

CAPE Business News

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OCTOBER 2023



NEV sales increase 100%

Despite load shedding.



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Bredel Hose pump helps to de-skin potatoes

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Meets e-commerce challenges.



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Proudly South African TFG is growing the clothing manufacturing sector



By Sue Segar

IN 2008, Graham Choice, founder of Prestige Clothing and now TFG's Managing Director of Merchandise Supply Chain, discovered an old shed containing redundant machinery in the small farming town, Caledon. He negotiated with the municipality to use it to train hundreds of unemployed people in the area.

"There was human capital, waiting for opportunity," said Choice, who had founded Prestige in 1989 and, with his Prestige Maitland factory having reached its optimum size, decided that Caledon was the perfect place to open a new clothing factory, due to the large number of unemployed women in the area and its convenient location to the N2. He started with eight people, modernised the site, made the business compliant, bought new machinery and started recruiting and training workers on site.

The factory has since expanded and TFG has built a large, modern, world-class building, which has solar panels on the roof, energy efficient machines and the site can house 1000 workers. It now competes with the agricultural sector in being the largest employer in the now flourishing town. To support the local community in the towns and villages that surround Caledon, TFG also established a transport network to allow for a greater catchment area for

potential workers. "There are almost 900 young people working in the factory and the average age is 27. The Caledon factory also trains over 100 learners on a NQF Level 2 learnership a year."

Today, this same plant – the home of Sportscene's Redbat brand – manufactures 4,5 million garments annually. The target, by 2026, is to produce six million garments. The factory also produces for Markham and Foschini.

Choice emphasised that the factory, which is part of TFG's localisation strategy, is "highly mechanised and efficient", saying their products are "more cost efficient and on a far shorter lead time than imports from China."

After its establishment in 1989, Prestige Clothing grew from a micro business of six people, to a large company, which TFG acquired in 2012 to establish a scalable local quick-response manufacturing supply chain. Prestige Clothing and its five plants owned by TFG are part of the R1 billion investment TFG has made into building capacity to make garments locally - a shift from the 20-year disinvestment in local clothing manufacturing by the country as a whole.

This R1bn investment has yielded great success, with substantially more locally made clothes in TFG's stores, through Foschini, The FIX, Exact, Markham, Total-sports, and Sportscene - a far cry from the days when most stock was made in Asia

because of lower costs and cheaper labour. In 2017, TFG's new Quick Response Supply chain produced six million garments in South Africa; in 2023, it will produce 17-million. It plans to grow that to 24-million within the next three years. Aligned to this output, TFG will need to employ 360 people for every million garments made annually.

As part of TFG's localisation strategy, this investment and commitment to job creation will continue. TFG Prestige Clothing factories, which are located in Maitland, Epping, Durban and Johannesburg, currently employ 4000 people with another 500 learnerships in process. TFG's quick-response supply chain also supports six independent strategic factories which employ a further 2000 people. Together, Prestige Clothing and TFG's non-owned strategic partners and auxiliary support businesses are projected to employ over 9000 people by 2026.

"We are fortunate to be at such a scale now that we are working on rebuilding supply chain capability in support of our manufacturing strategy ... to bring back and repurpose dyers, printers, embroiderers, and others that enable the garment manufacturing industry."

The intent is to see the clothing and textile industry once again become the

Continued on P2

Inter hotel challenge focused on mentoring hospitality talent



WHILE South Africa's tourist numbers are powering ahead in anticipation of the local summer, 23 wine stewards have been undergoing intensive training. Their next-level wine service and knowledge education, dubbed Grape to Glass, forms part of the major skills transfer initiative that underpins the 2023 Inter Hotel Challenge, now sponsored by HEINEKEN Beverages.

The 23 trainees, representing top hotels in the Western Cape, Gauteng, North West and KwaZulu-Natal are being prepared for this year's challenge, now in its 11th year.

Their practical and theoretical syllabus has been designed by Jean-Vincent Ridon of the Sommeliers' Academy, together with representatives from the Cape Wine Academy. Mentoring has included visits to various wineries and distilleries including Nederburg, Durbanville Hills, J.C. Le Roux (where Pongrácz is made), the James Sedgwick Distillery (home of South African whiskies including Three Ships and Bain's Cape Mountain Whisky) and Van Ryn's Brandy Distillery.

The top-performing candidate will win an all-expenses-paid two-week HEINEKEN experience in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) as well as wine courses with the Sommeliers' Academy, the South African Sommeliers' Association (SASA) and the Cape Wine Academy. Millicent Maroga, corporate affairs director for headline sponsor HEINEKEN Beverages has emphasised that the Inter Hotel Challenge aims to fast-track skills in hotel and restaurant services, from wine stewards to mixologists, chefs, bakers, baristas, concierges and more. Winners will be announced on 28 November.

Go to www.showcook.com for more information.



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CAPE Business News



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Proudly South African TFG is growing the clothing manufacturing sector

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Western Cape's largest employer. "There shouldn't be an unemployed South African living in the province. There's no village or rural town with an unemployed population that cannot become a Caledon."

TFG has proven that building factories in impoverished areas is not impossible. The company's thriving Prestige Clothing Hill-brow factory in Johannesburg successfully employs only deaf youth and currently employs 127 young people.

Choice states, with the ever-increasing retail demand for local goods, there's space for a garment factory in every SA town. "We went from almost 60 – 70 percent (of clothing) coming into SA from the Far East 15 years ago, to only 17 percent coming from China today."

It's nonsense to believe that the South African workforce can't compete with the best in the world! "We believe that if you provide a compliant working environment, modern tooling and manufacturing processes and effective accredited training and skills upgrade, the youth that are currently employed in so many areas in our country will become some of the most productive workers globally. The challenges that TFG has overcome and the successes achieved in working towards this, should provide a clear roadmap for others to follow."

"A clothing factory has a job and opportunities for every unemployed South African to move up – from entry-level sweepers, loaders and box packers, to a highly skilled machine operator and eventually to senior technical and managerial roles."

The impact of higher interest rates on salary increases and employee expectations

A bleak outlook for SA employees



Author by: Kirk Kruger, member of the South African Reward Association

SOUTH Africans are among the most indebted people in the world, with as much as 73% of disposable household income servicing debt repayments.

All of this paints a

bleak picture for the average person, even if they are fortunate enough to have formal employment.

How are salary increases determined?

Is it the responsibility of employers to award increases inline with, or even ahead of, inflation? Historically, companies in South Africa have awarded salary increases which are higher than inflation.

Most companies use a combination of factors to determine annual increases, not just CPI. These are the factors most often considered:

Key skills

In a competitive market, where key skills are hard to come by, a company may need to allocate additional budget to retain the skills which are critical to success. A business which employs a high proportion of knowledge workers may need a higher increase budget because the skill set they employ is receiving above average increases in the market.

"Interest rates have risen dramatically in the past two years, but it is unlikely in the short-term that annual increases are going to be far ahead of inflation..."

Impact of union negotiations

One of the roles of a trade union is to negotiate competitive salary increases for their members. There are times when a company will need to exceed the budgeted salary increase because of potential industrial action which could lead to lost production and loss of income for employees.

Individual performance

In a pay for performance environment, one would expect high performers to receive a higher portion of an increased budget. There are times when a significant portion of the increase budget is not available for performance-related increases due to union settlements or a lack of managerial willpower to significantly differentiate increases. Additional budget may then be required to reward

the high performers, and this will increase the overall cost.

Inflation

CPI is an indicator of the increase in the cost of living for the average employee. It is a good reference point of the level of increases needed for employees to maintain their standard of living. It is important to note that CPI is a backward-looking indicator whilst increases are awarded for the year ahead.

The impact of higher interest rates

Inflation has ticked up steadily in the last two years, mainly driven by COVID-19 related effects. These interest rate hikes have significantly impacted the cost of repaying loans. As an example, a person with a bond of R1.5m, a car loan of R300,000, and a personal loan of R50,000 is now paying approxi-

mately R5,438 more per month on loan repayments, compared to November 2021.

That person will need to earn R8,915 per month more at a gross level to have the extra R5,438 after tax. That is more than R106,000 per year.

The interest rate hikes will have left the average South African employee in a difficult position. Employees have two alternatives to deal with these challenges:

Moving jobs for higher pay is one way of achieving this, but not everyone is able to get a new, higher paying role. Many employees will therefore hope that their annual salary increase will be well above inflation. Unions will also be looking for double digit increases to give their members some relief.

Interest rates have risen dramatically in the past two years, but it is unlikely in the short-term that annual increases are going to be far ahead of inflation. Just like their employees, companies have also experienced headwinds in the last three years.

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New hospital megaproject set for Western Cape

By Sue Segar

IN a massive new public-private “megaproject” for the Western Cape, the Tygerberg Hospital in Parow is to be redeveloped, at an estimated cost of R5 billion, excluding equipment.

The project is part of a comprehensive plan to revitalize health care in the province.

Mark van der Heever, spokesman for the Western Cape Health and Wellness department said: “This megaproject aims to improve health infrastructure for the people of the Western Cape by replacing the current inefficient and ageing Tygerberg Hospital - which has become increasingly costly to

maintain - with two modern, efficient facilities equipped with 21st century technology:

A new 596-bed Regional Hospital offering Level 1 and 2 services on a site procured for this purpose at Belhar.

A new 893 bed tertiary facility on the Tygerberg Hospital estate, thereby maintaining the facility’s close linkages with higher education institutions for training health professionals and technologists.

Level 1 hospitals are district hospitals where there are limited specialist services. Level 2 hospitals are regional hospitals which have at least two specialist services. Level 3 hospitals are academic hospitals which have most specialist ser-



vices, namely Groote Schuur, Red Cross and Tygerberg Hospitals. A close connection with higher education institutions is required to provide training platforms to medical students as part of their courses and

development.

Tygerberg Hospital, the Western Cape’s largest hospital, was officially opened in 1976, but has, for some time, been lagging behind in terms of capacity and efficiency.

Van der Heever said the feasibility study of the project was approved in November 2022 and is currently in the procurement stage of the public-private partnership cycle.

“This stage involves

determining the output requirements to formulate the request for proposals which is expected to be advertised in 2024. Should all things go according to plan, the new Central Hospital is expected to

be operational by 2031,” he added.

Thorpe Koorts, director of Infrastructure for the Western Cape government has said the project will be one of the biggest public-private-partnerships embarked on in South Africa, and the biggest ever to be done in the Western Cape.

Van der Heever said the decision to redevelop Tygerberg Hospital was made by Provincial Cabinet in 2009. “Due to the size and complexity of the hospital its redevelopment is classified as a ‘megaproject’ and the support of not only provincial but also national stakeholders is required.

The development is set to spark a revolution of medical innovation in the province.

Large-scale garment manufacturing plant to boost local apparel



Pic source: City of Cape Town.

A partnership between a South African woman-owned textile company, IVILI Group, and the first dedicated gender focused investing Private Equity Fund in Africa, Alitheia IDF, is set to boost South Africa’s textile industry by increasing local manufacturing output, creating jobs and rebuilding skills in the sector through a \$5million investment.

IVILI Group is made up of IVILI Loboya, one of Africa’s only wool and cashmere processing facilities, which is based at Ibika Industries in Butterworth in the Eastern Cape, and IVILITEX, a garment manufacturing factory located at the heart of the clothing and textiles

industry in Cape Town.

IVILI Loboya was co-founded by South African social entrepreneur and global director of the International Women’s Forum, the late Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati.

IVILITEX recently opened its large-scale garment manufacturing plant in Epping, Cape Town where the initial production will consist of jeanswear for the local retailer market. The factory includes a jeans wash facility, with state-of-the-art technology imported from Spain, in partnership with Jeanologia, a manufacturer of technologies for the textile industry. The factory will leverage technology that allows the pro-

duction and washing of garments with optimum levels of output and efficiency while maintaining low environmental impact.

IVILITEX aims to close the gap between locally made and imported apparel in the SA garment production industry by providing a solution for local retailers seeking locally manufactured garments on a large scale.

IVILI Group has set a target to become the leading textiles group in Africa while supporting local textile companies and aims to increase locally produced apparel for the local retail industry from the current 44% to 65% by 2030.

“For us being a pio-

neer textiles group on the continent simply means not compromising on quality and providing a technologically advanced sustainable product to the global markets,” said the Group’s CEO, Lilitha Mahlati.

Investor, Alitheia IDF, is a \$102 million private equity fund which was co-founded by South African Polo Leteka and Tokunboh Ishmael from Nigeria. The partnership with the IVILI Group fits with the firm’s investment strategy of investing in a diversified portfolio of women-owned, women-led, or women-serving Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

“We are the first private equity fund locally made and imported apparel in the SA garment production industry that prioritises growth stage companies that have gender-diversified teams across the whole business value chain with the vision and potential to scale regionally and drive economic and social transformation,” said Leteka.

The government has consistently identified the clothing and textile sector as a strategic priority due to the labour intensity of manufacturing and its potential to support sustain-

able industrialisation, low- and semi-skilled employment and export growth.

“Our operations are built to eventually cover

the entire value chain of textiles through the local harvesting and production of raw materials, to the production of semi-processed tex-

tiles products and finally producing apparel and other products for sale as finished goods in the retail market,” Mahlati said.



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NEV sales increase by over 100% in South Africa

THE sale of New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) is rising in various countries, including South Africa. In the first half of 2023 alone, 265 970 vehicles were sold in SA, 501 of which were Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), according to figures from the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA).

Although this accounts for only 0.2% of all cars registered in the first half of the year, it is still significant, considering that many BEV models are expensive, and involve insurance premiums and high import duty costs.

In the entire year of 2022, only 502 electric cars were registered, meaning the number has already been equaled in the first six months of this year and is likely to double by the end of 2023.

According to NAAMSA, BMW dominates the SA market with its models such as the iX3 and the iX, representing 40% of all sales, followed by the Mini Cooper Electric (also from the BMW Group) at 13%, Volvo with its XC40 and C40 BEVs, and finally Mercedes and Audi.

Electric vehicle sales increased by over 100%

The data published by the agency in the second quarter of the year indicates that electric vehicle sales increased by over 100% compared to the same period last year, continuing the strong performance from the first quarter when sales of 18 industry brands also doubled: 740 new energy vehicles were sold in the first quarter of this year, while the number increased to 1 481 units sold in the second quarter, including 270 electric vehicles, 58 plug-in hybrids, and 1 538 hybrids. Thus, in the last quarter, the figure was 100.7% higher than in 2022 when it stood at 738 units.

“After a significant year-on-year increase of 421.7% (from 896 units in 2021 to 4 674 units in 2022) representing 0.88% of total new vehicle sales, NEV sales for the first half of 2023 increased by an additional 47.1% to 3 146 units, compared to 2 139 units in the first half of 2022,” highlights the report.

Challenges Affecting the Domestic Market

Concurrent with this surge in sales of vehicles with this technology, SA faces its worst electricity rationing in history this year, which affects the charging source for these cars. A survey by Auto-Trader South Africa analysing concerns of potential BEV buyers, found 65.4% of them cited the high price of these cars as the biggest challenge, along with doubts about charging duration and the lack of public charging infrastructure.

As exports of these types of vehicles increased by 13.8% compared to the second quarter of 2022, NAAMSA emphasised the need to promote policies that encourage NEV manufacturers to invest in the country.

“Promoting a significant transition to NEVs in SA will require a careful balance between stimulating sustained demand for NEVs in the domestic market, establishing adequate renewable energy-based charging infrastructure, and supporting a shift in South Africa’s vehicle production,” the association said.

Despite challenges, experts believe the SA market for these vehicles will grow significantly in the coming years, projecting revenues of \$30 million in 2023.

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Common online trading scams and how to avoid becoming a victim

THE proliferation of online trading platforms locally has opened up windows of opportunity for both novice and experienced traders to realise profitable returns. Unfortunately, the rise of online trading has been accompanied by an uptick in cybercrime that tricks people into parting with their money or personal information.

This is according to Roger Eskinazi, Managing Partner at Tickmill, who points to a recent report by Solidus Labs, which reveals that at least \$2 billion has been trade washed - a type of market manipulation where a fraudster is essentially trading with themselves - on decentralised crypto exchanges since 2020.

How to sidestep Forex scams

One of the most common online trading scams involves the trade of forex. With the significant influx of independent brokers, South Africa is currently the continent's leading destination for the trade of foreign currency. While this marks an increase in the number of favourable prospects available for legitimate trade, it has also opened up an array of vulnerabilities for cybercriminals to exploit.

In one example provided by CapeTalk, opportunistic forex scammers succeeded in defrauding South African traders of an average of R83 000 each during the national lockdown. In another incident reported by the Hawks, an Eastern Cape woman lost R110 000 after investing in a bogus forex scheme. In many of these unfortunate cases, the elderly, people who are not technologically savvy and those who facing financial difficulties become soft targets for fraudsters.

Urging South Africans to be extra vigilant around any deal involving forex, Eskinazi recommends checking that the respective platform holds the correct license before initiating any type of monetary arrangement or online trade. In South Africa, legitimate entities will be registered with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority and have a license number that is clearly displayed on their website and marketing material.

Crypto scams on the rise – and what to look out for

Another common online trading scam involves the trade of cryptocurrency. Bit-

coin, which became a tradeable commodity in 2010, attracted a flurry of investor interest during its earlier years, with reports of large profits flooding the market. The value of Bitcoin rose steadily and experienced a range of fluctuations in price.

While experienced online traders have

a keen understanding of market peaks and troughs and make decisions accordingly, many inexperienced traders and ordinary South Africans have been lured into scams involving cryptocurrency. Most recently, an alleged scheme selling Bitcoin mining machines over WhatsApp allegedly

swindled around 4000 people out of R112 million.

Beware of trading programmes that require an upfront fee

'Advance fee scams' are also on the rise in South Africa. In these incidences, fraud victims are asked to pay a seemingly marginal fee

upfront for their participation in an online trading programme, with the promise of receiving a significant return in future. In many of these cases, the narrative weaved around why the upfront fee needs to be paid has become increasingly intricate and convincing, only to see the criminal disappear

once the fee is paid.

Stay informed. Trade safe.

One of the biggest red flags to look out for is an unwarranted sense of urgency – scammers often pressure their victims into making rash or impulsive decisions with the prospect of some kind of threat

or instant reward.

As a legitimate online trading platform, it is our duty to inform traders of any level of experience, that trading comes with its fair share or risk. Anyone positioning a trade as being risk-free or not advising their clients to manage risk appropriately is likely a scammer."



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Clean-up and Recycling SA Week 2023 “a resounding success”



PLASTICS SA, the industry association which represents the South African plastics industry, has reported that the 2023 Clean-Up and Recycling SA Week was a “huge success”.

Sustainability Director Douw Steyn said the annual event, which took place from the

11th - 16th of September, brought together communities, organisations and individuals from across the nation to tackle plastic pollution and promote responsible recycling.

“This year’s event has been an incredible success and it was once again encouraging to see how South Africans

from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds united to clean up our environment. Despite the fact that cold and stormy weather, and an unusual spring tide plagued, most of the country’s coastline on International Coastal Clean-up Day (Saturday, 16 September, 2023), there was still

a good turnout on beaches around the country by volunteers eager to do their bit to help remove litter from our beaches.”

Throughout September, and especially during the week-long initiative, Plastics SA supported numerous clean-up efforts to clean up SA’s beaches, rivers, streets, and public spaces by donating more than 700 000 bright yellow refuse bags, as well as clean-up toolkits consisting of gloves, rakes, spades, T-shirts and gumboots to clean-up teams. Plastics SA also collaborated with recycling and waste management partners to collect the waste after the clean-ups.

“The highlights of the week were undoubtedly, again, National River Clean-up Day, on 13 September, as well as our continued involvement in the Ink-wazi Isu River Catchment Project aimed at improved waste management and recycling in Durban,” Steyn said.



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SEW-EURODRIVE in SA launches online purchasing portal

ACCORDING to Zander Claassens, Training Manager at SEW-EURODRIVE, the portal allows customers to not only order products or parts, but also to find support in the form of documentation and CAD data. To maintain the personal touch, there is even a dedicated person to assist customers with their online requests from 7am to 9pm every day.

“The online purchasing portal offers users many useful tools and functions, valuable information and practical assistance,” says Claassens. “It is clear that many customers are embracing online procurement platforms, especially since the Covid-19 lockdowns, and we are excited to further enhance our sales and support channels in this way.”

He highlights that the very wide and dynamic range of configurations in SEW-EURODRIVE’s offering demanded that the functions of the shopping cart be specially developed to make it as user-friendly as possible for customers.

“We have developed four different functions that customers can choose from when adding a product to the shopping cart,” he explains. “The first is through our product configurator, which guides customers in configuring their required equipment – using drop down options from our vast range.”

