC thinking, which might become South Africa's energy policy. Contentious responses to climate change concerns are driving energy policy,

In this edited article, the Freedom Foundation and Truth in Energy provide their response to President Ramaphosa's Climate Report.

and therefore must be examined rigorously and tested by all who care about where the country and climate are headed. The focus must be on enabling the country to generate the electricity it needs to create growth and real jobs. Only then, can the laudable if flawed ideology of renewable energy sources take centre stage.

Despite worldwide hysteria and the adoption of "with us or against us" polarising positions, there is considerable and continuing scientific debate on the facts and causalities. However, there is no debate on the enormous sums of money on the table from the industrialised West to induce developing nations, such as South Africa, to abandon its wealth of natural energy resources to focus on foreign renewable energy (RE) sources. This pressure on us from international interests, is, in our opinion, short-sighted, counterproductive and unaffordable for the foreseeable future, although the appeal for many politicians. Industrialised nations became rich and developed on the back of coal and other fossil fuels. Now South Africa and others are being pressured to pay the price of forgoing that which these developed nations greedily consumed to become wealthy.

So that there is no confusion or obfuscation, deliberate or otherwise, we are not against RE, nor do we push coal or any other agenda, although we do believe nuclear power holds the primary key to future prosperity being clean, affordable, reliable and efficient. Nuclear 'ticks all the boxes'.

However, our message is that South Africa will benefit maximally if it adopts a balanced energy mix using the appropriate energy in the optimum context.

Abstract

The PCC's Draft Report supporting

Recommendations for South Africa's Electricity System (May 2023), does not use as a foundation, the economic and social well-being of the citizens of our country. Instead, it works from a basic assumption that it will recommend renewable energy because it 'feels philosophically good', not because it is the correct answer as determined by a sound engineering and economics investigation, or national interest. As a result, the Draft Report needs to be scrutinised rigorously, and all implications considered carefully, against the backdrop of South Africa's current and future energy needs, before we commit ourselves irrevocably to a non-fossil fuel and non-nuclear scenario in a developing country blessed with an abundance of fossil and nuclear energy resources.

Conspicuously missing from the Draft Report is any reference to any competent Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) of the impacts of any radical change in the methods of the production of electricity.

Electricity is an absolute underlying foundation on which any economy is structured and subsequently functions. There is a direct international correlation between wealth and electricity; one of the strongest relationships in social science. As the saying goes, you 'fiddle at your peril'. The tragic national experience of load-shedding has illuminated this reality starkly.

An additional concern inherent in the PCC Draft Report is an apparent adherence to foreign political ideologies exerting pressure for the headlong implementation of what has been termed misleadingly a 'Just Transition'. It is important to know who created this term and why.

Is any such transition really 'just' and if so, for whom and at whose expense? Who gets sacrificed to achieve

a 'just transition' as required by amorphous others?

The citizens of South Africa must not find their dreams of economic prosperity, equality of opportunity, health and welfare curtailed by foreign desires to score political points by 'taming' South Africa in order to subject it to their commands, and what appear to be thought experiments.

Our energy sovereignty is supremely important, and it is essential for us to maintain control over it, in the interests of all our people.

The PCC Draft Report leaves critical and informed observers disappointed and uncomfortable.

This Assessment indicates a disturbing number of significant inadequacies and biases, which are indicated here in a brief manner. However, this Assessment reveals and presents a sufficiently illuminating picture to indicate to any thinking reader that the PCC Draft Report should not inform electricity policy.

Freedom Foundation (Izwe Lami) is a newly established policy institute created by the old Free Market Foundation creator, Leon Louw, to continue and invigorate its work and values. Email: izwelamifoundation@gmail.com

Truth in Energy (TiE) Truth in Energy describes a group of energy experts with wide and diverse experience whose objective is to present optimum solutions to solve the energy crisis in South Africa. TiE is not driven by energy source ideology but by the efficient mix to deliver sustainable, cost effective and affordable electricity for all citizens.

TiE is a policy unit within the Freedom Foundation, who's CEO Leon Louw, continues to be at the forefront of leading policy and economic ideas for over 45 years.



Airstream Compressors is a leading supplier of industrial compressed air equipment, providing quality, expertise and technical service

Energy Saving Range



SCR-EPM Screw Compressors

Features at a Glance

- ▶ High efficiency, oversized Air End that produces more air with less KW's
- ▶ Designed for high ambient temperatures
- ▶ Synthetic Coolant
- ▶ Special dual housing oil cooled motor (PM) and liquid cooled motor (EPM)
- ▶ Vector Control Technology
- ▶ Siemens switchgear
- ▶ Leak proof rigid steel oil piping
- ▶ ASME certified separator vessel
- ▶ Two (2) year warranty



CONTACT: DBN: 031 700 6501 JHB: 011 392 1965 CPT: 021 939 6046
www.airstreamsa.co.za

THE BEE IN MY BONNET COLUMN

Customer service - what's that?

By Robin Hayes - Editor

SOME days are good, others not so much but after spending hours seeking 'customer service' and coming up with nuts, it's time to call out a couple of multi-nationals who get zero on the customer service scale.

As it happens, and I hope it's coincidental, both companies are Dutch, although it could be argued that one is French controlled.

I refer to KLM the national carrier of The Netherlands, although

owned these days by Air France.

I have two stories to tell about KLM, although the only common denominator is me, which cements in my mind at least, the company's complete indifference towards customers, after it receives the money for an air ticket.

The first story concerns the company's refusal to grant a refund on R60 000 plus air tickets purchased through Fight Centre, on flights which I had to abort due to my wife's ill health. Even though we produced supporting documentation from her

specialist, KLM refused a refund, but did issue a voucher, valid for a year, which is due to expire next month.

The voucher isn't much help as her condition is incurable. Despite numerous face to face meetings with the Flight Centre rep, no contact has been forthcoming with KLM.

The second story involves lost luggage on a KLM flight undertaken by family members from Cape Town International and Los Angeles recently. The two bags in question didn't arrive at LAX and I volunteered to

check whether the bags were actually loaded at CTIA at all.

Try finding contact numbers on the KLM website. They don't exist. A call to Airports Company provided three numbers for the KLM ops manager. One was out of service, one just rang with no answer and the last one offered a recorded message - 'leave a message and we'll get back to you'. That was nearly a month ago and no response.

I had copies of the baggage tags and further scouring of the KLM website revealed

a link to a lost luggage app, operated by an outsourced organisation. Thinking that I was getting somewhere, I entered the relevant tag information and all I got was an error message - incorrect details. I gave up after three or four attempts.

This story does however have a happy ending. The bags did show up after two weeks. The non-arrival was caused by an industrial dispute involving baggage handlers at Schiphol airport. Surely someone from KLM should have advised customers as I'm sure that we were

not the only ones...

The second beauty is Philips, the enormous conglomerate that makes everything from car headlight globes to hairdryers. My technical enquiry referred to the former as the installation of their product while working perfectly, caused an irritating glitch on the car's on board computer.

As with KLM - is it a Dutch thing? - there is no technical backup for these products, certainly not in South Africa. It appears that Philips business model uses multiple distributors to market their

products here and I was sent from pillar to post trying to get an answer to a technical question. The number I was given when calling their supposed head office in Midrand was to a lighting company that handles domestic luminaries. From the quality of the call to Midrand, I'm suspicious that the call actually went to a call centre somewhere in the East...

So there you have it, once they have your money, you're on your own. Perhaps it's time to call Wendy Knowler... Eish.

Kidnapping for ransom and extortion on the rise

KIDNAPPING for ransom and extortion is on the rise in South Africa with a new trend emerging, revealing that organised kidnapping syndicates are increasingly targeting mid to lower-income individuals, expanding their focus beyond high-profile or c-suite executives.

The latest quarterly statistics released by the South African Police Service (SAPS) covering January to March 2023 show that kidnappings in the country have increased by 10.1%, with 3,641 kidnappings recorded versus 3,306 cases over the same time in 2022.

Unfortunately, many kidnapping incidents are not reported to the SAPS as families of kidnapped victims are instructed not to do so, which means the actual figure of kidnapping cases could potentially be much more.

"Kidnappings have become a prevalent source of income for syndicates as they prey on individuals who have access to cash. In most instances, the victim has been profiled as to their worth or the family's worth and the kidnappers ask for an amount they know they can get," says Hermanus van der Linde, CEO of IntegriSure Brokers.

Due to tough economic times, criminals have expanded their market and no longer exclusively target wealthy or high-profiled individuals. Syndicates are now kidnapping middle class people with the means or the support network to raise smaller ransom amounts.

A further alarming trend has been noted where the victim is abducted and held hostage for approximately a



Hermanus van der Linde.

week before any communication is made regarding the ransom. By this point, the family is so desperate that they pay whatever amount is demanded.

"Less affluent communities are targeted as syndicates have come to realise that lower-income earners make easy targets and do not draw media attention."

Previously, companies would primarily insure their executives against kidnapping and extortion, particularly when they travelled to high-risk areas. Now the threat extends to entire families who are at risk of becoming potential victims.

"Specialist cover is available for peace of mind and covers the associated costs involved in kidnapping, virtual kidnapping, extortion, cyber extortion, hijacking, malicious detention, disappearance and a hostage crisis. This cover can also be extended to include your family as well as frequent international travellers, who may also be targeted by syndicates."

Besides monetary cover for such events, some products also include 24-hour access to a Response Consultant for immediate guidance and advice should any of these events occur.

"Some of the kidnap and ransom cover prod-

ucts we have seen in the market also include cover for the loss in transit of a ransom by means of actual destruction, disappearance, malicious abstraction, actual damage or theft of the ransom. We have even seen products that provide cover for the cost of communication equipment, recording equipment and advertising costs incurred in an attempt to resolve a kidnapping. Reasonable costs for cosmetic or plastic surgery which may be required to correct any permanent disfigurement sustained as a result of a kidnapping are also included in some of the kidnap and ransom cover products available. It is important that these products should not only be viewed as providing cover for a ransom but also provide assistance if you find yourself in this life-threatening situation."

As the frequency of kidnappings continues to escalate, there are claims that they might surpass cash-in-transit robberies (CITs) in popularity. This is due to the fact that kidnappings generally involve no gunshots, don't create a scene, and covert negotiations for extortion all transpire behind the scenes.

For more information visit: www.integrisure.co.za

Province embraces Uni- research to future proof mobility

By Sue Segar - Associate Editor

THE Western Cape's Mobility Department is determined to forge strong partnerships with academic institutions as it starts the transition of its vehicle fleet from internal combustion engine (ICE) to new energy vehicles (NEV) and moves to decrease the overall carbon footprint of transport in the province.

The department will, this year, sign an agreement between the province and local universities through which the province will pledge a total of some R10 million to enable the academic institutions to conduct research solutions towards green mobility.

The Western Cape-based universities all have research programmes under way which are looking at various aspects relating to new energy vehicles.

"We want to really encourage research into this area by academic institutions in the Western Cape," said Yasir Ahmed, the acting head of the Mobility department. "The grant will be made available for research that will benefit all of us. We want to see technological and other skills developed in this sector by our own universities. We want to grow skills and technology that could be spinoffs for further job creation in the province."

He added that "the department of Mobility is determined to encourage innovation and localisation to ensure we reach our vision with as much as possible being driven by the Western Cape, South Africa and



Solar array at the Karl Bremmer Hospital where, in addition to powering the hospital. EV charging facilities are incorporated.

Africa."

"We don't want to import technology; we want it to be home-grown. We want to use the thinkers of South Africa. We want to ensure that the future of green mobility is inclusive and economically sound."

He added: "We don't want South Africa to become the dumping ground of old technology. We want to be at the forefront of research, innovation, and production of what is needed in the new space, investing in our youth, in our own government departments and reskilling on what green mobility would look like in our province."

Ahmed cited some of the work already being done at the province's campuses in relation to green mobility.

"For example, UWC, in its chemistry department, is doing research into battery technology - and we want to try

and encourage that kind of research here in the Western Cape.

"SU is looking at a project to convert an internal combustion engine minibus into an electric minibus. As a department, we would obviously want to keep tabs on that development because if we can introduce new energy vehicles as minibuses into the public transport fleet, to add to the pilot initiative by Golden Arrow Bus Services to test electric buses in their operations, that would make a massive contribution towards reducing our carbon emissions."

He added that the department is also very interested in encouraging research into battery technology, including battery repurposing.

"For example, when a battery that's used in an electric or hybrid vehicle has reached the end of its useful life as

a battery in the vehicle, there is still life left in it for repurposing to, for example, power into solar panels and to provide electricity at a day care centre for example or an ECD centre. That's the kind of repurposing that our strategy speaks about, and which we want to collaborate with our universities on."

Ahmed said the upskilling of the province's youth is vital to the department as it moves into its green transition.

"The Western Cape, of course, is committed to growth for jobs and one of the sectors that offers opportunities for growth is the sector for renewable energy and for new energy vehicles. We want to ensure that the Western Cape is best positioned to be able to benefit from jobs that could potentially be created in this new and exciting sector."

In Women's Month, we pay tribute to all women who paved the way for our freedom



By Sue Segar - Associate Editor

ON 9 August 1956, about 20 000 women marched into Pretoria, to the Union Buildings, to protest against the pass laws which existed in the country at the time.

This historic march – which was also a protest against the patriarchy and racism entrenched through apartheid – brought together women from across South Africa of all races, and across many divides.

The pass laws, one of many measures put in place during apartheid, were internal passports which restricted the movement of black people.

The march was one of the iconic historic events to take place during apartheid. The words addressed to the prime minister at the time, JG Strijdom, at the gathering were, “Strijdom, you have tampered with the women. You have struck a rock.”

The march was dignified and orderly throughout and the women filled the amphitheatre at the Union Buildings, many wearing traditional dress, many with babies on their backs.

The prime minister and his staff were not there to see the women, so the leaders of the protest left bundles of

signed petitions outside his office, before standing in silence for half an hour, and then singing Nkosi sikeleli' Afrika.

Many women who attended described it as one of the most moving days of their life.

The women claimed in their petition that the pass laws not only affected their freedom of movement, but that they caused deep humiliation to them personally. The arrests brought about by these laws were also hugely damaging to families and to the incomes of the women.

The unity displayed as these thousands of women converged on the Union Buildings made headlines worldwide.

South Africa's first National Women's Day was celebrated on 9 August 1995. In 2006, a re-enactment of the march was staged for its 50th anniversary, with some of the original 1956 marchers taking part.

Every year, in August, South Africa uses women's month to pay tribute to these women, who, in many ways were trailblazers for women's rights in the country. August 9 is celebrated as Women's Day, and commemorated as a national holiday.

It is thus apt to always remember the huge contributions made to South Africa's democ-

racy, and to women's rights as a whole. Women's month poses an opportunity to look at the progress the country has made in transforming unequal power relations between women and men.

Women have many unrecognised skills, and they are regularly undermined, to this day, in various ways, both in the workplace and in the wider community.

Although South Africa's population comprises mainly women, this is not reflected in leadership positions, salary proportionality, or in general workplace equality.

Women still take a back seat in society, simply because of the fact that they are conditioned by society to believe they exist to run the household and raise the children.

While great strides have been made since the women's march in 1956, there is still a way to go before equality is reached at all levels of society.

National Women's Day in South Africa draws attention to many of the important issues that women still face – such as domestic violence, discrimination and harassment in the workplace, equal pay, education for girls and more.

It's also an opportunity to celebrate all women and girls for the enormous role they play in society and for the battles they've fought – and to empower, and inspire them to reach for their dreams and to continue contributing towards the empowerment of all women.

Happy Women's Day; and happy Women's Month from all of us at Cape Business News.

Mandela Rhodes Foundation celebrates 20 years of creating future leaders

THE 20th anniversary of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation was celebrated recently in Cape Town. The milestone coincided with the 10th anniversary year of the passing of its founding patron, former president Nelson Mandela.

CEO Judy Sikuza used the occasion to announce that the foundation has raised \$14 million out of its \$20 million target, which translates to R250 000 000 rand. The fundraising campaign intends to secure sustainable resources to grow the Foundation's reach and impact across the African continent.

“We are tremendously proud of everything we have been able to achieve in Madiba's name over the past 20 years. We continue to be inspired by our mission of developing leaders for Africa, and we thank everyone who has made it possible,” said Sikuza.

Professor Njabulo Ndebele, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the MRF, has been a trustee since the MRF was established in 2003. He added, “The Mandela Rhodes Foundation has exceeded our early expectations. 20 years later, the seeds planted have grown and flow-



The panellists: from left to right are: David Cohen, Hanri Pieterse (Oxford University Press), Judy Sikuza Mandela Rhodes Foundation CEO, Franca Gucciardi and Prof Anna Vignoles.

ered, as our scholars have progressed into impactful careers in all sectors. We thank all our supporters and particularly our main donors: the Leverhulme Trust, David Cohen, Oxford University Press, and our anchor donor the McCall MacBain Foundation, who have contributed to the success of the next 20 years.”

The Foundation launched a book entitled *The Audacious Experiment: The Mandela Rhodes Story*. The book tells the founding story of the organisation and reveals the reasons for Nelson Mandela's agreement to the ‘unlikely partnership’. It was begun by the late Shaun

Johnson, founding CEO of the Foundation, and completed by esteemed novelist and academic, Professor Elleke Boehmer. She was assisted by Iris Nxumalo-de Smidt, and Mako Muzenda, who are both Mandela Rhodes Scholars. Oxford University Press South Africa, a major partner of the MRF sponsored the production of the book.

