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Peninsula Drums now the biggest open top drum manufacturer in SA



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Cape Winelands Airport to be the centre of new growth node for the city

Large-scale developments in the Fisantekraal area will see the City of Cape Town expand in the East.



THE R7 billion Cape Winelands Airport is one of several significant drivers that will foster the development in the City of Cape Town's North West border. The Fisantekraal area, which is now mostly farmland bordering Paarl, is on its way to becoming an urban growth node. Several large-scale multi-million rand developments are setting the stage for it to become a sizeable urban centre over the next few years. Aside from the Cape Winelands Airport, the area is set to benefit from extending a

major highway, the establishment of a private university, and a housing project that could eventually include 16 000 homes. Though these projects were developed independently of each other, in combination, they are fostering the development of the area.

The coming "Airport City"

On its own the Cape Winelands Airport will be a massive project. It will see the old Fisantekraal Airport that now only caters for small planes, developed into the region's second international airport after Cape Town International Airport. Though it is often compared to Lanseria International Airport in Johannesburg, once completed, the new-look airport in the cape will be able to accommodate long-range wide-body planes like the Airbus A380. Given Lanseria's current runway

length of 2 918 m, such large planes cannot land there.

The ability to facilitate these types of large planes on a scheduled route at a second airport in the cape could boost the province's tourism sector, which still has not seen its international arrival numbers recover to pre-pandemic levels.

The Cape Winelands Airport is setting itself up to be more than just an airport, as it will see it offer more than aviation facilities but also a wide range of commercial, retail and leisure facilities.

Cape Winelands Airport MD Deon Cloete says there are plans to set up a cargo processing facility, warehousing and logistics facilities, a space for light manufacturing and industrial processing, and food processing.

The proximity of the railway network to the airport could also set it up to get cargo directly from the Port of Cape Town and the Freeport Saldanha, an industrial development zone.

The airport will also have hotels, event and conference venues, and commercial office and retail spaces. There are also plans to set up VIP amenities and services.

The way Cloete sees it, he wants the airport to be a destination in itself, as it will also have facilities like an aviation museum and an open-air plaza.

"The plaza is a place where we can do events like Saturday markets and music concerts."

Given the wide range of activities taking place there, Cloete wants it to be seen as an "Airport City."

The new-look Cape Winelands Airport's first phase will likely open in 2027 - if everything goes to plan. It is currently in the environmental impact assessment phase, and once that is complete, construction will begin.

A New Green City

In addition to Cape Winelands Airport, the creation of the R100 million Greenville

Continued on P2

Packa-Ching expands national footprint with the launch of new buy-back recycling centres



POLYCO, a producer-responsibility organisation (PRO) for the plastic industry, in collaboration with Border Kei Chamber of Business officially handed over a new static Packa-Ching buy-back recycling centre in Amalinda to Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, and will be operated by DNF Waste Management & Environmental Services.

The facility is the first of three new Packa-Ching buy-back centres to be opened in Buffalo City by the end of March 2024.

"It is expected that the existing two centres as well as the three new centres will process over a million kilograms of recyclable material per annum when operating optimally by 2025, paying out over R1 million to the community per year", says Deidre Nxumalo-Freeman from DNF.

The Packa-Ching programme, provides separation-at-source mobile and static recycling services to communities across South Africa. Community members, in particular waste-reclaimers, are paid for the recyclable packaging material (such as plastics, glass, metal and board) they collect and drop off at the Packa-Ching centres.

Continued on P29



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Cape Winelands Airport to be the centre of new growth node for the city

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Garden City housing project is also driving development in the area.

The project, which started in 2016 and is backed by Garden Cities, could eventually see the creation of 16 000 homes catering to varying economic levels, including bonded housing.

The plan is to eventually have 12 primary and high schools, an integrated transport hub and a large number of community facilities.

Apart from Greenville, there are plans to establish the luxury Bella Vita Lifestyle and Golf Estate,

which could have 3 000 residential units, a business centre, sports facilities, and community facilities.

And a new university

The area will also get a new university with JSE-listed higher education group STADIO Holdings planning to open its new R45 million campus in 2026.

After STADIO has received municipal approval, the plan is to start construction this year, complete construction in 2025 and then start admitting students the following year.

Infrastructure upgrades

The City of Cape Town and the Western Cape government have not been blind to the area's emerging infrastructure needs.

Fisantekraal is set to get a boost with the planned extension of the R300 Kuils River Freeway, which connects Mitchells Plain in the south of the city with the N2 in Kuils River, and the N1 at Bellville in the north.

This will see the R300 extended from where it currently ends at the N1 to Wellington Road, the arterial road that connects it to Fisantekraal.

The area will also benefit from upgrading and extending several roads, like Lucullus Road to Lichtenburg Road, in nearby Joostenbergvlakte.

This means that once the airport's upgrades are complete, the area's road infrastructure will be able to cope with an increase in expected traffic.

When it comes to water, the City of Cape Town completed the R53 million Spes Bona reservoir in 2018. The new 35-million-litre Spes Bona reservoir is next to the old 15-million-litre reservoir and will feed Fisantekraal, which includes the Greenville Garden Cities housing development.

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Mastering order in your workshop

WE'VE all experienced the frustration of desperately searching for a specific tool amid a chaotic mess.

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A cluttered workspace not only impedes productivity but also poses potential safety risks. It's time to say goodbye to the disorder and welcome effective tool storage solutions.

Adendorff Machinery provides the answer with our diverse range of tool storage options. From empty toolboxes to comprehensive tool kits tailored for every artisan, our offerings include jobsite tool trunks, five and seven drawer empty cabinets awaiting your tools, seven drawer cabinets pre-equipped with tools, and complete garage tool cabinet storage systems.

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'Machinery for Africa.' Meticulously crafted to tackle the unique challenges of the South African and broader African markets, these tools are robust, reliable, and built to withstand the toughest tasks. Explore its Tool Storage Solutions:

1. Empty Mac Afric Toolboxes: Empty toolboxes serve as a versatile foundation for creating a customized storage system. Select a toolbox with multiple compartments and a robust build

to accommodate various tools. This solution enables you to organize tools by size and type, offering easy access and reducing clutter.

2. Comprehensive Mac Afric Toolbox Kits: For those seeking an all-in-one solution, our comprehensive tool kits are a game-changer. Tailored to meet artisan needs, these kits feature an array of tools neatly organized.
3. Specialised Mac Afric Cabinets: Invest in special-

ized tool cabinets with multiple drawers for a systematic approach to tool storage. Whether it's a 5-drawer empty cabinet for customization or a seven-drawer cabinet pre-equipped with tools, these cabinets provide dedicated spaces for each tool category, minimizing clutter and maximizing accessibility.

4. Mac Afric Jobsite Tool Trunks: Designed for those working on various job sites, our jobsite

tool trunks offer portability and convenience. Bid farewell to the hassle of packing and repacking tools for each job.

5. Complete Mac Afric Garage Tool Cabinet Systems: Consider investing in a complete garage tool cabinet storage system for a workshop overhaul. These comprehensive setups often include cabinets, workbenches, and pegboards, providing an all-encompassing solution for tool storage, organization, and even a designated workspace.

Efficient tool storage is not just about tidiness; it's a crucial aspect of creating a conducive and safe working environment. Whether you choose customisable solutions like empty toolboxes, comprehensive tool kits, or specialised cabinets, investing in the right tool storage system can revolutionise your workshop experience.

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Damen signs strategic partnership agreement with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition

DAMEN Shipyards Group has signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) in South Africa as part of the National Industrial Participation (NIP) programme.

The agreement will see Damen undertake NIP activities in advance for purposes of collecting NIP credits from domestic economic activity and fulfilling requirements related to local industrial participation including investment, export sales, research and development, technology transfer and transformation of the local economy.

Under this agreement, Damen Shipyards Cape Town

(DSCT), a subsidiary of Damen, will continue its work of localisation and industrial participation to the benefit of the South African shipbuilding industry and economy.

Since commencing its operations in South Africa, Damen has contributed to the development of, and investment in, the local shipbuilding and manufacturing sectors. Its contributions have included the development of personnel for highly skilled employment, as well as widespread local procurement activities.

Investing in local industry

In 2008, when the yard, formerly known as Farocean Marine,

became part of the Damen Shipyards Group, the company signed a similar, 10-year agreement with the then Department of Trade and Industry. Since then, Damen has generated over R1 billion rand in credits. These have been collected through various activities including direct investments and job creation. This has been both direct, through employment at DSCT, and indirect, through the beneficial effects of local procurement.

Damen's contribution to a sustainable South African shipbuilding sector also includes investment in local business, and the manufacture of products for export markets. Such operations are in line with the values of

the Damen Shipyards Group, which aims at the development of local industry wherever it operates. Damen has gained extensive experience in working with local industries all around the world.

A unique approach to shipbuilding

Damen is supported in its aims by its unique approach to shipbuilding. Having a large portfolio covering all sectors of the maritime industry, the company delivers in the region of 150 vessels internationally each year. Additionally, Damen's business model is to construct its proven, standard designs on speculation for stock. As such, it can ensure sustainable employ-

ment for the long-term.

Damen has also participated, since 2020, in the Defence Industrial Participation (DIP) programme. With this, the company has contributed to the development of transformed companies, as well as Exempted Micro Enterprises (EME) and Qualifying Small Enterprises (QSE), further creating employment opportunities and developing export opportunities.

Recognition for South Africa's commitment

Jan-Wim Dekker, COO of the Damen Shipyards Group said, "The South African Government deserves recognition for its commitment to improving the national economy

by forming cooperations such as this one. The investments that the government is making in vessels built in South Africa, for South Africa go beyond increasing the country's capabilities in the water. They also ensure the wider development of manufacturing and a sustainable maritime industry that offers real employment opportunities in the country. For that reason, Damen is very proud to have signed this Strategic Partnership Agreement. We look forward to continuing our commitment to securing the maximum possible benefit for the shipbuilding industry and people of South Africa."

Dr Tebogo Makube, the Chief Director of both the Industrial

Procurement and Industrial Participation within the DTIC, said, "We are happy to be renewing our relationship with Damen. The company has a great track record in supporting the industry and economy of South Africa. The previous years have demonstrated the potential for our cooperation to have a wide-reaching, internationally positive impact for the country. We're pleased to have found a partner that is so visibly committed to doing the best for South Africa. Partnerships such as this are of great importance for our country where job creation and skills development are vital for much needed economic growth and stability."

Rotating tank cleaning nozzles vs Static spray balls - Monitor Engineering

ROTATING tank cleaning nozzles and static spray balls are both commonly used for cleaning tanks and vessels in various industries.

Though both options serve the purpose of removing residues and maintaining cleanliness, there are distinct benefits associated with rotating tank cleaning nozzles. In this response, we will explore the advantages of rotating tank cleaning nozzles over static spray balls in greater detail, focusing on key aspects such as cleaning efficiency, versatility, reduced cleaning time, and maintenance considerations.

Cleaning Efficiency: Rotating tank cleaning nozzles offer superior cleaning efficiency compared to static spray balls. The rotating motion of the nozzles ensures comprehensive coverage of the tank's inner surfaces, reaching areas that may be difficult to access with a fixed spray pattern.

The high-impact jets produced by the rotating nozzles effectively remove stubborn residues, including tough



Tankjet tank cleaning nozzles

deposits, coatings, and adhered materials.

This enhanced cleaning power is particularly beneficial in industries where thorough cleaning is critical, such as food and beverage processing, pharmaceuticals, and chemical manufacturing.

Versatility: Rotating tank cleaning nozzles provide greater versatility compared to static spray balls. They are available in various designs, offering different spray patterns, flow rates, and pressures.

This flexibility allows for customization based on specific tank sizes, shapes, and cleaning requirements. Rotating nozzles can be adjusted

to deliver spray angles ranging from narrow streams to wide coverage, ensuring optimal cleaning performance for diverse applications.

Additionally, some rotating nozzles offer adjustable rotation speeds, allowing users to adapt the cleaning process to different types of residues or cleaning protocols.

Reduced Cleaning Time: Rotating tank cleaning nozzles significantly reduce cleaning time compared to static spray balls. The combination of high-impact jets and rotational motion enables faster and more efficient cleaning.

The dynamic action of rotating nozzles en-

sures that the cleaning fluid is distributed evenly across the tank's surfaces, maximizing contact and facilitating the removal of residues.

Consequently, this reduces downtime, increases productivity, and optimizes overall operational efficiency in industries where frequent tank cleaning is necessary.

Maintenance Considerations: While both rotating tank cleaning nozzles and static spray balls require maintenance, rotating nozzles offer certain advantages in terms of ease of maintenance. Static spray balls are more prone to clogging due to their fixed spray pattern, which can result in reduced cleaning efficiency. Rotating nozzles are less prone to clogging as the rotating action helps prevent debris buildup.

If cleaning or maintenance is necessary, most rotating nozzles can be easily accessed and cleaned without requiring extensive disassembly. This results in reduced maintenance time, lower maintenance costs, and increased system uptime.

Cleaning Validation

and Documentation: In industries with stringent quality control requirements, such as pharmaceuticals and food processing, rotating tank cleaning nozzles offer advantages in terms of cleaning validation and documentation.

The comprehensive coverage provided by rotating nozzles ensures more consistent

and reliable cleaning results, which can be crucial for compliance with regulatory standards.

The ability to document and demonstrate effective cleaning is facilitated by the consistent and repeatable performance of rotating nozzles, allowing for traceability and audit purposes.

Contact us for your no charge sustainability assessment on your tank cleaning operations. We provide a report after the assessment on how to save water, chemicals and time by optimising your tank cleaning processes.

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ALL INDUSTRIAL, MOBILE, SPRINKLER REQUIREMENTS

Celebrating 31 years Peninsula Drums now the biggest open top drum manufacturer in South Africa



Nassos Martalas (Langerberg & Ashton), Chocky Moodley (Peninsula Drums), Premier Alan Winde, Alderman James Vos, Anton Reinecke (Ceres Fruit Processors).

PENINSULA Drums, a 31-year-old company, came from humble beginnings. In May 1992, Brothers Chocky and Subbiah Moodley, opened the doors to a great new venture – the reconditioning of metal and plastic drums. With its creation, Peninsula Drums made history by becoming

the first black-owned drum manufacturing company in South Africa. Once the brothers had the reconditioning of tight-head and open top-top drums under their belt, they began to manufacture new drums and have since then expanded the Peninsula Drums catalogue to include Con-

ical Drums and IBC's. Peninsula Drums became a household name, and they soon became the biggest Open Top Drum manufacturer in South Africa. What set them apart from the competition was their superior quality and reasonable prices. They are SABS

certified and UN approved. Then in 2012, Peninsula Drums introduced their Conical Drum. The advantages of the Conical Drum included but are not limited to; they are 100% Recyclable, Cost Effective, designed for use with aseptic bags, perfect palletisation & containerisation and 1

800 empty drums can be nested in a 40ft HC container. And now they have made history again by becoming the first Solar Powered Drum company in Africa and the 2nd largest drum manufacturer and reconditioner in South Africa. Not to mention they are the founding members

of the South African Industrial Container Reconditioners Association (SAICRA). Chocky Moodley is the sitting Chairman of SAICRA. This had led them to embrace the call for responsible environmental management in the industrial container arena. The Peninsula Drum tagline says it all – “Recycle For A Better Future”. Their mission was also to reduce their Carbon Footprint and be the example to those around them to follow suite. They would also be putting power back into the grid over the weekends and times they are not at work. They achieved this by installing an entire Solar System at their facility in Philippi Industria. This is to reduce the impact we have on the already strained Power Grid and to bring down the cost of the day-to-day business costs. They have been very blessed to be in the current situation they are, where they can make this huge investment. Both from

a business standpoint, and an environmental one too. To celebrate this great achievement, Peninsula Drums hosted a “flick-the-Switch” event at their facility on Friday October 27th, 2023. They had some of their top clients come through from all over the country to view and enjoy this great day with the entire Peninsula Drums family. One of the big highlights was having the privilege of hosting the Western Cape Premier, Alan Winde and Alderman James Vos who did a tour of their new facility with the Moodley family after which they each gave brief speech on their roles in this industry and the way forward. After the formalities, Premier Winde and Chocky Moodley, “Flicked-the-Switch” to make the Solar System go live. His final point to share with everyone was to keep innovating and growing, just as he has witnessed Peninsula Drums do over the years.



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1992 - 2023

CONICAL DRUMS

Not enough pie to go around

By Chris Hattingh
- executive director
at the Centre for Risk
Analysis

THE 2024 Budget, as presented by the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, shows that the government is a dab hand at redistributing the ‘national pie’ — but falls woefully short when it comes to growing said pie. Indeed, the government’s policy path has placed a hard cap on the country’s growth

persist over the short-to-medium Term. Debt-service costs continue to depress all other public spending; the debt-to-GDP ratio is optimistically expected to peak at 75,3% in 2025/26, and for 2023 the deficit is estimated at 4,9%. That the deficit is fueled by government consumption rather than new capital or infrastructure investments highlights that the answer to solving South Africa’s economic and fiscal woes

of revenue is used to service debt, larger even than spending on social grants. Some R150 billion worth of South Africa’s gold and foreign currency reserves will be used over the next three years to help reduce the gap between revenue collection and expenditure. Now that the door has been pushed open, the temptation to tap the R507 billion Reserve Bank Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account again in the future will linger.

When it comes to state-owned entities (SOEs), Transnet receives a R47 billion ‘credit facility’.

A large risk here is that despite solemn promises that said facility is contingent upon strict terms and conditions being met, the possibility remains that said conditions will not be enforced.

This would then continue the trend of pouring state resources — ultimately reliant on tax revenues — down unproductive holes. In the past three years

alone, the government bailed out six SOEs to the tune of R281 billion.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) has been nudged into motion. Of the total R848 billion allocated to the Department of Health, R1,389 billion is earmarked for the NHI. While rolling out the NHI will not be an overnight event, the allocation of funds is a signal that the government intends to go ahead with the controversial healthcare programme, even if it takes many years.

Downside risks dominate South Africa’s fiscal and economic outlook.

The hopes and expectations expressed in the Budget speech might come to pass if the small reforms currently on the table materialise, especially in the areas of electricity and logistics.

But in an election year, those positive reforms will likely take a back seat. For 2023/24, gross tax revenue of R1.73 trillion is expected, R56.1 billion lower than the 2023

Budget had expected. Following this Budget, individual taxpayers will be under more pressure. Personal income tax across the board will be raised by not adjusting the tax brackets, rebates and medical tax credit for inflation.

Most of the additional R15 billion in taxes which the Treasury plans to raise to help cover its spending needs will be required from individual taxpayers. The small tax base is under more pressure, and so too are the revenues that South Africa collects from exports, due to self-imposed logistics constraints.

In the current global environment, capital is decidedly risk averse, and more sensitive to geopolitical disruptions. Given South Africa’s stance on the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, and over recent months Hamas’ 7 October 2023 attack on Israel, the government might well have given foreign capital another reason to avoid South Africa’s shores.

The country’s over-



reliance on imports of manufactured and complex goods, combined with a great need for foreign capital, places the country in a particularly fragile space.

To give the Minister of Finance, his colleagues at the National Treasury, as well as people working at the South African Reserve Bank credit, some of the right words and paragraphs of fiscal responsibility were written. The goal of a fiscal anchor is particularly positive.

But South Africa’s fiscal story for the Zuma and Ramaphosa administrations makes

for concerning reading. In his speech, Godongwana referenced President Cyril Ramaphosa’s 2024 State of the Nation address in which he quoted democratic South Africa’s first president, Nelson Mandela, “after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.”

Given the successive self-inflicted wounds that consecutive administrations have inflicted upon themselves and the country, the short-to-medium term outlook points to continued difficult decisions and a tight balancing act.

“The hopes and expectations expressed in the Budget speech might come to pass if the small reforms currently on the table materialise, especially in the areas of electricity and logistics.”

and job creation potential since at least 2007/08.

With the National Treasury forecasting an average GDP growth rate of 1,6% between 2024 and 2026, the economic hardships of South Africans are likely to

do not lie in simply increasing spending.

The debt burden is exerting ever-greater pressure on the overall budget. Debt-service costs for 2023/24 amount to R356 billion, or R1 billion per day.

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AFRICA'S biggest machine tools exhibition is taking place from 21-24 May 2024 at the Johannesburg Expo Centre in Nasrec and will be showcasing cutting-edge developments across the machine tool and related industries and the very latest global machine tool technology.

Machine Tools Africa 2024 will also highlight the importance of local suppliers and their international manufacturing partners.

The exhibition is seen as an important and relevant platform where buyers and sellers can meet face-to-face in a relaxed informal environment. Eighty-seven percent of visitors attending the previous show went there in search of new products and solutions, and to learn about the latest technologies and trends.