The next channel would be to use the spare parts or replacement product selection function, where one of two routes can be chosen. In the first, the customer can make use of the SEW-EURODRIVE serial number found on the product nameplate. Entering that serial number is a quick and simple way of request a replacement – and ensuring



Zander Claassens.

that the exact configuration is replicated.

“Another route enables customers to find an SEW-EURODRIVE replacement product for a third-party drive – in other words, which is not an SEW-EURODRIVE item,” he said. “Our online tool will not understand the non-SEW-EURODRIVE serial number, of course, but if the specific criteria are supplied, we will know what the customer needs and we will supply.”

Registered customers who have already been trading with SEW-EURODRIVE can also use a third option – a customer transaction overview – to help select what they are looking for. When they log into the online purchasing portal, they will be able to view their history of quotations and orders. This makes it simple to re-order a component that has been purchased before, as they can select the item from a previous transaction or quotation, says Claassens.

“Lastly, customers can use the drive selection assistant – a smart online tool that guides the user through three simple steps to find the right drive,” he says.

“The first step is to select the application, and the second requires more application-related information; the third step then presents the customer with product configurations and suggestions – from which they can choose.”

He reiterates that customers wishing to transact on the portal can find support from a real person behind the portal, who can provide hands-on advice and assistance. Customers can also rest easy that the security of the portal is world class.

“Our cyber-security is handled by a dedicated IT team in our group headquarters in Germany,” he explains. “Our customer and transaction data are double-encrypted when working online, while the online support is run on hyper-text transfer protocol secure (HTTPS) and is backed up on a geographical redundancy cloud-based system.”

Another security precaution is that online purchasing is not permitted using credit cards, as the company still follows its normal payment protocols with customers once they have placed items in the online shopping cart.

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THE BEE IN MY BONNET COLUMN

Gungubele again chooses race-based policy over affordable data

ELSEWHERE in this issue is a news release entitled: Paratus signs re-seller agreement with Starlink for Africa, describing how the Paratus Group has concluded an agreement as a distributor for Starlink's high-speed services across the African continent. This agreement will allow Paratus to provide Starlink to

its customers across Africa, as operating licenses are awarded to Starlink in those countries. As the DA's Shadow Minister for Communications & Digital Technologies, Natasha Mazzone points out, B-BBEE - alias cadre deployment - means it won't be coming to SA anytime soon. "MONDLI Gun-

gubele, Minister of Communications' insistence on B-BBEE requirements for foreign companies shows the ANC government's obsession with race-based policies despite its detriment to the economy. In response to questions by the DA on why government insists on a 30% B-BBEE requirement

for a licence to provide internet services in South Africa, Minister Gungubele not only defended this policy but also resorted to personal attacks on the DA. The Minister's remarks reflect an unwarranted obsession with race-based policies, which undermines the broader goal of economic

growth and development. While neighbouring African countries such as Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Rwanda have wisely sought partnerships like Starlink to enhance internet connectivity and promote economic progress, it's disheartening to witness the ANC's continued focus on

divisive measures that hinder our nation's true potential. Given SA's high data costs and costs of living crisis, the inclusion of Starlink would decrease the price of data significantly making it more affordable for low-income households. Furthermore, since Starlink is satellite-based, it does not rely on cell tow-

ers and hence, will not experience outages from load-shedding. The DA calls on the Minister to prioritise the plight of the poor and not continue to restrict access to a service which has become a critical utility to all South Africans." Eish. Source: Politics web.

Food and catering businesses have a crucial role in addressing food waste



Bradley Hall

EACH year, South African farmers, retailers and consumers discard millions of tons of food products, contributing to more than 10 million tons of food going to waste. The South African GDP growth rate for the 1st quarter of 2023 was 0,4%; and the latest unemployment numbers show that 32.9% of South Africans are unemployed (42.4%, by the expanded definition). According to World Bank figures, about 55.5% of the population is living at the national upper poverty line and 40% of households in the country face food insecurity. According to a report jointly published by the Department of Science and Innovation and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), about six million out of South Africa's total population of 60.6 million people endure hunger, representing 11% of the population. Yet, about 10.3 million

tons of food and beverages are wasted annually, making up about 34.3% of local food production. "Food and catering businesses have a crucial role to play in tackling the intricate challenges intertwined with food waste, and supporting efforts to address the distressing reality that, while so much food goes to waste, we still have individuals going to bed hungry," said Bradley Hall, from facilities management company, Servest Catering business unit. Food waste raises a number of social and economic challenges, as food insecurity and sustainability are all interrelated. These include the loss of labour, capital, water, energy, land, and other resources used to produce food. It threatens the sustainability of food production. The United Nations estimates that lost and wasted food accounts for 38% of total energy usage in the global food system.

According to the UN Environmental Impact (UNEI) food losses at the farm level account for 15 – 25 percent of total food waste. Many factors contribute to food waste, including inefficient processing, drying and storage of food, a lack of access to markets, and others. Hall said some of these challenges can be addressed by supporting local farmers. "We have adopted several pro-local strategies. For example, we only use fresh produce from local farmers for remote clients. This means cost savings for clients, creates a market for local farmers to sell produce, and minimises food waste, while offering customers a true ground-to-fork experience. Effective meal planning can also contribute towards reducing food waste." Hall said catering businesses need to develop innovative practices to minimise food waste. There needs to be efficient inventory management on food, portion control, and creative menu planning to curtail the volume of surplus food that often ends up as waste. "The reality is we currently have millions of people in the country going to bed hungry. Individuals and businesses have a crucial role to play in addressing this. We need to put effort into gathering food before its best-before-date and donating it to soup kitchens or homes for the needy before it goes bad. We can make a difference in building a more equitable food system."

Blast free corrosion and surface preparation treatment



RETURNING from an overseas principle convention in Belgium, MD of BAMR (Pty) Ltd. Graham Duk, revealed that its distributorship agreement with Monti Power Bristle Blasters has been extended to cover most sub Saharan territories with the exception of Nigeria, Angola and Ghana where Monti Power has distributors in place. "Since acquiring the distributorship of Monti Power's Bristle Blaster for South Africa in April 2022, we have made inroads into industries where the treatment of metal corrosion is a major problem – mines, oil & gas and ship repair as the most prominent. "MontiPower Bristle Blasters have been recognised as a cutting-edge solution in the fight against corrosion. These innovative tools combine mechanical and abrasive action to remove rust and old coatings from metal surfaces, exposing a clean substrate. What sets them apart is their ability to simultaneously create an anchor profile com-

patible with ISO8501-1Sa2½-3 and roughness levels of up to 120µm that reinforces the bond between the equipment's surface and protective coatings—a textured surface that improves coating adhesion. This dual-action process not only restores the integrity of the equipment but also prepares the surface for effective corrosion-resistant coatings, ensuring long-term protection. Bristle Blasters offer a unique solution. Adding to the versatility of these hand-held tools is their availability in three different power sources: pneumatic, electric & cordless models. "The latter cordless model is proving to be especially popular in these days of loadshedding where electrical power is unavailable for prolonged periods, meaning that essential maintenance work can be carried out uninterrupted, saving time and costs. "Other noteworthy advantages of the Bristle Blaster are its compact dimensions and ease of operation,

making it the ideal tool for maintenance work where rope access or 'cherry pickers' are required, such as metal silos, wind turbine towers and refinery structures and pipework applications. "The SA Navy has also found applications for the Bristle Blaster being a highly effective hand held tool against corrosion on board ships, especially in confined spaces. "The business end of the Bristle Blaster comprises an abrasive 'belt' which can prepare an area of rust contamination at a rate of 1m2/h, ready for the application of specialised corrosion resistant coatings. The 'belt' can then be re-sharpened by simply reversing the direct of the belt, effectively doubling or tripling the life of cutting surface before replacement is necessary." A further advantage over traditional blasting or chemical methods of corrosion removal is that these are unnecessary with the Bristle Blaster, continued Duk. "While sensible precautions have to

be applied when using any power tool, such as gloves and eye protection, unlike blasting or chemical treatment, no breathing apparatus is needed when using Bristle Blaster and from an environmental perspective, there is little mess to be cleaned up afterwards. This is particularly relevant in confined spaces and where air quality needs to be maintained. "A further development of the tool makes it attractive to the automotive industries where it can quickly and effectively remove decals and signage from vehicle bodies without damaging the paint surface. "With the potential to compromise safety, disrupt operations, and incur substantial costs, corrosion demands proactive and innovative solutions. The Bristle Blaster ticks all the boxes as an indispensable asset in removing corrosion and creating anchor profiles that ensure the longevity, safety, and efficiency in a range of industrial, ship repair and mining applications" he concluded.

Redevelopment under way at Bayside Mall



Bayside Mall.

GROWTHPOINT Properties are busy with a R352m major redevelopment project for Bayside Mall, located in the heart of the Table View and Parklands areas.

The project commenced in May 2023 and will introduce new retail choices, a revamped food court, improved shopper flows and better access to the centre – all with a refreshed, contemporary look across the mall.

The update responds to significant changes in South Africa's retail landscape over the past few years, especially shifting shopping trends within the mall's immediate catchment area.

The multifaceted development project includes repositioning the main anchor tenant, Checkers, and introducing Shoprite to the tenant mix. These two supermarket

anchors are scheduled to welcome shoppers to their new spaces by December 2023.

The project will also introduce more on-grade parking, add new vehicle access and egress points, and provide dedicated parking for taxis to ensure a good flow of all vehicles in the area.

Addressing operational challenges faced by all South African shopping centres and global environmental targets, electricity efficiency and security are key considerations in refreshing Bayside Mall.

The initial project allows for generators enabling the entire centre to be operational during load shedding, which is the first priority. As is Growthpoint's way, it will also upgrade energy-efficient lighting throughout the mall passages and

common areas.

As a second phase, Growthpoint has already embarked on a study to add a significant solar component to the existing solar installation to further assist during load shedding.

The mall already harvests rainwater and will also use this water-smart system in the project's new bathrooms. As part of the initiative, Growthpoint's development team will also endeavour to salvage reusable items, such as taps and sanitary ware, to donate to charities in the community.

The redevelopment will be rolled out in phases over approximately 18 months to ensure an easy transition for tenants and shoppers alike. Bayside Mall will remain open for trade throughout the redevelopment period.

Insulation plant saves EUR 648 880 a year

A market-leading manufacturer of insulation products for the construction industry turned to NSK for help in solving repeat bearing failures on its band saws. NSK's intervention and subsequent bearing and seal proposals, has resulted in annual savings of EUR 648 880.

The manufacturer of insulation solutions for the construction sector had recently completed the commissioning of a new automated production line and was looking forward to its benefits. However, production proved erratic due to repeated failures of bearings on the blade guide rollers of the production line's three band saws.

The situation escalated and soon became critical with bearing changes taking place on a daily basis. On occasions, the blade guide



bearings were only lasting three hours, leading to costly downtime and increased maintenance. Some bearing failures even resulted in damage to the saw blades. NSK received a request for help on behalf of the band-saw manufacturer to help identify the root cause of the failures and offer solutions.

An engineering team from NSK reviewed the application at the customer's site, performing a comprehensive failed bearing analysis. This revealed that bearing failures were occurring due to the ingress of con-

taminants, which led to the recommendation of NSK's deep groove ball bearings with high-performance DDU sealing, using a patented full contact sealing mechanism.

The contact seal design offers maximum protection against all contaminants, including dust and water, while simultaneously ensuring good grease retention. A trial showed a significant improvement in bearing life. Whereas before around one-third of the blade guide roller bearings would fail every day, now the plant changes its NSK bearings every 3-4 months as part of a planned maintenance schedule. Reductions in production downtime, maintenance labour, replacement bearings and damaged saw blades is resulting in significant annual cost savings of EUR 648 880.

Kwikspace team up for a thrilling project at Musgrave Centre, Durban

KWIKSPACE, Africa's leading provider of prefabricated buildings, has recently completed a project in partnership with Broll and Padel Perfect, delivering essential materials for office spaces and ablutions for the new padel tennis court at the Musgrave Centre in Durban. The project marks an important milestone in Kwikspace's commitment to providing top-quality and efficient services.

About the Project

Kwikspace's involvement in this project was ad hoc, delivering and assembling quality prefabricated units. The project required a permanent office space and ablution solutions for padel tennis courts on top of Musgrave Centre.

Kwikspace's offering of standard prefabricated buildings perfectly aligned with the key objectives of the project: providing durable, quality materials for permanent structures.

Implementation and Impact

The implementation process was streamlined, with Broll having their own contractor for installation while Kwikspace ensured the delivery and assembly of materials for the prefabricated units. Although not involved in the actual development of the padel tennis court, Kwikspace's participation enabled Padel Perfect to grow its footprint, allowing

more enthusiasts to enjoy the trendy sport in the warm city of Durban.

The project showcases the effectiveness and flexibility of Kwikspace's prefabricated solutions, which resonate with broader business goals of permanence, quality, and robust service.

Innovation and Benefits

The successful completion of the project sets a new benchmark for collaboration between different stakeholders. Kwikspace's provision of materials highlights the company's ability to adapt to different industry needs, including sports and recreation.

This project not only

serves padel enthusiasts but also significantly impacts the local economy and social environment. The construction of the new facilities promotes the trending sport of padel, combining fun, social interaction, and physical activity accessible to all age groups and skill levels.

Note: Padel Perfect is preparing to launch brand new facilities at Musgrave Centre. The launch will include two panoramic courts for doubles to enjoy the sport in Durban.

For those interested in unlocking innovative building solutions or exploring collaboration opportunities with Kwikspace, visit their website at www.kwikspace.co.za.

Saldanha iron ore terminal set for maintenance shutdown



THE Saldanha Iron Ore Terminal (IOT) has commenced with its 28-day annual maintenance shutdown from 28 September to 26 October 2023. During this period, the terminal will perform maintenance on its major equipment across mechanical, electrical and structural works, the IOT said in a statement.

The entire rail line between the Northern Cape and the Port of Saldanha in the Western Cape will form part of the shutdown, which is an integrated effort between Transnet Port Terminals (TPT), Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and bulk customers. During the shutdown period, however, there will be opportunities for single

offloading, IOT said.

Part of this year's terminal maintenance includes the replacement of 9,5 km of the 26-km conveyor belt used to move the export iron ore. Further work will be done on rail including civil repairs on Tippler 2, the ship loaders as well as the maintenance of the terminal sub-station.

The Saldanha Iron Ore Terminal is part of a network of 16 sea-cargo managed by Transnet Port Terminals, a division of Transnet. It is Africa's largest iron ore facility and South Africa's only dedicated iron ore terminal with deep waters that support the handling of an average of 25 Cape sized vessels per month.

The Saldanha IOT

remains the largest iron ore export facility in Africa and South Africa's only dedicated iron ore terminal which accounts for about 96% of all iron ore exports from South Africa, with the remaining 4% channeled through the Saldanha Multi-Purpose Terminal. Maintenance of the terminal's equipment is imperative in ensuring that the terminal is constantly addressing efficiency and productivity improvements for a better and sustainable terminal operation.

While the terminal conducts ongoing maintenance, the annual shutdown ensures that the terminal carries out activities that cannot be executed during the weekly 12-hour maintenance windows and

this improves the reliability of the equipment. TPT Managing Executive in the Western Cape Region Andiswa Dlanga said: "As the terminal operator, we have a duty to deliver freight reliably and efficiently, and the shutdown affords us an opportunity to ensure that we optimise our equipment reliability and outputs, which is critical in delivering our mandate to customers. Moreover, this period is used to ensure that we preserve our assets as we strive to be a world-class logistics and freight solutions terminal operator, while also providing a safe and conducive environment for our employees."

To date, over 1.3 billion tons of iron ore has been exported through Saldanha IOT.



LOCAL EV MARKET SET TO ACCELERATE with widespread availability of charging stations

Southern Power, an exclusive distributor for several market-leading marine and mobile power brands, is enabling further roll-out of electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions in South Africa - and the timing could not be better:

- With the global EV market predicted to grow to 25-million units by 2025, EV sales in South Africa have started to rise steadily. With the petrol price exceeding R22 per litre by Q3 2023 and with cheaper EVs finally beginning to enter the market, uptake is set to increase significantly.
- Research by Compare the Market Australia has found that South Africans could make significant savings on their fuel bill by driving EVs, with the country being ranked as the 18th cheapest nation (out of 50) to charge an electric vehicle.
- BMW, Volvo, MINI, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Jaguar and Porsche currently dominate both new and used EV sales in South Africa. New energy vehicle (NEV) sales including plug-in hybrids, traditional hybrids and fully electric cars, saw a surge of 18.8% in Q1 2023, compared to the same period in 2022.
- Ironically, this is in a year when Eskom has hit its highest levels of loadshedding to date. Yet, as a recent test of the Volvo XC40 Recharge Twin showed, it is possible to keep an EV sufficiently charged despite Level 6 outages - and, as more South Africans move to solar, the pressure on the national grid will gradually decrease.
- Automotive manufacturers still behind the EV curve have taken note of government's announcement that it will be providing fiscal support to the auto industry, to help it transition to producing EVs.
- Importantly, the uptake of EVs is about to extend beyond the consumer market. For example, Uber Eats aims to be all-EV by 2040. Meanwhile a team from the University of Stellenbosch's Faculty of Engineering, in partnership with Rham Equipment, is working to put the first electric minibus taxi on South African roads; potentially the first step in disrupting an industry of some 250 000 vehicles.

NEW ENERGY ON SHOW

At this year's Boatica Cape Town, Southern Power will unveil, for the first time in South Africa, partnering OEM Webasto's range of electric vehicle and home charging products, which it will be exclusively distributing in Southern Africa.

The Webasto Group has decades of experience in serving automobile manufacturers and is a tier one supplier in that sector. Webasto Charging Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of the group since 2016, is now enabling the mass adoption of electric vehicles, by delivering an optimal charging experience for drivers of all EV makes and models.

Webasto's commitment to facilitating EV adoption - "the future is electric" - aligns with Southern Power's vision to deliver pioneering technologies focused on reducing environmental impact, in its chosen market segments in southern Africa.

According to Jacques Brummer, Southern Power CEO, "We have been enabling the adoption of more environmentally friendly marine propulsion solutions for several years now, ranging from diesel outboards to hybrid to fully electric. Now, we are excited to be driving a similar evolution in the local automotive industry, in partnership with Webasto."

With the coming proliferation of Webasto charging solutions in South Africa, we expect both consumers' range anxiety and government's slow pace - to date - in getting behind mass adoption of EVs, to fall away."

Webasto offers a range of charging solutions for the residential sector and is the official home charging solution provider for BMW plug-in hybrids and battery electric vehicles (in the first half of 2023, BMW took the lion's share of EV sales in the South African market).

It is also engineering charging solutions for commercial settings:

- Retailers and malls that take an early lead in the provision of billable charging stations stand to become destinations of choice for the growing number of high-income EV drivers, increasing valuable foot-traffic to their establishments and increasing dwell time.
- Company car fleet owners can monitor the proprietary backend, Webasto ChargeConnect, to track and bill employees' electricity consumption.

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can offer customers, guests and employees attractive and reliable charging options.
- Property developers can implement charging stations for tenants, integrated with their buildings' energy management systems.
- Hotel and restaurant owners can offer guests durable and easy-to-use charging stations and wall boxes, increasing visitor and guest numbers.
- Cities and municipalities can install Webasto EV charging stations in public spaces such as parking garages, parks and government precincts.



A SMART SOLUTION FOR EVERY TYPE OF EV

Webasto's full range of efficient AC EV solutions will be carried by Southern Power by Q4 2023 and comprises a variety of configurations, including:

Webasto Go, a premium dual-voltage (120V & 240V) portable EV charger designed to charge all types of EVs. Intelligent grid plug assemblies allow for safe and reliable charging at home or anywhere.

ETL certified according to UL2594, the AC-connected wall box **TURBOCONNECT**, which excels stringent automotive quality, safety, and performance requirements. It is equipped with secure Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and ethernet connectivity for remote control.

Webasto Pure, Webasto's best-selling charging station. Backed by a five year warranty, it satisfies the most stringent quality and safety requirements.

The smart charging station **Webasto Next**, equipped with the proprietary backend Webasto ChargeConnect, giving owners constant oversight of the charging station from anywhere, with the ability to control and manage it remotely.

The intelligent charging station **Webasto Unite**, also enabling remote control and management via the Webasto ChargeConnect portal, along with local load management and integration into energy management systems.

Webasto MK3, a compact unit designed for commercial use, providing up to 22 kW of charge power and Wi-Fi/Ethernet connected, with remote management via app and web dashboard, will be available from Q1 2024.

Meanwhile, **Webasto Smart 160** and **Master 480** high-power chargers (HPCs), available via Webasto partner Charge-V, are also distributed and supported by Southern Power.

These charging solutions are complemented by a range of protective coated steel and stainless steel charging pedestals and accessories.