Sikuza said the celebrations were also an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss and plan for the future and look ahead to the next decade of the foundation, with the goal of driving positive change in all 55 African nations. One of the challenges

facing the African continent is the exodus of skilled, educated young people seeking more opportunities abroad. The MRF was specifically mandated by Mr Mandela to develop leaders for the African continent. “This is a complex issue and there is no single solution. As an organisation working in the development of leaders, something that might make a difference is prioritising getting the right young people into leadership positions across sectors, which can drive change in those environments and make them more attractive for their peers to work in and stay on the continent,” she said.

Reducing stormwater impacts in renewable energy schemes

By Jennifer Meneghelli, senior civil engineer at SRK Consulting

RENEWABLE energy projects in South Africa are being developed at a time of equally urgent focus on the country's water resources; this is therefore a good time for developers to apply low impact development (LID) options in their stormwater management plans.

Solar farms that generate energy from arrays of photovoltaic panels present a good example of where the LID approach can add value. Often occupying many hectares of rural land, solar panels create a large, impervious surface area that channels stormwater in a new way. Rainwater runs off these panels in sheets, falling from a height that can create scouring and erosion of soil – leading to contamination of water.

Soft engineering

One common traditional response to this water flow is hard engi-

neering, using concrete channels to direct water away from the panels to a drain or watercourse. However, this is more applicable to an industrial site, where the aim is to keep clean water separate from dirty water; it is not an optimal strategy for solar installations.”

Rather than concentrating and collecting the flow of water running off the panels, the objective should be to dissipate and distribute the flow – in similar ways to before the panels were installed. A more sustainable methodology, based on LID, therefore looks to maintain the natural infiltration of stormwater into the soil as far as possible.

Drip-line

PV plants are generally located in arid areas with high numbers of sun days per year, in order to achieve maximum performance. Therefore, rainfall seldom occurs, but must be managed as storm events in these areas tend to be brief and

intense.

Solar arrays are normally some distance above the ground, so the ‘drip-line’ where water cascades off the panels is often where most damage or gouging can be caused. The lower the dripline can be to the ground, the better to reduce the erosive force; gravel can then be used to dissipate the force of the flow and prevent erosion.

Scarifying of the ground under the panels, and planting deep-rooted indigenous vegetation underneath the panels, can help maintain the health of the local ecosystem and enhance biodiversity. Rather than just grass, a variety of vegetation can create a meadow-type environment where natural pollination is encouraged.

Construction impacts

As local practitioners in this country, we have developed sustainable drainage systems for the urban environment – and this approach could be valuably

extended to the renewable energy space. The need for LID guidelines is becoming more pressing as there are likely to be many more of these renewable projects in South Africa in the near future.

Wind farms

While wind farms create a relatively limited impervious surface – amounting to only about 2% of the project site – there are ways to optimise stormwater management. Again, most of the impact is experienced during the construction stage, when there is considerable soil disturbance for elements such as deep foundations and numerous hardstands.

It is advisable to create erosion protection measures around the large concrete base of the wind turbine towers. Burying the tower foundation below ground level will also allow a layer of topsoil to be placed over the concrete, and then revegetated to ensure better infiltration of stormwater.

We value your input

Only through your input can we continue to improve.

- Comments
- Suggestions
- What would you like to hear about

editor@cbn.co.za

Advanced technological solutions for the rail industry

THE Mattei RVR range: rotary vane compressors have been designed specifically for the Rail market.

The Rail sector is a unique market of interest for Mattei, the Vimodrone based Italian compressor manufacturer, who specialises in the production of rotary vane compressors, has had much success in supplying the main rolling stock manufacturers in Italy and Europe, with on-board compressor systems, while developing important relationships/partnerships.

Mattei has also enjoyed a growing partnership in the USA through MTE (Mattei Transit Engineering), a division of Mattei USA, with international giants such as the Alstom group with the integration of systems for their Metro and People Mover vehicles.

The RVR Series, offers compressor used for any on-board railway vehicles, namely; high-speed, regional trains, passenger and

freight trains, hybrid and locomotives, providing clean and dry air for applications ranging from: braking & suspension systems, door activation, sandboxes, pantograph handling, and auxiliary panels. Mattei compressors are also being used widely within the rail sector, servicing infrastructure applications, such as depots and maintenance facilities.

RVR compressors are compact, quiet, and efficient, and provide consistent performance, reliability, functionality, and ease of use. Thanks to the rotary vane technology, they offer high performance, energy savings and provide a longer product life cycle proposition.

For example, its Compressor units are engineered for 100,000 hours of operation and commonly achieve that and more, without having to be overhauled. A significant plus of Mattei's RVR compressor range is the quality standards

employed, which are IRIS-certified, an international certification promoted by UNIFE, the Association of the European Rail Supply Industry, which aims to assess the quality of suppliers of rolling stock and related equipment.

Another advantage of the range is its flexibility: the RVR

compressor range, can be integrated into equipment with a compressed air generation and treatment unit (AGTU), complete with compressor air end, motor, oil separator, enhanced inlet filtration, and compressed air treatment systems. These systems are equipped with filters, dryer, and respec-

tive control devices meeting the air quality requirements of BS ISO 4975:2022.

For simplicity, they can also be used as a stand-alone package for retrofitting into existing compressor applications, often integrating with the existing installed motor.

The RVR series offers five different models,

each available in different configurations.

RVR01, specifically designed to meet the needs of trams and light rail vehicles, producing compressed air in the range 0.10 - 0.48 m³/min. RVR02, designed and manufactured to meet the specific needs of light rail and metro vehicles, pro-

ducing compressed air in the range 0.30 - 1.58 m³/min. RVR03, created to meet the compressed air requirements of electric and diesel vehicles, regional trains, high-speed trains and railway maintenance vehicles, with compressed air flow rates from 0.79 to 3.30 m³/min. RVR04, designed and manufactured for electric and diesel railway vehicles and track maintenance vehicles, with compressed air capacities from 1.56 to 5.22 m³/min. Each of these compressor types is available as a stand-alone compressor, with an integrated air cooling system, coupled to an electric or hydraulic motor.

The RVR05 is specifically designed to meet the needs of heavy Class 1 locomotives. It is the most powerful with air deliveries from 2.50 to 9.69 m³/min. It is available either as a stand-alone compressor unit or coupled to an electric or hydraulic motor.



Exceptional performance is the simplicity of a Mattei Rotary Vane



MATTEI has a compressor solution to match your system requirements.

Whether New Build or Refurbishment, the flexibility of the RVR series design, means the compressor can be mounted independently or installed as part of a complete bespoke Air Generation & Treatment Unit, (AGTU) guaranteeing the air quality is suitable for any rolling stock application as the air supplied will meet the *BS ISO 4975:2022 Air Quality standards.

- ▶ Energy Savings of over 15%
- ▶ Compact Design and Unrivalled reliability
- ▶ Lightweight
- ▶ Energy Efficient and Innovative
- ▶ Pure and smooth pulse free air
- ▶ Low Noise Level
- ▶ Vibration Free
- ▶ Minimal Maintenance
- ▶ Powered by any type of drive system
- ▶ Operates in the most demanding environment



ROTORVANE
COMPRESSOR SALES

Tel: +27 11 472 5954
Email: info@rotorvane.co.za
Website: www.rotorvane.co.za

Western Cape Mobility talks EV's to Nissan and Toyota

By Sue Segar -
Associate Editor

THE Western Cape Mobility department is set to meet with representatives from the car-manufacturing company, Nissan, this month (August) to "hear directly from the company's CEOs about their plans for the introduction of new electric vehicles into the market", as the department plans and prepares to slowly transition its 7 000-strong vehicle fleet from fuel to electric.

Representatives from the department would also, soon, be holding meetings with Toyota, according to Yasir Ahmed, the acting head of department. "Toyota are doing very exciting development work in battery technology and are looking at solid state batteries for their EVs."

In an interview with Cape Business News, Ahmed said the process of transitioning from fuel to electric would unfold over the next five years. However, he stressed that, while the Western Cape Government is firmly committed to make the switch, their strategy is not to buy thousands of electric vehicles just yet.

This is for two reasons, Ahmed said: "Firstly because the market is very restricted with the makes and models of the electric vehicles that are available right now. You have very high end electric vehicles, like the bigger BMWs, Audis and Mercedes, which are really not fit for purpose for our use in government. So we are monitoring the market."

He said it was hard to say how long it would take to get the whole fleet transitioned to electric. "What we would require is a clear indication from the market on how soon they are going to be introducing new models of EVs into South Africa and the Western Cape and specifically vehicle models that would be practical for use by government. We are not looking at the BMW X5 electrical or the Mercedes S class EVs, but we are looking at ones that will be practical for use by officials like the Nissan Leaf, and the VW ID3.

He said the department was very interested in the new Nissan Leaf which was on show at the first NAAMSA SA Autoweek in 2022

and which will be introduced in SA from 2024, hence the engagement this month with Nissan representatives.

"From 2024 onwards, we should see a picking up of the momentum of introducing more EVs into our fleet. Bearing in mind that we have a fleet of about 7 000 vehicles in the Western Cape so the process of replacing vehicles or replacing internal combustion engine vehicles with electric vehicles will be phased in over many years."

I must point out that it is important to note that currently EVs are seen as a luxury and there is in fact an import tax applied to them. There are indications that the DTIC, that minister Patel's department has hinted there could be an announcement in March next year on that subject and we are hopeful that if that import tax and duty is reduced the EVs will become more affordable for our fleet as well as for the general public."

Ahmed stressed that the Western Cape government is committed to transitioning to electric vehicles, despite the current hurdles.

He said a key part

of the department's strategy is, ahead of the move to EV, to start creating an ecosystem for electric vehicles, including setting up the charging infrastructure for EVs at government facilities, as well as working with the private sector to ensure that there are charging points throughout the provinces where our vehicles would be driving.

Charging infrastructure progress

"One of the sites where the Western Cape Government has now recently established this charging infrastructure is the Karl Bremer hospital site, where the charging infrastructure for EVs will be supplied with renewable energy sources. The parking facilities at Karl Bremer now host solar PV installation, which will charge batteries, and the batteries will be used to charge the EVs that will be rolled out over the years."

Ahmed said the R17 million PV project, undertaken by the provincial Public Works department, is the first of a number of



sites which have been identified as pilot sites.

"There are two other sites currently under construction. We have charging facilities at the government garage in Maitland, where the EVs we currently have are parked for charging. Those facilities were installed when we bought the EVs – BMW i3s – to draw attention to this initiative.

"The charging infrastructure is being set up now so that it is in place for the transition from internal combustion

to electric.

"We aim for five charging stations initially, and five sites have been identified, with Karl Bremer as the first; and the others are in various stages of design and construction."

Ahmed said while the solar panels have already been installed at Karl Bremer, the actual charging point is currently in procurement and will be fitted soon.

"What we call greening the fleet is one of our strategic outcomes,

and we are absolutely committed to achieving that outcome. While we're looking at EVs, we are also monitoring the market as far as green hydrogen is concerned and will be engaging with the motor vehicle industry, and with the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) through the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (NAAMSA), to get an understanding of what their plans are for all New Energy Vehicles."

Transport SMME from Marikana launches road safety campaign

SMME transport company Mamoja Trading and Project launched its road safety campaign at its home in Marikana, North West Province, on 5 July. The safety initiative, focusing raising safety awareness, aims to reduce the severity and frequency of truck accidents in the country.

Themed "Safety is a small investment for a rich future, hence it remains our priority", the campaign will be an integral part of the company's operations going forward.

Said Annah Ngxeketo, Chief Executive and Co-founder of Mamoja: "The Department of Transport and the Road Transport Management System (RTMS) have made great strides forward in safety awareness in recent years. The reason Mamoja came up with this initiative is because, as part of the industry, we bear witness to more truck accidents every year."

The most obvious reason why road safety is important is that many lives are at stake. Factors contrib-



Collaboration for safety: Mamoja CEO Annah Ngxeketo (left) with some of the safety campaign partners.

uting to the high rate of accidents include the behaviour of drivers and other road users, as well as poor maintenance and design of infrastructure.

"Most of these accidents are avoidable, and at Mamoja we believe that a lasting change in workplace attitudes and culture is necessary - from everyone who works in the transport industry - is necessary," continues Ngxeketo. "In order to deliver the biggest possible impact, we need to ensure that our safe vehicles are driven by safe drivers on safe roads."

Strong support

A number of key industry stakeholders participated in the launch - from both government and private sector organisations.

North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management Control Provincial Inspector Johan Esterhuizen said that road users should always be considerate of other road users. "Our Department has built a working relationship with Mamoja because it's an RTMS certified company and safety is the priority,"

he said.

Accident survivor and motivational speaker Nicole Melck shared a moving message about the importance of buckling up and how her life changed after a head-on collision. The Mamoja team and campaign partners shared safety messages and gave away safety goodie bags to truck drivers on the N4 and Mmaditlokwa bridge towards Sibanye Stillwater and Tharisa Mines.

Some of the companies which partnered to support Mamoja's safety initiative are Standard Bank, Unitrans, Grow Supplier ZA, Concentrate Carriers, JC Auditors, TSE Big Max, Fleet Watch, Atarah Solutions, Ndima Management Systems Consulting, Nthome Transport and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport SA. Mining companies which fully supported the campaign are Sibanye Stillwater and Sylvania Mines. Maruatona and Jabula transport companies were also present.

Road Freight SME Summit 2023

GROW Supplier ZA, an advocate for the road freight industry, is excited to announce the launch of the inaugural Road Freight SME Summit and Awards. The event is set to take place during Transport Month on 20 and 21 October at The Maslow Hotel in Sandton, bringing together key stakeholders, industry experts, and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore opportunities, challenges, and solutions in the ever-evolving road freight sector.

"The Road Freight SME Summit is tailored specifically to empower SMEs operating in the challenging and ever-changing road freight and transport industry," explains event curator Florence Musundwa. "With a focus on knowledge sharing and collaboration, attendees will gain valuable insights and practical strategies to strengthen their businesses and drive sustainable growth."

An impressive and high-level line-up of distinguished speakers and industry veterans

will deliver compelling presentations and engaging discussions on a wide range of topics, including:

- Critical success factors for Road Freight SMEs
- SME growth strategy: Strategic leadership, management and foresight for the road freight industry
- The psychology of sales | How to grow your market share
- Regulations and compliance in the road freight industry
- India case study | Driver Training and Development
- Industry trends on effective and efficient fleet (vehicle) management
- Fuel efficiency
- The complexities of securing funding for trucking SMEs in South Africa
- The challenges and regulations of cross-border transport – corruption and kidnappings
- The African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA)

- Finance and business development support challenges experienced by road freight SMEs in growing their businesses

Opportunities for operators

"According to the research findings, AfCFTA requires 1,844 million trucks for bulk cargo and 248 000 trucks for container cargo by 2030. This increases to 1,945 million and 268 000 trucks respectively if planned infrastructure projects are also implemented. This is just one example of growth opportunities that strong and sustainable SME operators can access."

The Road Freight SME Summit welcomes participation from road freight business owners, operators, industry enthusiasts, technology providers, suppliers, policymakers, and all stakeholders invested in the growth and prosperity of the transport industry.

Rising truck arson attacks –insurance consequences

Mtho Maphumulo, Senior Associate at Adams & Adams gives a view on the impact of the recent truck arson attacks on insurers.

OVER 20 trucks have been torched in various provinces including Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and Kwa-Zulu- Natal, and, to date, only three arrests have been made.

The concerns of insurers, given the recent years' major events, are well documented. It has only been since 2022 that there have been positive developments and signs of recovery for the industry.

This article considers the type of insurance claims that may arise from truck arson attacks and the possible measures which the insurers may consider implementing to limit their liability.

Possible claims

One incident of truck arson may result in losses amounting to millions of rands, with a number of claims flowing from a single incident. The most obvious is a claim for damage to the truck in terms of the fire section of the policy. There are also likely to be business interruption claims in terms of the business fleet policy, as the damaged truck cannot continue operations. There may be claims for loss of income and damage to the goods in transit. In addition, there may be personal injury claims where a truck driver and/or assistant suffers bodily injuries

in the incident. In most severe cases, there may be deaths which may result in life insurance policies being triggered.

Impact on the insurers

There is no immediate end in sight of these incidents. What the insurers have in their control, however, is the ability to limit their liability. Options could include: not insuring trucks at all; excluding liability for routes that are regarded as "high risk"; raising premiums on "high risk" routes; imposing stringent security conditions in the policy; imposing higher premiums generally (not only for

"high risk" spots). The insurers are at liberty to impose conditions that will limit their liability to the bare minimum. Such limitations and exclusions became prevalent at the height of Covid-19 pandemic where insurers were specifically excluding Covid-19 in terms of their policy.

However, insurers cannot summarily make such drastic changes to the terms of the policy. Much depends on the policy wording although insurers will only be able to make such changes at the time of renewal of policy or, upon giving notice to an insured.

Whilst there are



discussions and suggestions on the way forward in dealing with this issue, the insurers are at liberty to imple-

ment ways in which they can limit their liability. If and when the situation gets better, insurers will be able to

revisit their stance and the insureds will be in a better position to reopen negotiations for more favourable terms.

Engen partners with SaferStops Association

OFFICIALLY launched on 13 July 2023, SaferStops seeks to improve truck stop facilities by focusing on healthy meal alternatives, exercise facilities and rest areas that allow commercial truck drivers to take a break after spending long hours on the road.

The SaferStops Association (SSA) is currently collaborating with public-private partners to bed down exactly what the ideal truck stop of the future might look like.

Nicci Scott-Anderson, founder of the Commercial Transport Academy (CTA) and the SSA, says the initiative is not about building new truck stops, rather "we are talking about using existing infrastructure and raising the standard."