At this year's show, visitors can expect to see a wide range of products. From machinery and tool-

ing, to control systems, robotics, design, accessories, and everything that twists, turns, rotates, cuts, forms, bends or shapes. Senior purchasing decision-makers will have the opportunity to find what they need to take their manufacturing processes to the next level.

Machine Tool industry outlook

Speaking at the recent Machine Tool Merchants Association AGM, the Machine Tool Merchants' Association of South Africa (MTMA) chairperson, Joanne Canossa described the past year as a high-speed roller-coaster for the industry.

It is recognised that Machine Tools is a key driver in various sectors such as manufacturing, fabrication, engineering, and construction, and plays a part in the country's economic growth.

MTMA members have made significant strides focussing on



being industry leaders in supplying quality machines and technology to the local market, but last year wasn't without its challenges.

Canossa explained that, whereas the industry had enjoyed a growth of 20.7% during 2023 up until the third quarter compared to the previous year, there was a weakening demand for machinery and equipment during

the latter part of the year due, in part, to reduced manufacturing production in South Africa.

The decline being largely a consequence of the country suffering the worst load shedding on record during September.

"We are faced with local as well as global challenges and, as key players in the industry, we need to understand

the magnitude of this impact and how we can mitigate any risks for the future," advises Canossa.

Machine Tools Africa exhibition and its support to industry

Canossa believes Machine Tools Africa will be a great step towards the recovery and upgrading of local manufacturing

businesses in South Africa, with advanced technology, software, automation, and industry 5.0 making more of an appearance at the show.

"Industry players have an opportunity to highlight technological advancements and also how technological infrastructure for human-machine collaboration can streamline processes and improve high level decision making," says Canossa.

"It will be very exciting to see how our members as well as other companies utilise this platform to target and entice the manufacturing sector."

Education and skills development remain central to South Africa's steel industry. Training and development of competent skilled staff has become a concern to the growth of the sector. World Skills South Africa will be participating at Machine Tools Africa to highlight their work in this area and to pro-

mote the much lacking vocational training in our country.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to listen to industry experts speaking at the free-to-attend seminars, sharing their knowledge and experience across a wide range of important and current industry topics.

Collaborative partnership

Machine Tools Africa is an event owned by the MTMA in partnership with Specialised Exhibitions, organisers of the event.

"We are delighted to again be in partnership with the Machine Tool Merchants Association for this year's edition of Machine Tools Africa," says Charlene Hefer, portfolio director at Specialised Exhibitions.

"The collaboration is significant as our combined expertise and industry insights will bring immense value to our exhibitors and attendees alike."





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From optimising distribution, to informing expansion strategies, improving sales management, and enabling competitive and demand analysis, AfriGIS's Geographic Information System (GIS) solution for retail has transformed the business of its FMCG client.

Client background

Recognising industry challenges and customer expectations, a national FMCG business turned to AfriGIS for a GIS solution that would provide a crucial multi-dimensional view of the market and thus enable strategic decision-making.

By leveraging GIS and the spatial datasets AfriGIS has on offer, the company can now align its sales and marketing strategies with geographic insights, leading to more effective market penetration and, ultimately, an increased market share.

"In an industry where understanding the geography of business is key, our FMCG client – with a customer base of 14 000 – was at a crossroads," says Ockie Arnoldi, senior client consultant at AfriGIS.

The Challenge

The FMCG company's operations were visually uncharted. With facilities and teams widespread, the lack of GIS integration left

a gap in strategic planning and execution. With no spatial data, sales strategies were uninformed by the geographical spread and demographic nuances of their market.

The project began with a company in need of direction – its ambition was growth, but the business lacked the tools to pave the way.

The main challenge was to develop a GIS solution that could map out existing customers, study sales volumes, and highlight potential growth areas and even identify specific companies to target.

Objective

AfriGIS aimed to design an interactive online platform that would allow the company to visualise its customer distribution and identify areas ripe for sales focus. The platform needed to be robust, user-friendly, and capable of processing complex datasets to provide actionable insights.

Solution development

AfriGIS's platform was designed first to visualise data and then to transform it into a narrative that informed sales strategies. The development process was intricate, requiring an in-depth understanding of the client's business environment and ecosystem and the identification of relevant datasets that could be integrated and analysed within the system.

Implementation

The platform is a blend of innovation and practicality. It has enabled users at various levels within the company to access, manipulate, and interpret data.

"The solution included the geocoding of the existing customer base, and creating a visual representation that was previously absent," says Arnoldi. "From this base, a trade area analysis study was performed to analyse and combine the existing footprint, sales volumes, population and target demographic data, availability of targetable companies from different AfriGIS base datasets to identify hot spot areas with highest sales potential, allowing for targeted sales and marketing efforts."

Analytical tools and data utilisation

A key feature of the platform is that users can view an extensive set of data layers, which among others include the existing footprint, sales volume, indication of recent ordering activity, travel bands around existing depots, primary delivery routes, points of interest, satellite imagery, detailed demographic information, and an indication of market share within each suburb. This has been critical in identifying the most strategic areas for expansion – the hotspots where product demand was high and current penetration was low.

AfriGIS is the leading Geospatial Information Science company in Southern Africa that specialises in location-sensitive data and solutions. It provides customers across the board with a suite of web-based tools and APIs to connect to, enhance, and enrich their own data with location intelligence, insights, and trusted data. The organisation was founded in 1997 and celebrates more than 25 years in business.

Electrically operated diaphragm pumping solutions improve fluid handling productivity

BMG has extended its range of Ingersoll Rand ARO fluid handling products to include the new EVO series™ electric diaphragm pumps, designed to enhance energy efficiency and improve fluid handling productivity.

These versatile electric diaphragm pumps – which incorporate features that have previously not been available in a single pump solution – are engineered to deliver high performance and serviceability, enabling users to achieve high efficiency and the best cost of ownership.

"The new EVO series is the next development from leading manufacturers, with almost 100 years' experience in pumping technology. This series integrates key benefits of ARO air operated pumps incorporating important features from other pump technologies, to offer an efficient electric diaphragm pump with controllability," says Joe Pinheiro, BMG's national product manager, pumps.

"Conventional electric pumps normally have a double diaphragm design with a direct drive electric motor, while new ARO EVO pumps have a specially-designed triple diaphragm, with an integrated variable drive, maintenance-free gearbox and control panel. The leak free design with a secondary containment system, prevents the escape of hazardous fluids and oils and is enhanced by automatic leak detection.

"These low-maintenance pumps, which have been designed for extended service life, even during high load conditions, offer low pulsation. Due to the high-resistant three chamber design, there is no need for a pulsation dampener. "It has a true deadhead when



BMG has extended its range of Ingersoll Rand ARO fluid handling products to include the new EVO series™ electric diaphragm pumps, designed to enhance energy efficiency and improve fluid handling productivity.

the downstream valve is closed, automatically preventing the pump's spinning and holding the pressure."

EVO electrical diaphragm pumps that can handle the most aggressive and corrosive fluids, are available from BMG in a choice of two sizes and five different materials of construction. Size 1" pumps are equipped with a 2,2 kW gear motor and 3,0 kW VFD that provides versatility for small batch and dosing applications. Size 2" pumps are equipped with a 5,5 kW gear motor and 7,5 kW VFD for large fluid transferring applications.

EVO metallic diaphragm pumps are manufactured in Cast Iron, Aluminum and Stainless Steel for applications that require durability and tensile strengths. Non-metallic options include Polypropylene and conductive Polypropylene for high corrosion resistance – especially useful in caustic services in the chemical industry.

These electric diaphragm pumps, which conform to stringent

include a seal-less, self-priming design, with low material shear and minimal maintenance requirements. These portable pumps are easy-to-install and can run dry without damage. Most ARO diaphragm pumps are ATEX certified (CE Ex11 2GD X) enabling safe use in potentially explosive areas. This feature makes the ARO pumps ideal for underground applications, such as dewatering.

ARO PRO series air-operated diaphragm pump air motors, which are lubrication-free, have positive sealing characteristics and make use of a specially designed unbalanced air valve to prevent stalling issues associated with operation at low pressures. Exhaust valves divert cold air away from components that are prone to ice build-up.

Metallic and non-metallic air-operated diaphragm pumps are available from BMG in various materials and porting configurations to suit numerous applications, including transfer, loading/unloading/filling, re-circulation, system flushing and batching/blending in many industries.

A range of specialty pumps is also available from BMG, including Stainless Steel sanitary pumps (FDA compliant), 2:1 & 3:1 high-pressure pumps, submersible double diaphragm pumps, air driven submersible pumps, anti-freeze blending pumps and UL-approved fuel transfer pumps.

BMG supports this range with a technical advisory service to ensure the selection of the most suitable pump for every application. The company also supplies a full range of ARO diaphragm pump parts and accessories for standard repair and maintenance requirements.



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Understanding standby, prime and continuous gensets

South African businesses are increasingly using generator sets to combat power disruptions, but often struggle with selecting the right genset for their needs. Craig Bouwer from WEG Africa highlights the importance of understanding genset applications – standby, prime, and continuous – for optimal performance and longevity, noting that many customers err by choosing based only on nameplate ratings.



3000kVA 400V primary equipment prior to enclosure installation.

THE increasing reliance of South African businesses on generator sets (gensets) to mitigate power disruptions highlights a crucial need for proper selection based on specific operational demands.

Despite their growing usage, there's still widespread confusion about how to choose the appropriate genset, often leading to inefficient and costly decisions.

Understanding the differences between standby, prime and continuous applications is essential to optimise genset performance and longevity.

This is according to Craig Bouwer, senior manager Gensets at WEG Africa, who explains that many customers mistakenly select gensets based solely on nameplate rating.

"Understanding the specific application of the genset is crucial for the right selection, and the first step is know-

ing that genset applications are broadly categorised into standby, prime and continuous, each with distinct operational requirements," he says.

Standby gensets are seldom used, typically kept for emergency situations. These units have a limit on operational hours per year and a specific load factor. In South Africa, due to frequent load shedding, few gensets are used solely for standby purposes.

Prime and continuous applications are more common in the country. Prime gensets can run unlimited hours annually with variable loads, maintaining an average load factor below their maximum rating.

Continuous gensets also operate unlimited hours, but with a constant and predetermined load.

Damian Schutte, engineering manager at WEG Africa, explains that understanding the difference

between prime and continuous ratings is also critical.

The load factor is a key differentiator and not the unlimited time requirement, with prime applications having variable loads and continuous ones having fixed loads.

Schutte uses a vehicle analogy to illustrate the differences: a continuous genset is like a car on cruise control operating at a steady speed within its capacity on a long-distance trip, while a prime genset is akin to a vehicle driving in the city. Standby can be perceived as racing between traffic lights.

The choice of genset rating impacts its expected lifespan and maintenance needs.

For example, continuous power may be required in mines during load shedding to supplement limited grid power, while industrial applications like workshops, with variable loads, would need a prime-rated

genset.

Bouwer notes that standby power remains vital in essential service sectors for health and safety reasons, especially in environments like mines, hospitals, and data centres.

WEG Africa, as an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), uses these categories to guide customers in their genset choices, aiming to match their specific needs and expected service life. They caution against oversimplifying the selection process by just matching the total load with a genset's nameplate rating, as this can lead to premature failure and additional costs.

"To ensure the correct choice, we work closely with customers assessing their load requirements, usage frequency and operational conditions and through this process ensure optimal genset selection," Bouwer concludes.

Why 2024 is the year to champion water

We already have solutions to water problems—it's time we started using more of them.

By Chetan Mistry,
Strategy and
Marketing Manager at
Xylem Africa

IT would be incorrect to say the world does not care about water. It's our most precious resource: without water, there is no life, and water fills many different roles in our societies. From feeding and cooling energy systems to creating the lush greenery around us that creates oxygen, we need water.

Yet, we also take water for granted, and that has consequences. Ecosystems around the world are buckling under the pressures of overuse and pollution. The state of wetlands, rivers, and aquifers is becoming worse, and the United Nations reports that between two and three billion people today experience water shortages.

South Africa does not buck the trend: according to the Department of Water and Sanitation, 46% of the country's water supply systems pose acute human health risks due to pollution and decaying wastewater infrastructure.

Why are we neglecting the most crucial resource on our planet? Perhaps the issue is that we are so used to water that we cannot imagine a world without it. We think it has an endless abundance. But the reality is very different.

In 2019, the United States Geological Survey released an infographic comparing Earth's water supply to the planet's size. If we rolled all water, including the oceans, into one big sphere, it would be 1,3 billion cubic kilometres large. That might sound impressive, but Earth is 1.086 trillion cubic kilometres big—900 times larger than that water sphere.

Water becomes even smaller when we only focus on fresh water. All the liquid fresh



water comes to a mere 10 million cubic kilometres, and 99% of that is mostly inaccessible because it is deep inside the Earth's crust (and so-called groundwater levels are also falling). If we isolate the sphere to water in rivers, dams and lakes, it's less than 100 000 cubic kilometres. The amount of accessible drinking water is ten million times less than the planet's size.

These numbers should shock us because that minuscule amount of water that supports every living thing on the planet is in grave peril. But there is good news: water is very resilient, and a little effort goes a long way to help it thrive.

2024 is the year we can turn the trickle of water projects into a river. Modern engineering and digital technologies in the water sector deliver impressive efficiency, visibility and performance.

As governments invest more in modernising and improving water infrastructure, they will quickly see results. Businesses that take water management and recycling more seriously earn back money from savings and create long-term sustainability. And individuals who promote water-saving habits around them help uplift their communities.

Our world faces many challenges, some of which still

require us to develop suitable solutions. But not water. There are straightforward ways to improve water management and quality, and the sooner we act, the easier it will be to align those actions with our current needs. We can avoid a triage where we must choose between water and profitability, or water and social cohesion. We don't have to make hard choices, yet.

But we must start to act in unison, using the technologies and experience of the water industry. Water may be in trouble, but we can change that. It starts with making 2024 the year of water, and then the following year, and the year after.

About Xylem

Xylem (XYL) is a leading global water technology company committed to solving the world's critical water, wastewater, and water-related challenges through technology, innovation, and expertise. Our more than 22,000 diverse employees delivered combined pro forma revenue of \$7.3 billion in 2022. We are creating a more sustainable world by enabling our customers to optimize water and resource management and helping communities in more than 150 countries become water-secure. Join us in the effort at www.xylem.com and Let's Solve Water.



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Triple win: How Africa’s industrials can decarbonise, lower energy costs and increase reliability all at the same time

Ella Teperi, GM, market & financial analysis, decarbonisation services at Wärtsilä Energy



IN African countries, particularly those with a well-developed industrial sector, a significant portion of energy production may come from the industry’s own power plants.

This is especially true in countries where the reliability of the grid is low, and industries rely on self-generated power to ensure a stable energy supply.

In this article, we are offering insights into our approach in supporting energy-intensive industries to optimise the use of renewable energy and reach their decarbonisation objectives.

In Africa, just like anywhere else, energy-intensive businesses are under great pressure to decrease CO₂ emissions as they continue to compete in the global marketplace. Wärtsilä knows more about this than most: many of our mining and industrial partners in Africa operate their own microgrids, either from choice or necessity.

They want to deploy renewables but need to do it efficiently and economically.

Managing power intermittency and dispatchability is not a simple task, and most businesses struggle to make the most of hybrid power configurations. We will demonstrate how renewable balancing can not only reduce the CO₂ emissions of operations, but also ensure overall system reliability and lower the cost of electricity going forward.

Making the most of your assets

Each industrial site is unique, there is no such thing as one size fits all when it comes to decarbonisation. There

is a whole range of constraints, conditions and variables that are specific to each operation, site, and facility.

And yet, there is one central question that everyone must answer to solve the decarbonisation challenge: how can I maximise the integration of renewable energy whilst ensuring reliability of supply and competitive energy costs?

When adding renewables and intermittency into grids, managing the increased complexity that inevitably ensues in a smart way becomes critical.

Avoiding curtailment, managing reserves, and optimising the fuel consumption of thermal assets are the key elements that will get you further along the decarbonisation process.

At an early stage, advanced power system modelling will help understand the impact of different operational profiles, figure out the optimal power generation strategies and leverage the benefits of dispatch optimisation.

Optimising your energy generation strategy

The optimal power generation strategy must reconcile three key objectives that are often considered contradictory. The first goal is to maximise renewable energy generation to lower CO₂ emissions.

The second is to guarantee that the supply of power is steady and reliable. Thirdly, to ensure that the total

system cost remains competitive.

Fail to achieve any of these goals, and your entire plan will tumble.

This is why smart decarbonisation strategies involve a holistic view over the entire microgrid, optimising the mix of renewable energy for base-load power, backed by energy storage and balancing engine technologies for dispatchable power.

While wind and solar power can offer emission-free energy at lower costs than fossil fuels, their intermittent nature adds uncertainty into the system.

Adding renewables to your asset fleet will therefore require changing the way power balance is managed in order to ensure reliability, minimise the curtailment of renewables, and reduce the fuel consumption of thermal assets.

Flexible power must be available to ramp production up or down at the same rate that wind or solar production fluctuates, but also to match the fluctuating energy demand in real time.

Flexible engine power plants and energy storage systems (ESS) can work together to support renewables integration. Both energy assets can react quickly and efficiently cope with multiple daily start and stops. ESS ramp extremely quickly, while engine power plants generate flexible, reliable power also during periods with low renewable generation and offer the advantage of being able to run on

different fuels, from natural gas and liquid fuels or biofuels today, to locally produced hydrogen and its derivatives tomorrow as they become competitive and broadly available.

Thanks to this multi-fuel capability, not only do engine power plants provide a great hedge against fuel supply risk, but they are also the ultimate “future-proof” technology for decarbonisation. Gas engines can already run with 25% hydrogen blend without major modifications. We anticipate that a few years from now engines will be capable to run entirely on green fuels like hydrogen to reach 100% renewables and net-zero.

A powerful brain for a powerful system

An intelligent energy management system (EMS) enables seamless operation of any mix of power assets. Wärtsilä’s state-of-the-art GEMS Digital Energy Platform utilises real-time data, renewable forecasts as well as machine learning algorithms, to optimise the dispatch of dynamic generation assets with speed, instead of applying a rigid rule-based model. GEMS’ optimisation and control capabilities enable reliability, minimised emissions, and reduced costs.

Decarbonisation is a journey, not a destination

For companies to remain competitive, their decarbonisation process must be based upon three pillars : emission reduction, competitive cost, and reliability. To get this done, the journey to net-zero for mining and industrial businesses in Africa cannot rely on a single solution. It is a long-term, future-proof plan that involves a data-driven management of energy assets.

Sustainable strategies shaping ESG compliance in South Africa

By Robert Erasmus, MD at Sanitech

The surprising practicality of ESG implementation

ENVIRONMENTAL, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles are becoming more important for businesses, and for good reason. Embracing ESG practices is not just a trend; it is a strategic move towards long-term success. Given the potential environmental impact

“The social component of ESG is where companies in the sanitation and waste management sectors have the opportunity to shine...”

in the sanitation and waste management industry, the adoption of ESG principles is more of a responsibility than a choice. However, it’s not a choice without benefit. By understanding the significance of aligning with these principles, businesses can simultaneously create lasting value for stakeholders while contributing meaningfully to local and global sustainability goals.

The growing importance of ESG in business

ESG principles provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating a company’s operational performance in relation to its social and environmental impact. Traditionally, investors focused on financial metrics, but evolving business practices and growing investor consciences demand a broader perspective. Investors and stakeholders are now scrutinising a company’s commitment to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and willingness to evidence strong governance. This makes the shift towards ESG compliance a necessity for attracting investment in today’s eco-conscious, interconnected world.

Understanding ESG can seem daunting at first, but at its core, it is a set of practices that evaluate a company’s performance through the lens of its social and environmental impact. While the implementation of these principles might seem overwhelming, it’s much easier to gain momentum taking an incremental approach.

One of the most productive methods for organisations to elevate their ESG status is by means of ISO 14001 environmental accreditation, which provides a structured path to address issues such as energy consumption, waste management, and more. ISO 14001 is an internationally agreed standard that sets out the requirements for an environmental management system, which helps organisations to gradually improve their performance through more efficient use of resources and reduction of waste, which ultimately intends to gain both a competitive advantage and the trust of stakeholders.

Practical steps toward sustainability

Within the sanitation and waste management sector, for example, ESG compliance centres on environmental stewardship, extending beyond straightforward waste reduction to include responsible choices aligned with environmental preservation. Companies in the sector should commit to aligning processes with global standards through ISO 14001 environmental accreditation. Such a sustainability journey starts with minimising the construction impact associated with operations, which will be achieved through responsible planning and execution to prevent environmental encroachment and reduce the ecological

footprint of any infrastructure development.