For South African buyers, Southern Power's team is part of Webasto's global network of sales support and trained installers that can provide full installation and support.

With petrol prices painfully high and more affordable EVs on the horizon, the move from fossil fuels to electromobility should be the next big mass shift after the switch from grid to solar.

Hurry up and wait – we need to wake up!

A sentiment echoed, certainly on Day 2 of the recent Southern Africa Oil and Gas Conference 2023, held 13 – 14 September in the CTICC in Cape Town, was born of the frustrations caused by the dithering of government on the delivery of The Gas Master Plan and the Gas-to-Power IPP Programme

Editor Robin Hayes reports

TO say that Southern Africa is awash with natural gas would be an understatement. Both onshore and offshore, vast amounts of oil and natural gas have been discovered and developers are champing at the bit

Africa seems to be in a daze – a dreamy, dazed or absent-minded state – when the enormous potential of natural gas is staring them in the face.

South Africa's neighbours – particularly Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe – have all realised the economic potential of natural gas

committed governments.

Years of delays put us on the back foot

Despite years of delays and indecision, Dr Bongani Sayidini from the Petroleum Agency SA – the organisation tasked with delivering The Gas Master Plan and the Gas-to-Power IPP Programme admitted to conference delegates the inordinate amount of time it has taken to get the Plan in place but advised that the end was near (!) and a draft plan would be ready for Cabinet perusal and be gazetted by December 2023.

Sayidini pointed out that while discovered gas resources were encouraging, it was imperative that the Plan confirmed 'proven' demand which he indicated the draft plan had confirmed.

Several speakers reiterated that bringing natural gas production on line was not a five minute thing – as Renergen CEO Stefano Marani pointed out to CBN's editor in an exclusive interview carried in the September edition. Renergen's road to commercialisation has taken 10 years and its second phase will only come on stream in 2026/27.

This sentiment was echoed by Kinetiko Energy's CEO Nick de Blocq who told delegates that discoveries of natural gas in Mpumalanga alone are more than double that of the 'old' Moss gas offshore resource.

The 'bonus' of these discoveries of being in a geographically 'perfect' location, next door to Sasol's Secunda chemical plant, the Lilly gas pipeline and a stone's throw from the aging

and dysfunctional coal fired power stations of Arnot, Hendrina and Majuba – all scheduled for decommissioning within the next 10 years. Stations ripe for converting to abundant natural gas?

Furthermore, de Blocq advised delegates, that gas delivered to Sasol Secunda via the 835km ROMPCO pipeline from the Pande Temane gas fields in Mozambique was running out as early as 2026 with depletion estimated by 2030. In fact, he said, Sasol had already advised its gas customers that it couldn't guarantee supplies beyond 2026... So the sooner the government gives the green light, the better. Downstream thermal industries dependent on Mozambican gas can't wait 10 years for an alternative supply!

A gas economy beckons

The conference was advised that the worldwide average of natural gas consumption as part of the energy mix stands at 24%. Consumption in the USA is 32%, the UK 39%, Russia 55% and in Germany, 26%. And in South Africa – just 3% with its immense resource conservatively estimated at least 6 trillion cubic feet (tcf) without resorting to fracking. Remember that Petro SA's refinery in Mossel Bay existed for more than 28 years on 1,5tcf.

Speakers pointed out that the Mossel Bay facility has created between 46 000 and 56 000 jobs, similar employment as gas supplies from the ROMPCO pipeline which also generates more than R250-million in taxes.

So with natural gas ticking all the right boxes, especially with our current energy crisis, why has the government been dragging its feet, particularly as natural gas forms part of the energy mix envisaged in the Integrated Resource Plan 2019? While no speakers ventured to address the elephant in the room – coal and corruption, there was discussion about the number of government agencies involved in bringing the gas resource to market – bureaucracy, red tape and the silo mentality were mentioned as impediments. These factors, coupled with the environmental lobby for fossil free energy – supported by vested interests in renewables such as wind and solar added another layer as well as incompetence and a lack of skills.

“...bringing natural gas on line was not a 5 minute thing - Renergen's road to commercialisation has taken 10 years...”

to commercialise the resource and create a gas economy. This would go a long way to resolving our energy crisis while creating desperately needed employment and generate handsome tax revenues. But South

and are pressing ahead with commercial partnerships and unless the South African government makes a genuine commitment to exploit this huge resource it will be left behind as exploration companies make deals with more

DIESEL ELECTRIC SERVICES POWERING DISCOVERY



Since 1993, **Diesel Electric Services (Pty) Ltd** has specialised in the design, manufacture, delivery, installation, commissioning and after-sales service of power generation equipment.

As a bespoke engineering, procurement and construction partner, our speciality is found in turnkey solutions, focusing on medium voltage infrastructure, backup power solutions, low voltage distribution and large power reticulation.

Diesel Electric Services is one of the only EPC's that has a fully type-tested design at 50 kA, to IEC / SANS 60439.1 and a partially type-tested design at 70 kA, to the same standard. This coupled with the additional test required by IEC / SANS 61439-1/2/3, empowers us to issue a product that is self-certified to comply strictly to IEC / SANS 61439-1/2/3, as detailed in the standard.

We are currently working on various projects and have a continuous involvement and presence on site after completion, some of them on a daily basis, with regards to maintenance as well as daily operation of the plants.

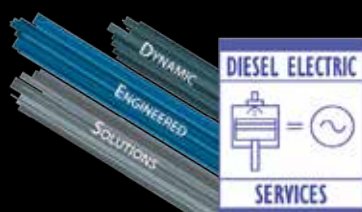
We are convinced that the reason why we can offer the level of engineering, manufacturing, installation, commissioning and after-sales service that we do, is solely due to the stability of our staff complement. This fact has enabled us to grow the company by knowledge transfer, incorporating the “old” school into the “new” school work ethic.

With experience in both diesel and gas-powered solutions, incorporating static UPSes when needed, our strength is in experience associated with site-specific projects.

Diesel Electric Services was awarded the turnkey contract for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) to support critical power infrastructure. This contract included changes to the existing 400V distribution boards which was necessary to accommodate the new Uninterrupted Power Supply systems in accordance with IEC / SANS 60439 and 61439. Diesel Electric Services was also responsible for all the electrical cable infrastructure changes, supply and install of upgraded cabling to the Uninterrupted Power Supply and from the Uninterrupted Power Supply to the critical infrastructure load boards.

The specification required the supply of fully Modular Uninterruptable Power Supplies which effectively means that the several power modules sharing the load *including* the static switch module of the UPS can be replaced whilst the UPS is operational. With this modular approach, the UPS unit provide internal redundancy on the power modules. Should one become faulty, it will disconnect itself from the main bus and the load will be shared by the remaining healthy power modules. With regard to the battery technology, the system is supported by Lithium-Ion battery technology.

The uninterrupted backup power solution was successfully commissioned in May 2023 and has been maintained by Diesel Electric Services to date.



For additional information contact:

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GreenX Engineering now an authorised EPC contractor



Solar panels on roof of Cloetesville Primary in Stellenbosch – first school to receive an EPC in SA.

STELLENBOSCH University's spinout company GreenX Engineering recently became an accredited Energy Performance Certificate inspection body, accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), and can now assist building owners to comply with the National Energy Act.

Updated legislation based on South African National Standards (SANS) 1544 (2014), mandates that all privately owned buildings, which fall under specific conditions, must have an EPC by 2025, or face substantial fines.

The conditions are that the building be larger than 2000m²; if the building is older than two years and has not undergone major renovations in the past two years; and falls

under the building classifications A1, A2, A3 and G1. The other occupancy classes (that also need EPCs e.g. H1) are to follow these building classifications.

As an accredited inspection body GreenX evaluates a building and submits documents on behalf of the building owners or accounting officers to the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI).

GreenX's managing director, Dr Jason Samuels, said following an energy and spatial analysis audit, the GreenX team issued its first EPC for one part of the St Stithians College in Johannesburg. The first of the Colleges' buildings to get an EPC was the Girls' College and Girls' prep sections. They received

a B-rating for energy consumption with a 33 kWh/m². The GreenX team also recently assisted another Johannesburg private school, St David's Marist college, with their EPC. They also received a B-rating with a 36 kWh/m² energy efficiency.

Last year, GreenX Engineering's initiatives helped equip Cloetesville Primary School, in Stellenbosch, with energy-saving technology, making it the first school in South Africa to receive an energy performance certificate (EPC). The school received an A-rating for the electrical consumption of the system, with 17 kWh/m². Samuels was part of the team that switched on another no-fee school's new PV system – that of Ikaya Primary School in Stel-

lenbosch's Kayamandi. The school received a hybrid 12 kW photovoltaic (PV) system with a 10 kWh battery that will enable them to switch seamlessly from the Stellenbosch municipal grid when the lights go out. Ikaya Primary will soon be able to bank almost R50 000 in yearly energy savings through this system. GreenX Engineering was cofounded in early 2021 by Dr Jason Samuels, and Stellenbosch University Engineering professors, Prof Thinus Booysen, and Prof Sara Grobbelaar as an energy efficiency company that helps clients improve their energy efficiency and environmental impact. South Africa's the energy sector alone is responsible for almost 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the country, with SA ranking 12th in the world's top emitters, and with 80 percent of the country's electricity production being derived from coal.

Samuels said more energy management and energy efficiency projects are in the pipeline for GreenX. The company is speaking to lower-income public schools and groups of private schools. They also have plans to expand to the Free-state and KwaZulu-Natal regions.

For more information about GreenX Engineering visit: <https://gxe.co.za/>

While everything else has risen, the price of solar cells is collapsing



Photo: Sustainsolutions//pr

By Victor Emil
Kristensen of FINANS
- <https://finans.dk/>

EVERYTHING from the price of eggs and butter to the interest rate on your home loan has risen dramatically in price since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But when it comes to the price of solar cells, the trend is completely reversed. The price has not just fallen here (Denmark). It has almost collapsed since the turn of the year.

"This is a dramatic price drop. The bottom line is completely out of the market," says Jan Vedde, head of solar cells at European Energy.

The development is particularly noteworthy in a business like European Energy, where renewable energy parks are developed. As Finans has continuously described, the prices of wind turbines have risen sharply as a result of higher prices for steel and challenged profitability in the supply chains.

Despite the inflationary crisis, the price of solar cells' raw materials has fallen. Not least when it comes to polysilicon, which constitutes the first unique link in the production of solar panels. It has long been the step in the value chain that sets the price of the modules.

In March 2008, the price of a kilo of polysilicon was at its highest, as production capacity was far below demand. At the time, a kilo of silicon cost the tidy sum of 475 dollars.

At the start of 2022, the price was around 30 dollars per kilo, while today the price is as low as 10.7 dollars

on the Chinese market. According to Jan Vedde, this is the key to the dramatic price drop.

China alone accounts for 97% of the world's production capacity for polysilicon and has recently ramped up production. And since we are talking about huge megaplants, the development does not happen smoothly, but in sudden jerks in supply.

"Overall, the global annual production capacity is perhaps 900,000 tons by the end of 2022, and when suddenly at the beginning of 2023 200,000–300,000 tons are added on top of that, it simply floods the market," he says.

However, European Energy and other European developers of solar parks cannot take full advantage of the price drop, says Jan Vedde.

Partly because they do not buy panels on the spot market, where the price drop is greatest, and partly because the primary limiting factor for building solar parks is not the price of the panels, but getting permission to build the parks at all.

Private homeowners who want to produce green power, in return, benefit from the lower prices, according to Viasol, which is one of Denmark's largest solar cell companies selling to private customers. The company's purchase prices for solar panels have fallen by more than 35% from its peak.

Historically, prices for solar cells were close to rock bottom in the summer of 2021 and then rose drastically until Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Since then, prices

have defied the logic of inflation and have fallen, while everything else in society has risen in price.

For a company like Viasol, the dramatic price drop has primarily meant that the company has changed its purchasing strategy. Much smaller quantities are now bought at a time, as the speed of the price drop means that just a few months in stock can eat away at any profit.

In addition, Viasol is trying to pull in a different direction so that the focus is not unconditional on price.

Most recently, the company has announced that it will exclusively use German-produced silicon. It is more expensive than Chinese silicon, but according to Tobias Lindskov Nielsen, it is the only way to guarantee that the solar panels are not produced under the slave-like conditions that TV 2 has uncovered that Uighurs work under in the Chinese Xinjiang province.

However, even the European raw material prices for the production of solar panels have fallen dramatically.

"It's just raw capitalism we're witnessing. Overall, it's just good and pushes the green transition faster," says Tobias Lindskov Nielsen.

However, it is about taking advantage of the trend while it lasts. The price of polysilicon on the Chinese market has now increased for the tenth week in a row, so although the price is still historically low, it is of course only a matter of time before the price of solar panels starts to rise again.

First electricity wheeled via Cape Town's grid

THE first electrons of clean, green energy have officially been wheeled via the City of Cape Town's energy grid. Growthpoint Properties (JSE: GRT) became the first party to wheel renewable electricity in the City in collaboration with licenced electricity trader Etana Energy.

Wheeling is a process where electricity is bought and sold between private parties, using the existing grid to transport power from where it is generated to end-users that can be long distances apart. It creates greater access to affordable renewable energy and contributes to resolving the country's energy crisis.

As part of the City's wheeling pilot project, in which Etana was selected as a participating trader, solar energy

generated at Growthpoint's The Constantia Village shopping centre in Constantia is being exported into Cape Town's electricity grid for use at Growthpoint's 36 Hans Strijdom office building in the Foreshore, the home of Investec and Ninety One.

A wheeling agreement between the City and Growthpoint was signed at the end of August and, in a milestone for renewable energy in Cape Town, solar power from The Constantia Village was successfully injected into the City's energy grid for the first time on Sunday, 10 September 2023.

The City's six-month pilot project includes 15 wheeling participants representing 25 generators and 40 customers. The pilot will lay the groundwork for future

wheeling in Cape Town and enable businesses to use energy from rooftop solar panels across multiple locations, encouraging them to optimise solar capacity instead of limiting it to individual building use.

"Overall, Cape Town is planning to add up to one gigawatt of independent power to end load-shedding in the city over time. The exact mix may vary, but we expect wheeling to contribute up to 350MW to the grid in time. Congratulations to the pioneering private sector players who successfully wheeled the very first electrons, and thanks to the City's team who worked to get the enabling legislation, billing engine, and wheeling agreements in place. This is good news for the economy and the coming energy transition,

of which Cape Town is proud to be at the forefront," said Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis.

Estienne de Klerk, SA CEO of Growthpoint Properties, said: "This project brings Growthpoint closer to our climate commitment of being carbon neutral by 2050 and is the starting point to providing clean green energy to our tenants in Cape Town to further their environmental commitments."

Reyburn Hendricks, Director of Etana Energy, said: "We are incredibly excited about this landmark initiative. Allowing the wheeling of electricity to municipal connected customers will accelerate Etana's mission of bringing much-needed new renewable energy generation onto the grid in South Africa."

Keeping people safe and keeping areas clean

Who we are, what we do and how we do it

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Through our factory and network of twelve branches, we employ over 2,000 people, manufacture over 25,000 garments a day and distribute our products throughout Southern Africa.

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We are passionate about providing our customers with service excellence and top-quality, trustworthy products which help to keep people safe and areas clean.

Noise-induced hearing loss in the workplace

Dr Marinda Uys –
Eduplex Training
Institute

MANY people are exposed to noise in their workplace. The iron and steel industry, one of the largest employers in South Africa, with about 55 000 employees is one of the noisiest work environments. Noise-induced hearing loss is common among people doing this work. Many other industries also have high levels of noise, for example mining, construction, manufacturing and even transportation such as airports.

Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is caused by exposure to high levels of noise. After the first exposure to a loud noise, a person will experience temporary hearing loss, meaning that hearing may normalise after a rest of 24 hours. When the person is continuously exposed to noise, the hearing loss will become permanent.

The intensity (loudness) of noise as well as the duration (time) of the noise exposure are two factors that contribute to damage to the hearing system. The louder the noise and the longer a worker is exposed to it, the more damage it can cause to the hearing system.

To reduce the risk of noise-induced hearing loss under workers, it is important to implement

hearing conservation programmes at workplaces where workers are exposed to high levels of noise. The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) regulation set the limit of hazardous noise at and above 85 dB HL – indicating that from this level, hearing loss can start to occur.

The most important goal of a hearing conservation programme is to prevent or minimize hearing loss due to workplace noise exposure by providing training, hearing protection and annual occupational hearing tests to all persons working for eight hours or more per day in noise levels to or higher than the limit of 85 dB A.

An occupational hearing test can be performed by an audiometrist or nurse who checks the hearing thresholds of workers and tracks changes over time, thus detecting shifts in hearing that may signal the beginning stages of noise-induced hearing loss.

The types of occupational audiometry testing include:

- Baseline testing when a worker starts their employment at a company.
- Periodic testing every year to monitor a worker's hearing status.
- Exit hearing testing when a person is finishing employment at the company.

– Diagnostic testing when a worker is referred to an audiologist or ear, nose and throat specialist for in-depth testing.

Hearing conservation programmes also help to determine the noise-control measures at a workplace. This will help prevent hearing loss, identify areas with high levels of noise and educate workers and staff and bring the company in line with regulations on noise reduction and noise management.

The following factors may indicate potentially dangerous noise levels in an area:

- Noise in the workplace is louder than the traffic of a busy city.
- A person needs to raise his/her voice to talk to another person a metre away.
- After the work shift, a person needs to increase the volume of the television or radio to hear it properly.
- After working a few hours, a person struggles to hear properly in a group of people and/or experiences a ringing sound in his/her ears.

Hearing loss can be compared to listening to a radio where the signal is unclear. Persons with NIHL often complain of a ringing or buzzing sound in the ears.



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Early fire detection: infrared camera and monitors for automated extinguishing

THERE is a high risk of fires, especially in waste, wood and paper processing. Early fire detection systems using infrared detection allow early identification of potential fire sources and rapid response times. Hazardous hot-spots that may turn into a fire source are identified within minutes, even before smoke or flames appear.

“FireDos firefighting monitors are controlled electronically...”

The early fire detection system allows the full-surface monitoring of large areas using panoramic thermal imaging. Combined with intelligent analyzing software, this enables the precise localization of a fire source. In addition, remote-controlled FireDos monitors are

used for pinpointed extinguishing with water or foam. This helps avoid lengthy and costly system downtime and collateral damage with little effort.

Smart monitoring, automated extinguishing

The combination of automatic early fire detection and an automatic fire extinguishing system allows tailored extinguishing strategies perfect for each application.

- Smart software and analysis of individual characteristics are used to screen the surroundings, distinguishing between hot engines, exhaust pipes and hotspots that may indicate an actual or possible fire.
- Integrated with the automatic extin-

guishing system, the FireDos firefighting monitors are controlled electronically and achieve maximum range with optimum accuracy thanks to the flow-optimized Oval Flat Design. The required extinguishing agent flow rate can automatically be adjusted during operation.

Infrared detection systems: quick response, less system downtimes

In case of a fire, infrared detection systems with heat detection and automated extinguishing systems outperform other technologies. Fires are quickly and reliably identified before professional intervention is required.

For more information contact DoseTech: web-site: dosetech.co.za



Advantages



Rapid response times

Fighting fires before smoke appears



Cost savings

Minimise system downtime and false alarms



Maximum reliability

Automated surveillance and pinpoint extinguishing



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Chainsaw usage – how to stay safe

CHAINSAWS, vital tools in numerous industries and even domestic use, offer significant applications but also inherent risks if utilised incorrectly. To ensure the safety of individuals using chainsaws, it is crucial to adhere to proper safety guidelines. Charles Henderson, Business Development Manager at Husqvarna South Africa, and a seasoned Tree Professional says, “Chainsaw safety is of paramount importance. It’s not just about the right equipment but knowing how to use it correctly.”

He shares these tips:

Before You Start:

1. Communication is Key: If you are working alone, always inform someone of your work plans and whereabouts with a trusted individual.
2. Plan Your Exit:

Park your vehicle in a way that allows for a quick exit in case of an emergency.

3. Stay Connected: Always carry a mobile phone and maintain regular contact.

Chainsaw Safety Personal Protective Equipment:

Proper clothing and equipment are fundamental prerequisites for chainsaw users. According to Henderson, most chainsaws come equipped with safety features. This includes chain brakes which allow the user to stop the chain quickly should it not automatically engage.

