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Why disposing of batteries is difficult



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Small farmers must be viable, sustainable and profitable - Steenhuisen



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South Africa can become a global hub for making batteries for New Energy Vehicles

For the country to become a player in the alternative powered vehicle market, it needed to provide clarity on its battery manufacturing plans and do more to grow local demand for these vehicles.



By Larry Claasen

SOUTH Africa has an opportunity to become a significant player in the global New Energy Vehicle (NEV) sector. But for it to achieve this, it has to provide clarity on how it will support the development of a local battery manufacturing sector and do more to foster growing the domestic NEV market.

The local transport sector is a major job creator and a leading exporter. It is however, also the third highest producer of greenhouse gas emissions in the country, and its vehicle exports are under pressure to move away from producing internal combustion engines as a way to power vehicles.

The European Union (EU) for example, a key export market, is banning the sale of internal combustion engines and is switching to zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

In response to the climate crisis, the government released its Just Energy Transition (JET) Implementation Plan 2023–2027, which said that R128,1-billion would be needed from 2023–2027 “for the transport sector to contribute meaningfully to South Africa’s decarbonisation commitments and to a Just Transition of the automotive industry.”

Components before the car

Naamsa, the body that represents vehicle manufacturers, warns that despite the government’s commitment to making the transition, it still needed to clarify key aspects of its strategy.

Naamsa CEO Mikel Mabasa said the worry for vehicle manufacturers is that when it comes to making this transition, they will be dependent on the component sector, which will make the batteries that will be replacing the internal combustion engines.

The problem is that multinational component manufacturers will only invest in local production if there are sufficient volumes to make a project viable.

There is, however, no clarity on what the volumes will be because the investment incentive for the vehicle manufacturers and component makers both kick in March 2026.

“Although the component sector support is attractive, the time frame remains a concern for projects to be linked to specific new generation model investments,” says Mabasa.

Battery power

The local manufacturing of batteries is

seen as key to the sector’s energy transition. Naamsa even notes in its New Energy Vehicle Transitional Roadmap that if it gets its battery manufacturing strategy right, the country could see the setting up of “mega factories that would supply products to the world.”

The roadmap, however, points out that all the mineral resources needed for battery manufacture, like copper, lithium and nickel, are mined in Southern Africa, and if it wants to be an attractive base for global and local battery assemblers, it has to develop a beneficiation strategy to support the sector.

Making batteries locally will also ease access for South African vehicles into the EU and the UK.

“With NEV battery manufacturing, comprising nearly half the cost of the vehicle, as part of the current 60% Rules of Origin requirement under the current free trade arrangements with the EU and the UK, is required to enter the EU and UK duty-free,” said the roadmap.

For its part, the government, in the JET Implementation Plan, says it is developing a national battery strategy, and that the Industrial Development Corporation has a R19-billion battery value chain project pipeline.

It also said that the private sector should also finance the development of the battery industry, not only development finance institutions and the government.

“International incentives for battery production are increasingly competitive and difficult to match in purely financial terms - South Africa will require an appropriate policy response to support the industry’s development,” it noted.

Boosting local demand

Aside from getting more clarity around support for component makers, Mabasa said more can be done to grow demand for alternatively powered technologies in South Africa.

“At present, the Electric Vehicle (EV)

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Safety SA has broadened NOSA’s offering and expanded its services around the world

Under its US owners, the Carlyle Group, NOSA has transformed from only offering occupational health and safety training into providing a wide range of inspection, certification, and training (TIC) services.



By Larry Claasen

US-based Carlyle Group has vastly broadened the range of services since taking over NOSA in 2018.

NOSA, which turned 70 this year and was generally known for occupational health and safety training, now offers testing, inspection, certification, and training (TIC) services, with a particular focus on food safety and occupational health and safety.

This acquisition by the Carlyle sub-Saharan Africa fund, which has since housed it in Safety SA, has helped balance the group’s revenue streams.

Previously, training made up about 70% of the company’s income. Now, revenue is more evenly split, with approximately a third coming from testing, a third from inspection, and a third from training, along with a smaller portion from certification services.

This diversification has made the group less reliant on any single income stream and better equipped to serve a broader range of industries.

The change of ownership has seen NOSA effectively become one of the brands operated by Safety SA, which

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Steven Kitshoff



Malcolm Marx

GIVEAWAY

WIN A CASE OF YOUR FAVOURITE BREW

See page 15 for entry details

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South Africa can become a global hub for making batteries for New Energy Vehicle

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White Paper is production focused to support the manufacture of EVs and EV components in the country with potential limited demand side support at a later stage for locally manufactured EVs.”

He said that without local demand, adoption in a market where affordability is a driving force, could have knock-on consequences for vehicle exports. He reasons that the country is far from its export markets and not having a locally developed market “would present challenges to invest in South Africa for exports.”

One way to foster a market for alternatively powered vehicles is to reduce taxes on them.

“The tax burden on a vehicle for a consumer in the country is excessive considering that 42% of the price of a premium vehicle consists of taxes going straight to the fiscus. The ad valorem duty is a fiscal tax based on a sliding scale up to 30%, and has never been adjusted for inflation,” Mabasa says.

He argues that it could be adjusted to reduce the average 52% price differential between a battery electric and equivalent internal combustion engine vehicle.

Safety SA has broadened NOSA’s offering and expanded its services around the world

Continued from P1

includes food safety group Assurecloud, and SafetyCloud, which runs the NOSA’s services.

Though the group is now a broad-ranging safety services business, when the Carlyle Group bought it, Safety SA CEO Pieter Erasmus said it had initially acquired a training business.

“Off the back of that, we then set about building this TIC training business,” Erasmus says.

This has seen it develop its certification business, which provides services related to ISO standards in occupational health and safety. It also positions itself as a service provider offering end-to-end solutions in this industry under the Safety Cloud banner.

Overseas expansion

Aside from broadening its offering, Safety SA, has also expanded its operations globally.

“We service customers in South America. We are represented in every country south of the equator in Africa. We’ve got some representation in West Africa and East Africa, and then we’ve got a decent representation in mainland China,” says Justin Hobday, MD, NOSA Auditing.

The group’s origins in a developing country have served it well in its global expansion.

“The NOSA system is highly effective in developing economies. So if you think about it, sort of the southern hemisphere, probably excluding Australia, and up into Asia, that’s where our marketplace is. And we’ve seen significant growth in those areas,” says Hobday.

One key to the group’s international success has been its ability to tailor services to the needs of diverse industries and markets. The company’s system is designed to be flexible enough to adapt to different regulatory environments while maintaining the rigorous standards that NOSA is known for.

Creating a safety culture

Though the group has broadened its offering, Safety SA’s Erasmus says its overall mission of making the world a safer place has not changed.

“Fundamentally, what we said as a group, our bigger purpose here is to make the world a safer place. And for me, that harks back to the history of NOSA. And it’s almost the, let’s call it, it’s the next evolution of that.”

Hobday echoed this.

He says the key to creating a safer workplace is changing the broader society’s risk tolerance. But that is easier said than done.

“South Africans’ tolerance for risk is very, very high. And to change a culture is incredibly difficult and takes a very, very long time,” Hobday says.

He gives the example of employees working at a facility with strict noise controls, which would require them to wear ear protection.

“They work all day in this controlled environment around hearing protection. At the end of the shift, they jump back into their car. They drive out to the gate. The radio is nice and low. They’re not five metres out of the gate, and they crank that radio up and in the back. They’ve got the boot full of a subwoofer.”

He says by pumping out 4 000 watts before they get home, exposing themselves to a noise zone that is in excess of 100 decibels for half an hour.

“I don’t say it’s limited to South Africans, but that cultural change to realise, you really need to live in an environment where your workplace and your home space should be treated the same.”

Robust ifm IO-Link master modules to connect sensors to the PLC and the IT world - for coolant and food areas

- ifm’s innovative IO-Link master modules provide quick and easy plug-and-play connection and boast the following features:
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IO-Link master for the automation and IT world

ifm’s decentralised IO-Link master modules serve as a gateway between intelligent IO-Link sensors and the field bus.

Important information of the intelligent sensors can simultaneously be sent into the IT world. With a separate IoT Ethernet socket, the IT network can be set up completely separate from the automation network. Sensor information is transferred into the IT world via the established TCP/IP JSON interface.

Robust field bus modules for demanding applications

Thanks to their special housing materials and

high ingress resistance (IP 67 or IP 69K), they can be used in coolant applications or directly in wet areas in the food industry. The ecolink technology guarantees reliable, permanently ingress-resistant M12 connections of the connection cables.

Advantages and customer benefits

- Separation between automation and IT network
- Machine uptime is of the highest priority. The au-

tomation network must by no means be interrupted by external factors. Therefore, the unit features a separate IoT Ethernet socket separating IT and the automation network. This means that important sensor information can be safely sent to the IT and ERP system.