Social responsibility through water and sanitation

The social component of ESG is where companies in the sanitation and waste management sectors have the opportunity to shine as investing in water and sanitation projects is one of the most powerful ways for businesses to fulfil their social responsibility goals within the ESG framework. Water and sanitation projects have the most profound impact on communities and by leveraging their expertise, businesses can partner with sanitation and environmental management companies to create positive social change, particularly in areas that desperately need improved water and sanitation infrastructure.

Shared values and business collaboration

Governance forms a critical aspect of compliance, and organisations that want to take ESG seriously should join forces with like-minded companies that have a shared commitment to ethical practices. This is important because strong governance values provide a foundation for transparent reporting and effective management of ESG initiatives, which is critical to businesses aiming for sustainable growth and attracting investments. This will not only facilitate smoother collaboration but also ensure a unified approach to tracking, measuring, and reporting on ESG initiatives, which will make the journey less complex and more attainable. Practical steps, such as focusing on specific areas like waste reduction, or water and sanitation, can significantly contribute to a company’s overall ESG compliance without incurring exorbitant costs.

Transnet Freight Rail and Caminhos De Ferros De Mocambique (CFM) sign a historic agreement

IN a historic development Transnet Freight Rail and Caminhos De Ferros De Mocambique, the Mozambique state owned railway operator, signed an in-principle agreement today that will enable an uninterrupted passage of all

freight trains between the two countries.

This operating model, once implemented, as per the signed agreement, on 1 April 2023, will result in significantly reduced transit times, which will enable an increase in freight vol-

ume throughput for all commodities railed to Maputo.

This run-through operating model will effectively offer all freight customers on rail, a more efficient and economical logistical solution.

The implementation of this landmark agreement follows a successful 90-day run-through between Transnet Freight Rail and Caminhos De Ferros De Mocambique.

Through this pilot phase, the two rail oper-

ator companies clearly demonstrated that the run through model was a more efficient operating proposition, with great potential to make rail a more competitive option on this channel, a move that demonstrates that Transnet Freight Rail’s

road-to-rail strategy is being implemented.

This channel, which forms part of Transnet Freight Rail’s NorthEast-Corridor, is a key export channel for export commodities such as magnetite, chrome, ferrochrome,

rock phosphate and coal.

This agreement effectively means all freight trains between Mpumalanga and Maputo will stop for crew change-over only, including at the Lebombo border, hence a seamless or borderless train service.



LANDLORDS, ARE YOUR BUILDINGS ENERGY-SMART?

Energy consumption is a major concern in the world today, especially in South Africa. Everyone in the CBD needs to conserve power to ensure the inner city remains a world-class economic and lifestyle hub.

Building owners are in the unique position to take the lead in saving electricity, to the benefit of all who live and work in the inner city.

7

ON

OFF

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Encourage an energy saving mindset in your organisation. Get everyone "Switched On to Switching Off".

WE HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE OUR POWER



- 1

CONDUCT AN ENERGY AUDIT
An energy audit will identify areas where energy is being wasted and recommend solutions to reduce consumption.
- 2

INTEGRATE BATTERY STORAGE
Properly integrating battery storage systems helps to reduce consumption. Stored energy can be used during peak-demand periods when electricity prices are high, reducing the need to draw power from the grid. They also provide back-up power during load shedding.
- 3

INSULATE GEYSERS AND PIPES
Insulating hot water piping and geysers minimises heat loss.

- 4

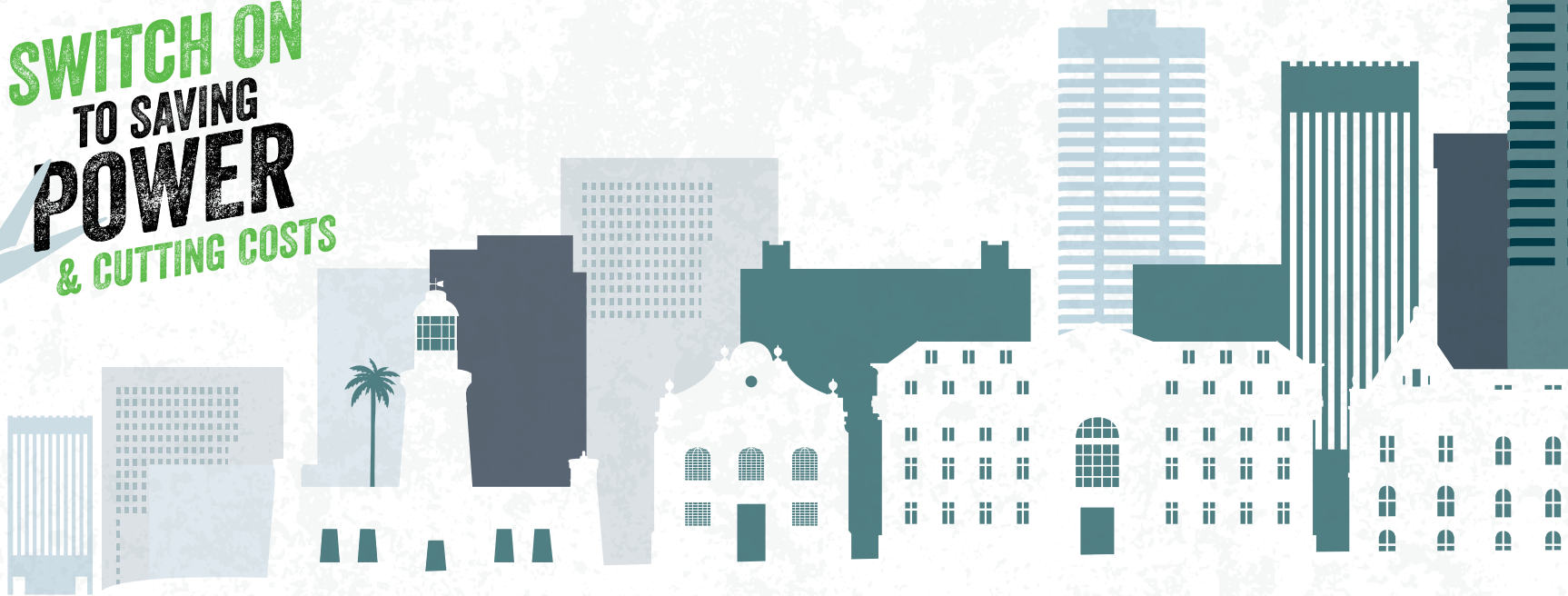
IMPLEMENT DEMAND SHAVING
This involves shifting energy consumption to off-peak periods when electricity prices are lower, thereby reducing electricity bills and lowering overall consumption.
- 5

INSTALL SMART METERS
Gauge how much power is being used at any given time and adjust electricity use accordingly.
- 6

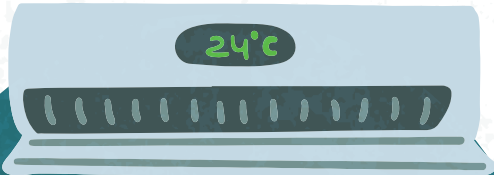
INSTALL LED LIGHTING
LED bulbs use 80 % less energy than traditional bulbs, are more durable and last longer.



SWITCH ON
TO SAVING
POWER
& CUTTING COSTS



8



OPTIMISE HVAC SYSTEMS

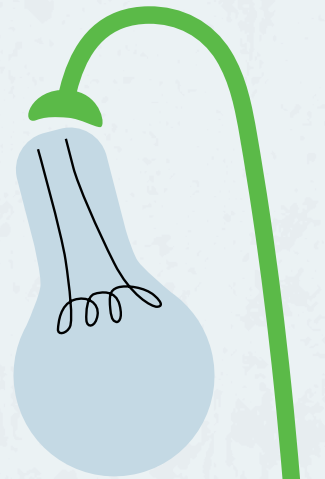
Heating, ventilation and aircons (HVAC) systems consume huge amounts of electricity. Consider replacing old equipment with energy-efficient models with programmable thermostats and timers.

9



RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

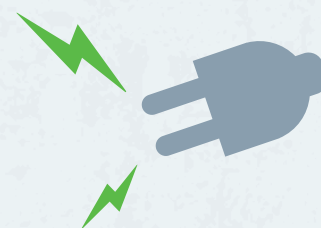
Installing solar panels and inverter systems help to reduce consumption. Power generated can be used internally. Cape Town is offering cash in exchange for excess solar power that's fed into the grid.



**SWITCH ON
TO SWITCHING
OFF**

IT JUST MAKES SENSE

WWW.CAPETOWNCCID.ORG



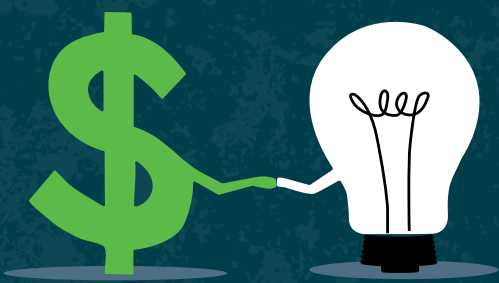
VISITING THE CBD?

- Unplug appliances when you leave your room.
- Switch off all lights when not in use.



SWITCH ON TO SWITCHING OFF

IT JUST MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE



MAKE SAVING POWER YOUR BUSINESS

Stay light years ahead by doing everything in your power to save electricity. It's not only the right thing to do, but impacts the bottom line.



IF YOU OWN
OR MANAGE A
BUSINESS

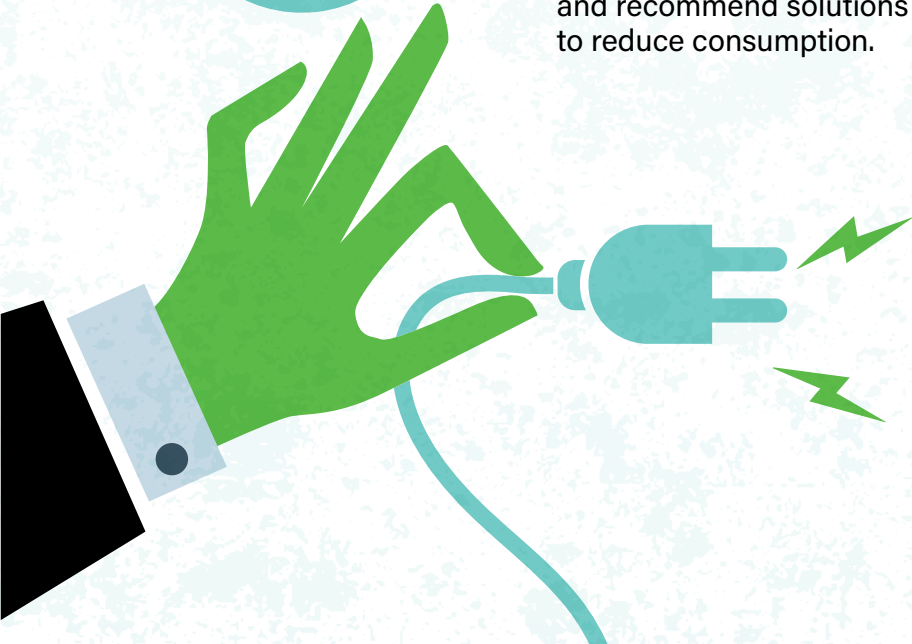
1 CONDUCT AN ENERGY AUDIT
An energy audit will pinpoint areas where electricity is being wasted and recommend solutions to reduce consumption.

2 LOBBY LANDLORDS TO BECOME ENERGY-SAVVY
Encourage your landlord to implement an energy saving strategy to conserve power and keep costs down.

4 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES
The Government's renewable energy tax incentives could see businesses claiming 125 % of costs incurred in qualifying investments.

3 CONSIDER INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS
Increasingly, independent power suppliers are coming on stream and will offer competitive rates.

5 INSTALL SOLAR PANELS AND DEVICES
Solar water heaters use natural energy to heat water, providing a saving of 25 % or more on an electricity bill.



IF YOU WORK IN THE CBD

1 AUTOMATE A POWER-DOWN ON OFFICE COMPUTERS

An idle computer left on overnight still draws power. An automated power-down is the best solution.

2 UPGRADE LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Use 80 % less energy by switching to LED lighting. Occupancy sensors will turn off unnecessary lights.

3 SWITCH OFF LIGHTS

Employees need to help ensure their company remains profitable amidst load shedding. Saving on overheads is a good place to start.

4 ENCOURAGE ENERGY-SAVING BEHAVIOUR

Turning off lights and office equipment not in use can lead to significant savings. Education and awareness encourage an energy-saving mindset.

5 UNPLUG EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES

Play your part in conserving power. If an appliance is not being used, bend down and unshackle the plug from the socket.

6 UPGRADE TO ENERGY-SAVING EQUIPMENT

When buying new office equipment, go green.

7 SPEAK TO MANAGEMENT

Office workers with innovative ideas should bring them to management's attention. It's not above your pay grade.

8 LOBBY LANDLORDS TO INTRODUCE ENERGY-SAVING INFRASTRUCTURE

Petition for a power-saving strategy in your building. It's a win-win for both parties as landlords also fork out for energy bills.

IF YOU LIVE IN THE CBD

6 INTRODUCE ELECTRICITY-SAVING TECHNOLOGY

From solar to state-of-the-art devices designed to save power when not in use, use technology to become energy wise.

**SWITCH ON
TO A BRIGHTER
FUTURE**

7 SWITCH OFF LIGHTS AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

"Phantom" appliances consume energy even when they're not being used and incur unnecessary costs.

8 INVEST IN TIMERS, MOVEMENT DETECTORS & LIGHT SENSORS

These devices will automate your power-saving efforts so that even when your staff forget to do their bit, technology will take over.

- Use hot water sparingly.
- Insulate geysers and hot-water pipes.
- Install alternative energy sources.
- Switch off lights when not in use.
- Upgrade to LED lighting.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Turn down geyser temperatures.
- Cook with gas.
- Dry laundry naturally.



SWITCH ON TO SWITCHING OFF

IT JUST MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Investors are snapping up prime properties in the Western Cape

THERE is a major surge in investment in buy-to-let properties across South Africa, with the Western Cape leading the pack.

"We're seeing a 15 year high in national investment applications, which rose to 11,8% of all applications by the last quarter of 2023," says Renier Kriek, MD at Sentinel Homes.

A recent ooba Home Loans market data which also puts investment applications in the Western Cape at a whopping 28,2% of total applications.

"The housing demand in the province is enormous and property investors are obviously taking note," says Kriek.

Investors, not home buyers

Home buyers are hesitant to buy right now due to uncertainty around the upcoming election, as well as the rising cost of living caused by inflation and high interest rates. This could mean current data may be skewed by their lower participation, making investment applications appear greater as a percentage.

Even so, it also indicates that property investors remain confident, active in the market, and resilient regardless of economic pressures. Property investment may also be seen as more secure in the current uncertain political climate.

Why is property investment vibrant?

One reason is the ongoing trend of semigration, with South Africans flocking to areas offering better infrastructure and service delivery. This is especially true of the Western Cape where new property devel-

opment lags the influx of semigrants. Many coming to the province now rent while searching for a new home or while theirs is being built.

Another reason is the return of tourists to Cape Town, still one of the top holiday destinations in the world. Investors are already snapping up prime properties they can rent out as short-term leases and holiday accommodations.

The increased demand for rentals and improving performance in rental properties, including lower vacancies and tenant defaults, is driving the wave of buy-to-let investment applications.

Tips for investors

So, if people are serious about investment buying, does Sentinel Homes have any tips for them? "Indeed, we do," says Kriek.

- **Tip one: Buy-to-let.** When investing, always remember that the meat and potatoes of property is rental income, whether from long-term or short-term leases. Buying for speculative purposes, like fixing and flipping for a quick profit, is highly risky in a market where property prices outpace inflation and transaction costs can be excessive.

So research a property's income potential and marketability first, then build a solid buy-to-let base first.

- **Tip two: Consider rent-to-rent.** Rent-to-rent means an investor rents a property, then sublets it to a third party at a profit. This is an excellent way to get into serious property

investment without having to source capital for an outright purchase.

You can use these profits to build capital and a strong property portfolio over time. Since some landlords prohibit subletting, find one that is flexible and negotiate your contract carefully.

- **Tip three: Get market insights.** Investors need good market statistics to make the best buying decisions. Properties are often priced above a fair valuation, which is why we have price inflation over time. Negotiating a sale below the asking price doesn't necessarily mean you have bought a bargain – you may still be overpaying. While there are many good sources of data in the market, hiring a registered property valuer is also an excellent option. This can help you negotiate a fair price that will see you profit more when you eventually sell the property. Also, find out what a capitalization rate is, and use it in all your price assessments and lead follow-ups.

- **Tip four: Property investment is a business.** Lastly, see property investment as a business and run it as one, not a hobby. It demands strategic thinking, accounting, tax advice, professional management, research and more.

"Every time I've seen a person make a blunder in property investment, it was because they didn't manage their portfolio like a business," says Kriek.

Growthpoint Properties issues R1 billion 10-year bond

GROWTHPOINT Properties has issued a R1 billion senior unsecured bond with a 10-year maturity.

The offering came after strong investor interest in long-term Growthpoint debt, which the sole arranger, Standard Bank, successfully executed as a private placement of R1 billion.

The 10-year note was placed at a margin of 185bps above three-month JIBAR, the most favourable pricing achieved in a number of years. The issue attracted multiple investors, reflecting the market's continued trust and confidence in Growthpoint.

"We are delighted with the strong support received from our investor base and the success of the long-dated debt issuance, especially given the current global turmoil and local market challenges," says Estienne de Klerk, SA CEO of Growthpoint Properties.

"In the last 12 months, Growthpoint has managed to raise close to R2.5 billion of 10-year funding in the listed bond market at compressing spreads. This demonstrates the strength of Growth-



Estienne de Klerk, SA CEO of Growthpoint Properties.

point's credit quality and the long tenure of the bonds is a vote of confidence from investors in the future of the business," says Carl Wiesner, Head, Syndicate (South Africa) at Standard Bank Group, Debt Capital Markets.

Growthpoint has both Fitch and Moody's credit ratings. Its Fitch global scale rating is BB+ and national scale rating is AAA.za and its Moody's global scale rating is Ba2 and national scale rating is Aa1.za.

Its latest issuance reaffirms Growthpoint's robust access to debt capital markets. Growthpoint, being an active issuer in the debt capital markets, also recently won the Bonds, Loans & ESG Capital Markets Africa

Award 2024 for Real Estate Finance Deal of the Year for its R910m bond issue in October 2023, for which Standard Bank was also the book-runner.

The company also successfully privately placed a R1bn Green Bond for 10 (R650m) and seven years (R350m). A portion of the proceeds of the Green Bond will be used to finance renewable energy projects for its property portfolio.

Growthpoint signs landmark wind-hydro-solar PPA deal

Growthpoint recently signed a landmark Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Etana Energy for 195GWh of renewable energy a year, representing

32% of its total current annual electricity consumption (612GWhs in FY23) in addition to its long-standing investment in solar plants at its properties, furthering its climate commitment of being carbon neutral by 2050.

The deal has set in motion the country's first multi-jurisdiction, multi-building, multi-source renewable energy wheeling arrangement, and will enable Growthpoint's tenants to access green energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

Through this agreement, Etana will cover 70% of the power consumed by Growthpoint's participating buildings, and in some buildings, Growthpoint will even be able to provide its tenants with the ability to purchase 100% renewable energy and actively drive carbon reduction.

The wheeled renewable energy will mainly consist of wind, with a smaller component of hydro and large-scale solar electricity. The combination of generation sources allows for a high coverage of Growthpoint's energy use, as electricity is generated throughout the day and night.

Cape Town's luxury residential market proved resilient in 2023 despite successive interest rate hikes

ACCORDING to The Wealth Report, Knight Frank's flagship research report – prime residential prices surprised on the upside in 2023.

Of the 100 markets tracked in Knight Frank's Prime International Residential Index (PIRI), 80 recorded flat or positive annual price growth. Luxury prices climbed 3.1% on average in 2023 – a solid gain overall.

Manila (26%) leads the rankings but Dubai (16%), last year's front-runner only slipped one spot. The Bahamas (15%) comes in third place with the Algarve and Cape Town (both 12,3%) completing the top five.

Asia-Pacific (3,8%) pipped the Americas (3,6%) to the title of the strongest-performing world region, with Europe, the Middle East and Africa trailing (2,6%). Sun locations continue to outperform city and ski markets, up 4,7% on average. Ski resorts are close behind

(3,3%) and prime prices in the city market tracked have risen 2,7% on average.