Lacerations, which occur when individuals come into contact with the chainsaw chain, represent the most frequent type of chainsaw-related injuries. Although nearly half of all chainsaw-related injuries affect the

legs, the importance of chainsaw pants is frequently underestimated. Wearing the appropriate protective gear is essential. Ensure you have:

- **Chainsaw Pants:** Engineered to stop a chain immediately when encountering their sprocket clogging material. For example, Husqvarna now offers locally made chainsaw pants which conform to the latest international standards, namely ISO 11393.
- **Forestry Jackets:** Vital for safeguarding your upper body.
- **Helmet with Hearing Protection and Safety Visor:** Essential for protecting your head against falling debris, shielding your eyes and safeguarding your hearing.
- **Boots with Toe Protection:** Designed with reinforced mate-

rial in the toe area to protect your feet.

- **Gloves:** Protect your hands from cuts, vibrations, and debris.

Safe Chainsaw Handling:

1. Grip: Maintain a secure grip on both handles of the chainsaw. Ensure your thumbs and fingers are wrapped entirely around the handles. Position your left thumb under the front handle to reduce the impact of a potential kickback.
2. Close Contact: Hold the chainsaw close to your body to improve balance and reduce the sensation of its weight.
3. Balance: Stand with your feet apart for better stability, positioning your left foot slightly in front of your right.
4. Bend Your Knees: Prevent back strain by bending your knees



rather than arching your spine when working in low positions.

5. Moving/Transport: Ensure the chainsaw's chain remains stationary as you transition to a new location by activating the chain brake or switching off the engine during multiple moves.

6. Safety Distance: Maintain a distance of 3 – 5 meters from oth-

ers while working with a chainsaw. When felling trees, sustain a greater distance of two tree lengths.

7. Beware of Kickback: Kickback, a sudden forceful reaction of the chainsaw, primarily occurs in the upper quadrant of the guide bar. Use a chainsaw equipped with a functioning chain brake to

minimise kickback risks.

8. Maintenance: Ensure regular maintenance of the chain brake is performed in accordance with the service schedule in the operator's manual.

For more information, visit: <https://www.husqvarna.com/za/personal-protective-equipment/>

National survey reveals lack of safety trends in SME road freight sector



JC Auditors are pro-active supporters of road safety aware

AN online survey conducted earlier this year by JC Auditors (JCA) has highlighted a concerning lack of safety systems within the road freight sector of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMMEs). The survey was conducted with the objective of evaluating safety practices and measures in the industry.

Oliver Naidoo, Managing Director of JCA, said key findings from the survey indicated a widespread absence of safety protocols which jeopardises the well-being of both heavy vehicle drivers and public road users. “It also has a significant economic impact, considering that the last Road Traffic Management Corporation report indicated the cost of crashes to be R142 billion or 3,4% of GDP.”

The survey, conducted

with SME road freight companies from across the country, revealed the following trends:

Poor Compliance with Regulations: The findings revealed a concerning lack of compliance with the relevant requirements of the National Road Traffic Act and other industry standards, with 64% of participating companies lacking proper compliance measures.

Insufficient Vehicle Maintenance: It found 68% of SMME road freight companies had inadequate vehicle maintenance programmes. This increases the risk of mechanical failures, leading to accidents and disruptions in supply chains.

Safe Loading: The survey found 87% of companies did not actively monitor their compliance with the legal mass limits

outlined in the Road Traffic Act.

Inadequate Safety Training: Some 72% of respondents reported insufficient driver training. This heightens the risk of accidents and undermines the overall safety culture on the roads.

While formal driver training is crucial, it is just one element in fostering a safe driving culture. Driver monitoring, coaching, and visible management commitment are also vital.

Driver Medical Fitness: Around 78% of companies indicated drivers were not assessed for medical fitness annually, and 92% of companies were unaware of whether any of their drivers had chronic illnesses.

Naidoo expressed concern on the findings, calling for collaboration among industry stakeholders, regulatory

bodies, and government authorities to address the deficiencies within the SME road freight sector.

He said the findings provide the sector with “a chance to enhance the safety culture within SMEs and implement robust systems that foster a safe operating environment.”

He recommended the following measures: Developing a robust safety policy; conducting comprehensive risk assessments; enhancing driver selection and training; implementing driver monitoring systems; ensuring vehicle maintenance; as well as promoting a safety culture, providing personal protective equipment (PPE), and encouraging the reporting and investigation of safety incidents.

Those involved in the sector should also engage in continuous improvement through regularly analysing safety performance data and stay up to date with regulations and industry standards.

Naidoo said the implementation of these steps can lead to substantial improvements in safety performance, risk mitigation, and employee well-being.

“The Road Transport Management System (RTMS) serves as an excellent tool to facilitate the implementation of these measures, promoting both transport safety and business sustainability,” said Naidoo.

‘Struck by’ accidents account for >32% of SA’s total - FEM

EVERY year, about 2.78 million workers, globally, die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases, while an additional 374 million workers suffer from non-fatal occupational accidents. This is according to the United Nations Global Compact.

The statistics equate to 7 500 people dying from unsafe and unhealthy work conditions every day,” said Dr Sanjay Munnoo, president of the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

In an article written ahead of the Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company (FEM) Safetember Conference – Munnoo, chief business development officer of FEM, said the construction industry has been identified by the International Labour Organisation as having a disproportionately high rate of recorded accidents.

The conference - held in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban during September – highlighted workplace health and safety in the construction industry and beyond.

“Closer to home, it is difficult to get an accurate picture of all workplace accidents that occur nationally across the various sectors. This is due to SA having a large informal workforce, meaning a

vast number of accidents are not reported. Much of the data collected is obtained via insurance claims by employers through workmen’s compensation service providers providing a snapshot of the country’s dire situation,” Munnoo said.

He said FEM, a mutual insurer offering workmen’s compensation services for the construction industry in SA, recorded 6 157 reported accidents for 2022 alone (as per data extracted in June 2023). “Of these reported incidents, 48 resulted in fatalities and 581 resulted in permanent disability for the victim.

“Based on claims received for the year, the leading cause of workplace accidents were “struck by” incidents – accidents where the victim was “struck by” a motor vehicle while working, or “struck by” falling items, (such as a brick on a construction site). “Struck by” accidents comprised a massive 32.3 % of the workplace incidents reported to FEM in 2022.

“More concerning is that these statistics only account for around 50 % of the formal construction workforce in SA that FEM insures (with the Compensation Fund as the insurer for the rest of the formal construction workforce.) They



Dr Sanjay Munnoo.

do not account for accidents in the informal construction sector at all. The question remains, are we doing enough to bring down these excessively high accident rates?”

Munnoo said, from a legal standpoint, SA legislation includes several acts relating to Occupational Health & Safety (OHS), including the recently amended Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA).

“While some of these acts are industry specific, they have one goal in common – ensuring the health and safety of workers through the prevention of occupational injuries and diseases. However succeeding in reducing – and ideally preventing – workplace accidents is dependent on compliance with legislation by both employers and employees.

Mattei implements 'Lean Product & Process Development' with Milan University

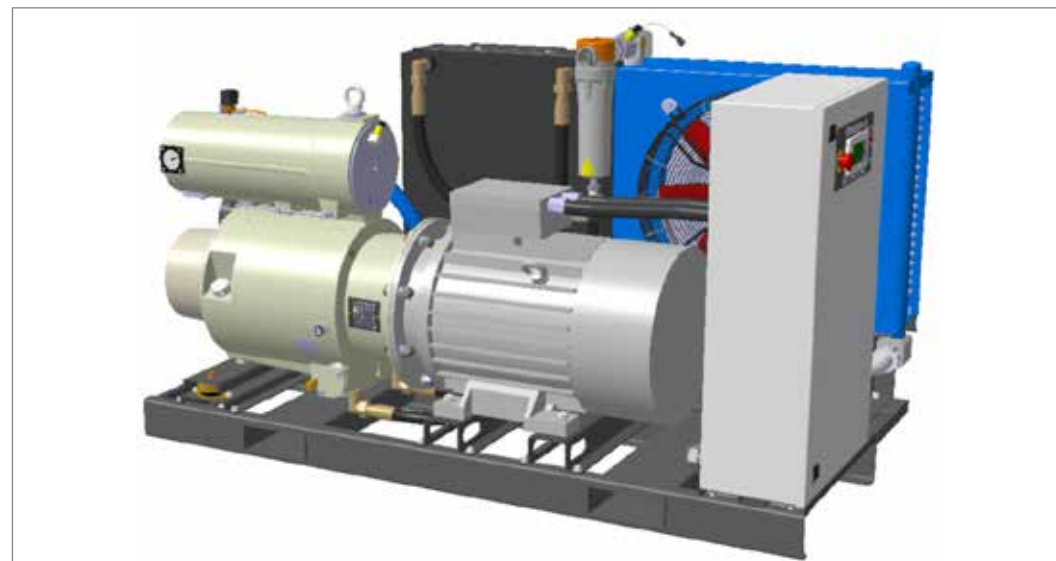
EVEN at 100 years old, you can still focus on technological innovation and research & development. This is the case of Mattei SpA, a compressed air manufacturer from Vimodrone, Milan.

Founded in 1919, Mattei is a true micro-multinational, which today has two production sites in Italy, six regional branches on three continents and 250 employees. Its strength is a proprietary technology used in the construction of compressors - rotary vane technology - which permits energy savings of up to 30-40% when compared to the same usage with equivalent "screw" compressors. This distinctiveness has always been combined with a strong focus and investments in research & development along with the choice to entrust University experts for process innovations. From

expertise to excellence.

This is how the Lean Product and Process Development project was born, one which has been worked on together since March 2019, by Stefano Murgia, Mattei's technical director, and Monica Rossi, assistant professor at Milan Polytechnic who has a Master's in Management Engineering and a PhD in Management Economics and Industrial Engineering.

"The starting point was the situation Mattei found itself before the project started", explained Murgia and Rossi. "The emerging picture from the data collection showed that a large proportion of time was spent on reacting to day-to-day responses and that there were difficulties in indicating and establishing priorities. The result was a situation of perpetual emergency, aggravated by an organization struc-



tured in "silos", with no sharing and communications system, little planning and no clearly defined specifications and targets". Mattei was suffering from what is called "infinite capacity" i.e. the illusion of being able to cope with infinite demands, which in reality just translates into great frustration for both personnel and

end clients.

A change of pace and organization was needed, starting with the product engineering process which had to be based on customer requirements. "We introduced documented processes and prioritization of activities, setting up cross-functional teams with different competencies. A central role

in this reorganization is assigned to the project manager, who coordinates the necessary resources made available by the various company departments, implements the project, follows its development and guarantees the quality of the project path and the results, while respecting costs and implementation time-

frames".

It was not simply a question of "reviewing the organization" but of suggesting a radical change of approach, moving away from the "silo" culture to one of information sharing, from linear hierarchy to the circularity of team working within processes guided by clear priorities. It was not a top-down pro-

cess, but a tailor-made intervention, where results are measured in the field and the involvement of staff is critical to the success of the transformation.

There are already tangible results too: in 2018/19 it took more than a year to bring a new product to market, whilst in 2021 an entire project plan was created along with two new products being launched; RVXi and RVD for the US market.

In 2019 response times to client requests could be as much as several weeks; by 2021 that was down to just a few working days. The conversion of requests into orders has also tripled, a very significant increase in redemption rate. Finally, the time spent on solving daily issues that crop up decreased significantly, freeing up more resources to be spent on design and innovation.

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Savings in energy-consumption, reduction in negative environmental impact, improvements in our safety and fighting the battle against global-warming.

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Industrial Air Compressor Market trends, growth factors, and future outlook



By Laila Oliver, Energy & Power Research Analyst at Market Research Future Report

THE Global Industrial Air Compressor Market is expected to register a CAGR (Compound annual growth rate) of ~7.02% from 2023 to 2030 and hold a value of over USD 63.9 billion by 2030.

The Global Industrial Air Compressor Market refers to the worldwide demand, supply, and trade of air compressors that are designed for use in industrial applications. The market includes different types of air compressors such as reciprocating, rotary screw, and centrifugal compressors.

Factors driving the growth of the global industrial air compressor market include increasing demand for energy-efficient and reliable compressed air systems, rising industrialization in developing countries, and increasing investment in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Global Industrial Air Compressor Market. The pandemic has caused disruptions in supply chains, reduced demand for industrial products and services,

and led to a decline in global economic activity. As a result, the demand for industrial air compressors has also been impacted.

During the early stages of the pandemic, many manufacturing facilities, construction sites and other industrial operations were forced to shut down temporarily, which led to a decline in demand for industrial air compressors.

Key Players

- Some of the key market players are:
- Atlas Copco (Sweden)
 - Danfoss (Denmark)
 - Ingersoll-Rand Plc (Ireland)
 - GE Oil and Gas (US)
 - Hitachi Ltd (Japan)
 - Sullair LLC (US)
 - Gardner Denver (US)
 - Elloitt Group Ltd. (US)
 - Kirloskar Pneumatics Co. Ltd. (India)
 - Sulzer AG (Switzerland)

Regional Analysis

The largest region of the Global Industrial Air Compressor market is Asia-Pacific. The Asia-Pacific region has a large and rapidly growing manufacturing sector, which drives

the demand for industrial air compressors in various industries, including automotive, construction, and electronics.

The increasing demand for energy-efficient and reliable compressed air systems, along with the rising investment in infrastructure and manufacturing in the region, are some of the key factors driving the growth of the industrial air compressor market in the Asia-Pacific region.

Market Segmentation

The Global Industrial Air Compressor Market has been segmented into type, compressor and end-user. Based on the type, market has been segmented into dynamic and positive displacement.

Based on the compressor, market has been segmented into oil-lubricated and oil-free.

Based on the end-user, market has been segmented into oil and gas, chemicals and petrochemicals, food and beverage, metals and mining and automotive.

#IndustrialAirCompressor #CompressedAirSolutions #ManufacturingTech #EfficientCompressors #AirCompressorIndustry #IndustrialAutomation #EnergyEfficiency #EngineeringSolutions #HeavyDutyCompressors #AirQualityControl #CompressorTechnology #FactoryEquipment #IndustrialEngineering #ProcessOptimization #MaintenanceSolutions #IndustrialInnovation #PowerfulCompressors #ManufacturingProductivity #AirCompressorMaintenance #IndustrialEfficiency

For more information visit: <https://www.marketresearchfuture.com/>

Rand Air electrifies its rental air compressor fleet

RAND Air, South Africa's equipment rental company since 1973, supports two important narratives: The first is to continue investing in their rental fleet in order to be able to offer customers a wide range of flexible solutions. The second is to add more electric equipment to their fleet to provide customers with clean energy rental options that are more efficient and reduce carbon footprints, ultimately contributing to a greener planet.

To this end, the rental specialist recently invested in a new portable electric oil-free screw compressor, the PTE 900 VSD+. Rand Air Operations Manager, Craig Swart, explains that the new machine is half the size of their current electric air compressor range. "Customers now have a choice between an electric 900 and 1 500 CFM electric compressor, depending on their air requirements. Matching machine and application offers a much more efficient solution by minimising air wastage and reducing energy consumption."

Making the PTE 900 VSD+ even more efficient is the Variable Speed Drive (VSD) technology which automatically adjusts the motor speed to perfectly match air production to air demand in real time. The VSD+ drive train also ensures a low starting current.

The ISO 8573-1 (Class 0) PTE 900 VSD+ is ideal for essentially any industry that demands oil-free air to avoid the risk of end-product contamination. This includes the refinery (primary market segment), food & beverage, petrochemical and electronic sectors. According to Craig, power stations are also moving to electric air compressors as they offer a much more efficient alternative to diesel machines, especially when taking into account the high cost of fuel.

Featuring a small footprint, a modular set-up, zero emissions and low noise levels, the flexible, trailer-mounted PTE 900 VSD+ has been specially designed to operate close to where the oil-free air is needed. This means fewer hoses, saving on costs, and faster installation, saving on time. Plug and play connections further facilitate installation. The machine also ensures a safe, clean and comfortable work space.

This rugged and reliable machine incorporates a smart controller, remote monitoring, an IP67 rated water-cooled drive, an integrated after-cooler and water separator and a spillage-free frame. Uptime and productivity are top agendas for operational sustainability and this is where the PTE 900 VSD+ is unrivalled; no refueling is required and service intervals are longer. This air compressor offers the perfect short to medium term rental solution.



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Craig points out that true to their commitment to being able to offer a wide range of rental options, their fleet also includes oil-free diesel air compressors. "We realise that an electric machine is not suited for all applications such as remote sites without access to an electricity grid. Here our diesel 800 oil-free air compressors will do the job. We also have stationary VSD units (ZT) which are suitable for long term rentals.

"We have set our sights on having a total of seven PTE 900 VSD+ units by late 2024; we have already placed an order for two more machines for our rental fleet at our Jet Park, Johannesburg head office. Going forward we are planning to purchase another four units for our regional depots," affirms Craig.

Intelligent oil-sealed screw vacuum pumps with VSD technology

THE engine of any central vacuum system is the vacuum pump. Variable demand from your process often leads to frequent start-stops. These can in turn lead to mechanical and electrical motor problems such as overheating, fan breakage, oil degradation and vane delamination. Traditionally, the way to overcome these problems is to use a wide pressure band to limit the number of stop-starts. Unfortunately this is not a cost-effective solution. A much better solution is to use a Variable Speed Drive (VSD). The vacuum pump with a VSD only delivers what is required.

The Atlas Copco GHS VSD+ series vacuum pumps are ideal for a range of applications in plastics, glass, bottling, canning, wood, packaging, printing and paper, meat packaging and many more. The GHS 350-900 VSD+ is the ideal solution when a dedicated pump is required in the production area. The GHS 1300-5400 VSD+ can also be set up as a dedicated solution but is normally used in the utility room of central



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vacuum system applications.

GHS VSD+ is available in Turbo version for fast cycling and dedicated configuration and as well in Humid version with a greater water handling capability. An energy recovery option can also be added on GHS 1300-5400 VSD+, allowing you to recover on an average of 75% of the power input.

The GHS VSD+

series have shown a significantly better performance against traditional fixed speed technologies; potentially saving 50%* or more in energy costs.

Technical product specifications

- Nominal displacement: 400 – 5004 m³/h
- Ultimate pressure: 0.35 mbar(a)
- Shaft power: 5.5 – 90 kW

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- Suggestions
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editor@cbn.co.za

New drinking water purification method



SCIENTISTS have developed a new method that converts seawater into drinking water that could be used in disaster zones where there is limited electrical power.

The new technique, developed by a team of scientists from the Universities of Bath, Swansea and Edinburgh in the UK, doesn't use any external pressure but instead uses a small amount of electrical energy to pull chloride ions through a membrane towards a positively charged electrode.

This causes water molecules to be pushed through at the same time as the chloride, a bit like a piston.

Meanwhile, sodium ions remain on the other side of the membrane, attracted to the negatively charged electrode.

The chloride ions are then recycled back into the chamber containing the salt water and the process is repeated, gradually drawing more and more water molecules through.

Professor Frank Marken, from the University of Bath's Water Innovation Research Centre and Institute for Sustainability, who led the study, predicts this

could be used on a small scale where drinking water is needed but there is not the infrastructure available, such as in remote areas or disaster zones.

"Currently reverse osmosis uses so much electricity, it requires a dedicated power plant to desalinate water, meaning it is difficult to achieve on a smaller scale," said Professor Marken.

"Our method could provide an alternative solution on a smaller scale, and because water can be extracted without any side products, this will save energy and won't involve an industrial scale processing plant. It could also potentially be miniaturised to use in medical applications such as dosing systems for drugs like insulin."

"Zhongkai Li and Frank Marken have developed polymeric materials that can act as a new type of molecular electrical pump for water," said Professor Jan Hoffman, Co-Director of the Water Innovation Research Centre (WIRC) at Bath.

"I think the discovery can potentially have a revolutionary impact on

desalination of seawater and also processes for drying materials and recovering water. Of course, there is still a long way to go to create full scale technology based on the recent discovery, but it definitely looks promising and very innovative compared to existing pumping and desalination technologies."

Dr Mariolino Carta from Swansea University, said: "Microporous materials have enormous potential especially in separation and water purification, but also in catalysis. In the future even better materials and processes will be available."

The technology is currently at the proof-of-concept stage, converting only a few millilitres. The team is now looking for partners for potential collaboration and investment to scale up the process to a litre which will enable them to calculate energy consumption more accurately.

The team would also like to explore other potential applications such as drying processes or recovering water from different sources.

Individuals or organisations wishing to find out more or collaborate should contact Dr Frank Marken. (Email: fm202@bath.ac.uk)

Tuning and Coupling Irreversible Electroosmotic Water Flow in Ionic Diodes: Methylation of an Intrinsically Microporous Polyamine (PIM-EA-TB), is published in the journal ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces. DOI: 10.1021/acsami.3c10220

The research was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Originally published in www.worldpumps.com

Advanced CCGT plant relies on efficient pumps



EDF Energy's combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant at Bouchain in northern France is one of the most energy-efficient in the world, achieving an overall efficiency level of 62.22%. The plant can ramp up its output from zero to full power in only 30 minutes.