Engen's Commer-

cial Marketing and Business Development Manager, Adnaan Emeran says the company is excited to partner with the SaferStops Association in this regard as there are clear synergies between the two organisations.

"For the past ten years, the Engen Driver Wellness Programme has sought to improve occupational health and wellness among long-distance truck drivers by providing free health screening, healthy lifestyle advice and consultations where necessary," comments Emeran.

"Given the long hours many truck drivers spend on the road and the stresses associated with the job, these interventions have formed a critical pillar of support."

And while Engen's



Engen's Adnaan Emeran with Nicci Scott-Anderson, CTA, Mhlahi Gqada, DOT, Nash Omar, CEO of Hollard Insure and Gavin Kelly, RFA CEO.

free health screenings are periodically available at the company's network of 15 Engen Truck Stops and var-

ious Engen 1-Stops, Emeran says there is certainly a lot more that can be done.

"Working together

with the SSA, Engen is actively looking at ways in which it can improve its facilities and ensure that the changing

needs of truck drivers are catered for," he adds.

Some key changes on the cards at Engen Truck Stops include healthier food options, improved ablution facilities and recreational areas.

"After months of research into the health and nutritional needs of drivers, we are about to pilot a new healthy meal offering, with drivers eventually able to order nutritious prepared meals at affordable prices through an App," explains Emeran.

Adds Scott-Anderson: "Physical fitness is also an important aspect for truck drivers, particularly because they are required to drive long distances, while poor truck stop conditions often raise the potential for driv-

ers to be afflicted with avoidable conditions and diseases."

Given recent incidents of targeted violence against truck drivers in pockets of South Africa, Scott-Anderson stresses the importance of providing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) therapy and counselling to those impacted.

She also highlights the need to provide some form of entertainment for drivers at truck stops so they can rest and recuperate before safely continuing their journeys.

"This collaboration with SSA further re-enforces Engen's commitment to being a sustainable energy solutions partner, enriching lives for a better future," says Emeran.

The rise of Haul247: Nigeria's Airbnb-like model for warehouses and trucks

IN the fast-paced and often complex world of logistics, Nigerian start-up Haul247 has emerged as a disruptive force in the country's logistics industry, with its innovative platform, similar to an Airbnb for warehouses and trucks.

Founded in 2020 by Sehinde Afolayan, Akindele Phillips, and Tobi Obasa, Haul247 aims to revolutionise the way businesses source truck transport and warehouse storage facilities.

By connecting users with providers through their platform, the company generates revenue

through a commission on each transaction.

The inspiration for Haul247 came after Afolayan's agricultural commodities trading company encountered severe difficulties in the logistics and warehousing sector. A disastrous incident involving insect infestation during storage motivated him to explore potential improvements to the system. With the help of his co-founders, Afolayan came up with a business model to tackle the logistics inefficiencies he'd experienced personally.

The concept behind Haul247 is simple, yet effective. Businesses needing truck and warehousing services, log onto the platform and browse through a range of third-party providers offering their services. Once a suitable option is found, the user can book the services for either warehouse facilities, or transport.

Their planned launch coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the team boldly decided to go ahead with it, despite the potential obstacles facing the logistics

industry.

Through word-of-mouth and leveraging their networks, they secured their first client, Honeywell Flour Mills, even before their tech platform was fully developed.

The team manually uploaded their client's request details and successfully completed the transaction, marking the official founding of Haul247.

Since then, the startup has refined its tech platform on an ongoing basis to meet growing demand for their services. Co-founder Tobi Obasa's experience in

tech entrepreneurship, and his connections in the industry, has meant the company can handpick top developers to enhance their platform continuously. Apart from local talent, they've also sourced support from India and Poland.

Haul247 focussed on targeting larger multinational corporations initially as their primary customers, which offered the advantages of easier regional expansion and a higher likelihood of timely payments. By building a working relationship with multinationals,

the company ensured a smoother transition into new markets. Their selective payment terms have meant they can maintain a healthy cash flow and pay their partners timeously.

A recent infusion of \$3 million funding from Alitheia Capital means Haul247 is now set to expand its services to small and medium enterprises, including import-export companies and agro-businesses.

Their platform is able to integrate with clients' existing systems, offering a mobile app with tracking and logistics

management tools to streamline the booking process.

Afolayan hopes to maximise asset utilisation for warehouse and truck owners on the platform through lowering downtime for trucks and increasing warehouse occupancy rates, thereby boosting profitability for them. Another future aim is to automate and digitize various steps in the logistics chain to cut bottlenecks.

In the long-term, Haul247 hopes to see strong regional growth, starting in West Africa and growing from there.



CONCRETE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION – THE CUSTODIAN OF QUALITY PRECAST CONCRETE



Henry Cockcroft, General Manager (CMA)

The Concrete Manufacturers Association is one of many South African industry associations which, besides promoting the interests of its members, plays a crucial role for the public at large, ensuring that its members abide by codes of conduct largely based on national and international best-practice standards. Like all business associations, CMA activities encompass interfacing with all levels of public governance, the promotion of the use of quality precast concrete, the creation and maintenance of industry and product specific literature, creation and maintenance of technical standards, and issuing certain certification as applicable.

Now in its 50th year, the CMA is the proud custodian of South Africa's precast concrete industry.

Interviewed by Cape Business News, CMA general manager, Henry Cockcroft, says the precast concrete manufacturing industry is divided into two sectors – infrastructure development and all other forms of construction. With current government spending on infrastructure development at a low ebb, the precast concrete manufacturing market is placed under tremendous pressure, and construction activity is mainly centered on the private sector.

"Our overriding aim is to promote the use of a class of precast concrete products which meets local, and in many instances, international quality standards in both sectors," says Cockcroft.

"This involves the creation, maintenance and updating of precast concrete standards in collaboration with industry leaders and the South African Bureau of Standards – Standards Division, as well as the distribution of industry-related information via social media platforms and the industrial press. Training and updating members and the construction industry at large with the latest developments in precast concrete technology, forms part of this process.

"Dealing with threats to our industry forms another string to our bow. A recent example is the influx of informal manufacturing companies, many of them from other countries, into the rural housing arena.

"More often than not these companies sell sub-standard building products with negative consequences for both the home dweller and the economy as a whole. In most instances houses built with sub-standard materials fail and must be rebuilt at great cost. No country, especially not South Africa, cannot afford buildings which fail. Not only do the rebuilds cost more than double the original price but they cause huge upheavals in the communities where they prevail. In cases like these the CMA engages with the stake holders and government to create awareness and, by so doing, encourage the use of properly certified building materials."

The CMA has over 40 manufacturing members countrywide and in the region of 20 non-manufacturing members. This excludes contractors and professionals who carry CMA membership status.

"During our 50 year existence we have assembled a substantial library which covers all aspects precast concrete manufacture, standards, and installation.

This data is constantly updated and is made available to the construction professional and individual alike." The CMA form a curtain porthole to the industry in gaining information relating to the sourcing quality precast concrete and the installation thereof.

Cockcroft notes that the CMA vigorously promotes the use of top-quality precast concrete and CMA members are obliged to implement a quality management system or, at the very least, abide by a stated quality policy. And one of the services offered by the association is providing new members with assistance in developing quality management systems.

"The overriding benefit of CMA membership is the image it portrays to precast concrete customers. It is synonymous with quality, honesty and professionalism, all based on and abiding by a proper code of conduct. As a result, precast concrete specifiers know they can rely on CMA members' products which are economical, easy to install, and designed for long-term use.

"We offer our members a basket of activities including involvement in exhibitions, seminars and workshops and we provide them with access to our library which includes brochures and other technical material, to assist them in the upskilling of staff and in achieving improvements in precast concrete quality, productivity and application.

"That said, the precast concrete industry operates as a niche market which involves offsite manufacture and transportation to site, and to date there is insufficient formal education on its application in the South African context.

"One of our activities is the staging of a biennial Awards for Excellence competition and we are currently in the midst of our 18th competition which was launched in May. More than winning an award for excellence in the use of precast concrete, the competition is about gaining exceptional visibility for its multiple applications. To this end all award entries are posted on social media platforms, thereby creating an informative resource for engineers, architects, property developers, and other professionals, encouraging them to tap into the many advantages of precast concrete."

Cockcroft concluded the interview by observing that the maintenance of standards forms an essential element of orderly human societies.

"We cannot function effectively without the application and maintenance of standards. Be it in the production of precast concrete, food or pharmaceuticals, standards are the vital ingredient, the glue if you will, in achieving reliable and consistent quality levels. Simply put, a world without standards would be a world in chaos."

+27 (0)11 805 6742

marketing@cma.org.za

cma.org.za

Find us on:



In association with:



Proposed changes to food labelling – a Curates Egg?



Image credit: FitChef.

By Sue Segar,
Associate Editor

THE food and beverage sector is bracing itself for the massive cost implications that are expected to arise from the new food labelling laws proposed by the department of Health.

The anticipated costs would come hard on the heels of numerous economic challenges facing the sector, as well as issues relating to loadshedding, and in a country buckling under the strain of high food prices and unemployment.

The department earlier this year gazetted a draft document for public comment, which aims to make sweeping changes to the labelling of food items in stores around South Africa. The proposed changes contained in the Regulations Relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs reinforce numerous existing rules on product packaging, such as ingredient lists and sell-by dates, but add a range of changes, including specific front of pack labels for foods with certain ingredients or nutrient levels, along with visible logos and restrictions on marketing content.

Food items that are

high in sugar, salt, saturated fat and artificial sweeteners will need to carry warning labels. Additionally health claims will be subject to detailed provisions. The document was open for public comment until 21 July.

Cost implications ill-considered

Gabrielle Stevens, a registered dietician and consultant for FACTS (Food & Allergy Consulting & Testing Services - www.FACTSSA.com), which offers consulting services to key players in the food industry, as well as regulators, highlighted that while the draft regulation has the intention of addressing South Africa's rise in obesity and chronic diseases of the lifestyle, which is an important outcome, the impact on food industry cannot be overlooked, and the primary focus of the effect off these changes to the consumer both in cost and understanding of labels must be considered. (<https://www.factssa.com/news/draft-labelling-regulations-R-3337-most-significant-proposed-changes/>)

"The cost implication of changing labels at a time where the food industry is already

under immense pressure financially due to potentially reduced capacity to manufacture or increased costs for running generators is a concern to the sector". She added the regulations could drive multinational companies out of South Africa. "We are already seeing resistance to this draft from some of the multinationals we work with."

"Importantly, a number of aspects of the draft regulation require nutritional information as a minimum mandatory requirement. Our current legislation does not require this on all product labels. Additionally, all product labels have to go through nutrient profiling and all product labels, where applicable, will have to carry front of packaging labelling based on that analysed nutritional information. "This applies to all foodstuffs, except for a small list of exemptions, such as raising agents, and certain culinary herbs and spices."

Expanding on the financial impact of the regulations, she said: "The first cost that everyone will have to incur is analysing their products if they don't currently have the analysed nutritional information. The next cost involves the changing

of labels based on that information, and due to the fact that many companies print in bulk, they may need to destroy non-compliant labels, which could include already labelled stock."

"As a practising dietician, a concern is that the over-use of all of these warning labels could potentially result in consumers ignoring them, as we have experienced with the 'may contain tree nuts' precautionary statement, where even tree nut allergic people ignore the statement, or we can elicit fear in foods that could be consumed as part of a healthy diet, such as dairy products which have been shown to have protective factors."

"Ideally a balance needs to be struck where South Africans have access to safe and nutritious food and a price that they can afford with label information they can use to guide their buying behaviours".

Meanwhile food companies contacted were reluctant to comment, saying they were currently working through the draft legislation with a view to understanding the impact they will have in the sector.

However, a Woolworths spokesperson said: "Food labelling plays a very important role in providing customers with the information required to make informed choices. Legislation evolves based on consumers' ongoing requirements and expectations. All legislative requirements to change food labels need to be done in a considered and pragmatic manner from a cost implication perspective. The draft labelling regulation is still in the comment phase, and it is therefore premature to conclude the full impact."

Sir Fruit awarded double gold

SIR Fruit, a South African fruit juice producer, was recently honoured with a prestigious Double Gold at the 5th edition of the Aurora International Taste Challenge. The event, held in Stellenbosch in June, showcased the highest calibre of global food quality and recognised exceptional food products from around the world.

Winning the coveted Double Gold award positions Sir Fruit Orange Juice as a standout choice for consumers looking for tasty citrus goodness. In addition to the Double Gold award, Sir Fruit also received other notable accolades at the event. Sir Fruit Mango Juice was awarded Gold, while Sir Fruit Ginger Shot, Sir Fruit Luckybird White Grapefruit Syrup, and Sir Fruit Luckybird Margarita Cocktail Mix received Silver awards. These awards highlight Sir Fruit's continued dedication to excellence across its diverse range of beverages.

The convener of judges, Wanda Cronjé, gathered some of the most accomplished professionals from the food and drink industry to meticulously evaluate the finest products. With over 3 000 glasses and tasting containers at their disposal, the judges conducted a rigorous evaluation

process, considering unique specifications as well as the standard parameters of appearance, aroma, flavour, texture, and after-taste. The competition was fierce, making this achievement all the more significant for Sir Fruit Orange Juice.

"We are really honoured to receive these awards. Our commitment to using home-grown ingredients is, I believe, one of the main things that make our juices so delicious. By supporting South African farmers and suppliers, we not only ensure the highest quality but we're also able to contribute to the growth of our local community," says David Baker, CEO of Sir Fruit.

He adds that Sir Fruit is constantly looking to push boundaries and explore new possibilities to enhance its range of

juices, smoothies, shots, and cordials. "The latest addition to our juice stable is Sir Fruit Voema. As its name suggests, Voema embodies the South African slang term meaning 'energy' and 'vigour.' This refreshing beverage taps into the natural energy derived from the caffeine in one of its ingredients, the guarana plant, and offers a healthier substitute to the artificial energy commonly found in popular fizzy energy drinks. In fact, with an equal 60mg of caffeine each, a single 250ml serving of Voema and an Espresso shot deliver the same energising punch!"

For more information about Sir Fruit and its products, please visit <https://sirfruit.com/collections/voema>.



CAPE BUSINESS NEWS

Cape Business News, founded in 1980, is primarily a promotional vehicle for companies that have the Cape Business community as a primary target market.

ADVERTISING

For all your advertising requirements, contact our Sales Team

sales@cbn.co.za

COMPLETE PROFINET SOLUTION BY LAPP

Suitable for EtherCAT and EtherNet/IP



Vine-tastic – 3 Western Cape vineyards in the top 50 of the World's Best



THE top 50 vineyards in the world were announced this week at an event in Bodegas Beronia in the heart of Rioja Alta, Spain, by World's Best Vineyards which compiles an annual list, showcasing the finest vineyard experiences from around the globe.

"The awards recognise the very best of wine tourism, I am thrilled that this year, the Western Cape has three exceptional vineyards in the top 50, including Creation Wines in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley in fourth, Klein Constantia at 32 and Delaire Graff Estate, in Stellenbosch at 36. I'd especially like to congratulate Creation Wines which secured a spot in the top 5 in the world and is recognised as the best vineyard in Africa, an accolade

"The awards recognise the very best of wine tourism, I am thrilled that this year, the Western Cape has three exceptional vineyards in the top 50..."

it has held for several years in a row" said provincial Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Mireille Wenger.

A further two vineyards feature in the top 51 – 100 - including Benguela Cove in Walker Bay, at 53rd, and Tokara Winery in Stellenbosch, at 93rd.

This news followed the announcement that Cape Town and South Africa were voted the best city, and the best country in the world, according to the UK's 2023 Telegraph Travel Awards.

"The rest of the world continues to recognise the incredi-

ble breadth and depth of excellent tourism offerings we have in the Western Cape and in beautiful South Africa. I believe that our province and country has everything it needs to succeed. Which is why we will continue to work with all levels of government, the private sector, and all stakeholders to enable the growth of the tourism as well as other sectors so we can achieve the break-out economic growth we need to create thousands of new jobs and the opportunities our residents need," concluded Minister Wenger.

Maintaining sustainable food production amid escalating risks in the agri-sector

Daniel Stevens, Head of Santam Agriculture Crop Insurance

THE impact of climate change will worsen over time, with forecasts predicting that South Africa will become hotter and that the average temperature is rising. Heatwaves will occur more frequently increasing the risk of veld fires and more severe droughts. Managing water resources will become more challenging, making it vital for farmers to improve and conserve soil quality to allow for better water infiltration.

In addition to climate change and severe weather events, infrastructure risks also threaten the productivity of our agricultural sector.

The most obvious example is the ongoing energy crisis in the form of load shedding, which is severely impacting farmers. Particularly when you consider that 100% of fruit and vegetables and a third of field crops require irrigation, which requires electricity. These mounting challenges put our agricultural outputs at risk.

Agriculture is an export-oriented sector in South Africa with more than half our produce – to the value of \$13 billion – being exported annually. It's an important contributor to our economy and we cannot afford

to let escalating agricultural risks impact our food production outputs.

Crop insurance serves as an integral tool in maintaining sustainable levels of food production by providing a safety net for farmers, ensuring access to financial resources in the event of crop failure and other disasters. It enables farmers to invest in new crops and continue producing food, thus maintaining their operations and securing their livelihoods. Insurers also assist farmers with employing risk mitigating measures to minimize damages.

In addition, agricultural insurance can help reduce the vulnerability of developing farmers who are considered high-risk borrowers. This perceived risk prohibits these farmers from gaining access to much needed credit from lenders.

However, insurance reduces the risks that developing farmers face and improves their credit worthiness as it provides a degree of certainty, making it easier for them to access the capital they need to invest in their farms and improve productivity.