"Along with rising prices, we have also seen an increase in the number of properties that have traded in the prime market. The favourable currency for foreigners, as well as unmatched value for money lifestyle continues to attract both local and international buyers to Cape Town," said

Nick Gaertner, director and COO of Knight Frank South Africa.

"With the city being well managed relative to the rest of South Africa, together with its prime location regarding its proximity to some of the world's best known wine-lands, mountain trails and Blue Flag beaches, the influx of buyers and resulting upward price shift is expected to continue for the foreseeable future," Gaertner adds.

"At the start of 2023, economists were expecting a much weaker outcome across global residential property

markets. Stock markets were heading for more pain, inflation was veering out of control and the pandemic-fuelled property boom was set to end in tears as borrowing costs hit 15-year highs in some markets. However, that never happened – we've seen a much softer landing in terms of price performance around the world," Kate Everett-Allen, head of international residential and country research at Knight Frank says.

As markets adjusted to the higher cost of debt, sales took a bigger hit than prices. In London, New York, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney luxury sales declined on average by 37% year-on-year. Some markets corrected after strong falls due to rapid rate hikes (Auckland, Seoul), while others moved up the rankings in part due to supply shortages (Sydney, Singapore). Some were influenced by policy and tax shifts, easing (Hong Kong), or tightening

(Los Angeles), and some markets benefited from significant wealth inflows (Dubai, Miami).

Cape Town's luxury residential market proved resilient in 2023 despite successive interest rate hikes.

Prices in both New York and London dipped around 2% in 2023 and sit 8% and 17% below their most recent peaks respectively, presenting a strong opportunity for prospective buyers. Iberia proved a hotspot, occupying five of the top 20 rankings with the Algarve (12,3%) and Ibiza (12%) leading the pack.

Liam Bailey, global head of research at Knight Frank said, "As wealth portfolios recovered in 2023, affluent buyers targeted residential property in the world's luxury markets. While 24% of global UHNWIs were active in the market, inventory was down by almost a third, adding upwards pressure to prices."

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Emira Property Fund finalises scheme of arrangement resulting in Transcend Residential Property Fund becoming wholly owned

IN 2018, Emira took its first 34,9% stake in the then JSE-listed REIT Transcend, thereby diversifying its investments to include the value suburban multifamily residential rental property segment.

Since the initial investment, shifts in the market saw the appetite for small-cap stocks dry up and, being very illiquid, there was no longer value in Transcend remaining listed. Emira responded by increasing its ownership in Transcend with a view to bringing it in-house. Emira grew its holding in Transcend to 68%, eventually reaching 100% late last year. Subsequently, Transcend has been delisted from the JSE.

Geoff Jennett, CEO of Emira Property Fund, comments, "Our journey with Transcend is a success story for Emira. We partnered

with the right asset management team to advance our diversification and earn good returns."

Jennett adds, "We are pleased to have successfully converted a good indirect equity investment into a wholly owned subsidiary, adding another powerful lever to Emira's overall diversified strategy. Residential property now represents about 16% of our South African portfolio, although this is likely to change in line with market opportunities."

This transaction continues Emira's track record of advancing its strategies incrementally, starting by taking an initial position in opportune investments to establish a springboard from which to assess, create and grow value for shareholders over time.

Emira's investment

approach has played out advantageously in its take-up and subsequent sale of a stake in Growthpoint Properties Australia and its co-founding and accretive sale of its stake in specialist retail fund Enyuka.

This tactic is also driving Emira's incremental investment into the US where its asset-by-asset capital allocation approach with in-country specialist co-investment partner, The Rainier Companies, has secured a meaningful 19% of Emira's asset base offshore in equity investments of R2,8 billion comprising 12 grocery-anchored open-air convenience shopping centres.

Jennett notes, "At Emira, we actively manage our capital allocation, and constantly assess assets for their optimal use and act accordingly. There

is nothing passive about our approach to our assets even though it does take time."

Emira has a diversified portfolio that is balanced with a mix of assets across sectors and geographies. In South Africa, Emira's 91-property strong portfolio includes commercial (retail, office and industrial) and residential assets valued at R12.1 billion.

Ensuring consistency for the Transcend portfolio's 4,000 tenants, the properties will continue to be managed by highly-regarded International Housing Solutions (IHS) while also benefitting from greater alignment with Emira's systems and a bigger bank of industry knowledge, which includes a wealth of experience across property sectors as well as solar PV plants, biodiversity and community projects.

Political and economic certainty will boost SA residential property sales



ESTATE agents surveyed by Lightstone at the end of 2023 say political and economic certainty will lead to better residential property sales after a disappointing 2023, where less than 40% said they achieved volume or value sales targets.

"Most estate agents say economic uncertainty will have the biggest impact on residential property sales improving..."

Although South Africa faces hurdles in 2024 that might impact sales – from government interventions (the repo rate, the State of the Nation address, the National Budget), to the general election and the raft of socio-economic factors that affected sales in 2023 – most estate agents in Lightstone's annual sentiment survey were optimistic that 2024 would be a better year for the residential market.

Some 73% of estate agents felt they would hit volume targets in 2024, with marginally less (72%) saying they would hit value targets – both figures, interestingly, nearly double those agents said they achieved in 2023.

While economic and political uncertainty in South Africa were the major concerns expressed by estate agents, global political and economic uncertainty came next, although tensions in other parts of the world could benefit the local market.

Other negative features weighing down estate agent sentiment included unemployment, loadshedding, water-shedding and uncertainty around land expropriation. Positive factors, although not weighted as highly, included foreign investor interest,

an increasing number of young buyers and the recovery of the tourism sector.

What will impact the property market's recovery?

Most estate agents say economic uncertainty will have the biggest impact on residential property sales improving, followed by political uncertainty and a drop in the unemployment rate.

Depleting value

Sale values were driven down, estate agents said, because of a cocktail of instability, including rising interest rates, loadshedding, overpriced stock, a paucity of new developments, failing municipalities and the deterioration of areas, and rising crime and lack of safety and security.

What are buyers looking for?

Gated communities were increasingly popular as security topped the list of buyer needs, followed by lifestyle and amenities and space to work from home.

Alternative energy sources was fourth at 15%, indicative of concern around load shedding, and estate agents said 6% of buyers were looking for properties to rent.

On the flip side, most sellers (see table below) were either relocating to another town or province (21%) or downscaling because of lifestyle changes (21%).

Financial difficulties forced 17% to downscale, and 14% sold because they were emigrating. Just 7% were upscaling to a better suburb or higher valued property, and the same percentage were upscaling due to lifestyle change.

The impact of interest rates on the market

Unsurprisingly, 46% of estate agents said rising interest rates will negatively impact sales, while 41% felt there would be no impact.

The repo rate was not adjusted in late January, but further adjustments, upwards or downwards, should be anticipated if circumstances require.

On the positive side, while rising interest rates may put off some homebuyers, more than 50% of Estate Agents think it will push house rentals up and increase demand in the buy-to-let market.

Mixed trends

Despite the optimism for a better 2024, the trends evident in 2023 were a mixed bag, with the state of the economy and its impact on consumers and homeowners wanting safety and security dominating.

Estate agents were asked whether they noticed "anything different that happened in the property market during the past year", and generally, responses indicated that political and/or economic uncertainty were the main drivers.

Buyers were increasingly looking for secure properties and gated communities were in demand, while more sellers were emigrating or semigrating, with the Western Cape particularly popular to buyers and sellers wanting to move out of Gauteng and KZN.

Tough economic conditions in South Africa and concern at instability around the world were driving people to downscale or relocate or stay out of the market altogether.

On the positive side, estate agents noted that young black buyers were on the increase, as were white women.

Vukile raises R1 billion in equity as it eyes growth opportunities

VUKILE Property Fund will issue R1 billion of new ordinary shares, following a successful accelerated book build. The equity raised will boost Vukile's financial agility to capitalise on a pipeline of growth opportunities, aligned with its well-established long-term strategy.

Vukile is a specialist retail real estate investment trust (REIT) developed on the foundation of a well-defined, specialised growth strategy, with a focus on owning dominant retail assets across South Africa and Spain. Vukile adopts a proactive approach to asset management and a strong focus on customer-centricity as the driver of stakeholder value creation.

Vukile's assets are valued at around R40 billion, with 40% in South Africa and 60% in Spain. The Spanish assets are held in the 99.5% Vukile-owned Madrid-listed subsidi-



Source: <https://www.vukile.co.za/>

ary, Castellana Properties Socimi.

Both South African and Spanish portfolios continue to deliver excellent results and solid performance unlocking value from the well-crafted portfolio of properties, most of which are dominant in their respective catchment areas. The company's strong performance indicators, clear strategy and market confidence in Vukile's prospects and performance strategic investment opportunities.

Laurence Rapp, CEO of Vukile Prop-

erty Fund, says, "As part of Vukile's ongoing growth strategy, we have identified and are evaluating an attractive pipeline of financially accretive, strategically aligned metrics with Vukile's proactive asset management announcement that it would exceed the upper end of its guidance for FY2024 of growth in FFO per track record of delivery underpin. Earlier this month, Vukile's share of 4% to 6% as well as growth in dividend per share of 8% to 10% was met with enthusiasm by investors. Vukile

intends to deploy the proceeds of the equity raise into direct property acquisition opportunities in both South Africa and Spain. Pricing remains fragmented in the current market environment, which rewards certainty and speed of execution.

The capital raised will place Vukile in a financially agile position underpinned by a strong balance sheet and enhanced funding optionality."

Vukile remains firmly focused on maintaining a conservative balance sheet as its foundation for efficient capital management. In the short term, the proceeds of the equity raise will be used to temporarily reduce borrowings in anticipation of the closing of potential acquisitions. The capital raise will also reduce Vukile's loan-to-value ratio.

Investec Bank Limited acted as the sole bookrunner for the equity raise.

Work-from-home goes back to the office

THE dynamics of the workspace are changing – again.

The office is going back to normal (ish!), and many large corporates are asking team members to return to the office at least a few days a week. But the work-from-home experience of the Covid pandemic has shifted the way we think about workspaces – maybe forever.

Corporates have had a reset, and have begun to think about how they can help individuals and teams to feel more inspired.

More and more, they're asking designers to create workspaces that encourage collaboration, offer better functionality, and help productivity and creativity. And, crucially, they want to ensure an element of calm. Among the trends that are showing up are preferences for warmer timber finishes, with

touches of blues, greens and whites, embracing the theme of biophilia wherever possible. It's a trend South African tile manufacturer, Ceramic Industries, had already anticipated, and there are several biophilia-style tiles that designers are incorporating.

Greater emphasis is also being placed on creating an element of privacy and separation, as a learning from the work-from-home phenomenon.

Designers are being tasked with creating functional, professional spaces that are distinct from the home space but that still offer some sanctuary. One approach they're applying is the use of ceramic tiles as a statement floor covering that ensures each space is individualised.

These ideas are being applied in home-office and corporate spaces, with inspiration being

taken from examples all over the world.

Thanks to social media, design ideas know no borders, and customers expect global trends to be available locally. Again, Ceramic Industries has been able to answer the call, with fashionable styles being constantly produced in their state-of-the-art local factories. Following international trends, their large-format tiles have been immensely popular because they're able to inject an element of luxury, and customers are electing to spend a little more to create custom spaces.

In recent years, South African customers have been prioritising good environmental and social responsibility credentials in their consideration set, and Ceramic Industries scores high here too.

Their proudly South African factories use locally sourced clay, and

their energy-efficient kilns recycle heat – just two examples of their long-term, comprehensive approach to sustainable operations.

They're also deeply engaged with the communities in which they operate, with upliftment programmes for schools and creches, bursaries for local school leavers, supplier development and environmental education.

As work and living spaces change in our dynamic post-pandemic world, customers expect the products on offer to meet their needs, and even anticipate new ones. It's good to know that in South Africa we have at least one manufacturer that can deliver the goods. Ceramic Industries is well positioned to offer local, eco-conscious production combined with world-class quality and world-leading trends.

Enviro-walls: The preferred solution

WHEN an effective stormwater attenuation solution was sought for a retirement village, the engineer specified Technicrete's Enviro-wall Retaining Wall System as the preferred product.

The Eldoraige Village Retirement Centre in Zwartkops, situated upon a sloping hillside, has large quantities of installed paving that hinders the natural infiltration of stormwater.

To avoid exceeding capacity of, and preventing the municipal drainage system from overflowing, the engineer designed an attenuation pond at the lowest point on the site, with Technicrete's Enviro-wall System constructed as the supporting walls.

The attenuation pond will capture the peak rain and runoff flow during a storm event and allow for

a slow and steady discharge into the municipal system that is within municipal requirements, ensuring that installed infrastructure does not flood and thereby avoiding flooding of this area and its surrounds.

retaining wall system. Opening or closing the spacing between the blocks means that the Enviro-wall structure configuration can be altered so that the open arrangement cavities between adjacent blocks can be filled with soil, enabling

"It's easy to install, cost-effective and offers a variety of visual effects that are achievable due to its reversible block versatility."

Project manager for Kazan Construction, Wimpie Heenop said: "This was the first time we have been tasked with the construction of an attenuation pond water retention system. Technicrete advisors supplied us with the technical support we required to install the Enviro-wall blocks throughout the development of this project. We honestly could not have completed it to the high standard that we have done, without that support. The site engineer is extremely satisfied with the finished product."

"Technicrete took cognisance of our delivery requirements and never defaulted which assisted in keeping the project on schedule. The care of the Technicrete team in the manufacture and transportation of the Enviro-wall blocks ensured that very few broken blocks arrived on site eliminating the need to wait on more stock to arrive. We would happily work with Technicrete on any future projects," Hennops adds.

"Ten thousand 275mm x 300mm blocks were used on this project which was completed in February 2023," said Arno Smuts, sales consultant at Technicrete.

"It's easy to install, cost-effective and offers a variety of visual effects that are achievable due to its reversible block versatility. Kazan Construction had not been exposed to our Enviro-wall system before, and they were suitably impressed by its design, quality and application simplicity" said Smuts.

Constructed from dry stacked interlocking, precast blocks, the simplicity of the Enviro-wall design enables the blocks to be easily and quickly laid to form an effective

the moisture in these spaces to promote rapid plant growth. It can also be installed as a solid engineering structure.

A wide range of retaining wall/embankment heights can be accommodated by the system. The geofabric layers can be effectively locked between the Enviro-wall blocks for additional stability, creating a reinforced wall design.

The angle of inclination of the wall may be set by using the base block at 70°. Technicrete's engineering team can assist in the event that other sites require differing angles.

The wall accommodates both concave or convex alignments, down to a relatively small (2m) radius of curvature. Enviro-wall structures accommodate moderate ground settlement while foundation requirements will vary according to wall height and underlying soil conditions.

"Technicrete has a reputation not only for its expertise in the design and manufacture of precast concrete products for the infrastructure sector, but also for the expertise its engineering team brings to site to assist in the provision of the right solution for any challenge our customers may be facing. This is something that we at Technicrete are exceptionally proud of," concluded Smuts.

Enviro-wall is suitable for earth embankments, bridge abutments, cut slopes, landscaping of cut and fill areas around buildings, a protection for steep channels and river banks as well as culvert inlets and outlets.

Technicrete and Rocla are part of the Infrastructure Specialist Group of companies (ISG).

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Whether you know the name for it or not, biophilia is a trend you probably already love. It's all about bringing elements of nature indoors, whether with living plants or with décor elements like the Strelizia Feature. Ceramic Industries takes the notion even further, with locally sourced clay and energy-efficient kilns, making sure we respect the natural world at every step.

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Earth retaining for luxury estate in South Africa



KINGSHILL Development, The Keep and New Land Developments started construction in 2021 on ten exclusive 650-800 m² homes in Bishopscourt, Western Cape.

Immediately they were faced with steep, heavily contoured ground, necessitating extensive earth retaining walls. The Terraforce retaining system was specified as the best solution, offering a block that is unique in its versatility, both in application and elevation.

Each of the luxury homes – featuring tennis courts, lap pools, steam rooms, temperature-controlled wine cellars and multi-car garages – required raised building platforms to create enough space for large front and backyards, to accommodate these amenities.

The resulting cut slopes were stabilised with Terraforce L12 blocks in charcoal, with the round face of the block facing outwards. Selecting the round face finish is what allowed space for topsoil, and ultimately, the addition of ten different indigenous ground creepers, planted meticulously by Alan Dawson Gardens.

Says Jeremy Leighton, Decorton Retaining Walls: “In total, 30 000 blocks were installed by us on site, our first project with the Terraforce® L12 block in charcoal and a round face finish. There were some complications with storm water damage after the extremely strong storms this winter. As specified by Terrasafe, surface storm water channels are a crucial part of the retaining wall installation, to

inhibit water ingress. This prevents heavy rainfall damaging the retaining walls.”

Adds Leighton: “The design parameters by Denis Belter, Gadomski Consulting Engineers, stipulated that each of the cut slopes was to be retained with three two metre Terraforce retaining walls at 70-degree angles, except for the walls running along the back boundary of the Estate, and where mature trees had to be circumnavigated.

The bottom third of each terraced wall is concrete filled and

some of the larger walls are geogrid reinforced. Each wall is fitted with subsoil drainage and sand drainage layers running along the back of the cut embankments.”

For more than 40 years, Terraforce, Cape Town based pre-cast concrete manufacturer, specialising in modular, hollow core concrete blocks, has maintained a strong foothold in the South African Concrete Retaining Walls market, while the past decade has seen steady expansion into the international playing field.

The construction sector has one of the biggest carbon footprints in the world

THE construction sector has one of the biggest carbon footprints in the world. It is responsible for almost 40% of global CO₂ emissions. The high emissions are not only based on fossil fuel driven energy consumption, also the reliance of concrete or steel as building materials has a very negative impact on the overall carbon footprint.

A new report from Allianz Commercial, is taking a closer look at a much more sustainable building material: mass timber.

This material has the potential to be a critical building component for the cities of the near future. It is renewable, comes with lower costs and less CO₂ emissions. But, even if mass timber has so many advantages, there are still risks such as fire, floods, earthquakes or termites that need to be mitigated.

These are the key findings:

Sustainable construction: use of mass timber offers a short and medium-term solution for the construction industry to lower its massive carbon footprint. Mass timber emits significantly less CO₂ with



around 50% less than concrete and more than 25% less than steel. Furthermore, it is more cost-efficient but as durable as concrete and steel.

Growth potential: Although the global mass timber construction market is still a niche market, it has an enormous growth potential. It generated US\$857 million in 2021 and is forecast to hit \$1,5 billion by 2031, with a CAGR of 6%.

Fire as main risk for mass timber: Mass timber is still wood, and fire is the primary hazard concern. Fire is already the most expensive cause of all construction / engineering insurance losses, accounting for more than a quarter (27%) of the value of 22 000 claims analyzed over a five-year period, according to Allianz.

Mass timber

reduces construction's carbon footprint, but introduces new risk scenarios

Mass timber has the potential to be a critical building component for the cities of the near future given the need for the construction sector to reduce its reliance on concrete and steel to lower its CO₂ emissions.

However, as this market grows and mass timber buildings evolve to greater heights, the construction risk landscape will also be transformed, bringing risk management challenges for companies, according to the new Emerging Risk Trend Talk report from Allianz Commercial.

“The emergence of mass timber as a sustainable construction alternative represents a significant opportunity for the building sector to reduce its carbon

footprint while also satisfying a demand for a material that is more cost-efficient but as durable as steel and concrete,” says Michael Bruch, global head of risk advisory services at Allianz Commercial.

“However, in any industry, deployment of new materials or processes can result in new risk scenarios, potential defects, or unexpected safety consequences, as well as bringing benefits, and mass timber is no different.

Given this market's expected future growth, companies should do all they can to develop a greater understanding of their exposures including fire, water damage, repetitive loss scenarios and even termite infestation, and ensure they have robust loss prevention measures in place to combat these.”



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Bedfordview, Gauteng, South Africa

Spun concrete electrification poles offer greater longevity and reduce vandalism

THERE are estimates that over R22 billion in revenue has been lost due to illegal electricity connections, with over R7 billion lost in Gauteng alone.

It is not just the loss of revenue that is of concern to suppliers of power or municipalities; there are safety issues as well. Illegal electricity connections are a major cause of electrical fires and electrocutions, in addition to the impact on traffic and medical facility management due to more frequent load shedding.

In order to install electricity-carrying equipment that significantly reduces vandalism while offering an increased lifespan, Lyon and Partners Consultants for the Sicelo Informal Settlement, near Vereeniging, turned to Rocla for the supply of precast concrete spun electrification poles due to their design and manufacturing expertise, which would not only safeguard the power installations but also the Sicelo community.