- Sensor configuration with moneo configure
- The intuitive software finds all IO-Link masters

in the network and creates an overview of the whole plant. In addition, all connected sensors are displayed with the respective parameters. This makes it possible to set the parameters of all sensors in the system from one central point.

Easy sensor connection

The sensors and actuators are connected via standard M12 connection cables without screening. Depending on the device type, up to 4 or 8 IO-Link sensors can be connected and supplied with up to 3.6A. With the EVC693 or EVF693 accessories, additional auxiliary power for the connection of IO-Link actuators can be supplied. The cable can be up to 20m long.



ifm’s robust IO-Link master modules.

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Infrastructure set in place for sustainable waste and energy solution



Existing Bio2Watt organic biogas plant in Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng.

CONSIDERING the looming shortage of landfill sites in Gauteng, along with the country's energy crisis, environmental consultants from SRK Consulting South Africa, together with Bio2Watt Energy Holdings (BEH), are developing a solution that promises to overcome both challenges. This solution comes in the form of an organic waste-to-energy biogas plant.

A recent audit of landfill sites in Gauteng showed that the province faces difficulties in applying traditional waste disposal methods. With extremely limited space remaining on existing landfill sites, there are few suitable locations for new landfill sites.

In the face of this concern about waste management, plans are now set in place for an alternative approach: creat-

ing biogas from waste. This allows government to reduce both the extent of landfill developments and the volume of methane entering the atmosphere.

BEH contracted SRK to conduct the environmental authorisation process, atmospheric emission licence application, and water use licence application – all of which are vital for the development to be appropriately developed, and for the infrastructure to be set in place.

According to Darryll Kilian, partner and principal environmental consultant at SRK Consulting, the BEH organic waste-to-energy biogas plant will be located on a 5 ha site at Sunderland Ridge, west of Centurion, and will generate baseload electricity for the national grid.

"The Sunderland Ridge biogas project

is a great example of a project at the nexus of critical issues that face our society today, including how we manage our growing demand for energy, our increasing volumes of waste, and the reality of climate change – as well as food security," says Kilian. "Operating as an energy producer by generating both electricity and gas, this facility will help the province face its landfill constraints while cutting methane emissions and creating natural fertiliser to promote organic agriculture."

As construction began and infrastructure was rolled out, the environmental impact assessment (EIA) revealed that there is extensive dolomite under the area intended for construction, according to Tamaryn Hale, principal environmental consult-

ant at SRK. With this in mind, adjustments in the initial design and planning for construction needed to be made, with dolomite specialist engineers, process engineers, and civil engineers working closely with SRK to attain achievable infrastructure goals.

Considerations also needed to be made regarding pipeline infrastructure, since the project creates the opportunity to produce and sell compressed gas. This required additional environmental licencing requirements, says Natasha Moodley, who is also a principal environmental consultant at SRK.

With a multidisciplinary team lending their in-house expertise, SRK has been able to conduct technical studies, such as social impact analysis, effects on surface water, air emissions, and noise pollution analysis. The project has also been received enthusiastically by all stakeholders, including local residents.

Infrastructure development is underway on this project, which complies with national regulations, as well as the International Financial Corporation (IFC) performance standard requirements.

South Africa's demographic opportunity a key driver to unlocking population potential

By Chris Hattingh

SOUTH Africa's young, growing population presents a substantive opportunity for the country's future; a skilled workforce, a growing middle class with aspirations, and an expectation for satisfactory government and private sector services and offerings.

On the downside, a young, large population whose needs and requirements are not met, whose potential is inhibited, and which becomes disillusioned with the political offering(s) on offer, is poised to lean towards more radical ideas or 'solutions' offered by more populist individuals, organisations, or parties.

Whether South Africa, and the Government of National Unity in partnership with the private sector specifically, can make the policy reforms and investments necessary to unlock the population's potential, or simply continue on the low-growth path of the last 15 years, is yet to be seen.

In our latest Centre for Risk Analysis (CRA) Macro Review report, Demographics without dividends, authors Tawanda Makombo and Gerbrandt van Heerden find that "between 1991 and 2024, South Africa's population increased by 74% or from 36,2-million to 63-million. The average annual population growth rate did, however, slow down, falling from a high of 1,64% in 2013/14 to 1,33% in 2023/24."

The challenge of capacitating and enabling the country's young population becomes all the starker when one understands that those, "aged 15 to 34 number some 20,9-million, representing around a third of people in South Africa. However, they face several economic and social pressures."



As tends to be the case across the country's population groups unemployment rears its head here once again: "4 out of 10 youths are without a job. Some 27% live in households without an employed adult, further perpetuating the cycle of poverty."

Younger South Africans' daily existence is typified by numerous risks and challenges: "About 14% live in households that reported experiencing hunger regularly. Around 42% are neither employed nor attending an educational facility. A fifth (21%) rely on the government for financial assistance in the form of a social grant, and 3,7-million (17,7%) say that they feel unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods during the day."

In light of the 2022 Census, the challenge of creating an enabling environment for economic growth and job creation is clear: based on the Census count over the next three to five years, all the country's metros except for Cape Town and Buffalo City, face the prospect of being allocated smaller budgets.

This is largely the consequence of the Census finding that the populations of the larger metros had, while still growing, increased somewhat less than initially thought. Those larger metros that

require more infrastructure investments and the payment of public officials' salaries will need to do all they can with what they have – and to make their areas as attractive to private sector investment and business formation as possible.

Considering the municipal challenges in its metros, Gauteng's 15,9-million strong population (a quarter of the country's population) could well be in for a relatively more challenging short-to-medium term future. As the CRA report finds that, "While the populations of both Gauteng and the Western Cape increased significantly – by 80,1% and 65,5% respectively since 2004."

As mentioned above, the country's population growth rate has slowed somewhat over the last few years; it will remain steady to lowering slightly over time for the foreseeable future. A better economic growth rate, declining costs, confidence in the country's future, and more migration from sub-Saharan African countries would reverse the decline.

Regardless, South Africa's population is large, and young; it can spur economic prosperity, or be a serious risk for the government and broader society if its concerns and potential are not adequately met and opened up for.



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ALL INDUSTRIAL, MOBILE, SPRINKLER REQUIREMENTS

VEGA’s impressive level and pressure measurement models at Electra Mining draw much attention



VEGA experts explaining their working models to visitors to their stand at Electra Mining.

By Diane Silcock

VEGA Instruments – a global leader in the field of measurement technology – recently exhibited at the Electra Mining show. Their working models were a big attraction with VEGA experts demonstrating to visitors, different types of level and pressure measurement applications including nucleonic level and density detectors.

VEGA Instruments’ product specialist, Clint Viviers, explains: “Our radar sensors can handle any application, whether the medium to be measured is liquid, solid, hot, cold, hazardous or corrosive, but what we demonstrated with one of our working models at Electra Mining, was the measurement of solids and the challenges of dusty areas. In mining, for instance, solid particles fly through the air, creating a dust cloud which customers perceive as a challenge when it comes to level measurement.

With our technology, the challenge is overcome because dust does not affect a radar’s measurement, thereby ensuring accurate measurements.”

VEGA’s chemical type liquids display had two separate pressure transmitters connected together via a four-core cable. These transmitters have a robust ceramic diaphragm which is about ten times stronger than alternative technology which has costly, small stainless steel parts that are prone to damage and are high in maintenance, unlike the ceramic type from VEGA.

“With our user-friendly devices,” says Viviers, “the electronics are designed to do all the necessary calculations for different applications. For example, with a differential pressure system, two different pressures are measured on each leg and subtracted from each other so you have more than one variable.

“In a mixing tank with

liquids, for instance, it’s easy to measure the water in a vessel but once you add, say a flocculant to get the right concentration, the density will increase, thereby driving the pressure reading higher. Using a single device will not result in an accurate measurement when the density changes. However, with electronic differential pressure, by selecting the application of density compensated level, we are compensating for density fluctuations and can give the accurate level measurement as well as the density of the particular mixture in the tank,” Viviers says.

He points out that the customer benefits from having two readings at the same time as this provides better control by having more accuracy on both density and level, thereby avoiding the use of too much of the flocculant or whatever liquid the customer is adding. This can be applied to any type of mixture where the density changes.

The third popular working model displayed at Electra Mining demonstrated the VEGA nucleonic detectors in action, in particular the MINITRAC density detector and the FIBERTRAC flexible detector. In the mining industry, the MINITRAC is used extensively for slurry density measurement. The FIBERTRAC is a nuclear level detector

more for chemical and petrochemical industries and is used wherever a radar or other type of level measurement device is restricted or unable to work, due to being non-intrusive in the application. Both are used on round vessels and vessels with conical outlets suitable for measurement of liquids, solids, slurries and suspensions.

Viviers warns about using the right type of transmitters for the right application. VEGA has robust radar level transmitters for high demand applications, for the food industry, pharmaceutical, building materials, chemical industry, and mining, to name a few. “The production process is expensive and if a basic device fails, the consequence could be the loss of a batch of product,” he says.