THE EDF Energy combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) 605 MW power plant in Bouchain, France is one of the most energy-efficient in the world. EDF has achieved an overall efficiency level of 62.22% by partnering with major technology providers, including a global provider of pumping solutions.

The Bouchain plant is playing an important role in France's energy transition by replacing an aged coal-fired power plant while providing a reliable and flexible source of power. The plant can ramp up its output from zero to full power in only 30 minutes, and as demand drops, its turbines can reduce their output by up to 40%, while still complying with stringent emissions regulations.

To achieve such high levels of performance, EDF has partnered with major technology

providers from across the world to design and build the power plant, which uses a host of advanced technologies. One of those partners was Sulzer, a global provider of pumping solutions.

CCGT plants like Bouchain operate pairs of turbines that work together. Combustion of natural gas spins the gas turbine, which drives the generator. The hot exhaust gases are used to create high pressure steam that powers the steam turbine, which is also connected to the generator. The exhaust steam is then condensed and cooled ready for re-use.

System design

Sulzer was contracted to deliver the design and manufacture of the pump installation for the condenser that forms an integral part of the steam recovery process. Two large ver-

tical pumps circulate cold water between the condenser and the plant's cooling towers, moving around 32,000 m³/h when the plant is operating at full load. Sulzer's collaboration with EDF began during the concept and design phase of the project.

The pumps selected for the Bouchain plant are two of Sulzer's latest generation of high-efficiency vertical circulation water pumps which have a proven design that was optimised to perfectly suit the technical requirements of the installation. Each pump draws approximately 1.3 MW of power, and in normal operation they run in parallel to supply the required cooling capacity. Two 50% capacity pumps were installed to improve the resilience of the cooling system. If one pump has to be taken out of service for maintenance, the power plant can con-

tinue to operate until the pump is back in service.

EDF's specifications for the pumps included the installation of extensive instrumentation and data collection equipment to monitor temperatures and vibration levels in the pump bearings and other key components during operation.

Optimal performance

Sulzer's involvement with the Bouchain project goes on to this day, four years after the successful commissioning of the cooling system. The company continues to monitor the performance of the pumps in service and works closely with EDF's operations and maintenance teams at the site to ensure optimal performance and advise on the most appropriate maintenance strategies for these important items of equipment.

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ENERGYValves EXPANDS ITS PRODUCT RANGE

ENERGYValves is a division of EMVAfrica and a leading supplier of premium quality industrial valves. At EMVAfrica we focus on solutions. By combining our already impressive range of valves with our actuators, we are able to provide a better one-stop valve and automation service catering to a wider range of our customer's needs.



KSB releases new drinking water circulator

KSB SE & Co KGaA has launched the CalioTherm S, a new high-efficiency circulation pump.



KSB's new drinking water circulator.

THE maintenance-free glandless pump is designed to pump drinking water in closed circuits, which are commonly found in single-family or two-family houses as well as in larger building projects. It pumps hot drinking water to the tap points, and then back to the water heater through the circulation line. This means that hot water is available at

the tap points without any delay.

Like the other Calio pumps, the new KSB circulators offer a high-efficiency permanent magnet motor to achieve top efficiencies. With one-touch operation the flow rate can be adjusted via three speed levels. In the event of a blocked rotor the motor stops automatically, and a fault is indicated. Three LEDs display the oper-

ating status.

Threaded ends are available as Rp ½ internal thread (EN 10266) or as an optional screw-on set with an integrated lift check valve and a G 1 external thread (DIN ISO 228). The maximum flow rate equals 0.7 m³/h. The pump's maximum head is 1.4 m. The drinking water temperature should measure between +5°C and +65°C.

The new pump sets can be supplied with either a plug or a cable. This enables electrical connection without any tools. While the volute casings of the new pumps are made of brass CW612N, the impellers are made of glass fibre reinforced plastic. The shafts and the cans are made of ceramic materials.

ISO-Reliability Partners is the only legitimate manufacturer of Filter Focus™ hydrocarbon filtration products. "The brand is a registered trademark and use is strictly authorised under licence," says **Craig FitzGerald**. An example is Filter Focus Kathu (Pty) Ltd. in the Northern Cape. Craig, who developed and refined the range of microfine filtration products over a 15-year period, warns against the use of copied products passing under the Filter Focus™ brand.

"The exacting performance results of the original filtration products were refined under strict standards developed to what is regarded as the most efficient and cost effective solutions for hydrocarbon cleanliness available globally," comments Craig. Fluid cleanliness

standards achieved by Filter Focus™ brand owner ISO-Reliability Partners far exceeds present industry standards. This significantly increases lubricated component and useful oil life.

Craig confirms that the need to warn the market has arisen due to sub-standard manufacturing practices by third parties. The copied products available on the market are easy to identify by their black or green plastic end caps without permanent seals.

"Customers report that seals are reused with these filter elements, breaking the vital rule of filtration for effective sealing under pressure. Plastic deforms with heat and pressure, making this option highly unsuitable for in-operation lube filtration," warns Craig.

Genuine Filter Focus™ products from ISO-Reliability Partners can be identified by heavy-duty steel end caps stamped 'ISO CERTIFIED', with no compromise, permanent, single-use nitrile seals. Diesel filtration solutions make use of a higher standard Viton seal to resist chemical attack and filter leaching.

"There is a clear lack of knowledge around standards or ISO cleanliness when it comes to sub-standard

"There is a clear lack of knowledge around standards or ISO cleanliness when it comes to sub-standard manufacturers passing off inferior products."

manufacturers passing off inferior products. Elements are exposed to atmospheric dust and filter windings appear haphazard and of poor quality," says Craig.

"These manufacturers are attempting to capitalise on the reputation and hard work of ISO-Reliability partners and, in so doing, put users of copied filter elements at great risk. If external particulate contamination is introduced into high precision, high value fluid systems of critical production equipment, equipment failures are assured," adds Craig.

ISO-Reliability Partners produces its filtration elements under strict cleanliness standards using HEPA air filters to purify and eliminate the possibility of airborne particulate being exposed to the final products. HEPA air filtration effectively removes 99.7% of viruses and bacteria, 99.8% micro-organisms, and 88.9% formaldehyde.

Using high-precision dust sensors, the company monitors and ensures removal of PM.25 dust, bacteria, pollen, and smoke. Furthermore, it makes

use of a cold catalyst air filter with honeycomb activated carbon to absorb and decompose formaldehyde, mould, phenol, smoke, benzene, xylene, and other harmful gases in the air.

In terms of air purity within its production facility, Craig notes that this involves the removal of gases, dust, and particulate matter 40 times smaller than the naked eye can see. As such, extreme measures are necessary to reach the desired air purity within the company's filter element facility.

ISO-Reliability Partners' reputation and success spans 25 years, with it owning and managing the iconic Filter Focus™ brand, and Craig having incorporated all his intellectual property into the new company. It is an own emblem manufacturer (OEM) of class-leading micro fine oil filtration solutions, vacuum dehydration systems, automated water removal for compressed air and high efficiency industrial air scrubbing.

For further information, visit: www.iso-reliability.com

Ds500: simplified water treatment

THE Verderflex Ds500 metering and dosing pump with IoT simplifies water and wastewater treatment by providing an efficient solution for reverse osmosis, desalination, chemical dosing, and membrane technology. The pump accuracy of the Ds500 reduces chemical use, preserves water, saves money while ensuring corporate responsibility.

Benefits:

- IoT real-time data to enable efficient planned maintenance
- Reduced downtime through tool free cartridge replacement
- Seamless integration with existing infrastructure thanks to 4-20mA remote control option

- Water treatment application areas include Automotive, Food and Beverage and Chemical.
- Monitor pump health with Remote Assistant App**

The IoT-based app is specifically designed for monitoring pump health remotely, reduc-

ing physical interaction and scheduled maintenance. Users can check critical functions and receive alerts of potential problems with just a smartphone, minimizing downtime. The Ds500 is equipped with this technology for efficient monitoring.

For further information visit Verder website: www.verder.com



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KBL receives patent for hydro power generation system

Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL), has recently been granted a patent for its PICO pump turbine, a ground-breaking hydropower generation system.

ENGINEERS at KBL have developed the PICO pump turbine system as a versatile solution capable of generating electricity. This revolutionary technology presents new avenues for meeting energy demands efficiently and economically within industrial contexts. Notably, PICO delivers a substantial return on investment (ROI) while actively contributing to a more sustainable tomorrow.

PICO has a range of features and advantages that position it as an exceptional energy solution. Its zero operating costs, enhanced mobility due to portability, minimal maintenance prerequisites, and user-friendly compact design that simplifies installation set it apart.

Standardised replacement parts bolster the ease of maintenance and ensure their ready availability. Furthermore, the PICO system serves as an energy supply option, making it a prime candidate for off-grid or remote locations where dependable energy access holds utmost importance.

The innovative design of the PICO system makes it suitable for

diverse applications, including household lighting in rural areas, electricity generation in farms, powering tall buildings, battery charging, and integration into

power plants connected to smaller grids.

With its extensive range of capabilities encompassing various flow rates and pressures, affordability, versatility,

straightforward installation procedures, and swift delivery times, KBL's PICO system is poised to exert a significant influence on the renewable energy sector.



PICO Hydro Power System.



Casting partnerships towards success

The mandate of the NFTN is to manage, coordinate and facilitate growth and transformation in the casting industry through focused interventions designed to support improved foundry competitiveness, the industrialisation of new technologies and products.

The National Foundry Technology Network (NFTN) exists to advance the competitiveness of the local foundry industry, especially distressed foundries through a range of support services.

In an on-going effort to remain relevant to the sector and the economy, the NFTN has set revised strategic objectives for 2022/23:

- **Support sector and firm efficiencies and compliance to ensure sector sustainability.**
- **Encourage localisation and robust supply chains to increase market access.**
- **Facilitate the establishment and delivery of effective, relevant sector skills development interventions.**
- **Develop and support the latest local technologies through relevant and focused research and development.**
- **Build mutually beneficial and productive relationships, through awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement.**

The NFTN and the CSIR are committed to the furthering of the sector, and the accelerated delivery of the South African Steel and Metal Fabrication Master Plan.

For more information on support or partnerships, please contact:

 nftn@csir.co.za

The National Foundry Technology Network is an initiative of the dtic managed by the CSIR.

THA 15-2023

New flushing ring valves

EMERSON has introduced the Rosemount™ 319 Flushing Ring with valve-integrated design, ensuring accurate differential pressure measurement and lower maintenance suitable for a wide range of differential pressure applications.

Available in Traditional and Compact options, the new Rosemount 319 Flushing Rings provide a process-to-seal connection and allow for faster diaphragm seal maintenance without disconnecting them from process flanges.

Both versions of the Rosemount 319 Flushing Rings come pre-assembled including the flushing ring, matching valves, and connections, allowing technicians to commission devices faster by eliminating the need to procure and assemble components onsite.

Further information is available from: Emerson Automation Solutions. Email: emrsouth-africa@emerson.com



the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Cape Town crane manufacturer wins provincial orders

A steadily increasing order intake from general industry and consulting engineers has led BB Cranes of Cape Town to step up production to meet demand. The upgrading of water and wastewater

treatment plants in the Western and Eastern Cape is providing much of the additional business. Cranes and hoists are key to these plants, where they are installed as part of the civil works to lift and position

pumps, electric motors and other machinery during construction, after which they serve in a service and maintenance role throughout the plants' working lives. BB Cranes has supplied most of the con-

sulting firms overseeing upgrades and expansion of the Western Cape's water treatment reticulation, including the associated pump stations. "The Victoria & Alfred Waterfront's seawater desalination plant

is currently our most visible involvement," said BB senior sales executive Stephen Brink Jnr. "We installed a 3,2 ton single-girder overhead crane there mid-September, also four monorail hoists with associated structures."

Brink explained that design and supply of the hoists was carried out by Condra, BB Cranes' parent company in Johannesburg, with BB Cranes itself undertaking girder manufacture, crane assembly, delivery to site, installation and commissioning. BB will also supply local service support.

The seawater desalination plant at the V&A Waterfront is a privately owned project under construction by Proxa Water, a specialist water treatment company contracted to deliver a reliable supply of potable water to the precinct, replacing dependency on city dams which have in recent years been threatened by drought. The waterfront is a popular Cape Town attraction; visitor flow there is accelerating as tourism recovers from the stumble caused by Covid-19.

Proxa Water's order on BB Cranes is the company's third, following BB's supply of similar equipment to several Proxa projects outside South Africa. Proxa Water has offices throughout Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Australia, delivering turnkey water services to the regions' mining, petrochemical, food and beverage, and municipal sectors.

Brink Jnr said that a bigger order for the company in terms of unit numbers was one for eight cranes and hoists recently placed by an unnamed customer, to be installed at a wastewater treatment works in the Eastern Cape. These comprise a mix of overhead machines of various designs, a jib crane, and several monorail hoists with supporting structures.

BB Cranes recently delivered two other 5 ton monorail hoists to the same customer, for new MyCiTi bus depots servicing Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Claremont and Wynberg.

It is not only Cape Town's consulting engineers who are busy. Shipbuilders, too, have placed orders on BB Cranes to manage growing demand. Two Oceans Marine, a manufacturer of high-end custom catamarans, is building a new factory and equipping it with two BB Cranes.



THESE MACHINES HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED TO ENDURE

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



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Bredel hose pump plays an integral role in 'spud bashing'

THE TOMRA Dry Peel Separator (DPS) uses Bredel as a dry-waste pump which enables food processors to reduce water usage and recover the potato skin and starch for use in animal feed or anaerobic digestion (biogas).

The steam peeled skin is separated using centrifugal force inside the TOMRA DPS and avoids the need for brush separators and water. From a drum that rotates at high speed, the peel waste flows to the Bredel hose pump, which transfers the material to the food processor's storage location.

Bredel, crucially, minimises downtime and maintenance while handling steamed vegetable skin waste which contains high concentrations of solids, dirt, grit and sand. This makes the peel slurry not only viscous, but abrasive.

Eamonn Cullen,

Market Manager Peeling at TOMRA Food, says "There are a number of advantages with using the Bredel hose pump. The ability to pump peel without the addition of water is one. The ability to pump hot, abrasive, steam peeled skin and starch is another."

TOMRA's unique Peeling line solution is capable of separating steam peeled skin from 50,000 kg/h of steam peeled potatoes, with <5% peel loss, and 40,000 kg/h of steam peeled carrots. This equates to capability of processing more than 2,000 kg/h of peel.

Today, 85% of the world's French fries are processed by various TOMRA equipment and its range of peeling solutions are used by the likes of Lamb Weston EMEA. Deploying a DPS makes a food processor's operation more efficient and minimises food waste.

Eamonn Cullen, Market Manager Peeling at TOMRA Food, said: "TOMRA is continuously innovating and searching for new technologies to help businesses to reduce waste. The result of this in food, is that the use of every piece of food entering the supply chain is maximised to extract its full potential and to minimise waste. This is better for the environment, better for business and leads us to more sustainable business processes."

"The majority of potato processing facilities will collect all steam peeled skin in dry form. Some processors still need to use water in the peel separation brush machines, but this is reducing every year. It has become an important key performance indicator for the food industry to reduce water usage, to reduce food waste and to improve sustain-

ability. Collecting the steam peeled skin and starch dry enables this material to be used in other parts of the value chain. It can be farmers feeding animals or anaerobic digesters changing biomass into biogas. These opportunities help maximise the utilisation of every part of the potato and make every potato count."

Marek Sebela, Sales Engineer for Watson-Marlow based in Czech Republic, said: "The final Bredel pump model selection depends upon the individual end user's application. By working with the customer to fully understand its needs, the Bredel factory in the Netherlands is able to provide a Bredel pump solution that's tailored to the requirements of TOMRA's engineering team."

"Pumping potato peels is a real heavy-duty application



because of the high pressures, up to 24/7 operation, long discharge lines, high dry solid content and changing high viscosities. This produces some high mechanical forces which are being handled with ease by Bredel hose pumps.

"The risk of blockages and the high costs of unexpected breakdowns is avoided due to the solid handling capability of Bredel hose pumps. Maintenance time and costs of a Bredel hose pump are very low due to the hose being the main

wearing part, which can be replaced very quickly. The preventive hose replacement can be planned in a maintenance stop."

Further information can be found at www.tomra.com and www.wmfis.com

Vygekraal River upgrade: community engagement workshop

LUKHOSI Consulting Engineers recently conducted a successful Co-Design Workshop at the Bridgetown Community Centre in Bridgetown, Athlone.

The purpose of the workshop was to gain knowledge and input from the local community into the upgrade of the Vygekraal River from Jakes Gerwel Drive, through Nantes Park to Athlone Wastewater Treatment Works. This project forms part of the City of Cape Town's Liveable Urban Waterway Programme (LUWP) which began in the Sand River catchment.

The vision for this project is to upgrade the river corridor by improving water qual-



ity, ecology, reducing the impact of heavy rainfall events and upgrading of existing stormwater infrastructure, all while creating a space that can be used and enjoyed by the local community and others.

The project will also

target areas along the river where erosion is a concern.

The local community showed great interest in the project and provided the professional team with a wealth of knowledge of the area, with some residents

having lived in the area for 30 plus years!

Pupils from local schools also participated and actively engaged during the course of the day.

Adding to a successful workshop, Mayoral Committee Member: Water & Sanitation, Zahid Badroodien joined in and shared his thoughts on the project.

Lukhosi thanks all who attended and participated in the workshop.

The professional team will be heading to the drawing board to combine the knowledge and input gained on the day with their specialist expertise to produce a concept design that can be presented to the community.




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How dosing ratios affect the cost of chemical use over time

OPERATIONAL managers want to get the best value possible from their maintenance supplies. When it comes to steam boiler chemicals and other water treatment solutions, it might seem like the best value is based on the price per kilogram or litre of a can of chemicals. However, this is not always accurate because how long chemical supplies last, and their ultimate cost, also depends on the recommended dosing ratio.

Anelia Hough, water treatment consultant at Allmech, South African manufacturer of boilers and supplier of water treatment components, says it's a mistake to only focus on the immediate price per can of chemicals and not to consider the cost of the chemicals over time.

"The cost of chemicals for a boiler over time depends on several factors, such as the type of boiler, the type of chemicals

used, the frequency of use and the amount of chemicals used (dosing rate per kilogram of steam)," she says.

Chemicals used for steam boilers include oxygen scavengers, phosphates, polymers and alkalinity builders/pH boosters. The cost of these chemicals varies depending on the quality, the type of chemical and the amount used. Effective chemical water treatment should prevent scale and corrosion in the feedwater, and steam condensation in the system and boiler.

The correct dosing ratio is important for several reasons. First, it ensures that the chemicals are being used effectively and efficiently. Using too little of a chemical can result in poor water quality and increased maintenance costs. In the same way, using too much of a chemical can result in over-treatment and increased operating costs.

Second, dosing

ratios have a direct impact on the monthly running cost of a boiler. A chemical may be more expensive per can, but if it has a lower dosing ratio than an equivalent-sized can that requires more of the chemical per litre to work effectively, the more expensive can is actually the cheaper option once the running costs are factored in.

Label guidance

Chemicals legally have to include their dosing information on their packaging, and using this information correctly is a key part of managing the overall cost of a particular chemical.

In an economic climate where everyone is having to carefully balance costs, it may not necessarily pay in the long term to buy what seems to be a lower priced can of chemicals – especially when the dosing rate is factored in.

Looking at the bigger picture

"It is important to note that the cost of chemicals is just one aspect to consider when assessing the costs of boiler maintenance. Other factors include enhanced operational performance, lower total operating costs, reducing the risk for downtime/technical issues, labour costs, equipment costs, downtime cost and energy costs," adds Hough.

Allmech recently helped a holiday resort that was struggling to get the right pH levels in the boilers heating its pool water and that had installed a demineralisation plant that it ultimately did not need.

"The customer operates two different size boilers for its operations. An 8-ton steam boiler for summer and a 10-ton steam boiler for winter. In essence, hot water is supplied to two sections of the holiday resort via



heat exchangers – the open big pools and the indoor hot pools – that need a constant temperature of between 26 and 28°C," says Hough.

After assessing the setup, it was clear that the incorrect chemical water treatment was being used for the boilers. By solving

the treatment issue, it became clear that the expensive-to-operate demineralisation plant was no longer necessary. In fact, the plant had been hindering the system by reducing the pH levels to concerningly low levels. Eliminating the need for the demineralisation

plant and getting the right quality chemicals at the correct dosing rate for the boilers' maintenance saved the resort around R90 000 and over 171 000 litres of water each month.