Rocla sales consultant Kevin West said, “The implementation of electricity supply to Sicelo was a project that needed a customised electrification concrete pole solution. Our technical team met with the consultants and the engineers for the Sicelo Informal Settlement project and undertook the manufacture and supply of their final design specifications required for this five-phase project.”

“Our ability to customise, manufacture, and deliver over 105 concrete spun electrification poles within the required timeframes was a key factor in our successful partnership. We were manufacturing two poles per day for Phases One, Two, and Three. We are now in production for Phases Four and Five. A safe electricity supply to informal settlements is a priority. It uplifts the community, and we are proud partners with Lyon and Partners in the supply of infrastructure that will meet their

objectives,” commented West.

Rocla has manufactured and supplied 11 metre/160mm tip/8.5kN spun poles and 9 metre/160mm tip/8.5kN spun poles. The company is currently manufacturing 9 metre and 11 metre spun poles for Phase Five of the project.

Transmission and distribution power lines in suburban and rural areas need poles that can withstand not only vandalism but also harsh environments and inclement weather in order to ensure the continuous supply of electricity. Rocla’s spun concrete transmission and distribution poles are well suited to meet the stringent requirements of electrical distribution line construction.

The durability of precast concrete makes it a far superior and sustainable alternative to the other options that were presented. Wooden poles had previously been used but were prone to vandalism, fire, and termite attack,

as well as being an easy target for illegal power installations.

The maintenance-free spun concrete poles are exceptionally strong through 360 degrees, whereas normal cast concrete poles have a major and minor load axis. The unique centrifugal manufacturing process gives a uniform, densely compacted concrete along the whole length of the pole. This gives the Rocla spun concrete pole superior strength properties not found in cast concrete poles.

Spun concrete transmission and distribution poles offer a cost-effective solution due to their small service requirements, simple and economical funding methods, and quicker installation turnaround time. They offer a durable, long-term solution with minimal maintenance. Rocla spun concrete pole systems are Eskom-approved and have been tested at Eskom’s Rosherville Testing Station.

Stiles launches its first in-house brand of tiles

STILES, a pioneer in the South African tile industry, proudly announces the launch of its inaugural in-house tile brand, aptly named ‘Etienne Tiles’ in honour of its founder, the late Etienne Joubert and launched on Etienne’s birthday, 18 September.

Established in March 2000 by George local, Etienne Joubert and his son Steve Joubert, Stiles has been a symbol of quality and innovation in the tile market. This new venture pays homage to the visionary founder, who tragically passed away in May of this year, just before the official launch of the brand ‘Etienne Tiles’.

Etienne Joubert was an ardent admirer of South Africa’s breathtaking landscapes, often embarking on adventurous motorcycle journeys to capture the nation’s mountains, seas, fauna, and flora through his lens. It is this profound love for the country that



inspired the design of the ‘Etienne Tiles’ ranges, including the recently unveiled collections: Outeniqua, Griqua, Highveld, and Silt, all of which vividly reflect the splendour of South Africa’s natural beauty.

Steve Joubert, Etienne’s son and the current CEO of Stiles, shared his sentiments on this tribute: “My dad gave me an incredible opportunity as a young man. We built Stiles together. Having spent so much time together, I caught his

vision for the tile market in South Africa and was able to run with it when he no longer could. I wanted to honour him and the legacy he built by naming Stiles’ first in-house product after him. I’m so glad he got to see this dream come to life before he passed on.”

All current ranges of Etienne Tiles are now available in Stiles showrooms nationwide.

Visit our website to explore this exquisite brand or to locate a showroom near you.

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Technical Finishes: A new era in flooring excellence

WHEN it comes to industrial and commercial flooring, business owners know how important it is to choose the correct flooring solution at the outset.

Installing superior, quality flooring that lasts even under the most extensive wear and tear conditions, be it from constant foot traffic, heavy equipment, corrosive chemicals, temperature fluctuations or many of the other conditions is essential for production success.

Technical flooring specialists

Partnering with a specialist flooring company such as Technical Finishes is the solution. Technical Finishes' comprehensive range of specialist flooring products include thin film, durable epoxy, polyurethane coatings and high-performance heavy-duty systems ranging from 1-2mm chemical resistant epoxy linings and 6-9mm polyurethane screeds, each designed to withstand the harshest conditions found across industrial and commercial environments.

A new era in flooring excellence

Following the successful acquisition of Technical Finishes SA (PTY) Ltd (TFSA) by Saint-Gobain Construction Products South Africa (PTY) Ltd (SGCP), a strategic move which marks an exciting milestone for both companies and for the South Africa construction market, we are now able to push forward with a shared vision of becoming the leading suppliers of specialist polyurethane and epoxy flooring.

Technical Finishes' industry leading Polyscreed® industrial flooring systems have without a doubt become the choice for discerning architects, specifiers and contractors in Sub Saharan Africa.

Their expertise and continued focus on research and development deliver aesthetically pleasing floors, designed to function optimally under a range of conditions – be it flooring for extreme corrosion environments such as chemical plants, to flooring for food and beverage facilities, for hospitals, warehouses, shopping centres or lifestyle estates.

Technical Finishes offers over 30 years' experience and expertise, with direct access to qualified chemists and technical experts for the development of tailor-made flooring solutions, as well

as access to our vast network of accredited installers.

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Pic source: <https://technicalfinishes.com/custom-terrazzo-flooring-for-food-brand/>

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Hiab launches two new MULTILIFT hooklifts for heavy-duty and reduced carbon emissions



Commitment to sustainability

“For many customers sustainability is a key purchase criterion alongside productivity and safety. We’re proud to give customers the option to purchase hooklifts made with recycled steel that has a significantly lower carbon footprint. As part of our dedication to sustainability, we’re always looking at creating solutions to reduce energy consumption, such as expanding capacity or the Performance Package,” says Henri Janhonen, Vice President, Sales & Product Management, Demountables, Hiab.

HIAB, part of Car-gotec, launches two new MULTILIFT hooklifts, the versatile heavy-duty MULTILIFT Ultima 28Z and MULTILIFT Ultima ZERO, made with low-emission recycled steel. Both new hooklifts can help customers reduce carbon emissions in their operations.

most demanding tasks faster, with fewer hauls. It is very easy to use and safe, which makes it ideal for customers who have multiple drivers for the same vehicle. Hooklifts in the Z range have a low loading angle suited for handling fragile goods and height limited environments.

Reducing carbon emissions

The MULTILIFT Ultima ZERO is available as an option for several Ultima hooklifts with 20-tonne to 30-tonne capacity. Offering the same benefits and properties

as the regular models, up to 25% of the steel structure is replaced with recycled steel made with an electric arc furnace and renewable electricity. This reduces 15% of the carbon emissions from the production phase. Emissions can be further reduced by up to 25% in the use phase with the Performance Package included in Ultima ZERO. The MULTILIFT Performance Package reduces emissions and noise by allowing the hooklift to be operated with fewer revolutions per minute by the truck engine and faster operations.

Safe and easy-to-use heavy-duty hooklift

Combining unmatched versatility and durability with a heavy-duty 28-tonne lifting capacity, MULTILIFT Ultima 28Z lets customers complete the

Unmatched strength: The 750-ton gantry crane giant debut



THE 750-ton double girder gantry crane manufactured by Henan Kuangshan-Crane for a project in Zhejiang Province was officially put into use.

This 750 tons double girder gantry crane is used in the dock to lift goods from the ship to the shore or the transport truck, adopting the double trolley form, there is a fixed single girder gantry above for the maintenance of the trolley, and the load test of the crane was carried out after installation. In addition 750 tons double girder gantry crane has the following features:

“This 750 tons double girder gantry crane is used in the dock to lift goods from the ship to the shore or the transport truck...”

ship to the shore or the transport truck, adopting the double trolley form, there is a fixed single girder gantry above for the maintenance of the trolley, and the load test of the crane was carried out after installation. In addition 750 tons double girder gantry crane has the following features:

- Multi-protection, safety is guaranteed: the crane has a whole car safety monitoring system, the whole car using

PLC + inverter communication control, multi-lift point synchronous control automatically adjust the balance, running more smoothly, safe and reliable.

- Intelligent positioning, accurate and more efficient: according to the requirements of the special working conditions of the project, it adopts single-side double track design, effectively reducing the large truck wheel pressure, saving construction costs, equipped with automatic positioning system, more accurate and efficient.

- Energy saving and consumption reduction, smoother lifting: the use of high-strength special steel, not only to ensure the safety of the structure, but also in the case of equivalent load continuous operation, improve the efficiency of lifting, the whole vehicle adopts high-voltage 10KV power supply, heavy weights in the process of automatic recovery of electricity, energy saving up to 25-30%.

Henan Kuangshan-Crane based on intelligent, green, high-quality development of intellectual advantages, and continue to promote the transformation and upgrading from strong to fine, in order to promote the high-quality development of China's lifting equipment manufacturing industry to contribute.

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DEEP SEA TRAWLING INDUSTRY MARKS HISTORIC 50-YEAR MILESTONE

The South African Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association (SADSTIA) which represents companies engaged in the catching, processing and marketing of Cape hake, marks its 50th anniversary in March.

The anniversary comes just six months after the conclusion of a lengthy and demanding rights allocation process.

This process saw the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) allocate 15-year rights to the fishery, increasing the number of rights holders from 33 to 37.

Remarkably, SADSTIA members have achieved these gains at a time of fundamental structural change: whereas in 1992 there were no black-owned rights holders in the fishery, today the DFFE estimates 86% of rights are held by black-owned companies.

“The members of our association are very diverse. Some are small new entrants, whereas others are large, established companies with decades of experience in the hake deep-sea trawl fishery. Many of our members are themselves diversified and hold rights in other fisheries.”

“The fact that SADSTIA is celebrating its 50th anniversary is indicative of the strength and depth of the association.”

“Some companies supply the local market, usually the food service market, while others are geared towards the export market, supplying it with value-added retail products. Meeting the needs and expectations of small, medium and large members is not easy and at times it seems impossible, but the fact that SADSTIA is celebrating its 50th anniversary is indicative of the strength and depth of the association.”

Dwayi emphasises the importance of SADSTIA's relationship with government, saying it collaborates with the DFFE on a wide range of matters, from the science-based management of the deep-sea trawl fishery, to its administration, including the issuing of permits, the regular inspection of vessels and factories and the auditing of management activities by the MSC.

Currently, about 98% of rights holders in the deep-sea trawl fishery for hake are members of SADSTIA and the Association is working hard to achieve 100% membership, he added.

“In the past there were perceptions that SADSTIA is an association for bigger companies, but if you look at the current executive committee, you will see that small, medium and big businesses are represented. We want to make sure that we build SADSTIA into a strong association which will cater for all the sizes and types of businesses in the hake deep-sea trawl fishery.”



Innocent Dwayi, SADSTIA Chairman

In October 2023, SADSTIA welcomed the conclusion of the process, saying it would usher in a period of stability that will enable rights holders to invest, modernise and protect jobs.

Reflecting on the 50-year milestone, SADSTIA Chairman, Innocent Dwayi, said that the deep-sea trawling industry is today globally admired and locally valued as a jewel in the crown of the South African fishing industry.

The fishery contributes an estimated R8,5 billion rand to the South African economy annually and supports approximately 12 400 jobs, mostly in the Western Cape, but also in the Eastern Cape.

“Ours was the first hake fishery in the world to be certified as sustainable and well-managed by the Marine Stewardship Council which is widely recognised as the world's leading certification and eco-labelling programme for sustainable wild-caught seafood,” said Dwayi.

The South African trawl fishery for hake has been certified four times by the MSC: in 2004, 2009, 2015 and 2021. Over time, the MSC standard has become more stringent and the conditions of certification have become more demanding; this means that the fishery is meeting increasingly tough environmental targets.

A study conducted in 2016, determined that the MSC certification has enabled SADSTIA members to create new export markets in northern Europe where there is a high degree of consumer awareness of seafood sustainability. This has helped to sustain the value of the trawl fishery.

Sea Harvest Group announces another step in its growth ambitions



SEA Harvest Group intends to acquire 100% of Terrasan Group Limited's subsidiaries engaged in the catching, processing, and sale of pelagic fish, and 63,07% of Terrasan's subsidiaries engaged in the farming, processing and sale of abalone for an initial amount of R965 million.

As a part of the transaction, Sea Harvest will acquire Terrasan's pelagic fish business, West Point Fishing, which is based in St. Helena Bay on the West Coast of South Africa.

Employing more than 600 people, the business operates a fishing fleet that catches sardines and anchovies and produces fish oil and fish meal and canned fish.

In addition to the fishing business, Sea Harvest will also acquire a majority stake in Terrasan's

30-year-old, vertically integrated abalone business, Aquinion, one of South Africa's leading abalone businesses based in Hermanus and Gansbaai.

Employing 430 people, Aquinion produces and sells dried, canned and live abalone to a diversified customer base across the Far East.

"We are confident that the acquisition will create value and diversification into wild caught pelagic species and their processed products, including fish oil, fish meal and canned fish," said Sea Harvest Group CEO, Felix Ratheb.

"Furthermore, it will enable us to add value and scale to our own small sardine and anchovy pelagic quota where we currently have a small footprint; add a 118-year-old

brand to the Group thereby complementing our 60-year-old hake brand; counter the cyclicity of the pelagic fishery relative to the hake fishery and add a mature, cash generative abalone business with a diversified customer base and markets to our existing abalone operations."

Terrasan Group CEO Danie du Toit commented that Terrasan and Sea Harvest believe that a combined South African abalone business will benefit from scale and synergies created through the consolidation, leaving it well positioned as a South African champion to exploit international opportunities and successfully compete in its target markets.

Sea Harvest Group non-executive chairman, Fred Roberston

noted, "Central to our values as a company, the proposed transaction will benefit Terrasan employees by securing jobs and generating value for the beneficiaries of the Saldanha Foods Employee Trust and the local communities of Saldanha, St. Helena Bay, Gansbaai, Buffeljags, Kleinsee and Hermanus."

The initial purchase amount of R965 million for the transaction will be settled through R600 million in Sea Harvest shares and the balance in cash, together with two further performance linked earnout amounts.

Alluding to the portion of the purchase consideration that will be discharged by way of the issue of Sea Harvest shares to Terrasan, Terrasan chairman Stanley Subramoney says, "This will yield several positive outcomes for Terrasan, its shareholders and other stakeholders, including that it will retain its exposure to the fishing and aquaculture industries by merging into the larger, combined and more diversified post-transaction business of Sea Harvest."

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals, the approval of Sea Harvest and Terrasan shareholders, and conditions normal for a transaction of this nature.

Decarbonisation roadmap on GHG emissions reduction is on the roll

Development of South Africa Maritime Sector Decarbonisation Roadmap is now well on track following the inaugural roundtable meeting of the sectors' key role players, led by the Department of Transport (DoT) and the South African Maritime Authority (SAMSA).

THE ministerial roundtable on development of a Maritime Sector Decarbonisation Roadmap, held in February, is South Africa's response towards the fulfilment of its commitment to implementation of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) 2023 Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships.

The revised IMO GHG Strategy, according to SAMSA, includes an enhanced common ambition to reach net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping by or around 2050, a commitment to ensure an uptake of alternative zero and near-zero GHG fuels by 2030, as well as indicative checkpoints for 2030 and 2040.

Among other factors, 'indicative checkpoints' to reach net-zero GHG emissions from international shipping include strife for reduction of total annual GHG emissions from international shipping by at least 20%, striving for 30%, by 2030, compared to 2008; and reduction of total annual GHG emissions from international shipping by at least 70%, striving

for 80%, by 2040, compared to 2008.

South Africa as a member of the IMO, said SAMSA, has a responsibility to progress the decisions of the organisation, with SAMSA expected to lead the implementation of such decisions, in line with objective 3 of the SAMSA Act.

There had now developed concerns, however, that "with the adoption of the revised 2023 IMO GHG Strategy, South Africa is still to develop its own roadmap on achieving the vision and targets aimed at decarbonising shipping.

To advance the objectives of the GHG strategy and implementation of the developed IMO regulations aimed at decarbonising shipping, South Africa is still to finalise the legislative instrument to give effect to Annexure VI (Energy Efficiency of Ships) of the MARPOL Convention.

The roundtable discussion was aimed at initiating a crafting phase of South Africa's maritime approach and alignment to climate change programmes for purposes of GHG emissions reduction as

contained in the IMO strategy.

SAMSA said, the focus was on various issues, inclusive of an assessment of the country's strategic approach to the subject relative to its geographic location, the country's potential to produce clean fuels based on its renewable energy resources, the identification of possible green corridors, possible best approaches to leveraging economic opportunities such as clean fuels bunkering – over and above reduction of domestic emissions – and the potential impact of the entire exercise on the country's economy inclusive of trade.

In response to the Minister of Transport, Sindiwe Chikunga's call for action, in addition to SAMSA senior management as well as the entity's board chairperson, Mr Mahesh Fakir, participation included representatives of the IMO, South Africa ship owners and operators, the country's ports authority,, mining, environmental, energy, education and training, and related industry associated experts.

Netting maintenance tips: Prolonging the lifespan of your investment

Renco Nets advice on net maintenance.

WHEN it comes to netting, be it for sports, agriculture, or safety purposes, ensuring the longevity of your investment is paramount.

At Renco Nets, our commitment to quality is unwavering, and we understand that the key to durable nets lies in meticulous maintenance. In this blog post, we'll provide practical tips and advice on how businesses and individuals can care for their nets, safeguarding them against wear and tear.

- Regular Net Inspections are Key**

One of the fundamental aspects of netting main-

tenance is regular inspections. By conducting routine checks, you can identify any potential issues early on and address them before they escalate. Look out for signs of wear, loose threads, or damage. Prompt repairs can significantly extend the life of your nets.

- Net Cleaning Protocols**

Maintaining clean nets not only enhances their appearance but also contributes to their durability. Develop a regular cleaning routine based on the type of net and its usage. Remove



debris, dirt, and any contaminants that might compromise the integrity of the net. Mild soap and

water are often sufficient for cleaning, but be sure to follow any specific cleaning guidelines provided.

Credit: Bernard Spragg

- Proper Net Storage Practices**

When nets are not in use, proper

storage is crucial. Protect them from harsh weather conditions, especially prolonged exposure to sunlight, which can weaken the material over time. Consider storing nets in a dry and cool environment to prevent mould and mildew growth. Additionally, avoid folding or compressing nets unnecessarily, as this can lead to creases and damage.

- Training and Education**

Educate your staff or team members on proper netting usage and maintenance.

nance. Awareness of best practices can prevent accidental damage and promote a culture of responsibility towards the equipment. Training sessions can cover handling techniques, storage guidelines, and the importance of regular inspections.

Renco Nets is one of the UK's most versatile manufacturers of tailor-made nets and netting solutions.

For more than 25 years our nets and netting have been used in the UK and abroad, providing durable and effective solutions for a number of years.

Taking charge in Africa. One terminal at a time

SOLIFLO has worked closely with terminals and depots within the sub-Saharan region for decades, its original focus the supply of loading arms and safe tanker access systems.

Fast forward to the present and it is now providing fully integrated systems to encompass flow metering, additive and blending solutions together with vapour recovery and destruction solutions, and actively assisting oil companies and operators to bring their tank and terminal storage facilities up to international standards.

"Great strides are also being made in automated terminal management and in-transit monitoring and tracking of product and we recently completed the first of many terminal automation and additive systems for a major European company operating in East Africa," says Soliflo director, Phil Dawson.

"Over the years we have seen oil majors leave the continent and refining capacity dwindle, and this presents significant opportunity for the tank storage sector, which is growing and will continue to grow rapidly, to satisfy demand for product."

"The challenges we are facing relate in the main to poor infrastructure and lack of investment with most terminals outdated and still adopting top loading of product for example. We are, however, gratified to see an appetite for transformation and improvement."

SA in perspective

Soliflo has built collaborative working relationships with all the major players in the SA oil industry, all of which are operating substantial storage terminals with vast capacities, as well as distribution facilities, countrywide.

These include, but are not limited to, BP Southern Africa, Astron Energy, Engen Petroleum, PetroSA, Sasol Oil, Shell South Africa, TotalEnergies South Africa, Vopak, Bidvest Tank Terminals and Oiltanking.

"We are providing holistic solutions to the petroleum, oil, chemical and energy industries that not only get the job done, but also address environmental and sustainability concerns that challenge the industries," he explains.

Unfortunately, the obligatory client non-disclosure agreements that the company is required to sign, precludes Soliflo from providing specifics on any projects undertaken on their behalf.

"With our service teams working at full capacity, locally and internationally, and the recent awarding of a substantial petroleum industry tender, we are extremely upbeat about the year ahead."