Robust risk mitigation strategies

Malawi and Kenya have introduced insurance schemes for developing farmers and their food security



Daniel Stevens.

status has improved year-on-year, according to the 2022 Global Food Security Index Report. This improvement can be attributed to their robust risk mitigation strategies, particularly in agricultural insurance.

South Africa, with a food security status score of 61.4 ranks the highest in Africa and 59th out of 113 countries, has its own proposed scheme for developing farmers – of which there are approximately 1.3 million in SA. Index Insurance has the potential to be a game-changer in the local insurance landscape.

Index insurance is a type of insurance that pays out if a particular measure, for example, rainfall, is above or below a certain prede-

termined level. Small-scale farmers could opt for a weather index or a yield index. These products are more flexible and cost-effective because this model of insurance does not require insurance assessors to visit the farm to determine damages. But it will require greater collaboration between insurers and Government to fast-track the development of legislation to make this a reality for smallholder farmers in South Africa.

Agriculture insurance is a necessary tool for the sustainability of farmers by ensuring uninterrupted production and assisting with risk management in an escalating risk environment, which is critical for food security, beyond our borders.

SA/Kiwi duo expand food business

A butchery and deli, established in 2011 by a South Africa/Kiwi couple, has evolved into a thriving meal-kit business which is moving from strength to strength.

South African accountant, Nicola Nesdale, and New Zealand banker, Simon Nesdale, started their meal-kit business, Kook Box, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when they realised that high-quality health meal kits were in big demand.

The couple's venture has gained significant traction, redefining the way families approach cooking and fostering a culture of healthy eating.

The Nesdale's journey began more than two

decades ago when they met while working in London and decided to relocate to South Africa together. Simon, the son of a sheep farmer and an agriculture graduate, established the Krazy Kiwi Butchery and Deli in December 2011. The business experienced remarkable growth, particularly in home deliveries, prompting the launch of Kook Box in December 2021.

During the pandemic, as online food delivery witnessed an unprecedented surge, the Nesdales recognised an opportunity to grow. They opted not to renew the lease on their physical store, and shifted their focus to expanding their online food delivery business.

"The pandemic opened people up to the idea of ordering online, and with many people trying to simplify their lives over that crazy time, we realised that high quality, healthy meal kits were in serious demand," explains Simon. "With many other companies already operating in this field, we knew we would have to offer something special in order to capture the markets attention."

"To keep our meal kits as healthy as possible, we only use fresh, locally sourced, free-range products. This way we are able to guarantee the meals are not only as tasty as possible but are also as nutritious as possible."

LOADING DOCK EQUIPMENT

Doors and loading dock solutions to achieve efficient and temperature controlled working environments.

- Insulated sectional doors
- Insulated dock levellers
- Dock seals and shelters
- Loadhouses

Strip Curtains | Protection Screens | Impact Doors | High Speed Doors
Thermotek Roller Shutter Doors | Sectional Doors | Loading Dock Equipment
Heavy Industrial Doors | Fire Protection Doors

www.maxiflex.co.za

maxiflex

SPAR expands supplier development across the food supply chain



SPAR YES programme learners.

IT only takes one look at the latest unemployment statistics to know that creating sustainable jobs must become the number one priority for South Africa today. "Despite the headwinds, it is critical that corporates find new ways to build and grow sustainable jobs," says Max Oliva, CEO of SPAR Southern Africa.

The latest employment data in South Africa shows that 179,000 more people were unemployed in the first quarter of this year than in the fourth quarter last year, with unemployment hitting a staggering 32.9%. Even more concerning is that 47% of South Africans are reported to be relying on social grants.

In 2016, The SPAR Group embarked on the journey to develop and invest in small-scale farmer entrepreneurs. This led to the establishment of the Group's first Rural Hub in Ofcolaco, in the Mopani District of Limpopo.

"Our Rural Hub model is intentionally focused on rural community development and supports small-scale farmers by providing guaranteed markets for their products and by providing relevant technical and food safety training, as well as facilitating access to funding," explains Oliva.

The SPAR Rural Hub today supports 12 small-scale farmers in Limpopo and has created 103 jobs at farm level and 62 secondary jobs at pack-house and technical services level.

Notably, a total of 63%

of the produce grown by the participating Rural Hub farmers is supplied to SPAR under the Freshline and Country Value labels and delivered to SPAR South Rand, North Rand and KwaZulu-Natal distribution centres. High-value crops through the SPAR Freshline brand are ultimately more profitable for the farmer.

Education and leadership are the key pillars to ongoing jobs growth and skills development and in this regard the SPAR Academy of Learning and its JumpStart programme is playing a unique role in leadership development in the South African landscape.

"Both programmes draw on thought leadership academically, conceptually, and practically in a way that makes them highly relevant," says Oliva. "JumpStart for instance, lays the foundations to address unemployment through a sustainable conduit giving young people the opportunity to experience the world of work, and the world of retail."

The SPAR Group has also partnered with FutureMe since 2016, working with high school learners to inspire them to follow a career in retail. Topics such as values, personal branding, business ethics, customer service, problem solving, and entrepreneurship are all addressed in the programme. Graduates from FutureMe's Go-Getter Challenge who want to pursue a career in stores are also encouraged to join SPAR's JumpStart

programme where they can get hands-on experience in a retail store environment.

Meanwhile, the SPAR Distribution Centres and central office teams continue to provide opportunities for graduates to gain work experience through internships, with 772 people participating to date.

To further ramp up opportunities in the modern digital age, in 2022 SPAR Southern Africa embarked on a second round with an initial cohort of 441 learners.

"We are delighted to report that, as at the end of March 2023, with the conclusion of the 2022 programme, we managed to permanently employ 46 learners which, at 10.43%, is higher than the YES requirement of an absorption rate of 2.5%," says Oliva.

"We commenced with our 2023 YES4Youth intake at the beginning of April 2023. Our learners have been provided with smartphones to complete their modules through the YES4Youth app and are paid a monthly stipend as they get real workplace experience through training in retail stores, at our distribution centres and at SPAR's central office".

Micro and small-scale food producers are encouraged to sign up for the SPAR Supplier Development Programme, by following this link: <https://spar-supplierdevelopment.co.za/>

BI: An overview of service offerings

BEARINGS International is a renowned distributor of industrial products and solutions, specialising in bearings, power transmission, electric motors and related inter mechanical components as well as lubricants and tools. With a strong commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, Bearings International has established itself as a trusted partner for various industries.

This article will explore the diverse range of service offerings provided by Bearings International, highlighting how they cater to the unique needs of their clients.

Extensive Product Portfolio

At the core of Bearings International's service offerings lies an extensive product portfolio, featuring a vast array of quality bearings, electric motors and power transmission components.

From ball bearings and roller bearings to thrust bearings and linear motion products, their selection meets the requirements of industries spanning mining, agriculture, manufacturing, automotive, and more. Customers benefit from a wide variety of high-quality products that ensure optimal performance, longevity, and efficiency.

Technical Expertise and Support

Bearings International prides itself on its team of skilled and experienced technical experts who are always ready to assist clients with their bearing-related challenges. Whether it's selecting the right bearing for a specific application, troubleshooting issues, or providing installation and maintenance guidance, the company's technical support ensures that customers make informed decisions and maximize the lifespan of their bearings.

Custom Solutions and Engineering

Bearings International offers custom solutions and engineering services. Their team collaborates closely with clients to design and manufacture tailor-made solutions that precisely match unique requirements. This personalized approach enhances equipment performance, reduces downtime, and optimizes overall productivity.

Condition Monitoring and Predictive Maintenance

To promote proactive maintenance practices, Bearings International incorporates condition monitoring and predictive maintenance solu-

tions. Through the use of cutting-edge technologies, they enable clients to monitor the health of their mechanical equipment and predict potential failures before they occur. This approach reduces unplanned downtime, lowers maintenance costs, and increases the reliability of critical machinery.

Training and Workshops

Recognising the importance of knowledge transfer, Bearings International organises training sessions and workshops for their customers and employees. These sessions cover various aspects of equipment selection, installation, maintenance, and safety practices. By empowering their clients with essential skills and know-how, the company aims to enhance the overall efficiency and safety of industrial operations.

Logistics and Supply Chain Management

As a leading distributor in Southern Africa, Bearings International takes pride in its efficient logistics and supply chain management capabilities. With strategically located branches nationwide, they ensure convenient access for clients as well as timely delivery of products and services. This reliable

and well-organized distribution network minimizes lead times and helps businesses maintain smooth operations.

24/7 Support and Emergency Services

Understanding that industrial operations can face unforeseen challenges at any time, Bearings International offers 24/7 support and emergency services. Clients can rely on their team of experts to address urgent issues promptly, ensuring minimal disruption to their production processes.

Conclusion

Bearings International's commitment to providing quality products and comprehensive service offerings has made them a leading player in the industrial supply industry. With an extensive product portfolio, technical expertise, custom solutions, predictive maintenance, training initiatives, and reliable logistics, the company has positioned itself as a trusted partner to a diverse range of industries.

By continually innovating and adapting to the evolving needs of their customers, Bearings International maintains its reputation as a reliable and customer-centric solution provider.

SA Harvest commemorates Mandela Day with 20 remarkable women

SA Harvest celebrated this year's Mandela Day by honouring 20 remarkable women from across Cape Town. These women, from regions as diverse as Kuilsrivier, Lavender Hill, the inner city, and Philippi, demonstrate the spirit of Mandela Day every day as they rise each morning to cook for and feed their communities.

The special event, held at the Makers

Landing Kitchen, offered these community heroes a unique experience. They spent the morning exploring new culinary techniques, working with a UCOOK box of ingredients, their laughter and joy filling the air. Dressed in stunning traditional attire, each woman had the chance to win a prize from the Silo Hotel, while the creator of the best-looking meal won a dining experience for

two at the Den Anker restaurant at the V&A Waterfront.

"We were honoured to celebrate these extraordinary women, their dedication, and love for their communities, which mirrors the spirit of Mandela Day," shared Ozzy Nel, COO of SA Harvest. "Their service is a testament to the power of community involvement in combating hunger, and today, we were able to give them

a morning of joy as an expression of our gratitude to them and in recognition of the selflessness of many other women and men who cook every day for the hungry in their communities."

In addition to these memorable experiences, each woman received a gift of a ride for two on the Cape Wheel, a gesture of appreciation for their daily efforts to uplift those around them.



in motion
LEADING INDUSTRIAL CONSUMABLES SUPPLIER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.



BEARINGS & SEALS



CHAINS & SPROCKETS



ELECTRIC MOTORS & DRIVES



BELTS & PULLEYS



GEARBOXES & COUPLINGS



LUBRICANTS & TOOLS



ENGINEERING & FIELD SERVICES



Forest and paper industry's roundtable unearths the sector's role in greener products

THE trend to encourage consumers to go paperless may not be doing the good many think it is doing: that was the clear message from a roundtable discussion hosted on 5 July by the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa (PAMSA).

In fact, experts at the roundtable revealed, the perception that reducing paper consumption will save the environment is not only unsubstantiated and misleading, but can have a lasting effect on consumer perceptions of paper.

Tackling various issues from growing trees to trends in paper packaging, the discussion was chaired by award-winning author and Talk Radio 702 presenter Gugu Mhlungu, and featured representatives of Sappi South Africa, Mondi

Zimele, Mpact, and Woolworths.

The first session covered the environmental and socio-economic aspects of forests and wood products. Panelists were explicit about the importance of our planted forests and debunked several myths and misunderstandings about the sector.

"Trees in South Africa are farmed to make timber, pulp and paper. Rather, they are audited, certified and sustainably managed," said Jane Molony, executive director at PAMSA, pointing out that farming trees does not cause deforestation. "Deforestation happens when you cut trees down and do not replant them," she explained. "We do not use indigenous or natural forests in this country. We farm trees in just the same



way you would farm grain or maize."

Molony explained that timber plantations or planted forests represent just 7% of the planet's forest area, but provide about 50% of the wood for global industrial use such as pulp, paper, and timber for construction.

In South Africa, some 30% of the forestry-owned land is also set aside for biodiversity. "So not only are our forests sustainable sources of wood products, but they are also homes to thriving biospheres and not green deserts as some would suggest," she added.

Paper regaining prominence in the primary packaging space

The second discussion focused on packaging trends, and innovation and developments in packaging substitution and recycling.

Don MacFarlane, Packaging Senior at

Woolworths, explained, "One of the biggest trends is the re-emergence of paper as a primary packaging medium, and not just secondary or tertiary packaging in the form of cardboard boxes," alluding to Woolworths' new locally recyclable paper packaging for its organic pasta range.

Dr Valeska Cloete, Group Innovation, Research and Development Manager at Mpact, added, "There is no single packaging solution for everything, but by applying a fit-for-purpose approach, companies can ensure that materials are responsibly sourced and designed for consumption and disposal."

"Major South African brands are aligning themselves with international food safety regulations and other

local regulations such as the extended producer responsibility regulations to ensure compliance of packaging from design to disposal," she added.

"What's exciting is that we are constantly researching and finding new ways to maximise the potential of trees and the components of wood," said Dr Nelson Sefara, the Sappi Technology Centre Manager. "We are always asking, 'What can we do with the process waste?' This highlights the sector's commitment to being truly circular," he said.

What was clear by the end of the event was that rather than being treated as the enemy, paper and wood products should be viewed as a critical part of everyday life, its little luxuries, and the greener future we all strive to create.

Agri SA submits objections on racialised water use licence regulations

AGRI SA has submitted its comments on the proposed Water Use Licence Applications, Amendment and Appeals Regulations that were published on 19 May 2023. The draft regulations proposed that certain enterprises applying for water use licences to take or store water would in the future have to allocate shares of up to 75% to black South Africans in order for such water use licences to be granted. Given the legal and food security implications of the regulations, it is essential that they are reviewed and substantially amended.

Subsequent to the publication of the draft

regulations, on 15 June 2023, Agri SA had a productive meeting with the Department of Water and Sanitation where officials clarified that the new transformation requirements would only apply with respect to the 1.5% of water resources in South Africa which have not already been allocated. The regulations are also not intended to apply to applications for the renewal of existing water use licences, or to the water use licence applications which will arise out of compulsory licensing.

Agri SA welcomes this clarification and has included these parameters in our suggested

reformulation of the regulations. Notwithstanding this important clarification, Agri SA remains concerned that the draft regulations, as published, are not consistent with the relevant provisions of the National Water Act, the Equality Act, and the Constitution.

No provision in the National Water Act empowers the Minister to make regulations prescribing substantive requirements for licence applications or for the determination of licence applications. Even if such a power is inferred, the Act provides that, in issuing a licence, the responsible authority must take into account all relevant factors. This includes a

list of 11 factors including efficient and beneficial use of water in the public interest, the socio-economic impact of water use, and investments already made by a water user. The need to redress past racial and gender discrimination is one of these 11 factors. By law, when determining an application for a water licence, the responsible authority must strike a reasonable balance between all the factors.

Furthermore, the arbitrary and thus legally impermissible nature of racial quotas has already been established by court judgments. As the draft regulations do not allow for any element of discre-

tion, they are so rigid as to be indistinguishable from a quota, and therefore invalid.

A further concern is that the draft regulations reduce transformation to black ownership. Codes of practice issued under the B-BBEE Act utilise a scorecard which consists of five key elements, with ownership being only one. The other four are management control, skills development, enterprise and supplier development, and socio-economic development. These elements should be taken into account by the Department.

The inclusion of women as a previously disadvantaged group should also be taken into

account. Currently, only racial transformation goals are included in the draft regulations.

Agri SA is all too aware of the historical imbalances that prevail in the farming sector today, but the sector must achieve equality within the rule of law. Agri SA has therefore submitted a proposed reformulation of the draft regulations that take the above-mentioned considerations into account.

It is essential that the effort to build an inclusive agricultural sector does not undermine the country's food production. South Africa is a food-secure country and must remain one. Agri SA's submission makes

clear that were the draft regulations passed as published, they would have a potentially catastrophic impact on agriculture and the country's food security.

Agri SA welcomes the engagement of the Department of Water and Sanitation with the sector, and we will work with them to establish a water licencing regulatory framework that respects the Constitution and protects food security in order to avert the lengthy litigation which would result if the regulations were enacted in their current form.

Janse Rabie, Legal and Policy Executive, Agri SA.

INDUSTRIAL THINKING

NATURAL GROWTH

Find the right solution for your challenge now ➔

Superflex non-woven abrasives - choose your finish

NON-woven abrasives are a three-dimensional web of fibres with globules of resin and abrasives embedded into the network of fibres. Typically, fibres are nylon or another synthetic material, with the abrasive types ranging from silicon carbide to aluminium oxide or ceramic alumina.

Some of the main benefits and advantages of non-woven abrasives are that they are waterproof, rinsible, and resilient due to their open-mesh construction. Used wet or dry, non-woven abrasive products enable the user to achieve a consistent, uniform finish, and conformability to irregular surfaces, with minimal material removal, smearing and discoloration of the workpiece.

As a local manufacturer of specialised abrasives, Grinding Techniques have been bringing premium abrasives to the market since 1981. The latest addition to its extensive range includes the Superflex range of non-woven abrasives, available in

many different shapes, sizes, and materials dependent on application and whether used by hand or machine.

The non-woven hand pads and rolls are mainly used for cleaning and processing surfaces using orbital sanders or hand-guided grinding. A wide range of specifications offer the user a variety of surface finishing options. The range extends from coarse specifications for cleaning weld seams through to very-fine polishing applications. A consistent finish with proven longevity is guaranteed thanks to the abrasive grain that is impregnated into the entire fleece of the product and not only located on the surface. Flexibility is also ensured by the abrasive fabric that adapts perfectly to the geometry of the workpiece surface.