VEGA pressure transmitters also cater for high and low demand applications. There are two main categories of pressure measurement: process pressure which could be any kind of pressure that exists in a plant, such as in a tank or pipe, and a gas pressure of some sort; and hydrostatic pressure which is using pressure to measure level applications.

A particular feature of the VEGABAR 20 and 30 series pressure transmitters, that customers particularly enjoy, is that operators can easily see what the pressure status is by looking at the colour of the LED ring which is configurable. Lower pressure shows green, high pressure shows yellow, and with extreme over pressure it shows red.

VEGA is well known in South Africa for not only its cutting-edge level measurement technology, but also has a wide range of pressure measuring devices for various applications. VEGA has a long history of innovation – over 60 years – and is recognised as a global leader in the field of measurement technology.

Bolt and Engineering: ‘bolted’ to great suppliers and servicing a wide range of industry sectors



BOLT and Engineering Distributors (B.E.D.) continues to solidify its position as a leading provider of comprehensive industrial solutions. At the recent Electra Mining 2024 tradeshow, B.E.D.’s strategic partnerships with suppliers such as Fronius, Milwaukee Tool (represented by Upat), and Bolt Torque took centre stage.

Commitment to Safety, Quality, and Customer Support

Mike Giltrow, CEO of B.E.D., emphasises the importance of selecting the right suppliers as central to the company’s success: “We believe that our suppliers are as important as our customers. We partner with brands that share our commitment to quality, safety, and customer satisfaction. Our suppliers don’t just sell products—they collaborate with us to deliver solutions tailored to each customer, regardless of the industry,” Giltrow adds.

Bolt Torque: Leading Torqueing and Tensioning Solutions

A key partner, Bolt Torque, provides advanced torqueing and tensioning technology for sectors like wind power, ship repair, and oil and gas. Angus Houston, global sales manager at Bolt Torque, explains: “B.E.D. ensures our

torquing solutions are understood and correctly applied in the field, opening doors to markets where precision is key.”

B.E.D.’s extensive network enables customers to access Bolt Torque’s SANAS-certified calibration services, critical for maintaining torque tools used in energy and infrastructure projects.

Milwaukee Tool: Powering Multiple Sectors

Milwaukee Tool, represented by Upat, has significantly expanded its industry reach through B.E.D. Wayne Weber, COO of Upat, highlights: “Our partnership leverages B.E.D.’s sales team to bring Milwaukee products closer to customers and enhance their experience.”

Milwaukee’s M18 Platform, known for its versatile tools, and the MX FUEL Platform, catering to heavy-duty applications, power diverse industries. “B.E.D. ensures that Milwaukee’s tools are backed by excellent after-sales service, ensuring long-term customer satisfaction,” Weber adds.

Fronius: Advanced Welding Solutions

B.E.D.’s 15-year partnership with Fronius has been instrumental in bringing cutting-edge welding solutions to various industries. Andrés

Loaiza Espinosa, sales director for Fronius, expresses their long-term commitment: “At Fronius, we aim to make a positive impact in South Africa by providing innovative welding technologies that not only support industrial growth but also contribute to the country’s development. With B.E.D., we ensure these solutions reach a wide range of sectors, improving operational efficiency and quality.”

Edric Van Der Walt, export sales manager for Africa at Fronius, adds: “Our systems, like the iWave and TransSteel Pulse, offer versatility and high performance. B.E.D. helps deliver these solutions to customers across sectors, ensuring they achieve the best results.”

Driving Success Across Sectors

While known for its presence in mining, B.E.D. serves a broad range of sectors, including construction, wind power, and oil and gas. “Our focus remains on expanding our reach and delivering solutions that make a difference across all industries,” says Giltrow.

B.E.D.’s strong supplier relationships are key to delivering cutting-edge solutions. With trusted partners like Fronius, Milwaukee, and Bolt Torque, B.E.D. continues to empower industries across South Africa.

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City of Cape Town progresses with plans for permanent desalination plant



Intake options investigated for proposed desalination site.

IN the face of climate change, unpredictable rainfall and a growing population, the City's plans for a permanent desalination plant is a key project in the City's New Water Programme (NWP) and Water Strategy, which aims to diversify drinking water supply resources.

most appropriate approach to deliver the desalination project.

- The City together with the Transaction Advisor evaluated the viability of the proposed site for the desalination plant, comparing it with other locations identified.

"Overall, the City aims to add an extra 300-million litres of water per day from various sources, including desalination, water reuse, groundwater and clearing of alien invasive species"

The desalination project is expected to produce 50 to 70-million litres of water a day by 2030.

Overall, the City aims to add an extra 300-million litres of water per day from various sources, including desalination, water reuse, groundwater and clearing of alien invasive species.

Progress made on desalination to date

- An independent advisory panel (IAP) of 12 esteemed international and local desalination experts, consisting of scientists, engineers, public health and social science practitioners, was established to guide the City in making informed decisions regarding the establishment of a permanent seawater desalination plant.
- The National Treasury's Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) appointed a Transaction Advisor on behalf of the City to investigate the

- The findings of the Section 78(1) assessment were presented to Council in March 2024. Council granted approval in terms of Section 78(2) of the MSA, to proceed with detailed feasibility studies of alternative options for the implementation and operation of the City's first Permanent Desalination Plant and as well as Faure New Water Scheme (FNWS) (in compliance with Section 78(3) of the MSA).
- These detailed studies will explore various implementation options, including the potential for external mechanisms such as a Public Private Partnership (PPP), and will include among others a value assessment and due diligence assessment of the considered options.
- Through published public notices, the City announced its plans, under Section 78(3) of the

MSA, to explore implementing and operating a permanent Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Desalination Plant at Paarden Eiland and a water re-use scheme at Faure (FNWS) through external mechanisms; encouraging the public to submit any enquiries for clarification.

- An environmental impact assessment is under way.

Commitment to expertise

The IAP reviewed the technical, scientific, socio-economic, and regulatory aspects of the project, emphasising the long-term benefits of their input.

To continue benefiting from this expert guidance, the City is pursuing a long-term phase 2 of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Water Research Commission. This will ensure the Scheme development continues the journey with the IAP.

"We are committed to advancing our water security by developing a permanent desalination plant, among all other interventions which comprise the New Water Programme.

"By leveraging on a diverse pool of expertise and exploring all feasible options for implementation, we are confident that Cape Town will establish quality technologies in water treatment from diverse sources, which meet safety, technical and regulatory standards," said the City's Mayoral committee member for water and sanitation, councillor Zahid Badroodien.

Community-based farm programme produces over 1,1-million limes for SAB

By Larry Claassen

AGRICULTURE Minister John Steenhuisen was full of praise for the South African Breweries (SAB) programme that saw the community-based farm programme produce over 1,1-million limes.

Speaking at an industry event in Caledon, Steenhuisen noted that the programme has been so successful that the Moletele Communal Property Association (Moletele Community) and Komati Fruit Group are now exporting limes.

All the proceeds from the sales of Moletele Corona Limes goes back to the 1 615 families that make up the Moletele Community. The workforce that tends to the farm are also from the community, with 12 people employed directly, and with indirect employment, both full-time and part-time, support-

ing up to 55 households. A three-phase planting plan has resulted in a tree population of 34 092 lime trees in the 60-hectare farm.

SAB CEO Richard "Boris" Rivett-Carnac said at the event that the Community Private Partnership (CPP) was set up to provide limes for its brand of Corona beer, which is traditionally served with a slice of lime.

This saw the brewer invest R19-million into its partnership with the Moletele Community and Komati Fruit Group.

The deal had Komati Fruit Group provide expertise and skills development and the Moletele Community provide one of their farms, the Richmond Kopano Farm about 25km from Hoedspruit.

Under the agreement, SAB is committed to buying a guaranteed number of limes, meaning Corona Moletele



SAB CEO Richard "Boris" Rivett-Carnac

Limes have a ready market in SAB.


The remainder of the crop is either sold locally or exported.

"This partnership is a purpose-driven intervention that truly exemplifies the beer economy in action and shows the unique power of beer to propel South Africa forward. In our commitment to invest in local industries that are connected to our supply chain, we are anchored in the farming fraternity, especially emerging farmers," said Zoleka Lisa, Vice President of


Corporate Affairs at SAB.

Lisa said the Moletele Corona Limes were born out of that charge, and the fruit of this partnership has elevated the production of limes in South Africa, ensuring an all-year supply of the crop.

"Equally important is the positive change that this intervention has brought to the community of Moletele, from dividends that go to the beneficiary families to job creation, skills development and skills transference," Lisa added.



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LAPP Southern Africa opens new warehouse in Cape Town

LAPP Southern Africa, a leading provider of industrial cables, connectors, and automation solutions, is excited to announce the opening of its new warehouse in Cape Town.

This expansion marks a significant milestone in the company's commitment to enhancing service delivery and accessibility for its customers in the region.