Service and Support

Soliflo's locally and internationally (fac-

tory) trained technical service team members have years of experience in the fuel, chemical, loading and unloading and related sectors and in addition to SA, they cover the SADC, EAC and COMESA regions.

"It's a feather in our cap that they are in demand by several of our international prin-

cipals to undertake global project management work on their behalf; in particular, the assembly, installation and commissioning of marine loading arms," says Dawson.

Soliflo ranks as one of the leaders in the fields of liquid control and tank loading and unloading in Africa.



Marine loading arm installation by Soliflo



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TOP 10 energy infrastructure projects to watch in 2024 in africa

Africa Oil Week (AOW): Investing In African Energy Blog

AFRICA faces a substantial infrastructure challenge. According to the African Development Bank, the continent needs to allocate \$130bn to \$170bn annually to bridge its infrastructure deficit, while grappling with a financing shortfall ranging from \$68bn to \$108bn.

This impedes both its economic and social progress, on the back of a persisting energy deficit.

Most African countries are raising capital and attracting investments tackle this challenge by launching ambitious projects in energy, transport, and industry.

Here are our top 10 picks for 2024:

1. Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project, Mozambique

In Southern Africa, Mozambique will con-

tinue to progress its new 1 500MW dam on the Zambezi river, 60 km downstream of the existing Cahora Bassa dam. The \$5 billion project has been in the works since 1998 received a big boost last year following the signing of the joint development agreement between EDF (40%), TotalEnergies (30%) and Sumitomo Corporation (30%).

2. Mauritania-Mali transmission line

To increase regional electricity trade, West Africa is working towards a \$900 million project to build a 1 373km high-voltage power line between Mauritania and Mali, with a capacity of 600MW. It also includes a 50MW solar plant in Kiffa, Mauritania, and the connection of 100 000 new house-

holds to the grid. The project is part of a regional initiative to harness solar energy in the Sahel. It will also create a link in a planned power corridor that will connect Mauritania to Chad, passing through Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali.

Last December, the governments of both countries launched a call for bids on the project.

3. Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline

To further regional integration across West Africa, NNPC Ltd of Nigeria and ONHYM of Morocco continue to make progress on the future 5 600 km pipeline that will carry natural gas from Nigeria's Niger Delta to Morocco and Europe, passing through 13 African countries along

the Atlantic coast. It was announced in 2016 and is expected to cost \$25 billion. It will have a capacity of 10 billion cubic metres a year and could cost as much as \$25 billion.

4. Lake Albert refinery, Uganda

Uganda's future 60 000-barrel-a-day oil refinery in Hoima district needs a final investment decision (FID) this year if it wants to be ready on time to process domestic oil from its western region.

The \$4 billion refinery is part of Uganda's vision to develop its oil and gas sector, which also includes the EACOP pipeline to export oil to Tanzania. It will produce refined products such as petrol, diesel, kerosene, jet fuel and liquefied petroleum gas for the

domestic and regional markets – making it the only operational refinery in East Africa.

5. Namibia green hydrogen project

Namibia wants to establish its leadership over Africa's future hydrogen market with a \$9,4 billion project to produce green hydrogen from renewable sources, such as solar and wind, in the Tsau Khaeb national park, near the coastal town of Luderitz. It will cover an area of 4 000km² and have a capacity of 300 000 tons of green hydrogen a year.

The project is part of Namibia's strategy to become a green hydrogen superpower and a leader in the global energy transition.

6. Redstone concentrated solar power project, South Africa

The 100MW concentrated solar power (CSP) plant being built in the Humansrus solar park could finally be commissioned in 2024. It is part of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Pro-

gramme and will use ThermoVault technology, which combines solar thermal technology with molten salt energy storage, to provide reliable and dispatchable power even after sunset.

7. East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP)

The 1 443 km pipeline that will transport crude oil from Uganda's Lake Albert oil fields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania is generating much controversy but is critical to Uganda's natural resources development plan. It was announced in 2013 and is expected to cost \$5 billion, with a capacity of 216 000 barrels a day.

8. Julius Nyerere hydropower project, Tanzania

With a capacity of 2 115MW, the future Rufiji hydropower plant will be one of Africa's biggest hydroelectric dam once commissioned this year.

The plant is part of Tanzania's ambition to increase its power generation capacity and

increase its electricity supply domestically and regionally. It will notably support the development of industries and irrigation schemes in the country.

9. Richards Bay LNG terminal, South Africa

To decarbonise its power and industrial sector, South Africa is planning a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal in the port of Richards Bay, in the KwaZulu-Natal province. The multi-million-dollar facility is expected to have an annual capacity of 1 million metric tonnes of LNG, with the potential for expansion to 5 million metric tonnes by 2036.

10. Noor Midelt solar complex, Morocco

Already a leader in solar energy in Africa, Morocco is progressing a landmark and hybrid solar power plant that combines concentrated solar power (CSP) and photovoltaic (PV) technologies, in the Midelt province of Morocco. It is expected to cost \$2,4 billion and have a capacity of 800MW.



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TotalEnergies expands its presence in the Orange Basin with a new offshore exploration license

TOTALENERGIES has signed, together with its partner QatarEnergy, an agreement to acquire participating interests in Block 3B/4B, offshore South Africa, from Africa Oil South Africa, Azinam and Ricocure.

Following completion of the transaction, TotalEnergies will hold a 33% participating interest in Block 3B/4B and assume operatorship, while QatarEnergy will hold a 24% interest.

The remaining interests will be held by existing license holders, Africa Oil SA (17%), Ricocure (19,75%) and Azinam (6,25%).

Azinam is a wholly owned subsidiary of Eco Atlantic Oil and Gas.

Though now value was given byTotalEnergies for the deal, Energy Capital Power reports that the deal was worth \$2 5 million

and that the block is estimated to hold about four billion barrels of oil equivalent.

The transaction is subject to final approvals from relevant authorities. Located within the prolific Orange basin, 200 km off the western coast of South Africa, Block 3B/4B covers an area of 17 581km².

Block 3B/4B is adjacent to the DWOB license operated by TotalEnergies (50%) alongside QatarEnergy (30%) and Sezigyn (20%).

“Following the Venus success in Namibia, TotalEnergies is continuing to progress its Exploration effort in the Orange Basin, by entering this promising exploration license in South Africa”, said Kevin McLachlan, senior vice-president exploration of TotalEnergies.

TotalEnergies also

plans to develop a 120 MW solar plant and a 140 MW wind farm in the Northern Cape province to supply green electricity to the Sasol's Secunda site, where Air Liquide operates the biggest oxygen production site in the world.

TotalEnergies has been present in South Africa since 1954, when it started distributing petroleum products. Today the company is a leading player in Renewables, Fuel Marketing & Services, Lubricant Blending, Refining and Exploration & Production.

It has a network of 550 retail sites, LPG distribution nationwide for all domestic energy needs, solar and wind renewable energies, including the Prieska solar power plant, which has been supplying more than 70 000 homes with electricity since 2016.

Avoid plant failures by extinguishing quickly with foam

FIRE protection is a major challenge in chemical and petrochemical production, says DoseTech, a leader in fire protection and fire dosing technology. Many highly flammable substances are processed with varying risks of fire hazards and explosive potential. In older facilities, different fire protection standards were implemented, depending on the age of the chemical plant.

No matter if a monitor or a sprinkler system is used: foam is

often the preferred system of choice.

Goods to be protected:

- Highly flammable substances such as oils, fuels, solvents or liquids containing alcohol

Requirements to the extinguishing technology

From the perspective of fire protection, three areas at petrochemical plants require special protection:

- **Production area**
Along with deluge systems, permanently installed monitors are used that are supplied from stationary foam proportioners.
- **Tank farm**
Flammable liquids are normally stored in tanks with a floating cover or roof while explosion-risk fluid tanks have a fixed roof. In both cases, the foam is discharged from a foam pourer in the event of a fire, with

the foam pourer being supplied from a stationary proportioner. In addition, it is recommended to use mobile extinguishing technology for firefighting.

- **Material / bulk goods / high-rack storage**
In warehousing, deluge systems are used besides sprinkler systems, flooding the halls with extinguishing foam in conjunction with stationary proportioners.



Stationary proportioners for efficient firefighting with foam

On the site of petrochemical plants, pump rooms are often located close to water tanks storing extinguishing water for emergencies.

The operating principle of the stationary FireDos proportioners is purely mechanical as they are driven solely by the flow of extinguishing water. This allows installing the equipment at a safe distance from risk areas, i.e., in the vicinity of the extinguishing water tanks. Furthermore, FireDos proportioners can deliver premix over large distances with high flow rates thanks to the low-pressure loss.

In addition, the proportioners are efficient

and offer significant cost savings over other systems. The foam agent is dosed precisely, allowing the foam agent to work at its optimum mixing rate for each type of application. FireDos proportioners also deliver high-viscosity foam agents and allow testing without generating foam or premix.

Another advantage: The units are suitable for remote monitoring and remote testing of the proportioning rate.

Long-life monitors with maximum reach

In petrochemical production areas, fixed monitors or deluge systems are used. Monitors provide advantages as they can be more cost-effective

as pipework is minimised. A monitor's nozzle is decisive in the success of extinguishing regardless of wind conditions.

Thanks to the flow-optimized Oval Flat Design of the FireDos monitors, pressure loss through the monitor is minimal, allowing the monitors to achieve the greatest reach. In addition, FireDos monitors are manufactured in seawater-resistant materials and can be used as ATEX versions in areas of explosion risks.

In high-risk areas, integrating the monitors into automated fire extinguishing systems is recommended. All FireDos monitors can be manually operated or using remote control.

Mobile extinguishing technology for flexible use

Factory fire brigades at petrochemical plants increasingly use mobile extinguishing units such as fire trailers that are versatile and flexible in use as back up to fixed systems.

Fire trailers are designed for rapid deployment and are simple to operate.

Equipped with a proportioner, monitor or a combination of both, fire trailers help to reduce the demand for personnel in a risk area.

For more information: +27 (0) 861 111 544, Mike – mgf@dosetech.co.za, firedos@dosetech.co.za, www.dosetech.co.za

Sasol and Air Liquide PPAs with Enel Green Power RSA for 330 MW of renewable energy to Sasol Secunda site reach financial close



SASOL and Air Liquide have concluded three Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Enel Green Power RSA for the long-term supply of 330 MW of renewable power to Sasol's Secunda site in South Africa after the signing of a third 110 MW-agreement that followed the first two PPAs announced in January 2023.

The 330 MW wind facility, located close to Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape will be one of the largest wind-powered facilities in Southern Africa and will provide annual production of more than 1,100 GWh of clean energy.

The wind farms are scheduled to be operational by 2026.

This brings the total PPA's contributing to renewable energy capacity secured by Sasol and Air Liquide to around 690 MW.

Of that, approxi-

mately 430 MW have now achieved financial close.

Priscillah Mabelane, executive vice president of Sasol Energy Business said: "We have reached a further milestone today with our announcement of the second Secunda decarbonisation renewable energy projects reaching financial close. This is significant progress towards Sasol's ambition to reduce its absolute scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 30% off a 2017 baseline. Sasol is committed to pursue renewable energy procurement as a key lever for reducing GHG emissions, and the 690 MW procured with Air Liquide to date speak to that commitment."

Air Liquide acquired Sasol's 16 oxygen production units in Secunda and has been operating them since June 2021,

in the framework of a long-term supply contract with its partner. Including another Air Separation Unit (ASU) it already operated for Sasol, Air Liquide operates a total of 17 ASUs in Secunda, with a total capacity of 47 000 tonnes/day of oxygen. Air Liquide plans to reduce by 30 % to 40 % the CO₂ emissions (Scope 2) arising from the 16 oxygen production units it acquired from Sasol through a multi-year investment and modernization plan and a steep increase of the site's procurement in renewable energies.

Enel Green Power RSA is the joint venture that represents partnership between Enel's renewable arm Enel Green Power (EGP) and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to build and operate renewable plants in Sub-Saharan Africa.

3C Metal Belmet performs upgrades for an ultra-deepwater drillship in Gqeberha

3C Metal Belmet have successfully delivered multiple major upgrade scopes onboard an ultra-deepwater drillship.

The work was carried out while the vessel was in Port of Ngqura (also known as Coega Harbour), Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), South Africa, for ten weeks, then smaller teams were deployed while the vessel was in transit.

The team delivered the prefabrication and installation for scopes relating to low-pressure (LP) and high-pressure

(HP) piping, glass reinforced epoxy (GRE) piping, hydraulic piping and general structural work.

These scopes included booster line modifications; reserve tank modifications; blowout preventer (BOP) filtration upgrades; and installation of a 170 m, 10 000 psi test line connecting the riser deck, cellar deck forward moonpool, pipe deck and cement room. The team were also commissioned to install a 45 m line from the diverter to mud gas

separator and replaced the old u-tube with a new one made from 10-inch piping.

3C Metal Belmet had a peak of 60 personnel onsite while the vessel was in Gqeberha.

Smaller teams were deployed while the vessel was in transit from Gqeberha to Las Palmas, Spain, and then from Las Palmas to Brazil.

3C Metal is a multinational company focused on delivering turnkey engineering, procurement, construction and installation services to heavy

industries including the oil and gas, petrochemical, renewable energy, power generation, marine and mining industries.

3C Metal was established in 1995 in Sauvelade, in the south of France. The company's purpose was to provide sophisticated engineering solutions to the oil and gas industry.

The company name comes from the three 'C's in the surnames of the original founders - one of the original founders, Bruno Collette, remains a member of our board.



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Corrosion Protection Specialists

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WHO

Corrosion protection specialists

WHY

Your partner of choice

HOW

One stop solution

At Galvatech, our goal is to be your premier partner for corrosion protection. Since founded in 1993, we are committed to delivering high-quality coatings with expedited turnaround times by constantly evaluating and improving our internal processes. Capable of applying duplex coating systems “under one roof,” our services, including Hot-Dip Galvanising, Grit Blasting, Industrial Painting, Zinc Metal Spraying, and baked powder coatings such as Epoxy, PVC, and FBE, truly enable us to be a one-stop-shop for most of your corrosion protection needs.

With our core business being hot dip galvanising, 2024 welcomes our newly built state-of-the-art galvanising facility to Cape Town, South Africa. Centrally located in Bellville South Industrial, our facility has been designed with the latest best practices and 30 years of industry experience and includes a world-class scrubber and white fume extraction system to reduce waste and air emissions.

We have also made provisions for future solar power installations to minimise our environmental impact and

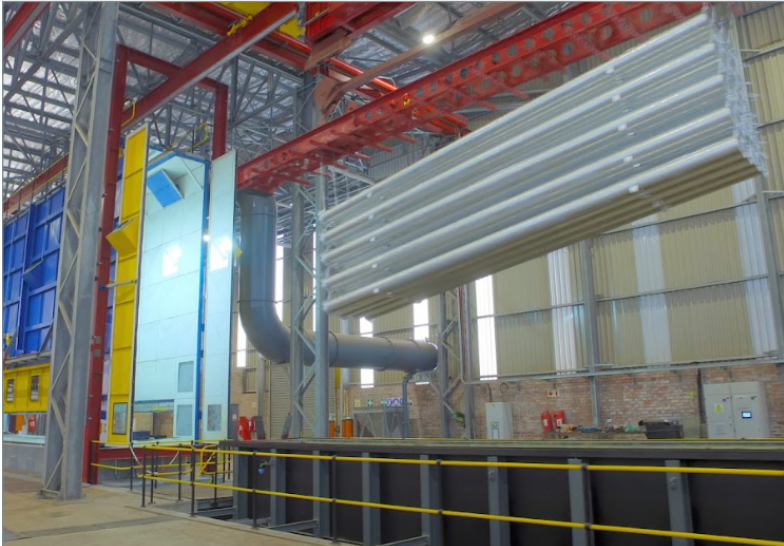
improve operating efficiencies. Even though we are certified to provide coatings that comply with SANS 121 / ISO 1461 we have invested in research and technology to produce a high-quality and a visually distinct galvanised coating which set us apart from our competition.

With our new 14m zinc kettle and matching encapsulated pre-treatment process, we are expecting to be one of the most capable galvanisers in the Western Cape. The additional advantage with the newly acquired yard space also affords us the title of “the galvaniser with the largest lay-down area in Cape Town,” which is ideal for customers with large projects such as solar power plants or power transmission pylons.

We welcome inquiries of any size and are ready to assist with projects ranging from small garden gates to large-scale industrial and commercial steelwork. Contact us to learn more about how we can help with your corrosion protection requirements.

Galvatech unveils advanced hot dip galvanising facility, redefining corrosion protection services in the Western Cape

Belville-based Galvatech's new galvanising facility enables it to take on bigger projects.



By Larry Claasen

IN a significant move, Galvatech, a Belville-based corrosion protection service provider, launched its new hot dip galvanising facility in Cape Town, South Africa early 2024.

The new advanced facility, which replaces the old one that has been around for about 30 years, utilises modern technology to improve efficiencies and has expanded the group's capabilities.

Bigger kettle. Bigger jobs

Galvatech's offers a comprehensive range of services, including hot dip galvanising, Abrasive Grit-blasting, Industrial Painting, Zinc Metal Spraying, and various powder coatings, providing a holistic solution in the field of corrosion prevention.

With its old facility, the group was previously seen as a mid-sized operator. But a key feature of its new facility, the installation of a 14 m zinc kettle, now enables Galvatech to handle significantly larger articles as well as larger projects.

"Our previous facility limited our capacity for larger projects due to equipment constraints. With the installation of the 14 m zinc kettle at our new facility, we can now undertake more substantial projects and compete effectively on large-volume con-

tracts," says Galvatech GM Marcel le Roux.

"We can now handle large structural steel fabricators' requirements and galvanise building trusses up to 13 m in length, which was previously unattainable," he adds.

Three decades combined with global best practice

The new facility also enables Galvatech to be more competitive in some of the region's rapidly growing industries.

"With our enhanced capacity and capabilities, we can now actively engage in hot dip galvanising for solar power projects, including hot dip galvanising of large-scale structural components used in solar panel mounting systems and support structures."

The technical enhancements at Galvatech's new facility have improved the group's efficiency and productivity with automation of certain processes as well as increased throughput capacity. "Our new facility integrates three decades of experience in hot dip galvanising with global best practices. The facility boasts enhanced automation, a larger zinc kettle, a 14 m compared to the previous 7,5 m, and significantly increased throughput capacity," says le Roux.

The combination of modern technology and its own experience can be seen in the new facility's layout, now enabling

a modern hot dip galvanising processes, creating a loop system and optimising efficiency.

A distinctive pattern

Products galvanised at Galvatech also have a distinctive pattern on them.

"Our coatings exhibit a unique visual pattern, a result of extensive research and process enhancements to improve its appearance while maintaining SANS 121 certification."

State-of-the-art

The new state-of-the-art facility, which is just across the road from its old one, is the most modern of its kind in South Africa.

"The new Galvatech facility represents a significant advancement in hot dip galvanising technology in South Africa, potentially ranking among the most advanced facilities in South Africa."

In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability, Galvatech has equipped its new facility with advanced extraction systems and scrubbers to minimise emissions and comply with regulations.

"Environmental compliance is a top priority," says le Roux.

Aside from the technological advancements of the facility, its expansive lay-down area offers practical benefits like accommodating large vehicles and storage of large volume projects.

How RX Foodsafe MMA flooring minimises downtime

WHEN it comes to commercial flooring projects, selecting the right flooring solutions company becomes critical to minimising downtime and ensuring a seamless transition during maintenance.

The company you work with should not only possess expertise in the installation and maintenance of various flooring systems but also demonstrate a keen understanding of the specific challenges posed by commercial environments.

Factors such as the type of business, foot traffic patterns, and industry regulations need to be carefully considered in the planning process.

A reliable flooring solutions provider will offer flexible scheduling options, working closely with the business to identify windows of opportunity that least disrupt operations.

Additionally, they should have the capability to execute the project efficiently, employing techniques that expedite installation and minimise curing times, thereby allowing the business to resume normal activities swiftly.

By prioritising strategic planning and collaborating with a seasoned flooring solutions partner, businesses can navigate the necessary maintenance without compromising their operational efficiency or customer experience.

How does disruption/downtime reduce profit?

Factories and manufacturing industries often find themselves with target outputs that require the production line to constantly run



efficiently with little room for error or planned/unplanned downtime. Any such disruption leads to unmet target outputs and could cause supply shortages.

Restaurants, hotels and other hospitality businesses need people regularly coming in to keep these industries alive, and sometimes, even a short disruption in operating hours can impact their bottom line.