Should an application require a portable power tool to achieve the desirable finish more timeously, Grinding Techniques offers numerous non-woven products



suitable for a 115mm right angle grinder. This product offering includes but is not limited to non-woven flap, unitised, polishing, and rough cleaning discs.

One of the most common challenges when it comes to surface preparation or polishing is getting all the components matched to one another. With Superflex everything needed is available from one source of supply and perfectly matched. With its range of products, a mirror finish can be achieved in only three steps without unwanted burning or discoloration normally caused by overheating.

Superflex non-woven flap discs can be used for various applications

on different materials. It removes and blends all rough scratch marks on surfaces. The multi-dimensional flap design reduces clogging and prevents unwanted material discoloration.

To prepare surfaces for polishing, the Superflex premium unitised disc consists of several layers of abrasive fabric ensuring longevity and sturdiness. This allows the disc also to be used for smaller deburring jobs. The ideal operating speed for non-woven abrasive products are typically 60% of the total speed of a 115mm right angle grinder, however, the product has been developed to achieve good results even on non-adjustable speed

angle grinders.

Compared to conventional felt discs the Superflex premium polishing felt disc is constructed from highly flexible flaps for optimal heat distribution and cool grinding. In doing that the premium polish disc avoids undesired discoloration, when used in conjunction with a polishing paste, a perfect mirror finish is achieved on your workpiece. This disc has also specifically been developed to achieve exceptional results even on non-adjustable angle grinders.

When it comes to removing rust, paint, and varnish with the least possible effort or preparing surfaces for

welding, soldering, or anodizing, the Superflex rough cleaning disc constructed from highly porous nylon fibers, and evenly treated with aggressive abrasives, is able to stand up to any challenge. This disc resists loading or smearing and offers guaranteed longevity with an even scratch pattern, and low heat generation with quiet, stress-free working.

Apart from this, Grinding Techniques also offers an extensive range of convolute and unitised wheels manufactured with the latest technology to provide the desired finish combined with a high tear resistance and exceptional longevity. The main applications for these products are deburring, blending, and finishing of a variety of materials like metals, plastic, and composite materials. Some applications include design objects, surgical instruments, aircraft engines, components of turbines, marine vessel stainless steel and metal parts,

chemical and food processing tools and tanks, cutlery and jewellery, hand tools, threaded parts, jet blades and vanes.

Although unitised and convolute wheels are similar types of products, they each have important differences. Unitised being smaller in diameter, usually 150mm or less, making them ideal for use on portable power tools, where convolute wheels, usually 150mm in diameter, or larger, are ideal for stationary or robotic machines. All products are available in several different densities, grit types and grades.

Apart from the surface conditioning range, Grinding Techniques also offer both conventional, and custom cutting-and-grinding abrasive solutions available for almost any cutting-and-grinding application.

For more information, contact us on: +27 11 271 6400 | info@grindtech.com | www.grindtech.com

SA longline hake fishery is one step closer to MSC sustainability certification

SOUTH Africans who want to enjoy a parcel of hake and chips with a clear conscience will be pleased to know that the tasty, nutritious fast food comes from a fishery that's steadily working towards a stamp of approval from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The South African longline fishery for hake has secured a £50 000 (R1.2 million) grant from the MSC's Ocean Stewardship Fund.

The grant was awarded to the fishery through the South African Hake Longline Association (SAHLLA)

– and its implementing agency, Capricorn Marine Environmental (CapMarine). It will fund a two-year programme that will catapult the fishery towards achieving full MSC certification.

The MSC's blue ecolabel is the world's most widely recognised label for certified sustainable seafood. It is known to unlock seafood markets, particularly in northern Europe where consumers have a high degree of awareness about fisheries sustainability.

Applications for grants come from all

over the world and the South African hake longline fishery is one of only 16 fisheries to secure funding from the fund in 2023. SAHLLA national chairperson, Clyde Bodenham, said, for the past ten years, SAHLLA and its members have directed substantial effort towards achieving MSC certification.

The funding will enable the longline fishery to continue to implement fisher training and awareness programmes and collate and analyse observer data, with the objective of reducing bycatch and

improving the handling and release of endangered, threatened and protected species, particularly seabirds. It will also improve knowledge of the fishery's footprint, ultimately helping to reduce its impact on the deep-sea environment.

While SAHLLA members will still have financial responsibilities, the awarding of the grant is positive recognition of the work that the longline fishery has been doing to improve its environmental performance. In 2013, following the listing by the South African Sustainable Seas Initia-

tive (WWF-SASSI) of longline-caught hake as "orange" on its Fish List – because of concerns about the incidental capture of species not targeted by fishers and negative impacts on seabirds – SAHLLA collaborated with WWF-SA and CapMarine to implement a Fishery Conservation Project (FCP) to identify gaps in the fishery's sustainability profile and develop actions for targeted improvement.

The success of the FCP culminated in the transition from a SASSI rating of "orange" to "green" for both species

of longline-caught hake and kingklip.

Although the FCP and the majority of associated actions were completed in 2015, a MSC-prescribed pathway was required for the fishery to meet the MSC Fisheries Standard and achieve certification. In 2019 SAHLLA reinitiated the at-sea observer programme using independent, third-party scientific observers. An association was also established with BirdLife South Africa to investigate the level of seabird mortality and develop vessel-specific

bird-scaring lines to reduce the danger to birds by fishing gear.

Andrea Angel of BirdLife South Africa welcomed the funding awarded to SAHLLA, saying they will continue to collaborate.

Bodenham said the work carried out over the next two years will enable SAHLLA to steer the hake longline fishery towards meeting the MSC's certification standards. "The globally recognised MSC ecolabel – a benchmark of seafood sustainability – is the beguiling reward that is now well within reach."



super/flex® - Repair | Restore | Renew

A Company of the TYROLIT Group
www.grindtech.com

Local manufacturers and suppliers of specialised abrasive products
info@grindtech.com | +27 11 271 6400



“Groundwork is laid for green hydrogen hub in Saldanha” - Freeport Saldanha SEZ CEO

By Sue Segar,
Associate Editor

THE Freeport Saldanha special economic zone is poised to become one of the first movers to establish a green hydrogen hub in South Africa – but there is still work to be done.

So said Kaashifah Beukes, the CEO of the SEZ. In an interview with Cape Business News, Beukes said the leadership at the SEZ is currently working closely with private sector project developers who are looking at setting up projects in the green hydrogen sector and their derivatives with a view to helping them set up business cases for their projects.

Beukes, who also chairs the SEZ CEO Forum, representative of all the SEZs in South Africa, said the past year was a year of laying the groundwork for the establishment of the hub, which has entailed a great deal of legwork in both policy and business environments.

“We have focused on highlighting the value and potential of Saldanha in the policy environment this year, set from the 2021 national Hydrogen Society Roadmap by DSI, the national Country Investment Strategy by the Presidency in 2022, the JET-IP announced at COP27 in 2022, and the Green Hydrogen Commercialisation Strategy published for comment in December 2022. Provincially, the landmark Western and Northern Cape Governments’ Heads of Agreement to foster collaborative on the green hydrogen economy and associated investments signed during October last year, also provided clarity to us and investors’ that “GH2” is a priority for both provinces to attract investment, grow the economy, improve climate change resilience, and facilitate employment.

“We have also focused on working with project developers on their pre-feasibility studies and their feasibility studies, and

working towards establishing their business cases, their technical standing, and the requirements for their projects.

“It is really important, head down work, where we work with the project developers to establish what the possibilities are and the technical, environmental and financial requirements of the projects,” Beukes said.

“This phase is a very necessary one, which will help to clarify and firm up what is needed from the public sector and from the private sector if we are to succeed in setting up this hub.”

The role of the Freeport, she continued, is “to be a catalyst” which will help facilitate the establishment of the hub. “For example, whether there are regulatory reforms or new instruments needed or where more infrastructure planning and execution is needed.

“We really are in the phase of bedding down the financial, technical and environmental requirements for the projects so that these

companies will, next year, be in a position to take investment decisions.”

Companies which are looking at setting up green hydrogen projects include Sasol and ArcelorMittal.

“Sasol is looking at supplying ArcelorMittal with green hydrogen and is currently involved in a pre-feasibility study, with which the Freeport is assisting.

“They are looking into supplying the green hydrogen for use in the steel mill to reproduce green direct reduced iron (DRI). They were previously doing this using electricity from the grid – but that has become increasingly costly.”

Beukes said since the establishment of the SEZ in 2014, those at the helm have been hard at work establishing the zone. “It was greenfield when we started operations; there was nothing on the site, so we had to start from scratch, with getting zoning, environmental impact assessments etc. We have now serviced the

land, we have the necessary environment permits in place, and we have done quite extensive work to create an enabling environment from the regulatory side, and to set it up as a customs control area (which was designated in 2019) and we have also secured agreements with the Transnet National Ports Authority and helped work with them to bring the offshore supplier base to fruition.

“Part of setting up this enabling environment has been to do work in the skills development space so that we can be a catalyst between investors and the labour market, so we have also trained over 2 500 people in relevant artisanal skills.

“Through our Saldanha Bay Innovation Campus programme, we’ve been helping startups gain market access and finance.

“We are firmly committed to position ourselves on the decarbonisation track through supporting project developers on



Kaashifah Beukes.

their green hydrogen projects and ambitions.

“Saldanha has good wind and solar availability; it is quite a unique place as it has an industrial base already and its location close to the port, and to the existing port and rail lines means it is well placed to work closely into the future with many private sector project developers on their projects in their green hydrogen sector and their derivatives.

“The private sector is under increasing pres-

sure to decarbonise their products and to adhere to the climate change objectives that have been set for 2030. Both the private sector and the government are responding to this need through policy and regulatory reform. This pressure is a driver for us.

“I think we will see some of these projects come about in the next three years. They might not be the big projects yet – but we will start with pilot projects and grow from there.”

Carrier reliance on leased container fleet to support higher per diems and cash returns



A downturn in trade and mass disposal of surplus equipment will lead to a 2% contraction in the global container equipment pool in 2023. But a recovery thereafter will drive expansion of the fleet with most of this investment coming from lessors, raising newbuild values, per diems and cash returns. Source: Drewry Container Census & Leasing and Equipment Forecaster.

Drewry expects the global pool of container equipment to contract by 2% in 2023 as trade growth remains weak

and owners dispose of more equipment. In 2023, Drewry anticipates global container handling activity to increase by just 1% to 870.7 mteu. While inflation remains stubbornly high in several economies, it is generally in decline and personal consumption and corporate investment in many countries are expected to increase through 2H23.

Nonetheless, there are still too many containers in the global pool than needed to support existing and short-term trading prospects and

vessel slot operating capacity. Consequently, lessors and transport operators remain focused on adjusting their fleet according to current market conditions to improve utilisation rates.

In 2Q23, lessors’ box utilisation levels slipped to 97%, the lowest level since 3Q20 when the world was still only just recovering from economic lockdown. This means that sales of used boxes to the secondary market will remain high in 2H23 as owners shed surplus

and ageing equipment, while the appetite for ordering new containers will be weak. Total production this year is unlikely to exceed 1.9 mteu, its lowest level in 14 years.

Thereafter, new build box production is forecast to recover on the back of rising containerised trading volumes, an increasing need by owners to replace ageing containers and record deliveries of ULCV and large neo-Panamax-class ships. By 2027, Drewry projects that the global pool of containers will total over 56 mteu, representing average annual growth of around 3%.

While lessors will see their share of the market fall again this year, it is expected to recover from 2024 as deteriorating liner profitability drives carriers back to the leasing market. By the end 2027 the sector is expected to control over 52% of the fleet, according to Drewry projections.

TNPA shortlists respondents for the development of the Boegoebaai port and rail link in the N Cape

TRANSNET National Ports Authority (TNPA) has shortlisted three respondents to submit proposals for the design, funding and construction of a planned port and rail infrastructure project in the Northern Cape Province.

The development of the new port and associated rail infrastructure, to be located in the Boegoebaai area, will improve connectivity to the Northern Cape, and provide the necessary logistics for manganese, green ammonia and other commodity exports in the province.

It supports the opening up of the province as a mining destination. The shortlisting follows the positive response received from the market, where eight consortia made up of local and international companies within the

“Following the RFQ process, the next step is for TNPA to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the qualifying respondents.”

engineering, construction, funding and logistics sectors responded to the Request for Qualification (RFQ), which was issued in August 2022.

The RFQ process was undertaken to identify and select qualifying developers who can undertake the design, funding and construction of a capital-efficient greenfield, deep-water port and the associated infrastructure.

“This project, post-construction, will result in the efficient movement of cargo emanating from the Northern Cape thereby providing another export channel for

mining commodities from South Africa to global markets,” said Magenthran Ruthenavelu, TNPA Boegoebaai Programme Director.

Following the RFQ process, the next step is for TNPA to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the qualifying respondents.

The three shortlisted respondents are: Boegoebaai Port & Rail Consortium, Boegoebaai Development Consortium and Project Elephant Consort.

TNPA continues to work with key stakeholders in securing critical resources for the realisation of the project. -

Mill turns to Condra to recover lost production

PRICE should never be allowed to unduly influence the purchase decision. A wrong choice of capital equipment can prove costly not only in downtime and lost production, but also in unnecessarily increased expenditure when new equipment must be bought to replace the failed original.

This caveat comes from Marc Kleiner, managing director of crane manufacturer Condra, who says that buyers should exercise caution if they notice tender appraisal paying undue attention to price rather than product capability and overall lifetime cost.

He was commenting on a recent order to manufacture an overhead crane as replacement for a competitor's machine that failed inspection and load testing. The rapidly deteriorating crane is now adversely affecting production in the millhouse where it is installed.

The order for the replacement was placed by Natal Cranes, authorised Condra distributor in KwaZulu-Natal and the firm behind the winning tender to replace the failed machine. In the same millhouse, Natal Cranes has been servicing a 10-ton Condra maintenance crane installed in 1987 on the same gantry as the rival crane now needing replacement. The 10-tonner is still working reliably after 36 years.

Condra received the order on June 6 and is committed to a delivery date of six weeks from drawing approval. After installation and commissioning, the failed crane will be scrapped.

The new crane will be a physically large machine of double-girder electric overhead design, spanning 21 metres and equipped with two hoists: a 35-ton main unit and 5-ton auxiliary, both mounted on the same crab and delivering lifting heights of 15 and 16 metres respectively.

Maximum long travel speed will be 31 m/min, with 15,4 m/min on the cross travel. Control will be by mobile pendant.

The crane will feature a full-length walkway, dual-speed controls on all functions, binder brakes, stainless steel panels and IP65 dust and waterproofing for the motors.

Paint finish will be to high-specification anti-corrosion standard.

Commenting on the order, Kleiner said the mill's need to replace a failed machine was a

good illustration of lost production and additional expenditure being the direct result of a buying process where price exerted undue influence.

"The old adage that the proof of the pudding is in the eating is relevant even in the market for overhead cranes," he quipped.

"Condra's product quite simply has more depth and durability. Our sales pitch might sometimes not be as polished as our rivals, but the mettle of our products is well proven, witness Condra's 10-tonner on the same gantry as the failed crane, and still working even though it was installed almost forty years ago, years before the failed machine."

A complete range of spare parts remains readily available, he added.

Kleiner explained that Condra's tender price could in many cases not be the lowest, because the product represented a first-rate, top-quality offering.

"But the longevity of our installations around the world justifies the investment made in them. These are robust, reliable cranes."

Condra has in recent years captured an increasing share of the lifting equipment market in Africa south of the Sahara, with the company's success in securing orders against determined competition from European rivals seemingly set to continue.

Company management claims the highest local content of any overhead crane manufacturer in the region. The product range encompasses capacities from 250 kg to 500 tons with a fully automated option offered on all machines. Manufacture is to ISO 9000 standard.

Research and development at the company is ongoing and includes a commitment to environmental improvement. Design engineers are currently researching the effect of different rotor and rotor winding configurations – silumin among them – on motor torque and efficiency, the aim being to contribute to environmental improvement by reducing energy input requirements.

The company has additionally installed solar panels at its Germiston and Cape Town factories to provide an estimated 70 percent of electricity requirements.

Visit Condra's website: www.condra.co.za

PFERD's high-performance grinding solution, CC-GRIND ROBUST, wins top award at K.I.T.E.

PFERD-South Africa has been awarded the prestigious General Machinery and Equipment award in the International Company Design and Manufacture category for its innovative CC-GRIND ROBUST grinding wheel at the Innovation & New Product Awards at the KwaZulu-Natal Industrial Technology Exhibition.

PFERD's CC-GRIND ROBUST is a modern, high-performance and ergonomic grinding solution developed with environmental sustainability, productivity, and ergonomics in mind. The CC-GRIND ROBUST is an efficient alternative to conventional grinding discs, flap discs, and fibre discs. Launched in South Africa in the first quarter of 2023, this patented innovative solution transforms metal stock removal processes to maximise productivity, cost-effectiveness, and operational efficiency.

The advantages of the CC-GRIND ROBUST are that stock removal is significantly faster and the process noticeably more ergonomic when compared to conventional grinding consumables. The CC-GRIND ROBUST is significantly more durable compared to traditional fibre and flap discs and achieves a far superior surface finish compared to traditional grinding discs. The product's design and construction, which is focused on efficiency improvement and ergonomics, results in faster processing times, increased comfort, better safety, and significantly reduced levels of dust, noise, and vibration.