The new facility will enable LAPP Southern Africa to bring its extensive range of products—including cables, connectors, glands, and other essential accessories—closer to its customers in Cape Town and surrounding areas. Orders will continue to be processed at the Johannesburg office, ensuring a seamless experience for all customers. The Cape Town

warehouse will dispatch products according to customer requirements, offering flexible options for collection or delivery arrangements.

"We are thrilled to establish a presence in Cape Town," said Chad Andrews, MD of LAPP Southern Africa.

"This new warehouse is not just a facility; it symbolises our dedication to serving our customers better and fostering growth in the region. We understand the importance of reliable supply chains, and our Cape Town warehouse will play a vital role in enhancing our service delivery."

LAPP Southern Africa has built a strong reputation for quality and innovation, delivering customised solutions that meet the needs of vari-

ous industries, including electrical systems, automation, robotics, and renewable energy. The opening of the Cape Town warehouse aligns with the company's mission to provide exceptional products and services while expanding its footprint across the continent.

Customers can expect a comprehensive range of LAPP's products, supported by knowledgeable staff who are ready to assist with any inquiries. The new warehouse is equipped to handle various orders, ensuring that clients can find the right solutions for their specific needs.

LAPP Southern Africa invites customers and partners to visit the new warehouse and explore the diverse product offerings available.

Chemical safety and compliance go hand in hand with your insurance - PSG

WORKING with chemicals presents inherent risks to be mindful of, not only for the safety of your employees but also to ensure that your business has the appropriate insurance cover. Insurers often have specific requirements related to the storage and handling of chemicals, and failing to meet these requirements can result in claim repudiation.

Karen Rimmer, head of distribution at PSG Insure advises on the essential considerations and steps that businesses (and individuals) need to take to stay compliant, safe, and fully covered by their insurance policies.

Compliance with legislation

The cornerstone of ensuring insurance cover for businesses working with chemicals is compliance with relevant legislation. Insurers consider applicable laws when assessing claims, making it crucial for businesses to understand and adhere to the regulations that govern their operations. Full disclosure of all relevant business information, including the chemicals used on-site, is essential. As Rimmer emphasises, "Failing to provide accurate and comprehensive information to insurers can have significant financial and operational consequences, underscoring the importance of working

closely with an insurance adviser to meet compliance requirements."

Documentation and licensing

Businesses must ensure that all necessary licences, permits, and compliance documentation stay up to date, readily available to enable a smooth claims process. She further advises that maintaining accurate records that demonstrate compliance with legislation, regulations and safety standards is paramount. Businesses should also conduct regular fire safety checks and inspections to validate their adherence to safety protocols and requirements.

Suitable grounds and storage solutions

The building where chemicals are stored must be equipped to handle such materials. Factors such as occupancy classification, building construction, ventilation, and fire protection systems play a crucial role in determining the suitability of the premises for storing chemicals. Rimmer asserts that businesses must adhere to stacking compliance considerations, ensure proper storage locations, and implement fire detection and suppression systems tailored to the types of chemicals used on-site.

Spill response and safety measures

"Contingency plans need to be in place to address chemical spills and emergencies effectively. Employing certified and competent forklift drivers, access to spill response experts and providing appropriate safety equipment and emergency facilities for staff, are vital components of proactive risk management. Implementing safety measures such as fire walls, separate storage areas, and proper ventilation systems further enhance the overall safety of chemical handling operations," says Rimmer.

Home chemical safety

Beyond the workplace, households also contain various flammable chemicals that pose fire hazards if not handled or stored properly. Common household products such as non-stick cooking spray, insect repellent, spray deodorants, furniture polish, and pool chemicals can all present risks if not used with caution. By understanding the flammability of these products and following safety guidelines, such as not using these products near an open flame or storing them close to other flammable objects, one can mitigate the risk of accidents and potential fire damage at home.

Why it's hard to find an e-waste drop-off point that accepts batteries - ERA

By Larry Claasen

THE e-waste regulations which came into effect in November 2021, requires batteries to be disposed of by dropping it off at e-waste drop-off points, but not all drop-off points are prepared to accept them.

E-Waste Recycling Authority (ERA) CEO Ashley du Plooy says batteries are often not accepted at certain e-waste drop-off points because of their unique composition and the potential hazards they pose.

"Not all drop-off points are equipped to safely store different types of batteries, particularly those containing flammable or toxic materials. Batteries like lead-acid, alkaline, and lithium-ion, are treated differently from general e-waste due to their hazardous components."

He adds: "Lead-acid and lithium-ion batteries in particular contain

heavy metals and electrolytes that are not only toxic to the environment but also pose a fire risk if not handled correctly. Proper disposal practices are critical. Batteries should not be mixed with general e-waste unless the drop-off point is equipped to manage them safely."

Du Plooy says the authority is working hard at coming up with ways to dispose of batteries.

"At ERA, we are actively developing infrastructure and supporting solutions for battery waste, particularly for the alkaline and lithium-ion battery streams, which are growing significantly due to the booming solar industry in South Africa."

ERA currently covers certain batteries as part of its WEEE offering - consumers can drop off their alkaline batteries in collection bins across our network, while lithium-ion batteries still concealed (not dis-

mantled, damaged and exposed) in devices like laptops and cellphones can also be placed in the bins.

People wanting to drop their e-waste off at collection points around the country must check the bins to ensure that their battery waste is accepted before throwing it in.

ERA will have more detailed solutions to share in the near future.

"South Africa has a relatively mature recycling system for lead-acid batteries, largely driven by the automotive industry. However, their lead content and the presence of sulfuric acid make them dangerous if handled improperly. Most lead-acid battery providers take old lead-acid batteries back in established take-back schemes, some of which even provide rebates for this waste stream. These waste batteries are then managed at specialised facilities equipped to neutralise

the acid and recover the lead for reuse."

Lithium-ion batteries, however, are becoming increasingly prevalent due to the rise in demand for solar power systems and electric vehicles. But their disposal is complex. When improperly handled, lithium-ion batteries can ignite and cause fires and thermal events so it is critical that collection and transport solutions account for this waste stream safely.

After mechanical pre-processing, what remains is black mass, which contains valuable materials like lithium, cobalt, and nickel.

"Unfortunately, South Africa's recycling industry does not yet have the full-scale infrastructure to recover these materials cost effectively, leading to significant reliance on black mass export for processing, although there are some exciting local solutions that ERA is supporting to achieve circularity."

Tal-Tec: A five-decade journey in livestock equipment innovation



Greg Talbot, CEO of Tal-Tec, a South African manufacturer of livestock handling equipment.

FARMING, one of the oldest trades in existence, has evolved significantly over the past 50 years with new skills and tools improving efficiencies and outcomes.

Tal-Tec, a proudly South African manufacturer of livestock handling equipment, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The business was founded after the invention of a 'Spray Race' by farmer Peter Talbot to dip livestock, replacing the traditional plunge dip through which cattle had to swim. Tal-Tec has since added a number of innovative livestock handling and management products to its line-up.

Greg Talbot, CEO of

Tal-Tec, says the evolution of farming practices has had an impact on the design and function of farming equipment. "In the livestock farming industry, one of the most significant shifts has been the commercialisation of the beef industry to feedlots which has changed the way the beef industry supplies the market. Farmers remain the primary producers, breeding weaner calves. If the farm doesn't have its own feedlot, it will sell its weaner calves to feedlots when they are around seven months old. The aim of feedlots is to increase the weight of cattle through an intensive feeding system. Appropriate equipment such as

scales to track each animal's weight gain play an important role in this process," he says.

The establishment of feedlots has had a direct impact on the number of abattoirs found around the country. While even smaller towns used to boast an abattoir, that's no longer the case, with most large feedlots now owning their own abattoirs or having an interest in an abattoir, reveals Talbot.

Globally, precision livestock farming using sensors, robotics and big data analytics is helping to boost production and reduce losses by providing real-time insights.

Many feedlot operations are using these technologies to record data and use these insights to inform their decision making. Not only are digital ear tags allowing farmers to track the location of their livestock but by integrating artificial intelligence into the tag technology, they also allow farmers to monitor the health and wellbeing of animals via movement and body temperature. Livestock scales with built-in technologies allow animals to be identified and weighed and the data captured

in real time while automated sorters such as Tal-Tec's Auto Drafter, can sort livestock according to age, gender and weight.