For more information, visit www.allmech.co.za

New aluminium filter regulators

EMERSON has launched its new ASCO™ Series 641, 642 and 643 Aluminium Filter Regulators, reducing unplanned downtime in a broad range of process applications. This line of durable, aluminium filter regulators can handle the highest flow rates of any regulators in their class and provides precise pressure regulation to downstream instruments.

With the market's highest flow rate capabilities of up to 10 500 l/min, the aluminium filter regulators improve process efficiency and ensure that stringent process valve opening/closing requirements like those for emergency shutdown valves are met. Higher flow rates provide more air

to the valve actuator, which increases the opening and closing speed of process valves. Slow valve closures can increase safety risks.

These robust filter regulators feature rugged construction and advanced engineering that further enhance safety and maintain plant uptime, while specialized powder coating ensures reliable operation in harsh, corrosive process environments. Effective moisture removal keeps media dry to protect downstream devices, and sophisticated media filtration prevents downstream process contamination.

Process manufacturers can choose advanced features such as Quick Relief, which enhances safety and operational certainty.

BASF and MAN Energy Solutions plan industrial-scale heat pump

THE planned industrial-scale heat pump will enable production of steam using electricity from renewable energy, taking waste heat from the cooling water system at BASF as a source of thermal energy. The residual heat in the water will be processed using compression to produce steam that will be fed into the site's steam network.

By integrating the planned heat pump into the BASF site's production infrastructure, up to 150 tons of steam can be produced per hour, equivalent to a thermal output of 120 MW. The project could reduce CO2 emissions at the site by up to 390,000 tons per year. At the same time, it would make the cooling water system more efficient and less dependent on climate and weather conditions.

"In Ludwigshafen, we are testing and developing several technologies and alternative processes to replace fossil fuels – this includes the electrical production of steam," said Dr Uwe Liebelt, president European Verbund Sites at BASF SE. "Protecting the climate means not only avoiding greenhouse gas emissions but also using energy sustainably – industrial heat pumps enable both. In the future, they will be an essential part of the sustainable energy infrastructure at the Ludwigshafen site."

BASF has set itself the goal of achieving net zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

"In the medium term, we want to reduce our CO2 emissions by 25% by 2030. The use of technologies such as



BASF and MAN Energy Solutions have entered into a strategic partnership to construct one of the world's largest heat pumps at the BASF site in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

large heat pumps, which already exist and can be scaled up to industrial size, brings us a lot closer to this goal," said Dr Martin Brudermüller, chairman of the board of executive directors of BASF SE.

Dr Uwe Lauber, CEO of MAN Energy Solutions SE, said: "Space heating and process heat account for around one-third of German greenhouse gas emissions. Together with BASF, we want to address this

significant lever with an innovative solution. We are convinced that our heat pump solution can make a decisive contribution to a climate-friendly supply of steam at the Ludwigshafen site."



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Preventing boiler accidents through proper boiler management

BOILER incidents are a nightmare scenario for any facility. These disasters occur when there is a sudden release of pressure inside the boiler due to various factors, including overheating, low water levels, and poor maintenance. The consequences can be devastating, leading to loss of life, property damage, significant financial losses, and environmental harm. To avoid such disasters, proper boiler management is essential. Boiler plant managers must ensure that an effective process safety management system is in place to identify equipment hazards that can lead to injury or fatality.

What typically causes a boiler accident?

- Years of poor maintenance.
- Failure of the pressure vessel.
- Improper air fuel ratio.
- Boiler operator mistakes.
- Failure of the

pressure parts of the steam and water sides.

- Failure of the safety valve to operate.
- Corrosion of critical parts.
- Too low water level conditions.
- Explosion in the furnace aka firebox explosion.
- Poor water treatment.
- Over-heating.
- Fuel-rich mixtures (high concentrations of unburned fuel that build up).

Proper boiler management

Boiler management services are critical in this modern-day environment. It provides much needed monitoring which is vital to understand, in real-time, how a boiler in a plant is performing.

- Routine Maintenance
- Regular inspections and maintenance are

fundamental to preventing boiler accidents. This includes cleaning, inspecting, and repairing components, as well as ensuring that safety devices are in good working order.

- Water Level Control Boiler water level control is critical.
- Pressure Relief Valves Pressure relief valves are essential safety devices that release excess pressure should a boiler exceed its pressure rating. Regular testing and maintenance of these valves are crucial.
- Monitoring and Control Systems Implementing advanced monitoring and control systems is a proactive approach to boiler management. These systems continuously monitor various parameters, such as temperature, pressure, and fuel-to-air ratios, to ensure safe

and efficient boiler operation.

24/7 Combustion Technology boiler management service

Combustion Technology can log on to any equipped site and view all operational boilers and burners in real-time.

Their qualified team of engineers understand the importance of safety standards and technical requirements surrounding the running of steam and pressure systems.

Built-in alarms alert the engineers at the Combustion Technology Head Office if set points drift off commissioned values. Immediate interventions are actioned to ensure that the highest efficiencies are maintained.

From the comfort of the office or home kilometres away, customers can track and monitor what is happening on site in real time to ensure reliability and efficient performance:

- Steam flow metering.
- Water level control.
- Fuel consumption compared to steam generation.
- Fuel pressure.
- Stack temperature.
- Ideal emissions (O₂, CO₂, CO).
- Tracking and monitoring of any element that interferes with production / output.

Here's how Combustion Technology assist customers in saving money, reducing fuel costs, emissions, and optimising their Boiler Plants:

- **Enhanced Efficiency** The 24/7 Combustion Technology Boiler Management System optimises combustion by continuously adjusting the fuel-to-air ratio in real-time. This precise control ensures that the boiler operates at its highest efficiency, resulting in reduced fuel consumption and lower operating costs.

- **Emissions Reduction** The system significantly reduces emissions of harmful pollutants. This not only helps facilities comply with environmental regulations but also contributes to a cleaner and greener environment.
- **Safety Features** It incorporates advanced safety features, including flame safeguards and alarm systems, to prevent dangerous conditions that could lead to boiler incidents.
- **Remote Monitoring and Control** The system allows for remote monitoring and control of boilers, enabling operators to make real-time adjustments and respond to issues promptly. This feature reduces downtime and maintenance costs.
- **Data Analytics** The system collects and analyses data

on boiler performance, identifies trends, optimises operation, and predicts maintenance requirements. This proactive approach minimises unexpected breakdowns and extends equipment lifespan.

The only way accidents can be avoided is to:

1. Get a boiler management system in place.
2. Ensure legal compliance – schedule mandatory annual and 36 monthly statutory inspections at your steam boiler plant.
3. Have regular boiler operator training in place.
4. ALWAYS put safety first!

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High-performance composite v-belts for reliability in the HVAC sector

ACCORDING to BMG, reduced life of V-belts operating in the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) sector is a major concern to the industry, in spite of users implementing rigorous system inspection programmes.

BMG specialists recommend that replacing conventional rubber V-belts used on air handling units (AHUs) with Fenner High Performance Composite (HPC) V-belts is a dependable solution that offers many benefits, including higher drive efficiency, greater comfort, reduced downtime and extended service life.

"BMG's Fenner HPC V-belts have been proven to maintain 100% of their belt life at 80°C, compared with only 25% belt life from a rubber belt at the same temperature," explains

Westnar van der Westhuizen, Product Manager, Power Transmission division, BMG. "As the internal operating temperature of a rubber V-belt surpasses 30°C, adhesion between the rubber and reinforcing cords begins to break down, delamination and flex fatigue occurs and the rubber compound deteriorates and cracks, causing premature belt failure.

"BMG's range of Fenner HPC V-belts includes the PowerTwist Plus and NuTLink V-belts for classical section drives and SuperT-Link V-belts for applications using metric wedge SP rated belts. While simple in concept, these composite V-belts deliver exceptional performance, solving many field problems associated with conventional rubber V-belts.

"This range is manu-

BMG specialists recommend that replacing conventional rubber V-belts used on air handling units (AHUs) with Fenner High Performance Composite (HPC) V-belts, is a dependable solution that offers many benefits, including higher drive efficiency, greater comfort, reduced downtime and extended service life.

factured from custom reinforced polyurethane elastomers, with multiple plies of polyester fabric, that offer excellent resistance to high operating temperatures. The effective link design results in belt constructions which limit flex induced heat build-up and ensures a greater surface area that dissipates any heat generated more effec-

tively, compared to a solid construction rubber V-belt.

"Another important benefit of upgrading from rubber to HPC V-belts, is reduced belt installation time. It is easy for users to make an HPC V-belt to the required size by hand and roll it onto an AHU drive, just like a bicycle chain, with no tools required."

PowerTwist Plus drive belts, which do not require re-tensioning after the initial run-in, combine extremely high strength with low stretch and have the same power ratings as conventional V-belts. The elasticity of woven polyurethane fabric enables these belts to be stretched over a pulley drive without any damage. This series is

designed for decreased drive vibration, resulting in increased bearing life. Fenner PowerTwist Plus belts are easily made up to the required length in seconds and there is no longer the need to move or dismantle any drive component. It is also easy for users to hold the correct inventory at all times.

Fenner NuTLink

V-belts, with a quick connect T-Link design, are suitable for heavier, shock loaded applications and reciprocating engine powered drives.

SuperTLink SP wedge V-belts also have a quick connect T-Link design, with suitability to replace metric V-belts of SPZ, SPA, SPB and SPC cross sections.

Other Fenner products available from BMG include synchronous transmission belts, pulleys and accessories, as well as shaft fixings, chain drives and couplings. BMG also supplies Fenner shaft mounted speed reducers (SMSRs).

For further information, contact Westnar van der Westhuizen, Product Manager, Power Transmission Division, BMG at westnarv@bmworld.net or see www.bmg-world.net



Autonomous yard trucks to grow at CAGR of 52.7 %

BRINGING yards up to speed with warehouse and transport digitalisation is driving the adoption of established supply chain technologies to help track, allocate, and optimise assets in the yard. According to global technology intelligence firm ABI Research, the installed base of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled cameras in the yard will reach 11.2 million globally by 2030, and the uptake of autonomous yard trucks will rise significantly at a global CAGR of 52.7% from 2022 to 2030.

"Yards surrounding warehouses, distribution centers, and manufacturing facilities are becoming the new stomping ground for established supply chain solution providers as they diversify into Yard Management Systems (YMS) and join a growing number of emerging companies focusing on automating yard trailer movements and live asset tracking. In a bid to digitalise and update yard operations, installments of yard systems, enabling tracking technologies, and autonomous tractors are expected to rise considerably in the short to medium term," explains Ryan

"Advancements in AI are breaking down many of the limitations faced by technologies in outdoor environments."

Wiggin, Industry Analyst at ABI Research.

Blue Yonder, Körber, and FourKites are adding YMSs to their extensive software portfolio, joining more focused yard solution vendors such as Kaleris and C3 Solutions. To enable tracking and visibility of assets and workers in the yard, handheld devices and AI-enabled yard cameras will see increasing deployments in yards globally, growing at a CAGR of 13.0% and 14.8%, respectively, from 2022 to 2030. Established providers Advantech, Honeywell and Zebra will lead the rise in handheld devices, while Blue Yonder, Peripass and Robovision are pioneering AI-enabled yard camera systems.

Autonomous and teleoperated yard trucks remain nascent, but recent investment rounds, partnerships and successful proof-of-concept (POC) projects indicate an interest and use case for the technology.

"Advancements in AI are breaking down many of the limitations faced by technologies in outdoor environments. Advanced computing power helps to process data from camera feeds, identify trailers and equipment and guide autonomous vehicles safely. Where certain technologies couldn't operate before, AI has helped unlock new use cases and will continue to drive solution adoption within yards," Wiggins concludes.

The findings are from ABI Research's Yard Digitalisation Market Data report, part of the company's Supply Chain Management and Logistics research service. ABI Research is a global technology intelligence firm delivering research and strategic guidance to technology leaders around the world. Their research focuses on the transformative technologies that are reshaping industries, economies and workforces.



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Battery-powered forklift market poised for growth

OVER the past few years, Toyota Material Handling, a division of CFAO Equipment SA that sells forklifts and related solutions, has seen a steady increase in demand for battery-operated equipment. Typical market growth has been sitting at between 2% and 3%, mostly due to customers shifting from traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) forklifts to battery-operated forklifts.

Last year however, growth was measured at 5%, a significant increase that exceeded the division's expectations. This increase was driven predominantly by the adoption of lithium-ion battery-operated forklifts, which are now responsible for around 80% of sales versus lead-acid battery forklifts.

"Battery technologies have come a long way in the past few years. Where lead-acid battery technology might have held back the adoption of battery-operated forklifts, due mainly to the rate of discharge and the maintenance required for these batteries, lithium-ion is now propelling the market. This has been augmented by business cycles, such as the large-scale fleet replacements that occur every three to four years," says National Product Manager for Toyota Material Handling – Counterbalance Equipment, Brent Light.

The adoption of battery-operated forklifts is being driven by three main benefits.

Greater efficiencies and return on investment (ROI)

ICE forklifts are more expensive to run. Whereas fuel for an ICE truck costs between R20 and R25 per litre, electricity for battery-operated equipment costs just R1.50 per kilowatt. Furthermore, the per hour efficiency of an electric machine makes it more economical to run, particularly considering the virtually 100% energy efficiency of a lithium-ion battery.

"Energy consumption, and the cost of that energy, is less for an electric forklift compared to an ICE forklift. Therefore, in all applications, even though the upfront costs may be high, lithium-ion will eventually result in a cost saving. This saving can however be delayed in some very low utilisation applications, so it might not always be justifiable to the business. However, with a high or medium intensity operation, ROI will be realised fairly quickly – within 24 to

36 months you will see significant savings," says Light.

ROI is also realised through the cost of maintenance, which is a lot less on an electric forklift. It has fewer moving components, so less can go wrong, and tyre wear is also reduced because it is almost impossible to create

wheel spin.

Sustainability

As the world looks towards a more sustainable future, more businesses are being guided by regulations to reduce carbon emissions. For example, in applications such as food handling, businesses can no longer

use LPG units, a stipulation of new legislation that came into effect in 2020.

ICE forklifts expel diesel and gas emissions, and a lead-acid battery emits gases when charged. With the use of lithium-ion batteries, emissions are eliminated, resulting in a cleaner and more envi-

ronmentally conscious working environment.

Driver comfort

Since an electric forklift has zero vibration, and its noise levels are less than that of an ICE forklift, it is a lot more comfortable to operate.

"While we are focused on growing the

electric market, most businesses still use ICE forklifts, and will do so for some time. The move towards electric forklifts is happening slowly, but as battery-powered machinery becomes more capable in handling difficult environments, adoption should speed up," says Light.



National Product Manager for Toyota Material Handling – Counterbalance Equipment, Brent Light.



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Embracing warehouse solutions



WITH retail warehouses growing ever bigger the task of workers and maintenance crews getting around the giant facilities can be challenging and calls for a different way of doing things.

This is where one of the country's largest retailers recently took the bull by the horns and ordered a number of different solutions for ClubCar carts as drive rounds for managers as well as to carry maintenance crews and their tools quickly, quietly and cost effectively around their massive new warehouse facility in Gauteng.

A globally recognized

leader in golf cart manufacturing, ClubCar has a number of different versions of their well-known carts for use in just such applications. In South Africa they are distributed and supported by Smith Power Equipment, which worked tirelessly with the retailer to find the best solutions for their needs.

Smith Power Equipment's Joe Van der Walt says distribution centres and warehouses are growing in size and can easily require a walk of several kilometres to get from one side to the other. It is also time consuming which is counterproductive in

an environment that is set up exactly to service "fast moving consumer goods" that needs speedy intervention whenever assistance is required.

A less well-known benefit of Smith Power Equipment solutions is the high degree of customisation that provides customers with the ability to adapt their offerings to the individual needs of customers. This is indicated through the retail versions inclusion of safety features such as strobe lights, front headlights, taillights and horns.

The ClubCar solution is a sensible choice in a growing number

of retail and industrial applications where the versatility of the carts and the quality of the brand is highlighted by their low-maintenance attributes, including quick charging, lower energy costs, longer battery life, energy efficiency and consistent battery performance.

Smith Power Equipment's countrywide network of dealers and close collaboration with the manufacturer also ensures that local customers have a direct line to communicate with the OEM.

Sustainability goals

By introducing zero-emission electric vehicles (EVs) into the sector, this partnership contributes to the retailers' sustainability goals and to a more sustainable future. ClubCar and Smith Power Equipment's dedication to warehouse and distribution facilities to achieve sustainability objectives marks a growing trend internationally and is increasingly being adopted locally.

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

Fertile growth predicted for digital shopping in Africa

THE rapid diffusion of telecommunication and internet technologies across Africa has caused "soaring digital adoption rates" among its young and growing population in recent years. With the increasing popularity of online services, the e-commerce sector found fertile ground for growth. The number of digital shoppers in Africa has more than doubled between 2015 and 2021, with further growth being forecast for the coming years, making Africa a promising market.

This was the finding of a recent report by Statista, the online platform which specialises in data gathering. The findings would, no doubt, have repercussions for the e-commerce sector in South Africa, and, not least those involved in warehousing services.

The Statista report – entitled The Rise of E-Commerce Across Africa – looked at recent developments in Africa's e-commerce landscape, focusing on the five main markets – Egypt, Kenya,

Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa.

"Looking at the environment in which Africa's e-commerce industry developed, as well as the characteristics of African online shoppers and online marketplaces, some key highlights must be considered:

- The lack or inadequacy of infrastructure, high-priced subscriptions and devices and the lack of education and digital skills are among the barriers that limit internet and online shopping adoption in Africa. Political instability, conflicts, widespread corruption as well as poor cybersecurity and a mostly unbanked population result in high costs for enterprises willing to penetrate Africa's e-commerce market. Overcoming these constraints would allow for further e-commerce growth;
- Due to these hurdles, e-commerce giants like Amazon and Alibaba

still have a weak presence on the continent. Founded in Nigeria, Jumia is the online marketplace with the highest number of visitors in Africa;

- Despite the rapid growth in the number of internet users, internet penetration in Africa stands at 44%, significantly below the global average. Web traffic is mainly generated by mobile devices;
- Most of Africa's e-commerce users are young, reside in urban areas, and tend to purchase consumer electronics, shoes, and clothing online. Moreover, mobile e-commerce accounts for a large share of digital shopping;
- Digital and mobile payments are expanding in Africa and partially compensate for the low banking penetration. However, cash-on-delivery is the main payment method when it comes to e-commerce

New state-of-the-art warehouse opens in Montague Gardens

By Sue Segar

M24 Logistics – experts in the warehousing and distribution of products for B2B and B2C merchants serving the African market – will, this month (October) open a state-of-the-art new warehouse in Montague Gardens.

The warehouse, with capacity for 30 000 square meters, is geared to serve a range of big players in the e-commerce market – as well as cater for SMEs.

"We are ready! and welcome all e-commerce businesses that wish to capitalise on the opportunity to grow their ecommerce with faster and lower cost deliveries in Cape Town and surrounds," said Rika Swart, general manager of M24 Logistics.

This brings to three the number of M24 Logistics warehouses in South Africa. Currently there is one in Olifantsfontein in Tshwane; one in the Eastport Logistics Park in Johannesburg, and now, in Cape Town. Clients include Woolworths, MrP, Puma and Clicks, among others.

M24 Logistics, a division of Media24, has a distribution network extending to more than 30 countries across Africa, and offers an array of services, including technical innovations which enable front-end processes and end-to-end e-commerce fulfilment.

Swart said that, as online spending trends continue to soar over the next ten years, there will be an exponential growth in the need for warehouses. "Consumers are expecting fast delivery and having same-day delivery as an option is a great differentiator for brands. It goes without saying that stock proximity to market is key to enabling more affordable delivery options, including same-day delivery.

"What sets M24 Logistics apart is our full-service offering. We say that 'between our warehouse and last mile scope of services, we take the pain from the process.' We have an array of couriers which we manage on behalf of our clients collaboratively with an efficient call centre therefore the e-commerce owner does not

need to deal with that.

"M24Logistics is a leading one-stop solution provider for e-commerce clients in SA. As a full e-commerce logistics service, we handle your e-commerce from the moment you import it, including providing clearing and forwarding solutions, to where it comes into our warehouse. We store that product for you. Your online store order comes into the warehouse, and we send it to the end consumer."

Our promise is that our clients focus on growing their e-commerce, and we'll worry about the rest!"

Swart said with technology as one of their key differentiators and backbone of their operation, M24 Logistics has a dedicated in-house development and BI team to support their strategy.

"Our warehouses management system provides real-time visibility on every item at any stage of the operational process. Intelligent picking sequencing and mobile devices maximises picking efficiencies, reducing costs and increasing picking speed, while our exten-

sive Wi-Fi network and back-ups ensure uninterrupted operations. In addition to this, our operations also include intelligent conveyer infrastructure, pick-to-light solutions, and state of the art security systems.