The CC-GRIND ROBUST's lightweight design and high stock removal rate makes it both energy and cost-efficient. The product doesn't require any special equipment and can therefore be used on regular angle grinders making it ideal for everyday tasks on steel and stainless steel such as surface grinding, weld dressing, deburring, chamfering, and removing imperfections.

Entries to the 2023 Innovation & New Product Awards were assessed by independent adjudicator Eric Bruggeman, CEO of the South African Capital Equipment Export

Council (SACEEC). Bruggeman says he was impressed by the capabilities of this innovative grinding wheel, its ability to make operations more efficient and it makes life easier for the operator.

"We are delighted that the CC-GRIND ROBUST, a product that PFERD is proud of developing, has been recognised at the highly respected Innovation & New Product Awards," says Dennis Phillips, National Sales Manager at PFERD-South Africa.

"The award is testament to the quality and performance that underpins this unique solution which is unmatched by any other product in the market. As leaders in the development, production, support, and distribution of premium tool



From left to right: Jonathan Porter, PFERD South Africa Export Business Development Advisor, Leon Viljoen, PFERD South Africa VSM Application Specialist, Eric Bruggeman, The South African Capital Equipment Export Council CEO, Roelof Strydom, PFERD South Africa Marketing Coordinator, Matthew Corin, Specialised Exhibitions and Gary Corin, Specialised Exhibitions Managing Director.

solutions for work on surfaces, PFERD has long been committed to excellence and innovation. Globally, the busi-

ness is at the forefront of international metal fabrication developments, providing the advanced abrasives and tools

needed by industry." Winning this award, he concludes, sets a new standard for grinding solutions.

EFFICIENT, HIGH-PERFORMANCE SOLUTION FOR STOCK REMOVAL



CC-GRIND ROBUST

TRUST BLUE

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY



www.pferd.com

- Modern, high-performance and ergonomic alternative to conventional grinding wheels for grinding steel and stainless steel.
- Extremely high stock removal rate and outstanding tool life.
- Significant reduction in rework thanks to high-quality surface finish.
- Improved ergonomics (compared with conventional grinding wheels) due to reduced noise, vibration and dust.

Contact PFERD-South Africa for further information:
Tel: 011 230 4000 | E-Mail: sales@pferd.co.za | Website: www.pferd.co.za

Kane Herbert represents Bosch Rexroth Africa in 4th generation of Junior ExCom



Kane Herbert.

EACH year, a new team of young associates across the Bosch Rexroth Group are nominated to collaborate on three designated projects to drive a positive impact on the future of the Group. Kane Herbert, Branch Manager, Hytec SA, was nominated as one of 23 global candidates for the 4th generation of Junior ExCom, which launched on the 17th and 18th of January in Ulm, Germany. For the first time, the Group's ExCom approved a 4th topic, as proposed by Kane's Junior ExCom team: the development of an Annual Recurring Revenue (ARR) model.

"Kane stood out in the Group. He is moving up and fast in his career, is respected in the company, and is actively paving the way for growth in his division with forward thinking. Kane also has a wealth of experience in many areas facilitating his capability in many disciplines, therefore being an exceptional candidate to represent Bosch Rexroth Africa," says Chris Riley, CEO, Bosch Rexroth South Africa. Kane accepted the role in November 2022 on top of the responsibility of managing his branch at Hytec SA and will hold the position for a year. The standard three

designated projects that the Junior ExCom members will be working on include sustainability, digitalisation, and people and culture. "The establishment of the 4th topic, the ARR model, unfolded as we interacted at the launch," comments Herbert. "It was a privilege to be a part of the proposed project. The odds of a South African, German, Norwegian, Austrian, and French contributing to a mutual idea with diverse inputs, expertise, and experience was incredibly slim, but happened anyway. We are excited about the project and hope that the ground-work is solid so that it is successfully approved at handover for implementation by the Group."

Junior ExCom candidates are required to attend meetings and further develop their concepts throughout the year. The concepts will then be handed over to ExCom during the course of the year, where these proposals will be assessed to determine which will be feasible for the Group. A Bosch Rexroth leadership meeting was scheduled on the 20th and 21st of April 2023 in Frankfurt, Germany, and included the attendance of Kane and many leaders worldwide.

HAW appoints new Sales Manager

TRAVIS Smith has been appointed Sales Manager at Hydraulic and Automation Warehouse (HAW), a Bosch Rexroth Africa company.

Currently studying for his BBA in Marketing Management, Smith first joined HAW in 2014 as Internal Sales Representative. After a three-year stint in this position, in 2017, he was promoted to Technical

Sales Representative which was followed by another promotion to Internal Sales Manager in 2020.

Smith is tasked with maintaining and expanding on HAW Johannesburg branch's customer base to ensure the growth of the branch. He is also responsible for the external sales team, which fulfils the Group's and non-group customers' requirements.



New CMS Adapter System boosts flexibility in end effectors

SCHUNK has introduced its new, user-friendly CMS manual change system for supporting flexible and adaptable tasks at assembly workstations, in technology assembly, and manufacturing. The CMS is suitable for both robots and other stationary applications.

Locking and operational Safety

The CMS manual change system has

a locking lever for manually locking the interchangeable head with the change adapter (no additional tools required). The actual locking bolt is made from corrosion-resistant steel to provide a secure and durable locking system.

The various connections are not hidden by the thrust lever's new, cranked design. As a result, all system connections are accessible radially and axially for vacu-

um and pneumatics.

Robot compatibility

A standardized pattern of mounting holes on machinery or equipment is referred to as an ISO mounting pattern or ISO flange pattern. It is widely used in numerous sectors, including robotics and automation, and is specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The ISO mount-

ing pattern comprises a grid of circular or square-shaped bolt holes that are evenly spaced apart. These holes provide interoperability and compatibility between various parts or devices that comply with the same ISO standard.

The CMS manual change system exhibits this pattern for the robot and tool adapter side, which means that it can be fitted directly onto common robot arm types without the need for another adapter plate, as shown by the reference to the ISO flange pattern.

Robot end effectors

SCHUNK offers its customers a diverse catalogue of pneumatic and manual change systems to help facilitate the more rapid and efficient changeover of robotic effectors such as grippers and other tools.

The CMS system has a 58 kg payload capacity and can combine with machining and handling components from the SCHUNK portfolio. Machine operators can economize on the flexibility of the CMS system and change between grippers or machine tools from the R-EMENDO series, for example.

Customers can access six sizes of SCHUNK's CMS manual change system and can choose to use the less expensive CMS-B model, sporting the same mechanical design but without pneumatic feed-throws.

For more information visit: <https://schunk.com/gb/en>

WE MOVE. YOU WIN.

Now. Next. Beyond.

A Bosch Rexroth Company

A Bosch Company

Moving specialist of hydraulic and automation components from the world's leading manufacturers to your shop floor.

HAW bring premium hydraulic hose and fittings, mobile components and accessories to your operation, so you enjoy maximum hydraulic performance, every day.

Hytec Fluid Technology (HFT) delivers the world's leading air, coolant, lube and fuel filtration solutions into Africa, improving machine performance and lowering overall equipment costs.

Call us: **+27 (0)11 975 9700** or
Visit our website at: **www.boschrexroth.africa**

Does solar work in winter?

Ross Mains-Sheard of Versofy Solar shares insights and advice on how to optimize your solar system during the colder months of the year.



Image credit: Adobe stock.

CONSIDER that Alaska's Willow solar farm is sited a few hundred miles south of the Arctic Circle. While 85% of the northernmost US state has some level of permafrost, it is surprisingly sunny. And solar panels do not need heat; they need sunshine.

"Colder temperatures do not have a massive impact on solar panel efficiency," says Ross Mains-Sheard of Versofy Solar. "In fact, you may lose efficiency when the temperature gets too high. Solar panels do not convert heat energy into electricity; they convert solar radiation into electricity by making use of the photovoltaic effect."

Right angles

Mains-Sheard explains that the main reason solar generation is reduced in winter months is fewer sun hours. The angle of the sun is also much lower in the colder months compared to summer months and this can mean that some users may be affected by a 50% generation loss in winter. Less direct sunlight reaches the panels and therefore production is reduced.

The ultimate solar panel angle for production fluctuates over the course of the year. In summer and the warmer months, it would be at 30°, while in winter the angle would be closer to 45°. "Moving panels and changing the angle with the seasons may increase generation but the costs associated with this will be very high," Mains-Sheard warns.

A solar tracking device (which points panels directly at the sun, following its movement for better production) and optimisers that reduce losses caused by shading do improve generation.

But Mains-Sheard says they are not used much in the residential market due to prohibitive costs.

"Rather identify your generation peak for summer and winter months and ensure that your panels get close to that level on a regular basis," he advises. "These tests can only be done in ideal weather conditions."

"If you use an experienced, professional installer, they will study your site and establish the best spot for the panels – ideally in a space that is north-facing and never in shade. They will then mount the panels at a 30–40° angle. This will give you the best summer and winter production."

Shading is a solar array's worst enemy. While solar panels can still generate power after a rain shower (because light travels through the water), on an overcast day, your panels will generate electricity at an incredibly low rate. "Interestingly enough, scattered clouds on a sunny day often cause a phenomenon called Edge of Cloud," Mains-Sheard adds. "This is a sudden increase in the amount of light energy due to reflection from the passing cloud, which focuses more sunlight onto your solar panels, giving you a spike in production."

Weighty questions

Does the accumulation of environmental fac-

tors (hail, frost, leaves, debris etc.) affect solar panels' structural integrity and electrical performance?

"Because the panels are mounted and installed on a mounting structure, the weight is distributed evenly, and due to the angle at which they're installed, most debris will slide off," Mains-Sheard answers.

He emphasises the importance of washing off dirt and dust every six months to ensure there are no generation losses. "Dust and dirt can affect your generation by approximately 5%. You can clear the panels simply by spraying them with water from a hose pipe."

Is ice a problem? "Like rain, ice is clear, and it does not block sunlight from reaching the panels therefore generation losses are at a minimum. Solar panels do not convert heat energy into electricity but with that said, the panels still generate their own heat and therefore any ice will melt during the course of the day."

"Heavy cloud cover and shorter hours of daylight will affect your solar system's generation capabilities, but cold temperatures, rain and ice will not – as long as the sun is out and your panels are not in the shade, your solar array will still produce electricity."

We value your input

Only through your input can we continue to improve.

- Comments
- Suggestions
- What would you like to hear about

editor@cbn.co.za

Cost effective solar from Cape Climate

CAPE Climate has been the leading provider of energy-efficient HVAC and Solar solutions in the Cape Town area for over a decade. As a region that is currently grappling with an energy crisis and frequent blackouts, our focus is on empowering households to regain control over their energy consumption and making significant strides towards a sustainable future.



"...empowering households to regain control over their energy consumption..."

Our primary goal is to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of homes while simultaneously offering cost-effective solutions that cater to various budgets. Whether it's

a simple inverter and battery backup system to power essential loads during load shedding or a more advanced setup with Photovoltaic (PV) panels generating abundant free energy to sustain all your electrical needs, we have the expertise and resources to deliver.

At Cape Climate, we take care of the entire project, from incep-

tion to completion, including the necessary SSEG (Small Scale Embedded Generation) application process with the City of Cape Town. This ensures that the installed system is fully compliant and registered, giving you peace of mind and assurance of quality.

Join countless satisfied customers who




have already embarked on their journey towards a greener future by contacting Cape Climate today. Let us empower you to break free from the shackles of unreliable electricity supply and take advantage of sustainable energy solutions that not only benefit the environment but also provide long-term cost savings.

TIRED OF LOAD SHEDDING

Cape Climate offers practical PV Solar solutions

Whether you need a solar panel installation, backup battery systems, or other load shedding solutions, we've got you covered. With our solar solutions, you can say goodbye to the disruption and inconvenience of load shedding.

Typical Residential PV systems

		
5 KW System For home/business using up to 20 kw/units per day	8 KW System For home/business using 20 - 30 kw/units per day	12 KW - 3 phase System For home/business using more than 30 kw/units per day

Loadshedding back-up systems - no PV panels

		
5 KW System	8 KW System	12 KW - 3 phase System

Contact us:

Tel: 021 554 3124 | M: 083 448 4000

Email: mark@capeclimate.co.za | www.capeclimate.co.za



Cape Climate also specialises in energy efficient air conditioning solutions for residential and light commercial applications



Thomas Hall.

Helukabel: the latest industry expert to join solar PV academy

IN a bid to eradicate bad practice and create an incubator for the solar industry, Helukabel South Africa, suppliers of high specification TUV approved cable and cable accessories, have been invited to join the innovative ACES Academy, a formal gathering of prominent subject matter experts in the solar PV industry, committed to raising the technical standards in the hitherto unregulated solar industry. Helukabel South Africa Cape Town branch manager Thomas Hall, an expert in the field of electric cabling, with over 10 years' experience in the electrical contracting and solar industries, underwent a stringent vetting procedure before Helukabel was included on the Academy's list of 17 'bricks' or modules which make up the Solar PV Installer courses offered by the Academy.

"Our level of cabling expertise — particularly for the solarPV industry, is vital to ensure that installers and for the protection of the public, is fully understood. This booming industry has attracted its fair share of Johnny come latelies who want to cash-in on an industry with low barriers to entry


"While solarPV cabling contributes 80% to a system's reliability and longevity, it typically represents only 20% of the overall cost of the installation. Of particular concern is the proliferation of cheap imported cabling that in the most part is not fit for purpose and can be downright dangerous particularly in the residential market where many uninitiated homeowners accept the lowest quote for the job.

"We have obtained samples of sub-standard products readily available on the local market which from a profit perspective appeal to an ignorant installer. An influx of aluminium conductors has a price advantage over copper conductors but there is a great difference in the physical characteristics of aluminium versus copper for a given amperage capacity. A 6 mm aluminium cable is not the same as a 6 mm copper cable, and the size does not mean the material itself can withstand the same stresses or amperage. There are many different characteristics that need to be taken into consideration" stresses Hall

"Cheap insulation, cable connectors and terminations also proliferate. Cables that connect the solar panels to the inverter must be UV resistant as they are exposed to our intense climatic conditions. Many of the samples we have gathered are inferior in that regard and do not compete with the 25-year warrantee offered on our PV cable range.

Training incentives

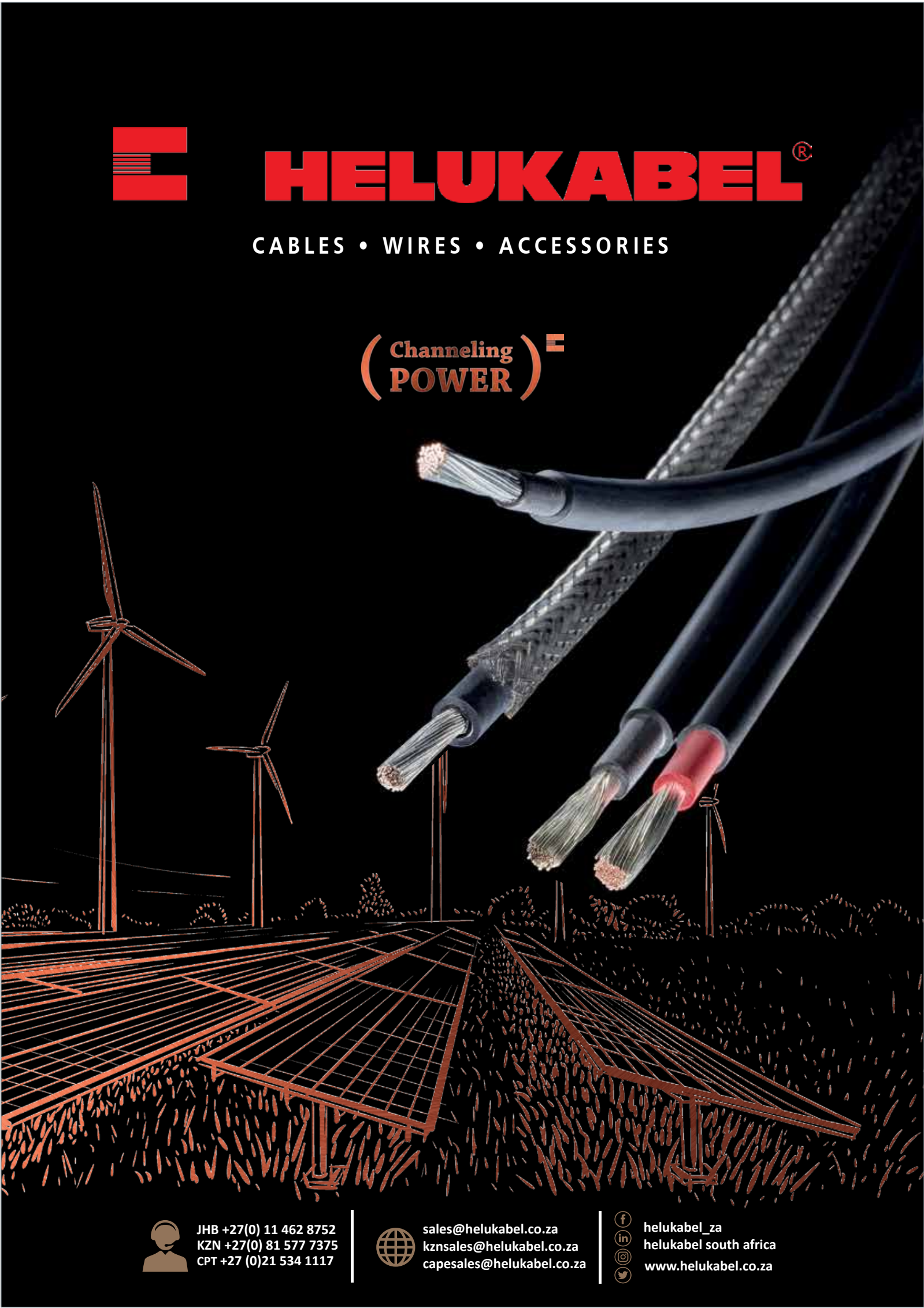
"To provide an incentive for current and would be installers; those that are certified after completing our two day course under the ACES Academy umbrella, are offered attractive discounts on Helukabel cable and accessories, and that applies even more so for female installers who are encouraged to break into the lucrative solar PV market.