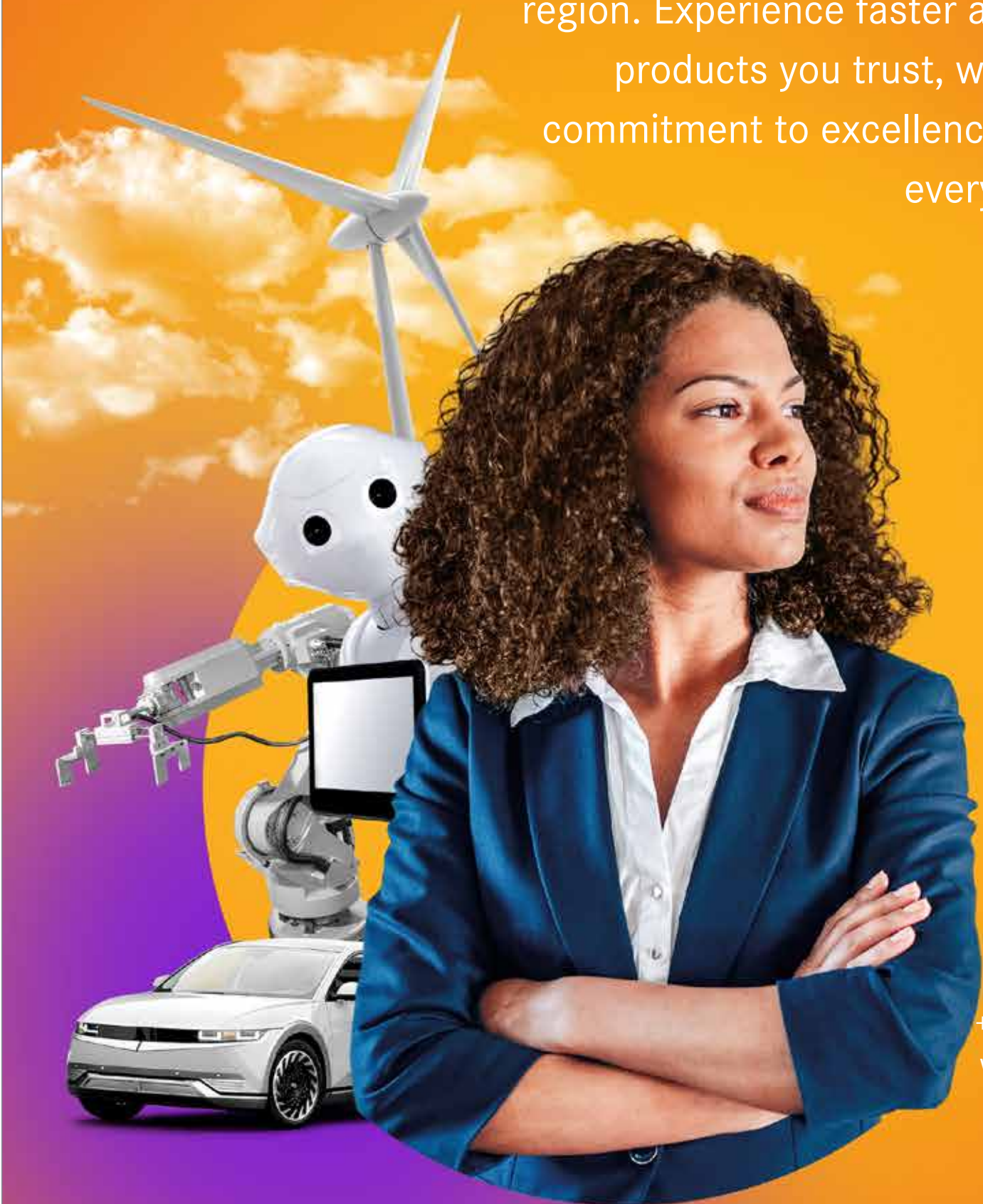
"The challenge is that although these advanced technologies do exist, not all farmers in South Africa can afford them or are prepared to sign up for the subscription services which accompany them which is why we ensure that in addition to these tech-enabled products, we also offer more affordable entry-level products," says Talbot.

The secret to the company's longevity has been listening to the needs of farmers and then designing fit for purpose equipment. Since 1994, the company has expanded its product line by 400%. While the bulk of its business is in South Africa, it has also expanded into Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia.

"For the past 50 years we have prided ourselves on producing quality equipment that is robust, affordable and designed to withstand the harsh conditions prevalent on the African continent and look forward to continuing that legacy in the years to come."

Cape Town, We've Arrived

LAPP Southern Africa is excited to announce the opening of our new warehouse in Cape Town! We're now closer than ever to delivering our top-quality cable solutions and services to our valued customers in the region. Experience faster access to the products you trust, with the same commitment to excellence that drives everything we do



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MATTEI Compressors - industrial reliability and sustainability while combating climate change

A widely accepted fact is that global warming is currently the greatest threat to our planet and humanity.

An independent study performed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms with the present greenhouse gas emission rate, by the end of the century will have an unavoidable effect of average global temperature warming exceeding 4°C.

Global electricity consumption is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emission and is therefore a global warming emergency.

The industrial sector accounts for more than 50% of the global electricity consumption and of this, up to 20% (i.e. 1335 TWh/y) is due to air compression and delivery to final uses.

When developing a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb global temperature rises it is important to consider

energy saving or energy recovery in Industrial Compressed Air Systems.

There are several varieties of compressors available, and it is vital to select the best option. The two main systems are rotary vane and rotary screw compressors. These compressors incorporate similar components—oil tanks and coolers, thermal bypass and minimum pressure valves, mechanisms for controlling air volume—but the similarities end there.

However, there are several common misconceptions about rotary vanes that may discourage buyers from purchasing these systems. Herewith a clearer understanding of rotary vanes.

Must the vanes be replaced frequently?

Mattei's vanes and stators are both made from a proprietary cast

iron blend, designed to significantly enhance resistance to wear

Are springs used to push out the vanes?

Rotary vane compressors don't use springs at all. Instead, these compressors use centrifugal force to push the vanes against the wall of the cylinder, where the oil ensures there is no metal-to-metal contact. As the vanes rotate, they are propelled outward,

thus creating the individual compression volumes within the compressor.

Do Rotary Vane compressors consume large amounts of air?

Mattei compressors offer some of the finest energy efficiency available today. The rotary vane design produces compression that is highly volumetrically efficient; this is due to substantially fewer

opportunities for air leakage in the stator unit towards the compression intake; there is no blowhole as in a traditional screw compressor systems.

Is Rotary Vane compressors need constant maintenance and are they prone to wear?

Rotary vane compressors use a direct drive design, meaning these units will not have to contend with any thrust

forces. Due to this fact, vane compressors use oil lubricated hydrodynamic bush bearings instead of ball or roller bearings (found in rotary screw compressors).

If proper lubrication is maintained, these bush bearings never wear out, thus, eliminating the highly expensive compressor overhaul associated with screw compressors that use ball and thrust bearings.

Must Rotary Vane compressors operate at a high speed?

Screw compressors need to operate at high rotational speeds. Rotary vane compressors operate at a low speed of 1 000 to 1 500RPM, are able to minimise mechanical losses due to power transmission and friction. The slower a compressor runs, the higher the performance output.

Do Rotary Vane compressors consume large amounts of oil/lubricants?

Rotary vane compressors contain state-of-the-art air-oil separation systems. These three-stage separation systems (stage one and two mechanical, stage three coalescing) are built into all rotary vane compressors, leading to industry-beating oil carryovers of between 0.5ppm and 3ppm.



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Artic Drier - Acoustic Leak Imaging Detector, increases productivity and reduces compressed air wastage

THE all new SUTO iTEC S532 acoustic imaging detector, provides an effective way to locate the pressurised air and gas leaks as well as Partial Discharge (PD) in industrial high voltage environments. Using a large 4.3" LCD touch screen, the results overlaying on a visual image locates leakage points fast.

Electrical Partial Discharge types

Corona discharge occurs on the sharp surface of a conductor surrounded by gas. It usually happens in electrical systems like high-voltage power lines, transformers, or electric motors

Floating discharge, one of arcing discharges, happens when the electrical current flows through the conducting path created by voltage difference between two conductors. It might occur in various situations, such as high-voltage power transmission systems, electrical switches, circuit breakers.

Surface discharge is when the electrical discharge travels along the surface of insulation. It is primarily caused by contamination and weather conditions like high humidity. It often occurs in high voltage equipment, such as



transformers, cables, switchgear, and motors.

Particle discharge refers to the partial discharge of electrical energy that interacts with metallic particles and debris present in the electrical systems. It can result from loose particles or particles generated by mechanical wear, corrosion, or degradation of insulation materials.

Compressed air / gas leakage detection (LD) - the device detects and estimates real-time leak rates, leak cost, and leak level for reference. It takes photographs, records voice notes, logs the leak tag number and location. Report writing is easy and fast when using the LMS (Leak Monitoring Software)

Air leaks can easily cost 30% of your compressed air production, imposing high power

costs.

The use of Simultaneous C/Air Monitoring - a compressed air system can be monitored, for flow, pressure and power it can even provide an overview of compressor efficiency (per compressor) which can then be evaluated and compared with the percentage of compressed air wasted to atmosphere in leaks.

Mobile air auditing Artic Driers offers a broad based air auditing service focused on compressed air (and gas) monitoring for air volume rates, pressure, power consumption, dewpoint, oil vapour carry over and particle counts. This is suitable for pipe lines from 15 mm to > 400 mm and compatible with most gases with pressures from vacuum to over ≥40 bar G.