"All of these are underpinned by real time reporting and advanced analytical capability. Our team continue to explore opportunities for AI applications – from analysis to coding."

Swart said as e-commerce continues to grow, efficient logistics infrastructure is key. "The future is all about the last mile, or the final leg of the delivery process, from our warehouse to the consumer's doorstep."

She said cross-border e-commerce presents a significant opportunity for South Africa's e-commerce logistics industry, adding that M24 Logistics will leverage its extensive geographical footprint to help businesses grow.

M24 Logistics has installed 380 roof-mounted solar panels at their Olifantsfontein warehouse in Gauteng, and Swart said plans



are in the pipeline to do the same in Cape Town. The company is also committed to con-

tributing to a "greener future", Swart said, adding that there is a strong focus on sustain-

ability which includes reusing materials for packaging and other initiatives.

Darling Brew upcycles byproducts into tasty crisps

By Sue Segar

CRAFT beer brand, Darling Brew- Africa's first carbon neutral brewery and recent winner of the title of Best Local Craft Beer in KFM's Best of the Cape Awards - is making inroads into sustainability by working to upcycle their byproducts into usable products.

"We are working on a number of initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint, with some very promising results," said Tewie Roos, managing director of the brewery, which was established in 2010 in the small town of Darling on the West Coast. Of the Big 5 Craft Breweries, Darling Brew is the only independent brewer in the country, and, said Roos, is consistently growing volumes, despite challenges like loadshedding. It has, as a key goal, to "tread lightly on the earth".

One area of success has been the Darling Brew Beer Grain crisps - which

Roos described as a "uniquely South African creation".

In 2018, the brewery started using the spent grains from the beer-making process to produce crisps, which, Roos said, are not only contributing to the company's sustainability drive but are "a significantly healthier alternative to regular chips".

Roos added that the brewery is experimenting with other byproducts to ascertain whether they can be upcycled.

"One of our byproducts is yeast. Most breweries dry their yeast and sell it off to processes to create products like Marmite etc. We are working towards autolysing, or deactivating the yeast cells, so that the yeast can be used in animal feed. If we can combine that with the remainder of spent grain that is not converted into crisps, it will be able to provide a much higher protein value for use as animal feed," he said.

Expanding on how the crisps are made, Roos said: "When

brewing beer, malt and barley is mixed with hot water in the mash tun, once the grains are mashed, the liquid is separated from the grains. This remaining grain is called spent grain which we turn into the crisps.

"There is still a considerable amount of moisture in these spent grains, and thus unlike regular chips where as much as 1500 litres of water is used with 1000kgs of maize, our crisps require no additional water. By utilising the spent grains, we are minimizing food wastage and contributing to the conservation of our water supplies.

"These spent grains are then converted into a dough which is cut to our unique hexagonal shape which like our Slow Lager is inspired by the Geometric tortoise and the shape found on its shell. The hexagonal crisps are then baked, and flash fried so as to create their crispness."

Roos said the Darling Brew Beer Crisps are 50% lower in fat than regular chips and high in fibre.

The crisps were relaunched about 18 months ago, during which they introduced new packaging in four flavours - Mature Cheddar, Sticky Barbecue, Fruit Chutney, and Jalapeno.

In an interview with Cape Business News, Roos said the crisps team had continuously refined the recipe to improve the product. "It is, today, and particularly since our relaunch, one of the best-growing products in our company. In fact, the only product growing faster than the crisps is our Tjaila (beer shandy) range.

"In terms of volumes, we are small compared to the big players on the market, like Simba and Willards, but in terms of getting product into the market - and doing it in a sustainable fashion - we are doing well.

"We are very proud to be the first brewery in the country to take spent grains and do this type of value add to the product. We are also excited about the revived interest in the crisps. The good news



is we make a lot of beer so we have plenty of spent grains."

In a further move towards sustainability, the brewery has converted the majority of

its packs into carton sleeves, away from plastics. "We are trying to avoid plastics in our process, as much as possible."

Darling Brew's most

recent award was the KFM award for best craft brewery in the Cape, earlier this year.

This was the second time the brewery has received this award.

New central wine body – South Africa Wine – up and running with strategies



Rico Basson.

By Sue Segar

SOUTH Africa Wine, the new central body set up three months ago to advocate for South Africa's multibillion-rand wine industry, is up and running and making good progress in ensuring the industry speaks with one voice.

South Africa Wine's CEO Rico Basson said a key overall focus of

and technology transfer agency), Wines of South Africa, (the export organisation) and the SA Wine Industry Transformation Unit.

Basson said a key focus of the new structure is to build a strategy for the industry in a climate of decreased profitability in wine. The body will also emphasise transformation in the industry, people development and world-class research.

"We started a comprehensive strategic review during COVID when the industry faced alcohol bans and serious economic challenges and were clear on what we wanted to fix. We wrote a plan and decided the best way to execute it was to create a new structure, which is accountable to the membership. The different organisations were dissolved into South Africa Wine, but WoSA remains separate due to their export focus," he said, adding that SAWIS also remains separate.

"In essence, we set some clear objectives for South Africa Wine, besides creating a single voice for the industry."

Since its establishment, Basson said,

South Africa Wine has initiated "a lot of its strategic work". "As with any new entity which has consolidated several organisations, we need to focus on the people and on getting systems and operations in place which includes the recent sign-off on a blockchain project, a new systemic way of looking at the trade.

"An assessment of several alternate energy projects has been done, as well as some automation options, and there's a huge focus on people development in particular. Our industry is looking at huge innovations in the packaging of wines - such as wine in a can or a box- as sustainability becomes increasingly impor-

tant," Basson said.

Another key trend in the industry in which South Africa Wine is involved is to ensure full end-to-end traceability and authenticity of wines. "This will be compulsory for our wines going to Europe from 9 December. Those systems are in place and smart tech is used to enable con-

sumers to access information.

"As an industry, our systems are really world-class. From a South African perspective, we lead the world in our ability to guarantee the wine, its origin, and its quality. This stands us in good stead when we need to implement innovations such as nutritional labelling."

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Despite challenges, SA wines increasingly globally acclaimed



By Sue Segar

DESPITE many challenges in recent years, South African wines continue to receive global recognition for their high quality, according to Wines of South Africa (WoSA), the export marketing council for the SA wine industry.

“Wine critics, and consumers are becoming increasingly aware of the positive reputation and quality of South African wine, and we’re consistently getting international recognition through competitions,” said Maryna Calow, communications manager for WoSA.

“The positive swing is that South Africa’s wine quality has never been better. We are using this reputation to position ourselves, especially in international markets.”

WoSA represents all SA producers of wine

who export their products, with over 500 producers on its database.

The local wine industry has, suffered substantial turmoil, due to a number of factors, including that the economic crisis.

“From 2015 to 2018 we had an extensive drought, causing the volume of production to decrease, and impacting on volumes of exports, followed by COVID, with the banning of alcohol sales locally, and a ban of export for five weeks which leading to a surplus of wine stock making it tricky to negotiate on price,” another blow to our sector is the war between Russia and Ukraine having a major impact on our input costs. We are further hampered by loadshedding and producers are now investing heavily in alternative energy sources to keep businesses running due to load shedding “This is a challenge unique

to SA, even though the economic climate is globally affecting wine regions around the world, this really affects us on ground level on the global market the financial sustainability of our industry is currently volatile. “Simply put we’ve seen our industry shrink significantly from about 102 000 hectares in 2006 to below 90 000 hectares in 2022, mainly because of financial viability. A lot of vineyards have been uprooted and farmers have replaced them with berries, apples, pears, nuts and citrus.”

A further challenge, she added, is “in light of climate change where we hear from European importers and agents who used to import from South Africa, Argentina, Chile and other countries, are now purchasing from within the EU due to lowering of carbon footprint.

Focusing on the

positives is the quality versus the cost of SA wine. “Two varieties doing well for South Africa are Pinotage and Chenin Blanc. Pinotage, our proudly SA red varietal, is going from strength to strength, “Chenin Blanc is doing incredibly well for SA. We have the most Chenin Blanc plantings in the world – about 17 500 hectares.

“Another category is Cap Classique, our sparkling wine equivalent to French champagne, which is of a high quality and fetches good prices.

“Wine tourism is a strong element for the wine industry, with most wineries having tasting rooms, a restaurant, delicatessen and accommodation facilities where offerings are rich and compare very favourably against our international counterparts.”

Calow paid warm tribute to South Africa’s wine industry, “On the environment, we were the first in world to introduce a system called IPW – Integrated Production of Wine, a voluntary system that’s been adopted by 95% of the players in the SA wine industry. Other countries have since followed suit. It stands for vineyard and cellar practises that are as environmentally friendly as possible, in terms of herbicides,

Winelands district residents largely support PDAL – committee chair

RESIDENTS of the Western Cape Province’s Cape Winelands District expressed support for the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land (PDAL) Bill during recent public hearings conducted by the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the Bill in Worcester.

The portfolio committee on Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development said in a statement that, despite concerns about the bill, residents voiced hope it would “demolish the wall that denied the majority of South Africans, Africans in particular, access to land.

“They are supporting it on the grounds it will address the legacy of the long years of marginalisation of most South Africans from the land,” the committee said in a statement.

“On the declaration of protected agricultural areas, participants submitted that agricultural development zones should be declared and suggested each farming unit must be zoned using the global acceptable principles of sustainable farming.

“Participants said some subdivision of farms should be under-

pinned to enhance food security and that 10% of all agricultural land be set aside for this purpose to promote food security. They said the state must use its power through the Bill to promote land reform in the country.

“On the agricultural land evaluation and classification, participants raised concern that this section gives more powers to the provincial government; that the wording regarding the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is weak; and the Bill does not give much power to the Minister but to the provincial MECs.”

Representatives of the small-scale farmers in the Cape Winelands District, like their counterparts in the West Coast District, said the Bill excludes them, and doesn’t specify how much land will be allocated for small-scale farming. They said it merely states that land will be evaluated for agricultural use. Participants informed the committee that Cape Winelands District is known as a place that is marked by, among other things, a culture of gross human rights violations including exploitation of farm workers, evictions, disconnections of farm

dwellers from water pipes and electricity by farmers.

The PDAL Bill seeks, among other things, to provide that the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act (SALA) of 1970 applies to all agricultural land in the country, to provide principles for the management of agricultural land; to provide for agricultural land evaluation and classification; to provide for the preparation, purpose and content of provincial agricultural sector plans and to provide for the declaration of protected agricultural areas.

Committee chair, Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela said the Bill also aims to address SALA shortcomings. “SALA is currently administered only by the national department of agriculture and, thus, does not conform to the constitutional requirements of cooperative governance where national, provincial and local spheres of government have a role to play,” he said.

“SALA is only applicable to privately owned land and thus, the department cannot protect high-value agricultural land owned by the state, statutory bodies, communal land and land administered by traditional authorities.”

Spier’s 21 Gables Pinotage 2018 wins top honours

SPIER’S 21 Gables Pinotage 2018 has been named one of South Africa’s top ten at the annual 2023 Absa Top 10 Pinotage competition. Hosted by the Pinotage Association, the event spotlights the top Pinotage wines.

The 21 Gables range pays homage to Spier’s winemaking heritage of more than 330 years. A combination of Pinot Noir and Cinsault, the uniquely South African Pinotage grape was first grafted in 1925 by Professor Perold. Grown in ancient Stellenbosch mountain soils overlooking the south side of False Bay, the 15-year-old vines used in making the 21 Gables Pinotage benefit from cooling summer breezes.

The wine’s complexity is a result of a thoughtful harvest strategy, which involved staggered picking based on taste and



optimum tannin balance, resulting in ten separate fermentation batches. Each batch had a maturation period of 20 months in a selection of first and second-fill French, American, and Hungarian oak barrels. After this period, an extensive barrel selection process took place, led by cellar master Johan Jordaan and his team.

Jordaan said the wine’s success could be ascribed to the quality of the vineyards, “which is why we are deeply committed to restoring the health of our soils.” The 620-hectare Spier is

committed to regenerative agriculture, embracing a future-focused approach that prioritises community and environmental wellbeing. With an expansive operation that includes three farms covering 161 hectares of vineyards, a considerable portion of which is organically farmed, Spier is on the path to increase their organic production to 8-10% of the total output. This endeavour, supported by collaborations with 24 specialist grape growers overseeing about 500 hectares, reflects their goal to create a rich, balanced ecosystem from the ground up.

Established in 1692, Spier is one of South Africa’s oldest family-owned working wine farms. Spier has twice been named South African Producer of the Year by the International Wine & Spirit Competition.

Vergelegen winery goes green with solar panel installation



Caption: Vergelegen wine estate has installed 500 solar panels, boosting cost savings and environmental sustainability. (Credit LRG)

VERGELEGEN wine estate in Somerset West, renowned for its sustainability initiatives, has installed a solar power plant that has taken the winery completely off the grid. This investment involved installing six solar tables, comprising

ing a total of 500 panels, covering an impressive 1400m².

In addition to the panels, the winery has installed three inverters and a one-megawatt battery. This will ensure that the cellar can still run on the battery during

harvesting, even if there is no sun.

“The difference in carbon emissions will be determined over time, but the entire electricity bill for the cellar will be saved as the cellar will run 100% off the solar plant,” said Vergelegen

environmental project manager Eben Oldewagen. “There will also be the diesel cost saving and no emissions from the generator during loadshedding.

“The energy not used by the cellar will be pushed into the grid and be credited on the rest of the site’s account, resulting in money saving on electricity bills for the entire estate.”

Vergelegen winemaker Luke O’Cuinneagain said, “I believe that sustainability and wine-making go hand in hand. Installing solar panels at our winery is not just a practical decision, it’s a statement of our commitment to the environment and to producing exceptional wines. It’s a win-win for our winery and the planet.”

The supplier company is LRG Solar.

Agriculture on the up, despite challenges

By Sue Segar

AGRICULTURE in the Western Cape has enjoyed the “best winter rain season for years”, setting the sector on an excellent footing for successful crops in the months ahead, says Agri Western Cape CEO, Jannie Strydom.

In an uplifting interview with CBN, Strydom said morale amongst farmers in the province is high, thanks to “available water”, adding that there are numerous opportunities for growth in the province’s entire agriculture sector – especially if the limitations and challenges in the sector are addressed.

“Some of our farmers are coming out of a seven-year drought – and still suffering from the cost-squeeze effect, and the impact of legislation on them, but overall things are positive, thanks to the prospect of a good harvest for fruit and winter cereal production,” Strydom said.

“At the start of the

season, not one of the dams was up to 80%, but now, most are full. Even the Kammanassie Dam in the Klein Karoo, which has not had water for seven years, is now 76% full.

“Water for irrigation is hugely important in the sector and the good rains have brought new life to some farming areas.

“For instance, Oudtshoorn, which is renowned for ostrich farming, but, additionally, its good soil promotes vegetable seed cultivation and lucerne, so long as there is water. Likewise, in Ladysmith, where they grow a lot of stone fruit, as well as wine grapes, the rains have been a real boost.”

Strydom added that the rains had led to a positive national production forecast from Grain SA, and that wheat production had increased by about 5000 hectares.

“The Western Cape produces a lot of winter cereals, which are cultivated mostly under dryland conditions and

dependent on rain, as they are not irrigated.

“The province produces about 51% of the country’s wheat, so we are huge roleplayers.

“SA is a net importer of wheat, so the farmers saw the opportunity to produce more wheat in the Western Cape, although it’s a rotational crop, sharing the land with canola, barley and oats.

“Last year we planted about 360 000 hectares of wheat; this year 365 000 hectares was planted. Production is forecast just below 1,1 million tons, a 19,3 percent increase, or close to 177 000 tons more wheat than expected.

“If we produce this 1,1 million tons, the national forecast is 2,1 million tons.”

Overcoming challenges creates employment opportunities

Strydom paid tribute to the “resilient, adaptable” roleplayers in Western Cape agriculture. “Our farm-

ers are creative; they overcome every challenge they face. As the country’s most diverse agricultural province in terms of enterprises and commodities, if we can sort out the challenges, the agricultural sector could become a huge employer of unskilled labour.”

Opportunities for expansion include avocados, macadamias, blueberries and citrus, as well as enterprises, such as ostriches and rooibos tea, he said.

“The Western Cape Province is the largest agricultural exporter in the country. We export about 55% of all primary agricultural produce, which contributes about R74 billion to the GDP, so we are a substantial contributor to the economy, and a great earner of foreign currency given our exports, especially in deciduous fruits, wine and table grapes. There are numerous opportunities for growth if we can overcome challenges and limitations.”

Loadshedding, port congestion and labour legislation

“Loadshedding is a huge impediment to the agriculture sector as we are so reliant on irrigation and the commodities and enterprises that rely on electricity and irrigation are the most labour intensive, so loadshedding influences many activities on a farm.

“Perishable products rely completely on electricity for refrigeration, particularly exports, where the impact of loadshedding is huge.”

A second challenge, Strydom said, is infrastructure – particularly congestion at the Cape Town Port.

If the port is not operating at full capacity, delays from bottlenecks have huge consequences.

Strydom said Agri Western Cape focuses on influencing policy to the advantage of the sector, which includes environmental, water and labour legislation.”



Jannie Strydom.

Strydom said the sector has seen a slight increase in employment opportunities, despite the tough national economic climate.

He said Agri Western Cape is privileged to have a provincial department of Agriculture that “really supports the sector.

“A conducive legislative environment that doesn’t negatively

impact the agricultural sector will help farmers to be more resilient and effective in ensuring food security not only in our province but also in our country. I take my hat off to our farmers, who continue to produce food despite all these external challenges. I don’t think consumers always realise the conditions they work under.”

SA’s agri sector could create a million more jobs

By Sue Segar

SOUTH Africa’s agricultural sector has more than doubled in value and volume since 1994, thanks to improved productivity. Yet the sector, which employs about 1,4 million people, could create another million jobs if the government started transferring land it is currently holding to deserving farmers.

This is the view of Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz), who said that, despite challenges, the agricultural sector has enjoyed three to four years of good conditions.

“There are nearly a million people working in the primary agricultural sector – which is up from about 700 000 jobs in 2012. The expansion has been in a

number of value chains, including blueberries, avocados and other fruits and vegetables, as well as the processing and packaging associated with that.

“The agroprocessing sector itself has become more robust in recent years, with about 450 000 people employed in that sector alone.”

However, Sihlobo, who is also a member of President Cyril Ramaphosa’s Economic Advisory Council as well as the Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, indicated that the SA’s agricultural sector has a “vast tract of under-used land” which is in government hands, and if released this could grow the “agricultural pie” considerably. Government has been buying land on the open market across all provinces since 2006 – and has acquired 2,5

million hectares of land still pending transfer of title deeds. Acquiring title deeds would secure ownership and help farmers to access financing.

The land has been fully surveyed and is sitting in the department of Agriculture’s landholding account,” he said. “To give perspective (on how big 2,5 hectares is) – all the grains and oil seeds that SA produces today, is produced on about 4,3 million hectares of land. Imagine the profile of the output of 2,5 million hectares if you could bring this under-utilised land under food production.

“The inclusiveness we talk about has to be on those new hectares which could potentially increase the gross value add of the agricultural sector by between 15% and 30% by 2030. To achieve this there must be col-

laboration between the government and the private sector.”

Sihlobo said the hope is that the government will, next year, launch the land reform agency, an initiative announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2022 state of the nation address and which will be responsible for the release of land, “hopefully with title deeds”. This would be done progressively as beneficiaries are selected and due diligence is done and in line with the government’s Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP).

“The structuring of the agency is on track and has the support of the president and the Agriculture minister. Criteria have now been set which determine who can become beneficiaries.”

Sihlobo said: “There are two major things we have done well in

South Africa, for which we should give the government the credit it deserves: better technologies allowing for higher productivity in the farming sector across the value chain and, secondly, the opening up of the export market which has created the demand pull approach for the number of products that we are producing.

“All of this has been achieved by the private sector, in conjunction with the government. You don’t open the markets alone. To do business with the US, the SA government accompanied by the business must be in the discussion.

“Better technologies to use on the farm have to be legislated by the regulators in SA, who make the environment favourable for companies to bring those technologies here.”

He concluded that



Wandile Sihlobo

there was a need to “think about South African agriculture in the way we think about mining and finance etc” because the sector is just as important in terms of delivering

much-needed growth to the country.

“If the agricultural sector grows, it is two to three times more effective in eradicating poverty than any other sector in the economy.”

Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance receives 2023 Africa Food Prize

THE Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) recently received the prestigious Africa Food Prize for 2023, recognizing their leadership in the development of numerous bean varieties that improve farm productivity and profitability, and meet increasing consumer demand.