HELUKABEL®


CABLES • WIRES • ACCESSORIES

(Channeling POWER)






JHB +27(0) 11 462 8752
KZN +27(0) 81 577 7375
CPT +27 (0)21 534 1117



sales@helukabel.co.za
kznsales@helukabel.co.za
cap-sales@helukabel.co.za



[helukabel_za](#)
[helukabel south africa](#)
www.helukabel.co.za

Angola's plan to fast-tracking sustainable oil development



By NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman, African Energy Chamber (www.EnergyChamber.org)

ANGOLA has been in the petroleum business since the mid-1950s. Since then, the country has become one of the biggest crude oil producers in Africa. In August 2022, for example, it surpassed Nigeria and attained the top spot for the first time since 2017. While that rise was temporary, Angola became the continent's No. 1 producer again in May of this year.

Production challenges

The government has said it wants to push production levels up to 1.3 million bpd, but it will not necessarily have an easy time doing so. This is because the decline in output has been structural in nature. That is, it stems partly from the maturation of many large offshore oil fields, partly from IOCs' failure to launch enhanced oil recovery (EOR) projects to stem the downward trend, and partly from inadequate investment

in upstream capacity. These trends are not easy to reverse, even though officials in Luanda have made some efforts to attract new investors and to encourage exploration through such measures as new licensing rounds.

Nevertheless, it would be a mistake to assume that the long-term decline in crude output is a sign that Angola's oil industry is destined to keep shrinking to the point of insignificance. The country is taking steps to raise production, not just to push yields up to 1.3 million bpd but also to stabilize them at that level.

Diamantino Pedro Azevedo Minister of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas, has brought working together with ANPG and Sonangol leadership have been able to leverage both the power of government and the power of the business community to achieve overdue changes.

Building on Existing Infrastructure

Azule Energy has a track record of success with respect to working with Sonangol to push

upstream operations forward. Indeed, the joint venture has focused specifically on bringing new reserves online as quickly as possible and has developed a strategy for doing so. This strategy is known as Infrastructure-Led Exploration (ILX), and Eni has described it as a means of using subsea tie-backs, which connect new deposits to existing production facilities as quickly as possible. This fast-track approach minimizes the time that greenfield projects spend waiting in the pipeline between discovery and development. It also maximizes sustainability, as reducing the need for new construction helps to lessen the environmental impact of upstream operations. Agogo field, also located within Block 15/06, is the next target in Azule Energy's development pipeline. It is slated to come on stream in 2026, and the company's contractor, Saipem of Italy, has already begun construction of a new sub-sea production network there for the Early Phase 2 development project. This new network will eventually be connected to an FPSO that will support a development hub capable of supporting additional production of 175,000 bpd.

Fast-Tracking Oil Development

Azule Energy is not the

only IOC trying to ramp up production as rapidly as possible in cooperation with Sonangol. TotalEnergies has been following a similar path by emphasizing short-cycle development projects that extend its sub-sea production network in a low-impact manner by using tie-backs to link new fields to nearby floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessels. One such project is CLOV Phase 3, which targets the Cravo, Lirio, Orquidea, and Violeta fields within Block 17. TotalEnergies made a final investment decision (FID) on this project in June 2022, and it said at the time that CLOV Phase 3 was expected to carry a price tag of USD850 million. It also noted, though, that it would be able to trim its costs by as much as 20% because of the decision to use standardized equipment to establish production networks.

CLOV Phase 3 is slated to be the first upstream Angolan project to benefit from TotalEnergies' use of standardized sub-sea equipment. However, the French major does hopes to take the same approach to future short-cycle development initiatives. In the meantime, CLOV Phase 3 is expected to boost Angola's oil output by 30,000 bpd once it comes online in 2024.

Western Cape's largest embedded solar Power Purchase Agreement

ATLANTIS Foundries (Pty) Ltd (AF), one of Africa's largest foundry operations, has signed a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Energy Partners (EP), an integrated energy solutions company.

According to the terms of the agreement, EP will engineer, finance, construct and operate the ground-mounted solar energy system at AF's production plant, comprising more than 20,000 solar panels and boasting a total rated capacity of 13.5MWp. It will be the Western Cape's largest embedded generation solar project.

"Likely the highest CO2 emissions saving in SA auto industry"

Chief Executive Officer of EP, Manie de Waal, affirms that the PPA, set to commence on May 1, 2024, will not only provide AF with a reliable electricity source at a substantially reduced cost over the next 20 years, it will also align AF with growing environmental awareness in the automotive industry.

"Opting for renewable energy is a significant step, and the system that we designed for AF is expected to

"...with this renewable energy generation project, we are setting new standards in the South African automotive industry..."

save more than 22,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually, likely the highest reduction achieved in the South African automobile industry. In financial terms, the system will generate electricity worth more than R35 million per year at current average Eskom tariffs," he confirms.

The system, which has been specifically engineered to align with the foundry's electrical consumption profile, is estimated to replace up to 20 percent of AF's annual electricity consumption, considerably reducing its carbon footprint and representing a major step towards sustainable energy utilisation.

It will be integrated into AF's electrical network that is connected to the City of Cape Town's grid, and excess energy generated by the plant will be fed into the City's network through the feed-in programme,

contributing to the overall renewable energy capacity of Cape Town.

Collaborating for renewable energy adoption

Says Pieter du Plessis, CEO of AF, "AF, as part of the Daimler Truck AG, with this renewable energy generation project, we are setting new standards in the South African automotive industry and alleviating pressure on our constrained national grid. It is a result of extensive cooperation between the AF and EP teams, in conjunction with the Western Cape government and City of Cape Town. Thank you to everyone involved."

The project sets the stage for future embedded generation systems exceeding 1MW within Cape Town and the rest of the province.

Helukabel: the latest industry expert to join solar PV academy

Continued from P20

"Our next training course is scheduled for the 21 -22 September 2023 at Aces Academy, details can be sourced from Helukabel Cape Town directly.

Helukabel Group is a family owned business of 45 years standing, with multiple manufacturing facilities and having 61 sites across 39 countries, supplying high specification TUV approved cable and cable accessories to a wide spectrum of industries.

Its Cape Town branch is the latest addition to the Helukabel family complementing its South African head office in Johannesburg and a branch in Durban.



Industrial Ethernet Cables

PROFINET-compliant, suitable for EtherCAT and EtherNet/IP

PROFINET is one of the leading standards for Industrial Ethernet in automation technology and can be used in most industries. We have put together a selection of products that are PROFINET compatible.

Benefits

- Can be used in dry or damp rooms
- Screened against interference
- Can be used for Industrial Ethernet in harsh industrial environments
- 2pair: 10/100 Mbit/s for Industrial Ethernet
- Power over Ethernet

Application range

- For industrial secondary and tertiary cabling according to EN 50173-3, ISO/IEC 24702
- Wiring of machines, tools, devices, appliances and control cabinets
- Max. patch lengths: 100 m
- Flame retardant acc. to IEC 60332-1-2

Product Make-up

- Outer sheath: PVC
- Overall screening with copper braid (coverage 85 %) and plastic-laminated aluminum foil
- Color: green (RAL 6018)

Increased Productivity with PROFINET

High-performance real time communication on field level

PROFINET (Process Field Network) has become indispensable in the industrial environment. In 2021, the total number of installed PROFINET nodes exceeded 40 million. As an open standard, PROFINET enables high-performance networks and manufacturer-independent automation solutions for smart factories - on field level and in real time. With the wide range of PROFINET products from LAPP you are well equipped for the digital transformation and the factory of the future.

Tel: 011 201 3200

Email: info.za.lza@lapp.com

web: www.lappgroup.co.za

Address: 55 Maple Street, Pomona, Kempton Park, 1619





Speaking at the opening of the 2022 Energy Indaba, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe.

Hydrogen: A pathway for energy transition in Africa?

THE 16th edition of the Africa Energy Indaba, to be hosted at the CTICC in Cape Town, South Africa from the 5 – 7 March 2024 will feature a focused Hydrogen Forum. The Hydrogen Forum will explore the role of hydrogen in the energy transition, its

benefits and the potential impact it can have on Africa's energy landscape. Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier that can be produced through various processes, including electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources. Its usage in

various sectors can significantly reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the achievement of climate goals. Here's how hydrogen could affect the energy sector: **Decarbonising Energy:** Hydrogen can play a crucial

role in decarbonising the energy sector by replacing fossil fuels in applications that are challenging to electrify directly. It can be used as a clean fuel for transportation, power generation, and industrial processes, significantly reducing green-

house gas emissions and improving air quality. **Energy Storage and Grid Balancing:** Hydrogen can serve as an energy storage medium, helping to address the intermittency of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Excess renewable energy can be converted into hydrogen through electrolysis and stored for later use. This stored hydrogen can be utilised during periods of high energy demand or when renewable energy generation is low, supporting grid stability and balancing.

Renewable Energy Integration: Hydrogen enables the integration of renewable energy sources into sectors traditionally reliant on fossil fuels. For instance, in Africa, where vast renewable energy resources exist, hydrogen can facilitate the storage and transport of renewable energy across long distances, unlocking remote regions' energy potential and reducing dependency on fossil fuel imports.

Industrial Applications: Hydrogen has diverse industrial applications, including ammonia production for fertilizers, metal refining, and chemical manufacturing. By substituting hydrogen for fossil fuels in these processes, significant emissions reductions can be achieved, supporting sustainable industrial growth.

Job Creation and Economic Opportunities: The development of a hydrogen economy can create new job opportunities and drive economic growth. The production, distribution and utilisation of hydrogen technologies require a skilled workforce, fostering employment in various sectors, including manufacturing, construction, and research and development.

Unlocking Africa's hydrogen potential: Collaborative efforts are necessary to unlock Africa's hydrogen potential, involving governments, industry players, research institutions, and international partners. Investment in infrastructure, policy frameworks, and research and development is essential to accelerate the deployment of hydrogen technologies and ensure their successful integration into the energy sector.

Africa Energy Indaba
5 – 7 March 2024

For further information
visit: www.africaenergyindaba.com

Discover our HydroGene.

Using sensor technology and explosion protection from Pepperl+Fuchs.

Hydrogen for the future of energy, industry, and transportation.



For more information, visit pepperl-fuchs.com/br-hydrogen



Your automation, our passion.

 **PEPPERL+FUCHS**

Killing three birds with one stone!

Solar academy launches to address skills training, youth unemployment and the advancement of women.

IT is not every day that one gets to write about good news, but this initiative does deserve a moment to be zoomed into.

It is 2023 and approximately 80% of South Africa's power still comes from coal and more than 40% of our youth is unemployed. Scary statistics when we could use these young and strong minds to help us access a cleaner and more affordable energy source.

While the state is trying to create a shift in its energy landscape, we observe the private sector filling the gaps. This story is that of a group of industry leaders coming together to provide solutions for, and employ our youth to solve our energy crisis. As one of the leading Construction (EPC) companies in the commercial and industrial Solar PV space in South Africa, ACES Africa, alongside a large consortium of industry leaders, decided to contribute and do their bit in this journey.

The ACES Academy was developed to bridge this gap. Train and empower the next generation to look after our infrastructure in the long run. Quality solar infrastructure proudly built and maintained by South Africans! To contribute and work towards this goal, different programs that range from basic Solar PV knowledge to advanced courses have been built by these leaders.

This allows both newcomers in the industry to enter the space to find employment and experienced installers to expand their career opportunities and be certified by equipment manufacturers in the installation of their technologies.

A ladder of programs

Programs start from an entry level, allowing anyone fit-to-work on a site, to enter the industry and find a job within the group of Academy partners. From mounting structures, batteries, inverters, panels and distribution boards (amongst others), the Academy's partners cover all aspects of a solar PV system and they provide training throughout the different courses. The idea is to build a ladder for our youth in this industry, where anyone can start as a mechanical installer and end up a project manager or even an engineer.

The Academy is a place of growth and opportunities. "We are excited to provide

a space for professionals of the solar industry to further develop their skills, the whole industry needs it!" says Julien Verzier, Managing Director at the ACES Academy. "But I think the real innovation is the social aspect of the business model. Through our partners, we give

funding opportunities to individuals that otherwise would not have had access to the courses – a type of bursary if you will. Our partners can select candidates through our programs and fund their studies partially or in full".

We take the opportunity to mention dur-

ing your August edition of Cape Business News that the Academy is proudly offering a discount of 50% for all women who will be registering for any of our upcoming courses during the month of August. It is one of our Academy goals to impact women's involvement in the

industry and diversify the area of our skilled labour force.

The Academy provides a hub of professionals that all push in one direction: Make our energy crisis become an opportunity to move away from coal and reduce unemployment in South Africa. The

beauty of this model is the collaboration across all sectors of the industry to empower and train our professionals to develop the industry and lead it in the rest of the continent as experts and problem solvers.

Contact us on: info@acesacademy.co.za and follow us on LinkedIn,

Instagram and Facebook to stay updated with what's happening at the Academy.

For course registration, visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4z1x7CdNCp92vAzkYphQnxJTqIFo6e26c82tLZukgvzqTzw/viewform>



ACES ACADEMY

***50% DISCOUNT** on all course bookings for Women during Women's Month August 2023!

NEWCOMERS COURSES

- Introduction to Solar PV (5 day)
- DC Mechanical Installer - entry level (6.5 days)

- DC Installer (Mechanical + Electrical). Intermediate level (6 days)
- AC Installer - Advanced level (8 days)
- DC Foreman (5 days)
- AC Foreman (5 days)
- Solar Sales Course (7 days)

Application Requirements

- 18 + years
- Technology literate / Technically Minded
- Men and women - Highly encouraged
- Fit and Healthy
- In-Person Training (Cape Town)

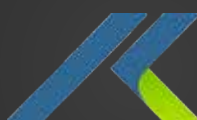
UPSKILLING AND PARTNER CERTIFICATION

Book courses to steer you towards **your new career** or book individual training sessions to **enhance your knowledge** on industry technologies.

**Each course has its own set of pre-requisites*

TRAIN WITH SOLAR
PV EXPERTS AND
PRODUCT
MANUFACTURERS

Register Today!



ACES GEDORE



Solar
Jinko



Lumax
ENERGY



RIKEN
ELECTRIC



SWITCHBOARD
GROUP

info@acesacademy.co.za | +27 (21) 852 4692 | www.acesacademy.co.za

Empowering the Next Generation Sustainably.

Air Products conclude power purchase agreement with Mulilo

AIR Products South Africa (Pty) Ltd (“Air Products”) has concluded a long-term Power Purchase Agreement with Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd (“Mulilo”). Air Products will purchase up to 75MW of renewable energy from a dedicated solar farm, which is to be constructed in the Northern Cape. The solar farm will be jointly owned by Air Products and Mulilo, and Financial Close is anticipated

in the fourth quarter of 2023. The facility will have the capacity to generate approximately 240GWh of electricity annually. The electricity will be supplied by wheeling* from the solar farm to Air Products’ air separation units in various locations around the country. According to Air Products Managing Director Rob Richardson, “Air separation is an electrically intensive process and electricity is

our most important raw material. This agreement is a significant step towards meeting our medium-term goal, which is to reduce fossil-fuel-based energy requirements and CO2 emissions by one-third by 2030,” he said. “This project, once completed, will get us a long way down that path, with more to come.” Mulilo CEO, John Cullum, noted: “Mulilo is excited to partner with Air Products on this important project. This will

be one of the first large-scale wheeling solar projects in South Africa and continues to cement Mulilo as a leading renewable energy supplier in the country. This project is furthermore an important step in ending load shedding in South Africa, where the private sector has the ability to play an important role.” For more information on Air Products, visit www.airproducts.co.za or Mulilo, visit www.mulilo.com

AEC and WNA join forces to advance sustainable nuclear energy in Africa

As part of this partnership, World Nuclear Association, the organization representing the global nuclear industry, will be a leading participant in the upcoming AEW 2023 conference



THE World Nuclear Association and the African Energy Chamber (AEC) (www.EnergyChamber.org) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to drive nuclear energy adoption in Africa. The MoU will also see the parties collaborate on the African Energy Week (AEW) conference – taking place in Cape Town from October 16-20 this year.

This collaboration reflects the shared commitment of both organizations to promoting clean, affordable and reliable nuclear energy as a crucial component of Africa’s energy mix, to support economic growth, a just transition and sustainable energy development.

As part of this partnership, World Nuclear Association, the organisation representing the global nuclear industry, will be a leading participant in the upcoming AEW 2023 conference.

Nuclear energy has great potential to support sustainable growth and development in Africa’s energy landscape. Currently, South Africa relies on one nuclear power plant, which contributes approximately

5% of its electricity generation. The government has shown strong commitment to nuclear energy, with plans announced in 2019 to build 1 GW of new nuclear capacity by 2030 and extend the lifespan of the existing plant. Egypt has recently taken significant steps, commencing with the construction of a nuclear power plant in El Dabaa with four large reactors.

This plant aims to generate electricity while also providing substantial desalination capacity.

Meanwhile, many African countries, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia, Rwanda, are exploring the deployment of nuclear energy as part of their strategy to meet urgent energy demand.