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Auditing has an extremely fast payback time. Leak detection can be undertaken during normal business working hours.

Transform air compressors into cost- and emission-reducing energy sources with Atlas Copco's energy recovery solutions

THOUGH compressed air is critical for essentially any manufacturing or processing operation, the utility is also the largest consumer of a plant's energy. Subsequently, garnering energy savings during the air compression process will irrefutably procure economic and environmental value-add for customers.

A staggering 94% of the energy that is consumed by an air compressor is converted into heat. This inexorable by-product of compressed air production is lost into the atmosphere via the cooling system and radiation. Atlas Copco once again demonstrates its well-earned reputation as an environmentally conscious, forward-thinking innovator, with the design of an energy recovery system. The unit smartly recovers all this wasted heat, transferring it to other areas in the plant where it can be re-used for multiple applications, essentially closing the loop.

"With our ER 90-900 energy recovery systems, operators are able to re-use this thermal energy, for example, to



supply hot water in bathroom and kitchen areas or to heat work and office areas, addressing employee sanitation and comfort," says JC Lombard, business line manager for the Oil-free Air Division of Atlas Copco Compressor Technique.

"Reducing a plant's overall energy consumption will shrink both the electricity bill as well as the CO₂ footprint of the utility room, delivering financial and green benefits to the business."

Lombard further highlights the fact that this thermal energy is also particularly suitable for process applications.

He explains: "The hot water can be used as boiler pre-feed or even directly in industrial processes requiring temperatures of between 70°C to 90°C, providing a significant saving on

costly energy sources such as natural gas and heating oil. This essentially means that operators can scale down or even completely eliminate boilers and other equipment required to generate heat or steam for industrial processes, thereby further adding to the bottom line for business sustainability."

Available up to 900kW, the ER 90-900 energy recovery systems can be used together with Atlas Copco's GA oil-injected and water-cooled, oil-free air compressors. These standalone, compact, small-footprint energy recovery units are specially designed by Atlas Copco for easy installation, operation, and maintenance. A dedicated connection kit further simplifies the installation process without affecting the compressor's serviceability. The systems are available with either stainless steel or cost-effective copper coolers, depending on the application.

The value of investing in an Atlas Copco energy recovery system reaches even further. In addition to improving business profitability, the reclamation of a large portion of the free heat created by their air compressors, will assist operators to sustainably comply with increasingly stringent environmental compliance standards.

Based on the compressor set-up, Atlas Copco's highly skilled technicians, using an energy saving potential calculator, are able to indicate how much waste heat can be recovered and how much customers can save on their total energy bill. "Armed with up-front knowledge of the savings they stand to realise, customers can install an energy recovery unit with confidence and include these calculations in their business plans and profitability projections," concludes Lombard.

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Agri-food processing machinery from Facet Engineering addresses food security in South Africa



Degerminator.

FACET Process Engineering has been supplying solutions to the agri-food sector for over 35 years in the form of a large range of conveying equipment, as well as specialised process machinery for the preparation of grain, seeds and beans. This process machinery can add value to one of South Africa's most important and largest crops, namely maize, which is used extensively in animal feed, as well as for human consumption in the form of samp, maize grits and, more commonly, maize meal.

In order to prepare maize for human consumption, it goes through the process

of removing the germ and outer skin, leaving the starchy endosperm available as a raw material and additive in the food and non-food industries.

Nothing goes to waste, the valuable germ and skin are collected and made available for animal feed. This process is collectively referred to as degermination. Facet supplies one of the finest degerminator systems available worldwide. The system comprises a Conditioner and a Horizontal Degerminator which delivers a 99% clean cracked kernel that is germ, skin and dust free, ready for further processing.

To facilitate this process, water is added to the kernel to loosen the outer germ and skin, while most importantly not adding moisture to the remaining endosperm. Facet's compact and efficient system is able to add the exact amount of moisture to every kernel in approximately six minutes. This negates the use of cumbersome inefficient wet bins, as well as not requiring any further polishing machines after degermination, both of which are commonly found in traditional maize processing plants.

The added benefit of this system is the freeing up of valuable floor space normally taken

up by this equipment, along with reduced power consumption and, most importantly, saving costs.

An air extraction system can be supplied for the collection of the germ and skin often referred to as hominy chop, which is bagged off and used in animal feed, however, it has a short shelf life due to the oil in the germ. This shelf life, however, can be extended with the use of Facet's continuous dryers. They offer systems that cater for capacities from as low as 0,5t/h up to as much as 7t/h, and can supply ancillary equipment pre and post the degerminator. This includes maize intake systems, maize cleaners, conveyors, bucket elevators, storage bins and steel platforms, if required.

Facet Process Engineering makes a valuable and necessary contribution to this vital agri-food processing industry in South Africa with solutions and systems for grain cleaning, bean processing, chicken feed processing and mixing/blending process plants, to name a few.

For further information, contact Facet Process Engineering on +27 11 796 1168.

E-mail: faceteng@global.co.za
Website: www.facetengineering.co.za

Vesconite beats bronze at fruit concentrate producer

A Vesconite thrust washer has outlasted bronze on a Bucher CM50 grinding machine at a large fruit juice concentrate producer.

Reports received from the producer were that the Vesconite washer operated into three seasons and showed no signs of wear, in contrast to the bronze, which lasted only two seasons.

The component was designed and manufactured to act as a thrust washer and a running surface for the machine. Furthermore, it acts as a seal to protect the bearings against fruit pulp and water.

Vesconite is ideal for the application because it does not swell and is resistant to strong acids in fruit juices, say Vesconite Bearings food and beverage application developers Joané Odendaal and Nadia Swart, indicating that the Vesconite thrust washer continues to operate in the application.

Besides not lasting



A Vesconite thrust washer has been successfully employed on a grinding machine at a large fruit juice concentrate producer.

as long, bronze washers are also twice the price of Vesconite and susceptible to theft, they note.

The Bucher CM50 grinding machine primarily makes fruit pulp from apples and pears. It processes 30 to 50 tons per hour of apples and is an

essential part of juice and puree production at the company.

Vesconite Bearings is proud to have once again proven its bearing and wear material's superior performance and durability in the food and beverage industry, Odendaal and Swart say.

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Shumani Industrial Equipment acting regional manager Cray Van Staden

Shumani offers leading brands to support farmers

IN South Africa, the agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in ensuring food security and economic stability. As farmers face increasing challenges, having access to reliable machinery and

equipment becomes paramount. Shumani Industrial Equipment, a leading distributor of high-quality agricultural and construction equipment, is committed to providing farm-

ers with a comprehensive range of products tailored to meet their needs throughout the farming cycle. From land preparation to post-harvest processing, Shumani's extensive portfolio

includes essential equipment that addresses every phase of agricultural production. The company distributes renowned brands of forklifts, telehandlers and skid-steers that reduce

downtime and maintenance requirements. "Our mission is to empower farmers by supplying them with the right tools to enhance productivity and efficiency," says Cray Van Staden, acting regional manager. "We recognise the unique challenges faced by farmers, which is why we offer a holistic spectrum of products designed to cater to their needs, whether on the farm or after harvest."

"Our mission is to empower farmers by supplying them with the right tools to enhance productivity and efficiency"

Shumani's product range meets the diverse needs of the agricultural sector with a strong focus on forklifts, telehandlers and skid-steers. These versatile machines play a critical role in enhancing farm productivity. Forklifts streamline the handling of heavy loads like feed, fertilisers and produce, making transport and storage more efficient.

Telehandlers provide the flexibility to lift, move and position materials in hard-to-reach areas, and are ideal for managing tasks such as stacking hay or loading silos. Skid-steers, with their manoeuvrability and attachment versatility, are perfect for land preparation, cleaning livestock areas and handling various post-harvest tasks.

With a dedicated focus on quality and service, Shumani also provides expert advice and support, helping farmers select the right equipment for their specific needs. This commitment to customer satisfaction has solidified Shumani's reputation as a trusted partner in the agricultural sector.

Shumani is South Africa's largest black-owned industrial and construction equipment provider, serves major blue-chip companies and leads the beverage industry market. Supported by a nationwide dealer network and experienced technicians, Shumani ensures optimal performance and reliability.

It is an official dealer for the Goscor Group, and distributes brands like Crown, Doosan, Bobcat, Sany, Tennant, and Genie.



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Announcing the birth of Organic Wines South Africa



ORGANIC wine makers have formed their own association, Organic Wines South Africa.

Created in September 2024, and encompassing the core, established, certified-organic wine Estates of South Africa, the objective of the Association will be to broadly market the merits of sustainability in our agricultural processes and of the non-chemical production methods of our wines.

"We aim to promote the development of sustainable production throughout our sector, including information sharing and the pooling of technical expertise & expertise, while collaborating in collective marketing, both domestically and throughout the globe," said the association.