Malls and shopping centres thrive on foot traffic, and every single business on their premises relies on customers being able to access the mall. A large mall's scheduled floor maintenance can lead to a loss of profits for multiple businesses located on their premises. Sometimes, working after hours, especially during lockdown curfews, is not an option.

So, how are commercial premises upgraded or refurbished their floors with minimal disruption? Robex offers multiple flooring solutions that cure in just 60-90 minutes. This means that installing a new flooring system can have a negligible impact on

a business's ability to operate and can even be completed overnight with the place ready for work the next day. It reduces any disruptions to the company's operations and, as a result, saves the company's bottom line.

RX Foodsafe MMA flooring

RX Foodsafe emerges as a standout choice for the food industry when seeking a flooring solution that prioritises both efficiency and safety.

This fast-curing MMA resin not only meets but exceeds the essential criteria for food-safe flooring, making it an ideal option for businesses aiming to minimise downtime during maintenance. What sets RX Foodsafe apart is its remarkable ability to cure in just 60 – 90 minutes, ensuring that operational interruptions are kept to an absolute minimum.

This swift curing time allows businesses to resume their activities promptly, eliminating the need for extended closures or disruptions that could impact productivity.

Beyond its rapid curing capability, RX Foodsafe delivers a comprehensive set of features crucial for the food industry.

The flooring option boasts exceptional inter-coat adhesion, creating a seamless and robust surface that contributes to a hygienic environment. This is particularly vital in food manufacturing, where cleanliness and safety standards are paramount.

Additionally, RX Foodsafe exhibits outstanding resistance to chemicals, wear, and sliding, ensuring long-lasting durability even in demanding industrial settings. By combining these features, RX Foodsafe not only facilitates a quick return to normal operations but also provides a reliable and sustainable flooring solution tailored to the unique challenges of the food manufacturing sector.

Businesses can confidently invest in RX Foodsafe, knowing that they are not only minimising downtime but also enhancing the overall safety and efficiency of their workspaces.

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Effectively treat contaminated water

NATIONAL and local government regulations are specific in their protection of municipal sewers and storm water drains against grease and oil pollution. Contaminated water must pass through a grease trap - catering industry, or oil separator - automotive and petroleum industry, before discharging into the sewer system.

Pollution Solution's Sewer Guard™ systems are designed to trap grease for the safe and cost-effective disposal of water-borne grease and oil. Its systems are 100% manufactured in South Africa to national and local legal requirements and Pollution Solution hold two patents on its products; including a unique separator or fuel and oil pollutants.

Sewer Guard™ NS series of equipment has been specially designed to protect municipal sewers and storm water drains from pollution by both minor and major

spillage of petroleum fuels and oils, particularly in service stations' forecourts, workshops and wash bays.

Contaminated water, usually wash-down water from the under-canopy area of a service station or from a workshop floor, is drained into an underground sludge/silt collection tank in which solid material accumulates for regular clean-out.

The contaminated water then overflows into the underground separator tank which is specially designed to permit and maintain the gravity separation of water and the hydrocarbon contaminants: the latter are lighter than water and float to the top of the separator tank.

Under usual conditions of low levels of water contamination the accumulation of contaminants slowly overflows the separator into the drain box, a sealed tank with ele-

vated breather, which requires regular pumping-out to maintain it as "normally empty".

At the same time, wastewater regularly underflows from the tank to sewer.

Under the extreme condition of a major petroleum spillage, alternatively neglect to empty the drain box, the drain box fills and the separator tank itself begins to fill, from the top downwards, with contaminant(s). Without a special safeguard the contaminants would eventually reach the underflow connection and cause major contamination of the sewer: that safeguard is provided by the Sewer Guard™ patented float valve system.

Catering Grease traps

Sewer Guard™ also provides safe and cost effective grease traps to control pollution from catering waste polluted by the following kitchen activities such as:

- food preparation [peelings, off-cuts, solids],
- cooking [grease, oil, spillage, floor wash water], and
- cleaning of equipment (pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, dishwashers).

Pollution Solution's equipment includes under sink grease traps, floor drains, sludge catchers, large grease traps/interceptors and sample points.

The regulations are categorical in the requirement for separation of solids to be carried out in a separate compartment from, and prior to, the separation of oils and fats. A grease trap system therefore comprises of four units: a floor drain (1), a solids catcher (2) followed by the grease trap itself (3), and a sample point. (4)

SANS 10 252-2 [National Building Regulations] defines the minimum require-

ments for grease traps for catering and food processing businesses. The following institutions are affected.

- bakeries
- cafes
- canteens at factories and offices
- conference centres
- food manufacturers
- golf courses
- hospitals
- hotels
- pubs and inns
- restaurants
- schools and colleges
- shopping centres
- sports venues
- service stations
- take away outlets

- theatres

Other than supplying a large client base in South Africa PollutionSolution systems have been supplied to Australia, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Swaziland and Uganda.

Multotec eyes environmental clean-up projects as test work yields successful results

WHILE the modern world simply cannot function without mining and industrial operations, environmental rehabilitation is an essential and sustainable response to the man-made destruction of the natural habitat that is a consequence of these activities.

Environmental restoration is an important consideration for Multotec, a leading mineral processing equipment manufacturer. The company recently undertook several environmental clean-up projects that have yielded positive outcomes, and the results have demonstrated the potential for Multotec's advanced mineral processing equipment to be harnessed in the field of environmental rehabilitation.

Faan Bornman, Technology Manager at Multotec, explains that the company had been approached by a number of clients – both local and international – to see whether it could provide solutions to specific environmental issues.

Initially, Multotec was contacted by a company based in Spain that specialises in crushing and milling accident-damaged cars that have been written off. This client required a solution that would separate the metal and plastic parts of vehicles in order to recycle the metal.

"We conducted test work using spirals, equipment usually used in mineral processing, to establish if we could separate the materials and we were successful. Apart from being able to distinguish the plastic from the metal, we took it a step further and used magnetic separation to extract the iron out of the samples," says Bornman.

"Secondly, a South African electronic recycling company, DESCO Electronic Recyclers also approached us as they required PC components to be recycled. An important element of this process is to sep-

arate the metals from the plastics and non-valuable waste. Bornman states that Multotec ran the samples over spirals to gravity separate the components. "We once again managed to separate the metals – copper and iron – from the silica particles, microplastics and fibres. We had some challenges, as the materials were very fine, but were successful and produced a report for this client, highlighting how their business could be enhanced through this process," he adds.

Enrico Airaga, Technical Director at DESCO Electronic Recyclers adds that by attempting to separate the unwanted plastics from the metals, the material is upgraded into a much better quality. This enhances the product and also the profitability of the fraction.

Bornman states that Multotec also concluded test work on contaminated gravel as an operation was experiencing process problems due to the presence of plastic in the gravel. The plastic would find its way into the mining process and ended up, along with the gravel, in the processing plant where it would cause blockages. A method was needed to separate the plastics from the gravel. "We used a regular cyclone and also tested a stacker cyclone, where a vacuum is created in the overflow, which would separate the plastic from the gravel. With this scenario, we were also successful in that we were able to extract the plastic through the overflow, which is the top part of the cyclone where fine and light particles accumulate."

Similarly, Multotec also conducted test work to remove sand and earth from a manure sample. The manure was then further used to generate energy, says Bornman.

Bornman mentioned that while these were once-off projects, they proved that Multotec

could use its existing mineral processing equipment for environmental rehabilitation work, which is an area that the company is eager to explore.

Finetuning the process

"Even though these are different applications, we managed to show that our mineral processing equipment is suitable and can be used for environmental clean-up work. Perhaps the process can be finetuned even further in the future, as we get deeper into what is needed for environmental clean-ups," he says.

"Cyclone, spiral and magnetic separators were used to get the results from the test work, but we could potentially look at designing a plant through a design house that could be installed at a recycling centre. The possibilities are endless."

Multotec, could potentially address customer challenges that are specific to different regions and industries. Through the test work that it undertakes, Multotec gains valuable experience that allows it to refine its processes and solutions, ensuring continuous improvement and enhanced effectiveness in addressing customer challenges, Bornman says.

"While we have not commercialised our environmental clean-up processes, this is an area where we could potentially make a significant contribution. This forms part of our drive to enhance the performance and efficiency of our products to maximise the separation of valuable materials from non-valuables, thus addressing many customers' primary challenges," Bornman concludes.

Multotec's test work services are available to assist the general mineral processing market globally, tertiary institutions, its customers, and is also open to non-customers.



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Packa-Ching expands national footprint with the launch of new buy-back recycling centres

Continued from P1



“It is a win-win solution – our Packa-Ching programme helps create a cleaner environment while creating economic opportunities for waste reclaimers and communities alike,” said Polyco CEO, Patricia Pillay.

Pick ‘n Pay, Clicks, Spar, Dischem stores – many of these retail stores are subsequent members of Polyco. There are currently over 24 Packa-Ching units across the country, with the programme having

has a footprint in Buffalo City Municipality through a partnership formed in 2021 between Polyco, the Buffalo City Metro Municipality, the Border-Kei Chamber of Business and the Buffalo City Metropolitan Development Agency to introduce a recycling strategy in East London.

As a result of this collaboration, two static buy-back centres were opened in September 2021 at Commercial Road in the CBD and Southernwood Road, which have played an enormous role in creating cleaner environments in these areas and encouraging residents to recycle.

Since opening, these two initial centres alone have collected two million kilograms

of recyclable waste and paid out over R2 million to community members.

The three new centres opening in Amalinda, Qonce and Ndantsane will result in even more plastic and other material waste being collected and more money in community members’ pockets.

“Through this joint collaboration with Polyco, Border Kei Chamber of Business and local businesses we have been able to create a cleaner city and develop a circular plastic economy, which creates jobs and has a direct financial benefit for communities who adopt recycling. We are excited that three new buy-back centres will be opening in the metro, so this win-win

solution can be introduced to other areas”, said Buffalo City Metropolitan ward councillor Ntsika Qali.

Partnerships with municipalities and other stakeholders are critical to Polyco’s goal of eliminating plastic waste by increasing the collection of recycling and recycling of plastic packaging in South Africa.

“Our 140 project partner investments have already added over 300 000 tons of plastics recycling capacity growth in the country. But this is just the start, with our organisation aiming to add an additional 25 000 tonnes capacity growth coming online in Q1 of 2024 alone, as well as over 60 000 tons of plastics recycling material being incen-

“Our 140 project partner investments have already added over 300 000 tons of plastics recycling capacity growth in the country.”

“It is a win-win solution – our Packa-Ching programme helps create a cleaner environment while creating economic opportunities for waste reclaimers and communities alike,” said Polyco CEO, Patricia Pillay.”

Waste reclaimers receive an instant voucher payment made to their cellphone which they can withdraw as cash or spend at a number of merchants including Shoprite, Checkers, uSave,

collected and recycled over 19.5 million kilograms of plastic and other recyclable packaging and paid out over R19.5 million to communities since it launched in 2017.

Packa-Ching already

tivised. With more projects earmarked for 2024, we are on a mission to end plastic waste in South Africa,” said Pillay.

“Critical to achieving this goal is increased education and awareness of plastics recycling as well as collaboration with multiple stakeholders including municipalities and businesses. We are extremely proud of our partnership with the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality,

Border-Kei Chamber of Business (BKCOB) and the Buffalo City Development Agency, which can serve as a blueprint for collaborations with other municipalities in the future,” Pillay added.

For more information about the PackaChing programme in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality please visit: <https://www.polyco.co.za/packa-ching/> or www.polyco.co.za

The business of waste: How SA property companies can transform their waste management processes

Fiona Arthur,
procurement category
manager at Redefine
Properties

WHEN it comes to property development and management, a component that has gained attention recently has been the business of waste.

“The key to managing a property’s waste stream is to separate at the source. If you can separate organic waste at the source, you increase the amount of waste you can repurpose or recycle.”

As many organisations prioritise sustainability and sustainable business practices and integrate them

into their operational strategy, waste gathering and disposal have become key factors in lowering emissions and minimising our environmental impact. Many buildings around South Africa, ones that comprise property companies’ portfolios, are confronting how they deal

with the waste generated by tenants. Recognising this, property owners are stepping up to facilitate and coordinate greening and recycling initiatives on behalf of their tenants.

This proactive approach enables tenants to meet their green objectives effortlessly, allowing them to focus on their core business activities. By taking the lead, property companies not only improve their environmental footprint but also add significant value to their services, fostering a collaborative effort to make buildings greener. This starts by addressing how we, and the rest of the country, deal with waste.

It’s easy to not think about what happens to your waste after you throw it in the bin and it’s out of sight. While many countries around the world have made progress regarding how they deal with waste,

South Africa has been on the back foot.

We face a growing challenge, as industry experts report our country’s landfills nationwide are filling up at an alarming rate.

However, landfills are not a quick and easy fix to meeting South Africa’s disposal requirements. It takes several years to build a landfill – it can take at least nine to 12 months to obtain environmental approval – and even when it reaches the end of its lifecycle, it’s subject to a recommended post-closure monitoring period of up to 30 years. So, what other options do we have?

Separate at the source

Properties will generate waste during their lifespan, depending

on how long people or businesses occupy them. The first step in dealing with that is knowing what makes up the volume. According to waste stream audits conducted on Redefine properties as part of our rationalisation process, 61% of generated non-recyclable waste was found to be organic (food, biodegradables, etc.).

A third of all food produced globally goes to waste, contributing to 8% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. Organic waste has 25% more global warming potential than other grades of waste, like paper or plastic, due to the CO₂ and methane gases it emits as it decomposes making it a prime focus area. If organic waste is not separated, it can

contaminate recyclable materials such as cardboard and paper and impact the ability to recover these materials.

The key to managing a property’s waste stream is to separate at the source. If you can separate organic waste at the source, you increase the amount of waste you can repurpose or recycle.

In doing this, companies can increase their recycling rates by up to 80% per property. Provided companies get buy-in from tenants, especially businesses such as restaurants and others in the food industry, they can substantially minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfills.

It’s not just about being sustainable. There is a financial

incentive for such initiatives. Managing waste upstream proves to be more cost-effective than managing it downstream.

Companies could hire sorters and pickers to handle the waste for them, but that is throwing unnecessary money and labour at the problem.

Additionally, by handling waste management processes internally, companies can pass the resulting savings onto their tenants.

Furthermore, in the broader economic sense the recycling of waste to recover and then reprocess materials into new products, known as a circular economy, can help the local economy, as we stand 80% of recycled material is used within South Africa.



SA’s Largest Plastics PRO

Investing in South Africa’s Plastics
Recycling and Collection
Industry, on behalf of our
650+ members.

01 Project Investments

Polyco invests in the project divisions;
Large Infrastructure Projects, Packa-Ching®
and Enterprise Development Projects. We aim to grow
the collection and recycling of plastic packaging in South
Africa to the extent that it meets the legislated targets.

02 Waste Picker Integration

Our EPR service fee goes toward the compensation for waste
collectors, pickers and reclaimers, as outlined in Section 5A
(1) (p) of the Regulations. As an extension we also support
women in waste in collaboration with the Western Cape
Department of Environmental Affairs and Development
Planning (DEA&DP) on its **“Give Dignity”** campaign.

People. Purpose. Plastics Recycling.

At Polyco we work to not only grow the plastics packaging collection and recycling industry, but we aim to end plastic pollution in the environment by investing in recycling infrastructure and initiatives in South Africa as well as by educating both the industry and consumers about recycling.

OVER	OVER	OVER
✚ R120	✚ 280 000	✚ 140
MILLION INVESTED	TONNES OF GROWTH ACHIEVED	PROJECT PARTNERS

03 Municipal Support

Our various project investments are located across South Africa, with our flagship project in Buffalo City, we positively impact various municipalities in these areas, with many developments underway to collaborate even more directly with municipalities through municipal engagement and training.

04 Education & Awareness

Polyco treats education and awareness as one of our core pillars in growing the plastic recycling industry in South Africa, this is evident with Polyco having reached over 2500 schools and engaged over 2 million learners and educators as it continues to focus on both the industry and the South African consumer.

05 Stakeholder Relationships

We have a dedicated Stakeholder Engagement Team responsible for member services, including Polyco’s Member Working Groups, set up to establish a closer working relationship with our members.

Precision and performance with Böhler

Plastic Mould Steels

IN the dynamic world of plastic injection moulding, the choice of materials plays a crucial role in determining the efficiency, reliability, and longevity of your tools.

At voestalpine High Performance Metals Africa, is introducing Böhler Plastic Mould Steels – an innovative solution designed to elevate the plastic processing operations to new heights.

Böhler Plastic Mould Steels are engineered to deliver exceptional tool performance by offering a range of properties that are essential for the demanding requirements of the plastics industry.

One of the standout features of our steels is their excellent thermal conductivity.

Efficient heat transfer is vital for precise temperature control during the moulding

process, resulting in enhanced part quality and reduced cycle times. This key attribute ensures that your production runs are not only more efficient but also maintain the high standards of quality that your customers demand.

Corrosion resistance is another hallmark of Böhler Plastic Mould Steels. Our steels are highly resistant to corrosion, providing robust protection against degradation. This resistance extends the lifespan of your tools, offering a cost-effective solution for long-term use and minimising the need for frequent replacements.

Superior wear resistance is a game-changer in the plastic processing industry. With Böhler Plastic Mould Steels we enable prolonged tool life even under demanding conditions.

This durability ensures that you can maintain consistent product quality throughout extended production runs, contributing to the overall reliability of your manufacturing processes.

Dimensional stability is a critical factor in mould longevity. With Böhler Plastic Mould Steels we offer exceptional dimensional stability, ensuring that your moulds maintain their shape and accuracy over extended periods of use. This stability is essential for achieving precision in your products and avoiding costly defects in the production process.

Hardness, toughness, and compressive strength are finely balanced in Böhler Plastic Mould Steels. This ensures that your tools are not only durable but also reliable in

the most challenging processing environments. Achieving this perfect balance is vital for optimizing the performance of your plastic injection moulding operations.

As a plastic processor, you understand that each tool has specific requirements based on the intricacies of the moulding application. We go beyond the ordinary, offering a range of field-tested tool steels customized for each specific moulding application. Our commitment to innovation extends to the use of Böhler powder metallurgy materials throughout the moulding process, including screws, backflow valves, and containers.

With us you have access to a diverse selection of high-quality tool steels that set new standards in the injection moulding

industry. Regardless of the application, our tool steels are meticulously crafted to meet and exceed your expectations, ensuring that your plastic processing operations are optimized for precision,

efficiency, and longevity.

At voestalpine High Performance Metals Africa, we not only provide superior tool steels but also offer a variety of steel options, including tool steel,

high-speed steel, engineering steel, and mild steel. We take pride in offering comprehensive solutions, including heat treatment and machining services, to cater to all your steel processing needs.

Creativity, innovation and sustainability capture industry attention

Mpact, partners and customers align to create packaging products that subscribe to the circular economy while maintaining superior quality. To this end eight of our products are finalists in the 2023 IPSA Gold Pack Awards.

MPACT's sustainable packaging designs have secured ten finalist positions in the 2023 Gold Pack Awards.

Its Integrated Moulded Handle (IMH) bottles, the in-mould labelled (IML) Octagon range, the unique Crush Grinder, the Single Layer Wine Bottle, the ZZ2 Al Monde Carton range, the Zimflex Succulent modular carton, the 33 Degrees South A15C Outer, the Giraffe Vrugteboerdery Econo Outer, Detpak Paper Lids and the Alva Heater Packaging are our ten contenders in this year's Gold Pack Awards.

All these products were developed to support the circular economy.

In the case of the IMH™ bottle, the PET handle is injection moulded during the preform production process and requires no separation prior to recycling, while the versatile IML Octagon range is made from fully recyclable polypropylene.

The crush grinder is manufactured from 100% PET plastic and is fully recyclable without having to separate different polymer types and the Single Layer Wine Bottle is produced from 100% PET plastic which is 100% recyclable.

The innovative ZZ2 Al Monde Carton range was designed as a unit, rather than individually, giving the client the option of transporting mixed pallets to markets and allows a combination of products to be packed on a single pallet.

Designed with airflow in mind for cross border transportation, the Zimflex Succulent Carton is an agric-style carton which is able to withstand atmospheric and direct moisture. Contemporary rebranding on the 33 Degrees South A15C Outer and the Giraffe Vrugteboerdery Econo Outer was meticulously considered and flexographic printing ink which was selected retains food safety.

The Detpak Paper

Lid is produced from poly laminated board, which eliminates consumer's single-use plastic footprint.

And finally, the Alva Heater Package, which was formally a lithographic printed outer carton with polystyrene inserts, had been converted to a flexographic print with recycled corrugated inserts.