Partnership

The partnership between AEC and World Nuclear Association will bring African leaders and nuclear industry stakeholders together at AEW 2023 to advance nuclear energy development.

AEW will serve as a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing

and networking, fostering exchanges between global nuclear industry and African countries, ultimately driving collaboration and progress in the field of nuclear energy.

About AEW:

AEW is the AECs annual energy event uniting regional policymakers with global investors. The 2023 edition of the event takes place under the theme, ‘The African Energy Renaissance: Prioritizing Energy Poverty, People, the Planet, Industrialisation and Free Markets,’ and represents the biggest gathering of energy stakeholders on the continent. For more information, visit www.AECWeek.com

About World Nuclear Association:

World Nuclear Association has as its mission to promote a wider understanding of nuclear energy among key international influencers by producing authoritative information, developing common industry positions, and contributing to the energy debate, as well as to pave the way for expanding nuclear business.

i-Theft foils PV panel theft

SOUTH Africa has one of the highest rates of solar panel theft in the world. This is due to several factors, including the high cost of electricity, inflation, high crime rates and a lack of security measures. African residents with solar power systems are now forced to insure and protect their equipment adding extra cost to an already overloaded budget!

In February 2023, security giant Fidelity ADT warned that incidents of solar panel theft were on the rise.

High value installations such as solar systems, boreholes & irrigation systems or any other remote equipment installation are vulnerable to theft. i-Theft fastener design

from i-Fab Pty Ltd. have developed a fool proof security system.

How does it work?

I-Fab utilizes the latest metal additive manufacturing systems to manufacture the ultimate i-Theft (anti-theft and tamper proof) bolt-nut system.

The system comprises of a bolt and nut with a unique head design and serial number that are both customized per customer. The system comes with custom bolt and nut drivers that fit standard socket tools and or electric screwdrivers. The bolt and nut are completely tampering proof and can only be fastened or loosened with the customized tool driver. Once instal-

lation is complete, the customized driver tools are given to the customer. Each driver and bolt system are issued with a certificate. If the drivers should be lost, they can then be replaced by sending a certified copy of the certificate to I Fab.

The bolt and nut head features a round head design so it can’t be loosened or tightened with a pair of pliers or other tools. As there are no sharp edges on the head design, eliminating the possibility of using a hammer in conjunction with a sharp object to turn the bolt or nut.

The system is manufactured in high grade 17/4 stainless steel that is anti-corrosive and features high tensile strength and mate-

rial hardness (38 MPA Rockwell C).

Due to the additive manufacturing technique, previously used bolts and nuts can be manufactured in large or small quantities in any size and specification as required by the customer.

Using the i-Theft anti-theft and tamper proof system brings peace of mind, ensuring that valuable equipment and installations are secure, helping to decrease insurance premiums and risk profile.

i-Theft system is 100% proudly South African produced, ensuring superior quality materials, unique AI head design CAD system and no long lead times!

DON’T get left in the dark by criminals!

Introducing the i-Fab Attachment and i-Theft Fastener Range

We are proud to introduce our range of Solar attachment brackets.

Designed to withstand South African weather conditions.

i-Fab ensures the highest standards of quality (ISO9001), while significantly reducing the costs, stress, lead time and uncertainty and risk commonly found in traditional manufacturing supply lines.

i-Theft Fastener System (Anti-Theft & Tamper Proof)

Contact us:
E: claire@i-fab.co.za | roscher@i-fab.co.za
M: 072 937 6236

i-Fab
End-to-End Online Digital Manufacturing Service

Embracing the potential of hydrogen for a net-zero future

Hydrogen Strategic Conference ADIPEC, Abu Dhabi UAE 2-5 October 2023.

THE Hydrogen Strategic Conference at ADIPEC will gather the most influential leaders in the energy ecosystem to discuss the role of hydrogen in global economies, the latest technological breakthroughs,

near-term and long-term strategies and the actions required to scale the hydrogen economies of the future. Delivering on strategic, technical and operational analysis, the conference will provide the insights

necessary to shape and accelerate the continued growth of the hydrogen value chain.

For more information visit: <https://dmg-events.msgfocus.com/c/18sICTNiml-5wRp1OHZr17Su2zcN>

THE NEXT GENERATION
Internships, Skills & Development Programmes

Redpath Mining partners with Sandvik for digital training



Redpath Mining South Africa recently took delivery of Sandvik simulators for the Sandvik DD422iDC and the Sandvik LH517i to deploy at current projects.

A milestone that could revolutionise mining training and safety practices in Southern Africa, Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions has provided its state-of-the-art digital trainers to leading mining contractor Redpath Mining South Africa.

“Our digital trainers offer a range of advantages that are set to transform the way mining personnel acquire skills and knowledge,” says Vusi Thobela, Key Accounts Manager at Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions. “These cutting-edge training tools provide an immersive and realistic simulation of mining operations, empowering trainees to gain practical experience in a controlled environment.” This innovative technology provides trainees with interactive interfaces that closely resemble the controls and dis-

plays found on real mining equipment. This ensures a seamless transition from training to on-site applications for trainees. It also enables them to learn and practice safety protocols and emergency procedures without exposing them to the risks associated with real-life mining activities.

The strategic partnership between Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions and Redpath Mining South Africa – under a global framework agreement – signifies a shared vision of promoting excellence and safety in the mining industry. According to Sudesh Deonarain, General Manager Engineering at Redpath Mining, the high-fidelity simulations offered by Sandvik’s digital trainers enhance the training experience.

“Our trainees can familiarise themselves

with a range of mining environments, equipment behaviour and tasks, allowing them to hone their skills in a life-like setting,” says Deonarain. “From equipment operation and maintenance to troubleshooting and teamwork, they can practice various scenarios, ensuring they are well-prepared to tackle real-world challenges.”

He says these cutting-edge tools help to better equip Redpath’s workforce to navigate the complexities of modern mining operations and to ensure safety and productivity.

Thobela adds that the accurate simulation of mining equipment and processes allows trainees to develop a deep understanding of the intricacies of operating and maintaining the Sandvik machines. “This supports increased productivity and reduced downtime, ultimately optimising operational efficiency in mining operations,” he says. “Furthermore, the digital trainers may incorporate data analytics capabilities, providing valuable insights into trainee performance, equipment utilisation and operational efficiency.”

He notes that the data-driven approach fosters continuous improvement in training methodologies, contributing to the overall growth and success of mining operations.

“Redpath’s commitment to operational excellence, combined with Sandvik’s leading technology, is paving the way towards enhanced training and safety standards throughout Africa’s mining landscape,” says Thobela.

For more information, visit: <https://www.rocktechnology.sandvik.com>

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- Built Environment: Products / Materials Sustainability / Projects in Progress
- Civil Engineering: Construction Material Technology / Consultants
- Corrosion Control / Specialized Coatings
- Engineering: Processing / Manufacturing / Projects in Progress
- Fishing: Aquaculture / Fish Processing & Handling
- Heavy Plant & Machinery: Construction Equipment
- Petrochemicals Oil & Gas, Upstream & Downstream Value Chain
- Plastics / Packaging Materials / EPR & PRO
- Recycling / Waste Management / Zero to Landfill
- Skills Development: Training in the work place
- Surface Mining: Quarries & Minerals

Cape Business News is always on the lookout for stories of companies that are shaping the Cape business landscape. If your company has a story to share, in these, or any other business sector, send your story to editor@cbn.co.za for consideration.

CAPE
Business News

Chairman:
Rudi Leitner
rudi.leitner@hypenica.com

Publisher:
Robin Dunbar
robin.dunbar@cbn.co.za

Editor:
Robin Hayes
editor@cbn.co.za

Associate Editor:
Susan Segar
susan.segar@cbn.co.za

Production Manager:
Elise Jacobs
elise.jacobs@cbn.co.za

Sales & Marketing Director:
Robin Dunbar
robin.dunbar@cbn.co.za

Sales Team:
Heather Ferreira
heather.ferreira@cbn.co.za
Shaun Austin
shaun.austin@cbn.co.za

Subscriptions:
nyameka@cbn.co.za

Cape Business News Enquiries
sales@cbn.co.za

Cape Business News has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate on the stated date of publication. It is possible that the information may be out of date, incomplete or the opinion of the author. It is therefore advisable that you verify any information before relying on it. Cape Business News accepts no responsibility for the consequences of error, or for any loss or damage suffered by users of any of the information and material contained in this publication. Materials published in this newspaper are subject to copyright and other proprietary rights.

Training academy cultivates automation skills in SA

ROBOTICS is an ever-growing industry, and South African manufacturers are increasingly adopting automation into their production processes to remain competitive. Yaskawa’s long-standing training academy offers its customers, as well as individuals looking to enter the industry, the opportunity to learn and upskill in various in-demand positions, including programming, operations, maintenance, safety, and robot troubleshooting.

“At the Yaskawa Southern Africa Training Academy, we offer a variety of courses and training programs designed to meet the needs of different skill levels, from beginner to advanced,” says Leon Coetzer, Training Officer at Yaskawa. “The training academy’s staff comprises experienced engineers who are experts in their respective fields.” Since the academy’s inception in 2002, roughly 2200 students have been trained.

Both individuals wanting to enter the industry and existing customers of Yaskawa Robots can expect a hands-on approach to training. In-person classes ensure trainees gain the necessary knowledge and skills to operate and maintain Yaskawa Robots effectively. With South Africa’s skills shortage, fewer barriers to entry mean more opportunities to strengthen the country’s workforce and reduce unemployment.

“We recommend that students who wish to participate in our training programs have a matric qualification, a good understanding of mathematics, or at least some mechanical or electrical background knowledge,” explains



Coetzer. “However, we welcome anyone willing to learn and participate in our training programs, regardless of their educational background or previous experience. With the right attitude and willingness to learn, we believe anyone can benefit from our training programs and develop the skills needed to succeed in the industry.”

Yaskawa’s approach to training goes beyond initial skill acquisition, recognising the importance of ongoing professional development of its employees. “We provide continuous mentoring and coaching to our employees to help them set and achieve their career goals,” says a proud Coetzer.

“Our managers work closely with employees to identify improvement areas and develop personalised development plans that align with their career

aspirations and our company’s needs.”

Coetzer made the move to Yaskawa earlier this year and is passionate about the impact that the academy could have on South Africans and the robotics industry as a whole.

“I joined Yaskawa Academy with the goal of growing the industry of robotics and automation since I believe that this is the future for younger generations. I’d like to help and be a part of that progress.”

Yaskawa’s training programs play a crucial role in the growth and development of the robotics industry in South Africa by providing accessible opportunities for both beginners and advanced students. With passionate leaders like Leon Coetzer at the helm, Yaskawa Academy is poised to leave a lasting footprint on the robotics industry and empower the future of automation.

CAPE Business News

Cape Business News, founded in 1980, is primarily a promotional vehicle for companies that have the Cape Business community as a primary target market.

ADVERTISING

For all your advertising requirements, contact our Sales Team
sales@cbn.co.za

**GRIPPER & CO (PTY) LTD**
INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION
& PNEUMATIC EQUIPMENT
TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS & AGENTS
   
   
158 Lower Main Rd, Observatory, Cape Town
Tel: 021 447 7203 • Fax 021 447 6981
www.gripper.co.za

CAPE Business News

We value your input

Only through your input can we continue to improve.

- Comments
- Suggestions
- What would you like to hear about

editor@cbn.co.za

Business to the Rescue

OUR Parliament is a disgrace," exploded Luke the Dude, rudely disturbing the relaxed banter of the usual comrades in conversation.

"Useless!" countered Jon the Joker, "Parliament isn't at all! A full 18 months after the place burned down, the remains have seen neither a shovel, nor protection against wind and rain. It's more destroyed than ever."

"Oh, you're talking about the building," woke up Bob the Book, "I was wondering whether you meant the ANC with its questionable behaviour or the EFF who does not behave at all."

"These were our once majestic parliamentary buildings," spoke The Prof, inspecting his pipe, "but still, it is but a cloud in the approaching storm, a symbol: Eskom, the Railways, SAA and all their cousins are symptoms of the worsening malady."

"Tell us in plain language Prof, you have the floor," worried Irene the Queen.

"Of course my dear," obliged The Prof, "we are living in an economy that is going bankrupt. We have to borrow to keep the

show on the road – and already we are so deeply in debt, we have to borrow more to pay the interest on what we have already borrowed. With that, the population grows much faster than the economy, meaning that as a nation we are getting poorer by the day."

"Whoa!" exploded Big Ben, "you're talking Armageddon, if that's the educated word. You make it sound like we are doomed, Prof, and the ANC won't let it come to that!"

"You have a right to your political opinions, Ben," interrupted Stevie the Poet, "but here's the question: if that is the reality, Prof, how do we get out of it?"

"Well," The Prof pondered slowly, "my colleague RW Johnson said it rather succinctly in an interview with Alec Hogg: There really are only two ways. One is to cut spending, harshly. That won't happen because the politicians won't do it; also, it would cause much suffering – so many South Africans survive on government grants. The only other way is to improve economic growth, considerably. That would get us to steady ground and, inter

alia, create living-wage jobs."

"That's the way to go then," applauded Miss Lily, "teachers could do with a living wage!"

"Indeed," agreed The Prof, "skills development is part of the way to faster growth." "Not so fast, Boyo," spoke up Colin the Golfer. "We haven't had anything like decent growth since the rudely interrupted presidency of Thabo Mbeki. How is the current lot going to pull this rabbit out of a hat?"

"Only one way," said Bill the Beard, "involve the private sector and be serious, life-and-death serious, about it."

"And when will that happen?" queried Colin.

"It is already happening," replied Bill, "you might have missed President Ramaphosa's agreement with Business Unity SA, BUSA, and more recently the pledge by 115 SA CEOs – whose companies together have a market value of R11 trillion and employ 1.2 million people – to help SA repair the broken economy and get it growing at a sustainably faster pace."

"Parts of the pledge, I've got it here,

OPINION

ON THE CONTRARY

The columnist is a journalist and editor based in Onrusrivier. His awards for journalistic excellence include the Mond and the Sanlam Awards.

Pieter Schoombee



reads, 'we firmly believe in the immense potential of our country. We are committed to building it and have come together to address the current challenges with the aim of achieving sustainable, inclusive economic growth. We are resolutely committed to being a force for good.'

"So there you have it: we've got the will and we are on the way. The business sector to the rescue!"

E-mail: noag@hermanus.co.za

136 Cape Town youth boosted by learnership and work placements in the local clothing and textile sector

THIS month saw a further 119 learners graduate from the Cape Skills and Employment Accelerator – a City of Cape Town-funded project, administered by the Craft + Design Institute's (CDI), that focused on creating employment opportunities for youth and women in the clothing and textile industry in Cape Town.

The group of 119 graduated and received their National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level training certificates from Boland College and the Cape Town Work-based Learning Academy (CTWLA), which marks a final milestone of success on the project. The first 17 graduates completed their learnerships on the project in 2022.

Made possible thanks to a collaboration between the City of Cape Town and the National Skills Fund (NSF), the project enabled SMMEs to take on machinists at a greatly reduced cost to their business while creating learning and work opportunities for unemployed women and youth. The programme offered NQF level training and workplace opportunities for unemployed youth and women as part of a 12-month learnership, with a view to the SMMEs employing the women at the end of the project.

The learners developed skills that include pattern making, pattern cutting, garment making, and sewing with 75% of the time spent in the business supported by 25% classroom time provided by the training provider.

Erica Elk, Group CEO of the CDI, said the outcome has been a remarkable success, given the project started during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When we initiated this project it was in the midst of a very difficult period for employment creation and for businesses trading in the creative industries. We are proud of the outcome, through which so many young women have gained an NQF4 Learnership qualification as a machinist. While they were learning, 27 CDI member



SMMEs hosted the learners by providing the site for workplace learning to take place, and hopefully with a job at the end of each learner's 12 month journey."

"A highlight is that 87 of the learners have now been placed in jobs or chosen to study further. That's a 64% retention rate through the programme, which is a testament to the resilience and efforts of the youth and the local businesses to overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic and its aftermath. We also spent time with learners who weren't going into jobs or further study by facilitating conversations with them about their next steps and getting them into other networks, so they are more accessible in the job market."

Elk added that it was not just a skills development project for youth – the CDI placed emphasis on the development of each business and their capacity to grow.

Alderman James Vos, the City of Cape Town's Mayoral Committee member for

Economic Growth, said: "This project was designed to respond to a skills need in Cape Town's high growth industries and the needs of youths wanting to become part of the city's workforce. There is a direct correlation between South Africa's unemployment crisis – which largely affects our youth – and the dearth of valuable skills. The City of Cape Town is working methodically to meet this challenge head on, and our efforts are bearing fruit. In our programmes, we are not simply funding training for the sake of it. Investment in meaningful skills development initiatives is one of the most pressing concerns in our country right now. We have the foresight and vision to make Cape Town the best city in Africa to do business and work."

At the event, Mae Newman of The Umtshayelo Foundation, one of the organisations that hosted learners in their workplace, spoke proudly of her experience with graduate Siphokazi Papiso, who has

been retained as an employee now with the Foundation.

Addressing all the graduates, she said: "All of you are so much further than where were last year, you've all come a long way. Siphokazi has now started working permanently and there was no way I was going to let her go. When you have a good thing, you don't let it go! I want to celebrate you Siphokazi in front of all of your peers. When you first joined us, you didn't have a vision for your future. When I look at you today, with the help of this programme you have become who you were meant to be."

Papiso said the entire programme has changed her life. "I didn't believe in myself before, I didn't even know how to stitch, but now I have made my own designs, even what I am wearing today – thank you to the funders and the college, and all the learners, my new friends who supported me on the programme!"