While there are 11 founding members its intention is to extend membership to any willing South African Producer of Organically-certified wines, present or future, including those officially in conversion and those certified organic regenerative. It has adopted European Union (EU) criteria, in terms of verifiable Certification parameters, so as to ensure that an optimum level of compliance is ensured in order to qualify as a member.

The membership has appointed a management committee to develop and drive the objectives and plans for

the Association. This is constituted of:

- Chairperson: Alex Dale / Radford Dale Organic Estate
- Treasurer: Johan Reyneke / Reyneke Wines
- Secretary: Tyrrel Myburgh / Joostenberg Estate

At the signing into being of the Association, Chairperson Alex Dale stated: "The South African Wine Industry has, in the past 30 years, come a very long way. To the extent that in many well-informed markets around the world, South African wine is recognised for its ever-increasing quality and its immense value. With the formation of Organic Wines South Africa, we have an opportunity to provide energetic leadership in the mission of upping our collective game in regards to sustainability, and with a particular focus on viticulture.

Most of our members distribute throughout South Africa, and many export already to markets across the world, providing a well-established network on which to hitch our collective message. We aim to create a situation where we help to directly and significantly develop the numbers of organic wine Producers in South Africa and to bring into the contemporary mainstream these principles of sustainability.

"It is common knowl-

edge that there tends to be a prevalence of 'Greenwashing' when it comes to the marketing of 'sustainability' in many sectors and wine production is certainly not immune from this. For this reason, and to avoid any uncertainty, we will limit our membership to 'certified-organic and or certified-biodynamic wine producers.'

Industry Background

In 2022, 8,4% of the Global vineyard was Organic. Up from 1,4% in 2005 (according to Organic World). In the EU, at the same date, more than 10% of all Agriculture is now Organic.

With this rate now escalating, it is estimated that organic agriculture will represent in excess of 1/3 of the industry within a generation.

IWSR (International Wine and Spirits Record) reports that global sales of organic wine have grown from 29-million cases in 2012 to 71-million cases in 2022 (+145%) and are said to be in an exponential growth phase. Sales of non-organic wine over this period fell from 2,4-billion cases to 2,06-billion cases (-14,2%) and continue to decline.

In South Africa, it is estimated that there are between 2 – 3 dozen Organic Wineries today, counting for only a small fraction of total production, below 1%.

Agri minister John Steenhuisen wants small farmers to be viable, sustainable and profitable

The newly appointed agriculture minister also wants to bring the beer industry into the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP).

Larry Claasen

AGRICULTURE Minister John Steenhuisen says the government's approach to supporting small farmers will be predicated on three key words - viability, sustainability and profitability.

Speaking at a South African Breweries (SAB) event in Caledon, Steenhuisen said the government wanted to scale up small farmers in a way that enabled them to be commercially viable.

He said in the past too many assistance programmes were "simply tick box exercises" where those getting help got some land and seeds, but little else.

"There's no use dumping someone in a field with seeds and a few implements and saying, there we go, you're now a farmer. A farmer is not a farmer unless they have a value chain to feed their products into. You can't have a field

what we have to do is to look at how we choose viable land, how we provide sustainable support and how we transition those farmers from subsistence small scale to large scale farmers."

The type of assistance Steenhuisen wants to see is a deeper cooperation between role players in the agricultural sector that will facilitate getting the produce of smaller farmers into the supply chain of large companies.

He points to how SAB's sourced limes to be drunk with its Corona beers from a smaller scale farming operation as an example of how this can be done. This programme saw over a million limes being harvested in 2023, and even having some exported.

Steenhuisen says that this type of success only works because the industry and the government are working together.

"The Agriculture Department on its own, [parlement's]

"There's no use dumping someone in a field with seeds and a few implements and saying, there we go, you're now a farmer. A farmer is not a farmer unless they have a value chain to feed their products into"

of the most beautiful cabbages sitting somewhere, but there's no market."

This kind of support was ineffective as it did not ensure that these farms were viable, sustainable and profitable. Under his watch this would change as farmers would get the type of support that would enable them to become viable commercial entities.

"We wonder why 90% of the projects do not succeed. And so

portfolio committee on its own, cannot achieve transformation goals, it cannot achieve the empowerment goals, it cannot achieve the food security goals, it cannot ensure that we reach export goals, unless there is a strong element of partnership."

This, he says, is why the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan is such an integral part of creating those partnerships.

The Agriculture and



Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen.

Agro-Processing Master Plan (AAMP) is a social compact co-created by the government, business, labour and civil organisations to drive the development of the agricultural sector.

Steenhuisen says he wants to "expand and intensify the work being done on the Agriculture and Agri-Processing Master Plan" and has spoken to SAB CEO Richard "Boris" Rivett-Carnac about the brewer becoming part of the AAMP.

"I said to him, we're going to make it happen as quickly as possible, to have a beer value chain included in the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan, because there is great alignment with agriculture, with the agri-processing that's been done of the natural products, the value add that's been done, not just exporting tons of barley anywhere, but actually turning that barley into a commodity which has a continental and international demand."

Steenhuisen says the goal is not only to have a successful agricultural sector that pro-

vides for the country's food security, but also allows it to be able to export South African products around the world.

It's these partnerships that the department is going to be seeking across all the commodities, to be able to work with them, he says.

If these partnerships work, Steenhuisen says everyone will benefit.

"The Agriculture Department's job, the first primary job I do, is to create an enabling legislative and regulatory environment that makes it as easy as possible for our agricultural commodities and sectors to flourish. When they flourish, jobs are created. When they flourish, food security is assured.

"When they flourish, foreign direct revenues are improved because we're able to export more products. And of course there are challenges. And it always amazes me, and I've said it right from the first briefing I got in the department, how amazing our South African farmers and farm workers are in our country."



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Monitor Engineering spray nozzles enhance production efficiency in breweries, wineries and distilleries

SPRAYING Systems Co. represented in South Africa by Monitor Engineering – is the world's leading manufacturer of spray nozzles and spraying systems which are used in a variety of industries, including breweries, wineries and distilleries.

With alcohol production being a complex process involving several stages of cleaning, mixing, rinsing, and packaging, spray nozzles play a crucial role in helping to optimise production efficiency, ensure hygiene, and maintain product quality. From cleaning tanks and bottles to applying water or chemicals in precise quantities, spray nozzles provide the versatility and reliability that breweries, wineries and distilleries require.

Tank cleaning

One of the most critical areas where spray nozzles are used is for clean-in-place (CIP) systems. Brewing tanks, fermentation vessels, wine barrels and other equipment must be cleaned regularly to prevent con-

hygienic conditions without the need for manual scrubbing, thus reducing labour costs and the risk of human error.

Bottle and can rinsing and drying

In the packaging stage, spray nozzles are essential for rinsing containers, ensuring that they

veyor belts or the coating of bottles and cans with protective layers or labelling adhesives. For example, conveyors in breweries require proper lubrication to reduce wear and tear and ensure smooth movement. Spray nozzles apply controlled amounts of lubricant to minimise waste and ensure that only the

Water and energy efficiency

The beverage industry consumes large amounts of water and energy during the brewing process, making efficiency a priority. Spray nozzles from Spraying Systems Co. are designed with water and energy conservation in mind. Air atom-



are free from dust, debris, or contaminants that could compromise the product's quality. These nozzles deliver a precise and uniform spray pattern that ensures even coverage of all surfaces inside the bottle or can.

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necessary areas are coated.

Washing and foam control

In various stages of brewing, including mashing and fermentation, foam can accumulate and create sanitation and product consistency issues. Foam control nozzles can spray anti-foaming agents or water in precise quantities to manage foam levels in brewing vessels.

Additionally, nozzles are used to wash down brewing equipment, floors, and other surfaces to maintain cleanliness throughout the brewery. High-pressure spray nozzles can deliver powerful streams of water or cleaning solutions to effectively remove residues, spills, and foam.

Cleaning guns

Cleaning Guns offer high-impact, low-pressure versatile performance with a variety of spray patterns. Specially designed handles will improve control used along with the optional swivel connectors with trigger lock which will reduce operator fatigue.

Lubrication and coating applications

Spray nozzles are also used for the application of lubricants on con-

South Africa Wine launches graduate placement programme to nurture future industry leaders

SOUTH AFRICA WINE has announced the 2024 Graduate Placement Programme launch, an initiative designed to cultivate the next generation of professionals in the South African wine industry.

This programme aims to connect talented tertiary graduates, particularly black graduates as defined by BEE codes, with member companies across the wine industry's value chain for fixed-term placements of 6-12 months.

As a player in the South African wine sector, South Africa Wine says it is committed to advancing the skills and opportunities available to young South Africans, enabling them to rise to managerial and ownership roles within the industry over time.

The programme covers a wide range of positions, including viticulture, winemaking, logistics, export management, and industrial engineering, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the skills

needs of the entire industry.

"We believe in the transformative power of skills development," says Kachné Ross, people and skills development manager at South Africa Wine.

"By facilitating meaningful placements for graduates within our member companies, we are not only fostering individual growth but also strengthening the industry's capacity for innovation and sustainability."