Our dedicated teams have invested significant time in research and innovation to design and create products that are aesthetically appealing while reducing environmental impact.

The nominations reaffirm Mpact's philosophy of creating smarter, sustainable solutions. We thank our customers for sharing our vision of creating products that contribute to our goal of creating a true circular economy.

The IPSA Gold Pack Awards programme promotes excellence in packaging and is designed to showcase the very best of the packaging industry.



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Detpak awarded prestigious Silver Medal at the Gold Pack Awards

DETPAK has clinched a prestigious Silver Medal at the Gold Pack Awards held in November in Cape Town. The Gold Pack Awards, organised by the Institute of Packaging South Africa, recognises excellence in packaging design and innovation.

Detpak says its win is a testament to its commitment to pushing the boundaries of creativity and sustainability in the packaging industry and this Silver Medal highlights our dedication to delivering high-quality, visually appealing, and environmentally responsible packaging solutions.

In addition to the Silver Medal, Detpak has also been honoured with the Fibre Circle Award recognising the use of fibre-based materials, promoting eco-friendly practices and contributing to the

circular economy.

It says its success at the Gold Pack Awards not only underscores the company's expertise in design and innovation but also highlights our dedication to making a positive impact on the environment.

With the slogan "Responsible by Design," Detpak says its innovative packaging solutions, such as lids that reduce plastic for customers seeking more sustainable options, showcase the company's commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable world.

As consumers increasingly demand environmentally conscious products, Detpak says its recognition serves as a shining example of how businesses can lead the way towards a more responsible and eco-friendly future.

Detpak is part of the Detmold Group, which has its history beginning in 1948. It was founded by Colin Detmold as a converter of paper and board-based products, which is still owned and operated by the Detmold family, and headquartered in Adelaide, Australia.

Detmold Group is one of the world's largest manufacturers of paper and board products, employing more than 2 500 people globally, with manufacturing in seven countries, and 23 sales offices.

Aside from working with South African companies, it also works with brands in the Philippines, Australia and the Middle East.

In 2015, Detpak sold 51% share of Detpak South Africa to Mpack – the largest plastic and paper packaging and recycling company in South Africa.

The Mattei Blade Series: Unbeatable for efficiency and reliability



THE Blade series from Mattei, guarantees the high performance of industrial compressors in small spaces, thus perfectly meeting the needs of small and medium-sized companies and artisanal businesses.

Improved reliability, efficiency and silent operations, are the major benefits to the range as well as reduced maintenance of the compressor along with the new extended warranty, MyCare 6.

The product

The Blade is available from 7.5 to 22 kW and operating pressures at

8,10 (and on request), 13 bar. In terms of maintenance, servicing is considerably reduced and simplified, again due to the lack of belts and gears, but also a renewed design of the new machines which, thanks to a handy hatch, allows technicians direct access to the compression unit. Silent operation is another benefit of direct-drive, as shown by the low sound pressure level.

Beyond the standard versions, Mattei 7.5 and 11kW also offers an S-version (mounted on a tank with a capacity of 270 litres), the E (fitted with a dryer), and the SE

(with a storage tank and refrigerated dryer).

All versions come with fixed or variable speed operation; with the latter, the inverter automatically adjusts the rotary speed of the motor, to ensure that the air emitted corresponds with demands in real time.

The compressor comes as standard with an asynchronous three-phase IE3 motor, but is also available, on request, with a motor in the IE4 superpremium efficiency class.

All the compressors are fitted with the soft-start system, born from the collaboration with Allen-Bradly, a brand

of Rockwell Automation. Thanks to the Soft-Start, control of power consumption is ensured during starting and stopping of the motor, with a reduction in mechanical stress during the latter. Controlled power consumption prolongs the life of the motor and reduces running costs, but also ensures compliance with current regulations.

The sophisticated MaestroXB computerised controllers can improve the efficiency of a multi compressor plant, thanks to the control, monitoring, and automatic programming of operations through an intuitive control panel, or remotely on a PC.

Fully equipped with the capability to not only collect data but also analyse operational efficiency, failures and errors, MaestroXB guarantees both the flexibility and adaptability of plant operations.

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Tetra Pak invests to further boost recycling across EU

Annual capacity for polyAl recycling projected to increase by over 40 000 tons, the equivalent of more than 4 billion pack units

TETRA Pak is announcing several strategic investments designed to level up the recycling capacity for carton packages in the European Union (EU). The move supports the goals of the proposed EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), by ensuring that all packaging components are recycled and valuable raw materials are kept in circulation for longer, therefore showcasing the pivotal role of recycling in the green transition of the food packaging sector.

In 2023, Tetra Pak invested nearly €40 million to accelerate beverage carton recycling worldwide and plans to increase this even further over the coming years to achieve greater material circularity.

The recent initiatives and investments are set to boost the EU's ability to recycle beverage cartons, including the non-fibre protective layers of polyethylene and aluminium, known as 'polyAl'.

This will be achieved by either unlocking new collaborations or by strengthening the capabilities of established recyclers to turn all materials from post-consumer cartons into new high-quality resources and goods. These add to the existing and well-established recycling infrastructure in the EU, where beverage cartons are recycled in 20 specialised paper mills, with polyAl currently processed by seven facilities (and a further six under development).

Major investments in 2023 include:

In Sweden, Tetra Pak and Axjo Group have begun a feasibility study to build a new recycling line for polyAl that will accom-



modate volumes from Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Fostered by a joint investment of up to €24 million and featuring an annual recycling capacity of 10 000 tons, this state-of-the-art facility will recycle and incorporate polyAl into injection moulded plastic products made by Axjo, including cable drums, reels, spools and plastic storage boxes.

lets compared to traditional processes. Potential end markets for recycled polyAl are many, including logistics, packaging, retail and gardening.

Also in Spain, Tetra Pak and Alier have forged a collaboration that will consolidate Alier as one of the largest post-consumer carton recyclers in Europe and will help the company to become an

advance material circularity across France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The material's versatility means it can then be transformed into a range of everyday items including reusable pallets, interiors and large-format 3D printed objects.

Markus Pfanner, Vice President Sustainability Operations at Tetra Pak, comments: "For us, this goes beyond industry investment. It's part of the transformation towards a circular economy and an investment in the future of the planet. These innovative collaborations, at the intersection of human ingenuity, technology and finance, demonstrate the value of beverage cartons within sustainable food systems."

He continues: "Beverage cartons are recyclable. They are recycled wherever the necessary collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure is in place, at scale, so naturally, expanding this infrastructure is a priority for us. Projects such as these ensure that consumers can continue to safely access food, and that once they have done so, those cartons can be recycled, keeping quality resources in the loop and reducing the use of virgin content."

"In 2023, Tetra Pak invested nearly €40 million to accelerate beverage carton recycling worldwide and plans to increase this even further over the coming years to achieve greater material circularity."

In Spain, Tetra Pak and Trans Sabater have co-invested over €2 million and expanded their agreement to increase installed polyAl recycling capacity from 3 000 tons to 10 000 tons per year. This valuable secondary raw material has unique thermal properties for increased productivity in plastic transformation processes and is exempt from the plastic tax, as it is a 100% recycled material of post-consumer origin. In addition, Trans Sabater's patented mechanical recycling technology improves the quality of the pel-

integrated player, able to process all materials from used beverage cartons. Using mechanical recycling, the polyAl will be transformed into high-quality pellets, suitable for a variety of end markets. The ambition is to recycle over 15 000 tons of polyAl, per year, by 2025.

In the Netherlands, Tetra Pak has invested €1 million in Recon Polymers' polyAl recycling plant, in a bid to increase the capacity to at least 8 000 tons per year. It will not only improve the efficiency of the process but specifically

AGP-Africa showcases glass value chain



AS the continent's premier glass packaging producer, Ardagh Glass Packaging-Africa took part in the "Made in Africa" exhibition in Johannesburg at last year's AGOA Forum, and was honoured with a visit from President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), signed into United States law in May 2000, provided for the establishment of a United States-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum).

The AGOA Forum's main objective is to promote resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth and development through strengthened trade and investment ties between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa.

Two thousand delegates were expected to attend the 20th Forum, including representatives from the governments of the USA and AGOA-eligible countries, the private sector, civil society, labour and key regional economic organisations.

The "Made in Africa" exhibition showcases regional value chains and encourages further

investment.

"Our footprint on the African continent has grown considerably over the past decade, with production facilities in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia," said Paul Curnow, CEO of AGP-Africa, formerly Consol Glass.

"Our recent acquisition by Ardagh Group, a global supplier of sustainable glass packaging for brand owners around the world, has enabled us to invest even further in the growth of the South African glass industry."

"The R3 billion investment in two expansion projects at our Nigel facility will ensure that we have the capacity to provide sustainable glass packaging to support our customers' current and projected growth in demand over the next few years. With the completion of the two expansion projects, our Nigel facility will be the largest glass

container production facility in Africa and one of the largest and most efficient facilities globally. A true feather in our cap," added Curnow.

Sustainability is key in Ardagh's value chain: raw materials are responsibly sourced, and there is a focus on driving the amount of recycled glass used in new glass production. Forum delegates will have the opportunity to learn more about our 'money4glass' initiative which aims to promote glass recycling in South Africa and to empower glass recyclers by providing a trading platform that offers an easy, safe and fast way to buy and sell recycled glass.

"In line with the principles of AGOA, building a strong, successful and sustainable glass industry in Africa will contribute to much-needed job creation and inclusive economic growth," added Curnow.

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Western Cape agriculture to gain from
drone certification



Tshifhiwa Ratshibai (SACAA, Cape Town); Khosini Ngobese (Regional Flight Operations Inspector: Flight Operations Department: SACAA, Cape Town); Japie Kritzing (Deputy-Director: Integrated Development Planning, WCDa); Lee-Ann Bell (Information Developer: Innovation, Technology Design and Transfer, WCDa); Arie van Ravenswaay (Assistant Director: Innovation, Technology Design and Transfer, WCDa); Dr Ilse Trautmann (Deputy Director General: Agricultural Research and Regulatory Services (WCDa)); and Trudy Sebastian (Acting regional Manager: SACAA Cape Town)

THE Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDa) is now able to leverage the benefits of aerial drones following the South African Civil Aviation Authority's recent Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operating Systems Certification (UASOC).

Drones, backed by technology-supported research, enable us to optimise resource usage, reduce environmental impact, and contribute to sustainable farming practices, says Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer.

"This achievement underscores our commitment to service delivery, leverag-

ing technology to address the challenges faced by our farmers and supporting the sector in its sustainability journey."

"This is good news for the sector as it will benefit the agricultural sector", said Meyer.

Meyer adds: "The WCDa is committed to embracing cutting-edge technology and propelling the agricultural sector into a new era. The certification ensures that our drone operations comply with aviation regulations. It will also elevate our research and engineering efforts and service delivery."

"The Western Cape Government has

taken up innovation and technology to improve service delivery to the citizens of the Western Cape. The latest aviation certification allows us to bring another innovative dimension to the agricultural sector and improve service delivery to our agricultural industries. Our SACAA accreditation aligns with our undertaking to embrace the 4th industrial revolution," said Meyer.

In anticipation of the certification and the agricultural landscape's evolving needs, the WCDa has equipped itself with a diverse fleet of specialised drones, including spray, multispectral, LiDAR, and RTK drones.

"Our skilled drone pilots, having undergone specialised training, are adept at utilising the unique capabilities of each drone in our fleet. Their expertise ensures precision and efficiency in various applications, from precision agriculture to engineering endeavours", remarked Meyer.

Minister Meyer highlighted that integrating drones into our agricultural practices and related research aligns with the WCDa's commitment to sustainability.

"Innovation and technology are key focuses of the Western Cape Government's Growth for Jobs strategy. The WCDa's UASOC Certification is but another building block towards strengthening the agricultural sector's ability to contribute to the growth of the Western Cape economy and create jobs".

We will continue to invest in innovation in agriculture to ensure that the Western Cape remains the top agricultural region in South Africa", concluded the Minister.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- Agri-Processing & Harvest Supply Chain
- Automation & Control | Robotics & Artificial Intelligence
- Boilers, Burners & Combustion Technology
- Business Processing & Outsourcing | Consulting & Advisory Services
- Breweries | Wineries | Distilleries
- Compressors | Gensets | Plant Equipment
- Fire Technology & Solutions
- Materials Handling Logistics & Supply Chain
- Occupational Health & Safety | PPE
- Power Generation | Power Solutions
- Pumps | Valves | Fluid Technology & Filtration
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SPECIAL EDITION
We are celebrating Heather's
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Issue 1

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY!

1 March 1994 – 1 March 2024

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That is a real milestone –
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Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone! Our journey began 11 years ago when we acquired CBN from Johan, and it has been a true pleasure collaborating with you. Although I haven't been directly involved with you on a day-to-day level, I've always cherished our interactions when we have had the opportunity to work together.

Your dedication and loyalty have played a crucial role in bringing CBN to where it is today, and for that, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. I'm certain you've amassed a wealth of memories throughout the years, witnessing both changes and challenges.

I hope the majority of these experiences have been enjoyable.

As we celebrate this accomplishment, I eagerly anticipate the next milestone. Thank you once again for your invaluable contributions.

Best regards,
Rudi Leitner

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So begins the better news

OPINION

So there I was in the far corner of the Local Pub and Grill with the Big White Dog, peacefully reading the few pages of the newspaper when Luke the Dude sat himself down heavily and spilled his beer. The dog took offense to this undesired bath and left, barking at Luke from the door.

Thus started the next congregation of cheerful conversationists, who had sauntered in when I wasn't paying attention. Time to address the affairs of our town and the world.

"Before we start," started The Prof, nodding at Stevie the Poet, "I believe we should lift our glasses to our learned friend Steven (cheers and vivas) for his spot-on exposition last time on how the ANC transmogrified from centsless to billionaire in mere months."

The Prof raised his tankard and toasts rang out as The Governor approvingly spied the emptying glasses.

"Some of The Prof's colleagues are fin-

gering Russia as the money tree," informed Miss Lily, "whereas The Poet set out clearly that Iran was the Father Christmas to our ruling, ahem, party."

"All well and wealthy for the ANC, while none of the loot is benefitting South Africa," frowned Bill the Beard.

"What do you mean!" challenged Big Ben, "the ANC is doing a great job! Look around you."

"Okay, let's do that," grinned The Beard: "ANC bigshots are living like barons, with a little help from their friends and repeated turns to eat, while taxpayers have to make a taxable living despite unreliable electricity, dysfunctional harbours, crumbling roads, no railway network, I could carry on."

"Please do," said Irene the Queen, nodding her head enthusiastically.

Bill the Beard smiled: "The point is that the same action that rescued the ANC from bankruptcy is damaging South Africa. SA ties with Israel are broken while those with major trading partners are fraying. We are

talking essential imports and exports. Ask the farmers you know.

"But all is not lost. Meet public law professor Koos Malan, as reported by LitNet and Netwerk24.

"His gist is that South Africans have been making a plan to become ANC-proof as the government fails and goes increasingly AWOL in duties like policing and electricity. South Africans, from business and cultural organisations to fed-up citizens, are rolling up their sleeves to get the job done. The biggest example is the Western Cape government, growing increasingly assertive to fix ANC failures such as the Cape Town harbour and the need for a second international airport for the growing population in the crescent around Cape Town, from Somerset West and Stellenbosch westwards.

When the Post Office was collapsing, its services were taken over by private enterprise and when Telkom was failing, it was replaced by cell-phone companies

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 Schoomb



and internet providers. Better education is increasingly available from pre-school to tertiary levels. Trade relations will be next," concluded Bill the Beard.

The story continues. Watch this space.

Also, please diarise May 29 and turn up to vote.

E-mail: noag@maxitec.co.za

The bee in my bonnet column - It's a question of confidence

By Robin Hayes, Associate Editor.

BRUCE Whitfield, compare of The Money Show on Cape Talk radio, pointedly informed listeners the day before SONA, that when Cyril Ramaphosa took office in 2018, the Rand Dollar exchange rate was R12,50 to the dollar.

Today it's over R19. That's a depreciation of +/- 60%. The Euro fared a little better, R15 then, over R20 now, still 25% decline. Rand / Pound – then, average R17,6, today +/- R23,6 = minus 35%.

So our imports are costing between 25-60% more now in Rand terms, depending where they come from, and that excludes increases due to world commodity prices, effects of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza and huge increases in freight rates.

But the rot started before Ramaphosa took office and don't forget, he was number two for four years...

I contend that the catastrophic decline in the Rand against ALL major currencies is the primary cause of inflation as most machinery, white goods, cars, services, etc. are imported. The elephant in the room is fuel where imported oil represents +/-60% of the price at the pump. The average price of petrol in 2018 was about R16,50/ litre – today, around R23, again a depressing 40% increase, 2/3 of which can be attributed to the decline in the dollar exchange rate.

Setting aside for the moment the electricity conundrum – high price and non-availability, collapse of Transnet's rail network and port operations, endemic corruption and the failure of all SOE's except one (I know, you can't!), Chat GPT lists several factors that influence South Africa's exchange rate against major currencies, including:

- 1. Economic Indicators: Economic indicators such as GDP growth, inflation rates, unemployment rates, and balance of trade figures play a significant role. Strong economic performance typically leads to a stronger currency, while weak economic indicators can lead to depreciation.
- 2. Interest Rates: Central bank interest rates, particularly the South African

- Reserve Bank's monetary policy decisions, influence the attractiveness of the South African rand (ZAR) to foreign investors. Higher interest rates tend to attract foreign capital inflows, strengthening the currency.
- 3. Political Stability: Political stability and governance affect investor confidence and perceptions of risk. Political instability, corruption, and uncertainty can lead to capital flight and currency depreciation.
 - 4. Global Economic Conditions: Global economic trends and events, such as changes in commodity prices (especially gold and platinum, which are major South African exports), shifts in global demand, and geopolitical tensions, can impact the exchange rate.
 - 5. Foreign Investment Flows: Foreign direct investment (FDI), portfolio investment, and speculative flows influence the demand and supply of the rand in international markets. Positive investment

- sentiment can strengthen the currency, while negative sentiment can weaken it.
- 6. Market Sentiment and Speculation: Market sentiment and speculative trading can lead to short-term fluctuations in the exchange rate, as traders react to news, rumors, and market developments.
 - 7. Trade Balance: South Africa's trade balance, particularly its exports and imports, affects the demand for its currency. A trade surplus may strengthen the rand, while a trade deficit may weaken it.
 - 8. Government Policies: Fiscal and monetary policies, including taxation, government spending, and currency intervention by the central bank, can influence the exchange rate.
 - 9. External Debt Levels: High levels of external debt can raise concerns about a country's ability to service its debt obligations, leading to currency depreciation.
 - 10. Market Intervention: Sometimes, the

South African Reserve Bank may intervene in the foreign exchange market to stabilize the currency or address extreme volatility.

These factors interact in complex ways, and the exchange rate is subject to fluctuations as a result of changes in any or all of these factors. Additionally, the relative importance of each factor may vary over time.

But the bottom line really boils down to confidence.

This government's gross mismanagement of all the fundamentals in the pursuit of incompetent cadre and crony deployment and the pursuit of ideologies that have failed miserably in all the states that have embraced them, has to equate to the definition of not only gross stupidity, but as Einstein's often quoted definition states, insanity.

Little wonder then that the currency is where it is. Suffer on.

Eish.

Wheeling is coming. And it will change everything

By Larry Claasen

I know it's hard to believe now but South Africa could very well be in a better position when it comes to energy security and even electricity pricing in a few years time.

Before you question my sanity, hear me out. You might not have noticed, but the South African electricity market is preparing itself for deregulation.

This essentially means municipalities are figuring out the engineering, regulatory and financial models regarding wheeling, which is the practice that will allow Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to transmit electricity over their grids.

The hard lessons are being learned now, but

once they figure it out, it not only means they have increased energy security in no longer being dependent on the unreliable Eskom for electricity.

It also means the IPPs will be able to sell electricity directly to end users, at a discounted rate.

And it won't just be large scale IPPs selling into the grid. Warehouse operators will look at their expansive roofs and see an opportunity to generate revenue from selling electricity derived from the solar cells they plan to put on it.

They won't be alone. Business parks will soon put solar panels on their roofs and try to entice tenants by including energy security and cheap electricity as part of the rental package.

Not everyone is learning

This bright future, however, depends on how serious a municipality takes wheeling.

If they treat it as a curiosity, and don't make the necessary investments now, the chances are strong they will regret it in a few years time, when fed up businesses decide to shut down their operations, and move to municipalities that offer a secure supply at a discounted rate.

The future is being built now, and any municipality or metro that do not take wheeling seriously, will soon wonder why their neighbours are able to attract investment, while they are struggling to hold onto their businesses.