The announcement

was made by Africa Food Prize Chairperson, former Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete during the Africa Food Systems Forum (AGRF2023) held in Tanzania. PABRA has worked towards improving nutrition and food security across Africa by harnessing the potential of beans, a vital source of

plant-based proteins and micronutrients including iron and zinc along with other essential nutrients. PABRA was recognized for their tireless efforts in breeding new varieties and making them accessible to farmers across Africa. Their research and development efforts have impacted many communities facing food inse-

curity and malnutrition. To-date, PABRA members have released over 650 improved bean varieties of diverse favourable characteristics. These varieties are grown by over 37 million smallholder farmers in Africa and consumed by more than 300 million people in Africa – significantly improving nutrition, health and

food security. As a crop typically managed by women, PABRA beans enable more families to eat better and earn cash income.

The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa’s agriculture agenda. It puts a spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations

that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans. The Africa Food Prize is the preeminent annual award that recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading the effort to change the reality of farm-

ing in Africa. The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa’s agriculture agenda. It puts a spotlight on bold, and technical, innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

First soya beans exports at East London Terminal proof of regional growth



THE East London Terminal handled its first soya beans export vessel recently when St Columbia started loading 30 000 metric tons destined for Malaysia. Terminal performance saw an average of 207 tons per hour against a target of 90 tons per hour, with minimal interruptions over the planned six days of loading.

The terminal's agricultural volumes continue to increase this year after nearly two years of the grain elevator's temporary closure due to a severe decline in agricultural bulk volumes regionally. Terminal Manager Naliya Stamper said, "While we started with maize and wheat vessels early on in the year, it's a big achievement for us to handle soya bean exports as they have not previously formed part of our agricultural exports". She added that the terminal had collaborated with both industry, local and regional stakeholders to unlock further economic opportunities for the Eastern Cape region.

The grain elevator which is also one of the largest silos in the country, with a capacity of 66 000 tons became financially constrained and a decision was taken to temporarily close the facility until business opportunities opened in the market. The terminal did continue to discharge grain using a direct discharge operating model, where cargo is loaded in trucks and taken to an external facility immediately. "The export of the first consignment of soya beans in the Eastern Cape is a true milestone and we are growing from strength to strength with each passing month, as we aim to return to what we are known for globally," said Stamper. She added that only one trial of soya beans export was ever done at the terminal in the early eighties, and it was unsuccessful.

South Africa has in the recent past increased its production with the introduction of policies to attract new seed technology for soya beans, further attracting investment. According

to Grain South Africa, the breeding and technology levy was introduced into the market to incentivise the development of new cultivars and technology. Yield increases are expected as new cultivars will be more adapted to local growing conditions and with producers' knowledge in terms of local production practices increasing as well.

The East London Terminal forms part of a network of 16 sea cargo and three inland terminals managed by Transnet Port Terminals (TPT). TPT is a division of Transnet SOC Ltd and South Africa's (SA) leading terminal operator responsible for loading and offloading cargo aboard vessels calling the seven South African ports. The company provides import and export services for both domestic and global markets through a staff complement of 9000 across 16-sea cargo and three inland terminals. TPT operations target four major market sectors namely automotive, containers, bulk and breakbulk.

Transforming black citrus growers

THE Economic Transformation of Black Citrus Growers (ETBCG) programme arose from a proposal by the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) to South Africa's Jobs Fund, a National Treasury initiative targeting unemployment. This initiative aimed to establish a model that would offer blended financing with favourable interest rates and terms, supporting orchard development, infrastructure enhancement, equipment procurement, and skills enrichment. The overarching goal was to boost job creation, expand the hect-

ares managed by black growers, and increase their market presence both domestically and internationally.

To realize this vision, a collaborative effort materialized, uniting public, private, and civil sector organizations. The Citrus Growers Association (CGA), a non-profit entity representing export citrus producers, took the lead. They were joined by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development (DALRRD) and the Jobs Fund, committing to provide grants and loans. AgriSETA

backed the skills development component, while the LIMA Rural Development Foundation managed the project. Lastly, FNB was chosen as the commercial funding partner through a competitive tender process.

Evelyn George, Development Finance Manager at the Jobs Fund, emphasized that the ETBCG's success lay in the collaboration of multiple stakeholders who designed an innovative structure rooted in mutual, long-term benefits, risk-sharing, and tangible industry transformation.

Publication of sugar tax increase without consultation threatens livelihoods

SA Canegrowers has voiced concern about the recently published Draft Rates and Monetary Amounts and Amendment of Revenue Laws Bill, which includes an increase in the Health Promotion Levy (sugar tax), and is due to take effect on 1 April 2025.

SA Canegrowers CEO, Dr Thomas Funke, said the government has repeatedly undertaken to consult sugar industry stakeholders on the effectiveness of the levy and its socio-economic impact on the sector.

"The publication of the increase in the absence of consultation is a bad faith move by the National Treasury that will have far-reaching negative implications for the struggling industry ... throughout the value chain," he said.

The increase in the Health Promotion Levy was first announced in February 2022. Its implementation was postponed to 1 April 2023, for further engagement, but no consultation took place.

"In his Budget

Speech in February 2023, Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, announced the increase would be further delayed for a period of two years, recognising the difficult environment within which growers operate. However, since this announcement, no consultation with the industry has taken place.

"The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Trade Industry and Competition also scheduled a colloquium on the sugar tax ... which was postponed following the announcement of the two-year pause on the increase and has yet to be rescheduled. The value of any future engagement in this regard with Parliament or government is called into question by the recently published Bill, as the publication suggests a predetermined outcome – an increase of the sugar tax."

Funke said the publication of the increase without consultation is especially troubling since National Treasury has also failed to respond to a Promo-

tion of Access to Information Act request by SA Canegrowers on the information relied upon by government on introducing the sugar tax and subsequent decisions to increase the tax. "The government has produced no data demonstrating the effectiveness of the Health Promotion Levy or to justify increasing the levy further."

"At the same time, the uncertain future faced by South Africa's sugarcane growers is evident, especially considering that two mills are currently in business rescue. This hardship has been exacerbated by a hike in input costs even as irrigated growers continue to struggle with loadshedding and the implications of a potentially drier, hotter summer over the coming months."

Funke added the tax on the sugar industry caused "tens of thousands" of job losses in its first year of implementation alone, costing the country more than R2 billion. Increasing the tax will therefore have catastrophic effects result-

ing in thousands more job losses and less cane being farmed in poor rural areas where poverty and unemployment are already at alarming levels.

Funke said SA Canegrowers will make a submission on the Bill calling on Godongwana to remove the increase from legislation until a fair engagement process has been concluded. "We will also call on the Minister to comply with SA Canegrowers' PAIA request so industry engagements can be carried out with full information, and will write to the portfolio committee on Trade, Industry and Competition to request that the colloquium be re-scheduled urgently."

"SA Canegrowers is committed to protecting the one million livelihoods the industry supports, and to expanding opportunities for future generations. We cannot achieve this without the support of government. The first step must be the postponement of any increase in the sugar tax until meaningful consultation has taken place."

Premier hails innovation showcased at Nampo Cape 2023

PREMIER Alan Winde has hailed the agriculture sector in the Western Cape, saying it is "bursting with innovation". Speaking at Nampo Cape 2023, South Africa's largest agricultural exhibition, Winde commended farmers and farmworkers for embracing technology to enhance productivity.

Winde engaged with exhibitors showcasing the latest technology being developed in agriculture. "Stakeholders in the agricultural sector are, in many ways, leading the way with innovation."

The theme for this year's Nampo, which was held in Bredasdorp, was the "Green Energy Revolution". "Farmers, farm workers and those working in the agriculture value chain

have to keep up with this constantly evolving industry. It faces significant challenges, though, with climate change and the energy crisis forcing agriculturalists all along the value chain to constantly stay one step ahead," Winde said.

The green energy theme highlighted the importance of transitioning to alternative energy sources in the sector.

Winde was shown an array of innovations, such as a floating solar installation that functions as a water pump. "It is fantastic to see our farmers and farmworkers embracing technology and a more responsible relationship with the natural environment to overcome the twin challenges of climate change and the energy

crisis," he said.

The agricultural sector contributes around 11% to the Western Cape's economy and employs thousands of people. Even with South Africa's muted economic growth in the second quarter of 2023, agriculture increased by 4.2% contributing 0.1% to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Fifty-five percent of South Africa's agricultural exports come from the Western Cape, making it a critical economic lever for the country. The Premier noted, "Apart from buoying our exports and feeding our province and country, our agricultural community is driving economic growth and job creation."

Winde took part in

a panel discussion, "Nation in Conversation", that focused primarily on trade relations and the economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. He spoke about the power crisis and the importance of South Africa remaining a beneficiary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). "All we do must be in the best interests of our residents and citizens. We must seek our investment opportunities everywhere we can."

"We should optimize trade relations to further open up our economy." On Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Winde stressed that it is vital that national government demonstrate its neutrality on the conflict, which has not been the case.

THE NEXT GENERATION
Internships, Skills & Development Programmes

Breco Seafoods and COOKtastic
announce 2023 Seafood Masters

A team of three students at COOKtastic was announced as Seafood Masters at the Breco Seafoods Master competition, a seafood-inspired cook-off held in August. The winning team members are Amyna Salomo, Timna Sele and Jabulile Makhanya, who competed against six other teams to create innovative seafood dishes using products such as half-shell mussels, Vannamei prawns, squid tubes, pollock, and snoek.

Breco Seafoods, a brand of Atlantis Foods, sponsored the competition. Breco Seafoods offers a broad range of quality seafood products from around the world, such as prawns from Ecuador, Argentina and India, calamari and fish from China, and numerous locally-sourced seafood products.

The competition aimed to provide aspiring young chefs with a platform to display their knowledge, skills and talent for preparing and cooking seafood from sustainable sources while following the correct food safety procedures.

Through the culinary school, students were provided with the experience of learning how to prepare and cook seafood correctly. At the same time, the competition serves as a test and showcase of these new skills.

COOKtastic runs a culinary training school to empower talented youths from disadvantaged backgrounds. With the goal of 80% job placement for graduates, they also offer job placement support to springboard students to entrepreneurship in the hospitality field.

Participating in the Breco Seafood



Timna Sele, Jabulile Makhanya and Amyna Salomo.

Masters Competition gave them the opportunity to learn from industry professionals and gain invaluable experience, including a factory tour of the Atlantis facilities, fish filleting and hygiene training.

The students' dishes were evaluated on criteria like unique and original recipes, good execution of the dish, appearance and presentation, taste, texture and aroma. The application of food safety rules and the sustainable and responsible use of ingredients, water, and energy were also critical factors.

Judges provided valuable feedback on

cooking and flavouring seafood, while keeping a check on how food waste is managed and monitoring hygiene and general food safety.

Each winning team member won a six-piece Grunter knife set, with the second-placed team winning vouchers valued at R1500 each from Bank's Catering to help them start their hospitality careers with quality equipment.

Breco Seafoods is involved in developing, supporting and training young chefs, specifically in helping them better understand seafood as a product choice and encouraging them as chefs.

UWC and Samsung collaboration boosts
youth employability



THE Future-Innovation Lab at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), a collaboration between UWC and Samsung South Africa for technological education and empowerment, recently completed the first three years of its R280-million Equity Equivalent Investment Programme (EEIP) 10-year Software Development Skills Training Programme.

As part of the programme, Samsung announced its Research and Development (R&D) Academy project partnership with UWC. The Samsung & UWC Future Innovation Lab & App Factory Programme was launched in 2019 with the goal to equip individuals from diverse backgrounds with the technical expertise and life skills necessary to thrive in the digital age.

As the programme reaches the conclusion of its first phase, its achievements have been transformative. This landmark achievement reflects both parties' commitment to fostering professional growth, personal development and societal progress through the power of education and innovation.

Unleashing Technical Excellence:

Over the past three years, the programme has empowered its beneficiaries with comprehensive training in cutting-edge software development technologies. Participants have gained proficiency in high-demand coding languages, software architecture, web and mobile app development, database management, and more.

The hands-on and project-based approach has ensured that graduates emerge not just with theoretical knowledge, but also with the practical skills demanded by the modern job market.

The Samsung EEIP Software Academy, through its Future-Innovation Lab programme has since inception been striving to provide an opportunity to deserving black youth (18-35) to gain skills in software development and digital social innovation. The measurable outcome of this programme has been to enhance employability by ensuring that UWC students are attaining permanent employment through Samsung's partner network.

Just over 70% of the Foundational Introduction to Software Development Pro-

gramme's 161 beneficiaries have already been successfully placed and taken up in industry. The Samsung & UWC Future Innovation Lab & App Factory Internship programme has achieved a 95% industry uptake rate, with 22 beneficiaries being employed at specialist Robotic Process Automation Developers with IOCO, one of the leading software companies in the country.

A core focus has been to address the lack of female software developers in the industry. In this regard, the partners in this programme have managed to achieve 90% female representation in the third cohort and are looking forward to continuing to address this significant empowerment challenge.

Empowering Lives Beyond Code:

While the acquisition of technical skills is central, the programme's emphasis on holistic development sets it apart. Participants have not only learnt how to craft elegant lines of code but have also entrenched essential life skills. Soft skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and time management have been woven into the curriculum, ensuring that graduates are well-rounded individuals poised for success in both their careers and personal lives.

Looking Ahead:

As the programme enters its fourth year, the partners remain committed to shaping the future through education. With innovation as its driving force, the Samsung & UWC Future-Innovation Lab is poised to introduce newly updated training modules, expand its outreach, and forge further industry partnerships that amplify its impact.

For further information visit: <https://news.samsung.com/za/>

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A toast to friendship and rugby

A LONG with spring, rugby fever is in the air, filling Mzanzi with Springbok jerseys, cheers, laughter and bonhomie. Some long-term friendships have beaten the odds and grown around rugby – as in the time my late colleague Deon Basson and I took the trip to Bloemfontein for the Currie Cup final.

A brief introduction to Deon, there are things you should know: Power did not intimidate him. When the big guys enriched themselves at the expense of the little guys, he went for them with a passion. When charlatans marketed themselves as wizards who would double your money by Christmas, the scalpel of his analysis cut the scams open.

But above all, Deon was incurably passionate about Free State rugby. He would not be convinced that the Cheetahs could lose – a loyalty I abused by winning many a bet over the years. Although, when Free State started winning the Currie Cup by rote, I also lost a few. Well, maybe more than a few.

So, off we went to Bloemfontein for Chee-

tahs vs Bulls in an evening final. Another meeting meant we took our places dressed impeccably in suits and ties between supporters with painted faces and flags. That was when I learned that Free Staters are very well-mannered folk. They looked at us, they looked at each other, but they said nothing and they never laughed. Now that's real decency.

Free State lost so we went off to celebrate anyway, starting with a toast for every time they had scored. Eventually we made our way to the only accommodation we could find earlier – one suite in the Halevy House hotel. And it was then that the treacherous night manager confessed the suite had only one double bed.

"Well," I protested, "I'm sleeping in the car! This is outrageous!" Deon winked at me and told the night manager that if nothing could be done, well, these two burly rugby uncles would share the double bed. But of course, he had to understand that he, as duty manager, was taking full responsibility for the longevity of the bed.

The manager duly reconsidered the weighty problem and conceded: "We'll have another single bed carried in, Sir."

Then came the contest to see who would get the double bed, decided by measuring our midriff circumferences with bath towels. I lost and got the single bed, just as well. For hardly had I laid my head down, when all the saw-mills in Mpumalanga started up at the other end of the room. Pillows over my head, cotton-wool in my ears, nothing helped.

So I dragged the mattress into the lounge and a cupboard in front of the door for sound-proofing. Seconds after I finally fell asleep, I was woken again by hammering on the door and confused shouts: "What have we done? Why are we locked in?" So we passed around the Disprins and went for breakfast.

After many wise words about the evils of alcoholic liquor, we eventually headed back to Johannesburg with me steadfastly refusing my turn behind the wheel in order to get some sleep. But hardly had I closed my

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



eyes, or we had to stop for lunch – "wonderful Free State lamb chops," Deon promised.

And so it went. The four-hour drive took seven hours. I went straight to bed.

Rest softly, my friend. Keep the angels awake. As for me, I'll risk the evils of alcoholic liquor with a toast every time the Bokke score.

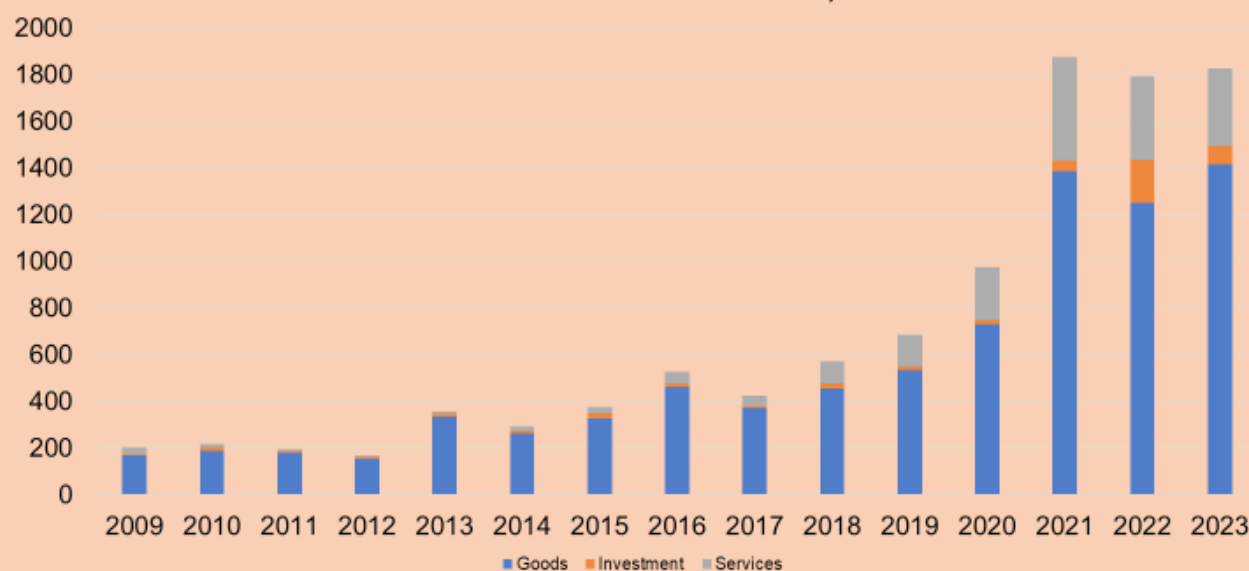
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Trade risks can stifle economic growth

From Chris Hattingh, Head of Policy Analysis, Centre for Risk Analysis



Number of harmful trade interventions, 2009-23



Source: IMF, Global Trade Alert

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Centre for Risk Analysis

THE increased use of tariffs, trade interventions, and various non-tariff trade barriers (NTBs) such as overly bureaucratic border and port operations, pose a significant risk to global economic growth – especially for more developing economies, such as South Africa's.

The increased use of such instruments increases the costs of labour, goods, components, materials, and services. In the current global investment risk-off environment, additional barriers to the flow of goods, services, and human capital will most harshly affect countries that desperately more investment for business activity, infrastructure builds, and job creation (own analysis);

A Bloomberg Economics analysis of UN foreign-direct investment data points to a world reorganising into rival – though still linked – blocs that reflect UN votes on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Of the \$1.2 trillion in greenfield FDI invested in 2022, close to \$180 billion shifted across geopolitical blocs from countries that declined to condemn Russia's invasion to those that did;

Charting a Course Through Rough Seas: How Emerging Markets Can Navigate Tougher External Conditions, Keynote Address by First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath at the South African Reserve Bank Biennial Conference (1 September 2023) highlighted the following:

- Rise of geoeconomic fragmentation; an increase in policy actions around the world that, if continued, pose a serious threat to global prosperity.
- Trade restrictions; almost 3,000 restrictions were imposed in 2022—nearly 3 times the number imposed in 2019. Foreign direct investment is now increasingly

driven by geopolitical preference rather than geographic distance;

- An increasingly fragmented world;
- Impact of trade fragmentation – most Emerging Markets will lose out – including South Africa, with a hit of 5% of GDP. Other EMs could face output losses of over 10%;
- FDI fragmentation would add to these costs, and because FDI from advanced economies offers access to better technologies and know-how, EMs would be hit hardest;
- Fragmentation also makes the world more vulnerable to shocks, as it leaves countries with fewer trading partners;
- Countries are also turning inwards and engaging in large-scale industrial policies. In 2023 alone, the number of such measures that also restrict trade has increased nearly sixfold;
- EMs have also increased the use of protectionist industrial policies though with less reliance on subsidies. Recent examples of large-scale industrial policies include the US CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan, and China's longstanding industrial policies in strategic sectors;
- Such policies can heavily influence the direction and volatility of global trade and capital flows.