In partnership with Agrijob, South Africa Wine will provide recruitment services free of charge to member companies. Agrijob will work closely with businesses to match them with suitable graduates, handling everything from initial consultations to the final placement. South Africa Wine also directly contributes R5 000 monthly to the salary of each placed graduate, helping companies offer competitive compensation while alleviating some of the financial burdens of hiring new talent.

"The Graduate Placement Programme is not just about filling jobs," says Kachné, "it's about investing in the future of the wine industry. We are committed to helping create a more inclusive, skilled workforce that can lead the industry into a new era of growth and innovation."

"We call on wine businesses across South Africa to support this initiative and take an active role in developing the next generation of industry leaders. By participating in the Graduate Placement Programme, you will benefit from the skills and fresh perspectives of talented young professionals and contribute to the long-term success and diversity of the industry."

Employers who are interested should contact Kachné Ross, the People and Skills Development Manager at South Africa Wine Kachné Ross will liaise with Agrijob to get the process started promptly. Please contact Kachné at kachne@sawine.co.za or 021 276 0450.

Local and Chinese demand are a boon for South African wines - Standard Bank

SOUTH Africa's wine industry is poised for a comeback, driven by rising local demand and the growing popularity of white wines like Cap Classique and Chenin Blanc in China. Exports of Cap Classique to China rose by 4% in 2023, despite a decline in overall wine exports.

Although South Africa's wine exports to China shrank in 2023, that market remains a vital growth area for the local wine industry, with its market share steadily increasing since 2019. This year, the Chinese market is anticipated to

expand further, fuelled by post-pandemic recovery and growing demand for white wines – providing a significant opportunity for South African producers.

Domestically, wine consumption reached a record high in 2022, even as global consumption declined since 2018. The wine tourism sector now contributes over R3 billion to GDP and supports over 270 000 jobs.

Bridgette Kruger, Standard Bank's head of private banking in South Africa says despite some setbacks in South Africa's export

volumes in 2023, this is a growing industry.

She adds: "As a bank, we want to play a larger role in supporting local producers by connecting them to a broader consumer market."

Kruger says that this is the reason Standard Bank partnered with WineX to make the Sandton festival even bigger than last year. Taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre from 30 October to 1 November, the 2024 WineX festival promises an unparalleled experience, blending premium wines with a vibrant, sophisticated crowd.



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Braaivleis, rugby, sunny skies and Bomb Squad beer

By Diane Silcock

THE founders of the Bomb Squad beer company need no introduction. Springbok rugby players and two-time Rugby World Cup winners, Steven Kitshoff and Malcolm Marx, are ‘brewing’ up a storm when not on the field.

In an interview with Steven Kitshoff, he related how their business idea transpired: “Malcolm and I were roommates on tour and became really good mates. We joked around about starting a business together, sometime in the future. Both of us like drinking beer, and enjoy the sensation that a beer gives you postgame during the rugby season with all your mates, enjoying a couple of beers together.”

A few years down the line, Steven and Malcolm put their heads together and started working actively towards making their passion project become a reality. Steven was based in Cape Town and Malcolm mainly in Japan. While Steven was asking professionals in the beer and alcohol industry in South Africa about the industry and the viability of the business they had in mind, Malcolm was researching different types of beers while in Japan, including packaging design.

With the positive feedback received, they set about registering a company and were fortunate enough to secure their idea of the apt name, Bomb Squad, which Steven gives credit to his wife Aimee for, as she proposed they use the name for both their business and the brand.

Steven and Malcolm were introduced to



Bomb Squad founders, Springbok rugby players, Steven Kitshoff (left) and Malcolm Marx (right).

Saggy Stone Brewing Co., Robertson’s first ‘beer-brewing farm’, through beer and wine maker Dane Raath (who later joined Bomb Squad as their sales manager). Dane has his own beer brand, Cape Collective, which is produced by Saggy Stone.

“Saggy Stone had an unbelievable setup in Robertson,” says Steven. “They are an awesome group of guys to work with. Their master brewer is a legend. They have a well-oiled system in terms of their distribution lines and in the way that they conduct their business, so for us it was an easy option, especially with the very valuable offer they put on the table, enabling us to get into

the beer market with our own brand label.”

In working closely with Saggy Stone to develop their first beer, Steven relates how he and Malcolm wanted a beer that they would firstly enjoy, and that was low in alcohol and calories – an easy drinking beer, what they call a session beer. This led to the development of their Lager Draught, a craft beer with a taste profile more towards a light beer that was not too crafty nor too commercial.

Saggy Stone co-owner Andrew Bradley says, “We were thrilled when Steven and Malcolm approached us to create a beer just for them. It was an honour to work with two national heroes. Hosting them

at our brewery was a blast—we got to blend our brewing know-how with their passion for rugby, crafting a beer that fits their taste and captures the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie that the sport’s all about. We wanted every sip to reflect their rugby journey.

“Malcolm and Steven came out to the brewery and met with myself and our head brewer, Liam McElhinney, to work out the taste profile and what exactly they were looking for in a beer. The beer was born a few weeks later and all parties were very happy with the end result,” Bradley says.

For the can design, Steven says they contracted Janneman Solms, and gave a lot of

input, with Malcolm in particular sharing many ideas of the types of beer he liked in Japan and the clean and simple designs. “We felt that a white can stood out and we chose a very simplistic badge design. Nothing too fancy or over the top. Our aim was to have something striking with a good quality product inside.” This proved successful as the design won a Gold Medal at the 2023 Winemag.co.za Label Design Awards and a Gold Medal under the People’s Choice category.

Saggy Stone brews, cans, labels and distributes the beer nationally and internationally for Bomb Squad. “From our side, Malcolm and I, and our team, focus on the marketing and sales and getting liquid to lips. Our aim is to get our beer into as many restaurants and bars as we can,” says Steven.

The beer is available at Checkers, Pick n Pay, Tops, Ultra, Makro, Liquor City and many independent outlets. It is also available on tap at selected venues and at the Saggy Stone taprooms in Robertson and Somerset West.

Since the launch of Bomb Squad in South Africa in May 2023, the rugby duo has not looked back with their beer being exception-

ally well received, winning a Silver Medal at the 2023 National Beer Trophy awards. The Lager also did well during the 2023 Rugby World Cup, and this year it was made available at all the South African rugby test matches.

Following the Lager’s success, a Pilsner draught—a full-bodied beer with a higher alcohol content—was added to the range in May.

“In the last two months,” says Steven, “we have signed a deal in the UK to supply our beer into England, Scotland and Wales, and hopefully Ireland. We have set up a branch in the UK under the Bomb Squad name and have already started brewing and have designed the label. We will probably do the hard launch just before the November Twickenham test match of the Spring-

boks vs England. The UK venture will be an exact carbon copy of the model used in South Africa when it comes to beer, the website, and merchandise.

Looking ahead, the Springbok duo plan to increase their footprint in South Africa and will continue working on building a customer base that is loyal. Something else on their minds is the opening up of their own bars and restaurants down the line.

“Our aim is to get more people to enjoy the beer, making sure the product keeps moving, that our merchandise is up to scratch so that people enjoy buying it, wearing it and representing the brand. We will continue to host and sponsor events around Cape Town to ensure our customers are happy and satisfied and that we keep growing as a company in that manner,” concludes Steven.

In terms of beer tourism, it is their hope that visitors to South Africa and especially Cape Town, will become aware that there’s a rugby beer out there called Bomb Squad, brewed by a local brewery in Robertson, and that it will hopefully help drive big rugby supporters to watch rugby at Cape Town’s stadium while sipping on a Bomb Squad beer.



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New electric vehicle to turn taxi industry on its head

Electric minibus taxi eKamva launched with flx EV business model and app for South African market

SOUTH Africa's first electric minibus taxi model, eKamva, was launched by a consortium led by GoMetro, alongside an integrated new electric vehicle (EV) business model and charging infrastructure product called flx EV at the Smarter Mobility Africa summit.

eKamva was launched by a partnership of companies and research institutions, led by GoMetro, a transport technology platform.

The partnership kicked off in 2023 to investigate and advance the feasibility of an electric minibus taxi in South African conditions by testing production vehicles in South Africa.

The project team, consisting of GoMetro, Powerfleet (formerly MiX Telematics), HSW, ACDC Dynamics, and various entities within Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Engineering, conducted rigorous and extensive testing in and

around the town of Stellenbosch on existing taxi routes, using traditional minibus taxis.

The typical South African commuter already spends up to 40% of their income on transport. At the same

time, the minibus taxi sector is still struggling from the impact of the pandemic and ride-share apps on their operations.

Minibus taxis trans-

port millions of people in Southern Africa daily, contribute an estimated 30 million tons of carbon dioxide in South Africa alone, and consume two billion tons of fuel a year.

The flx EV website will soon allow minibus taxi owners and operators to apply to be added to the waiting list for the solution. The flx EV app will let taxi owners manage their fleets, see each vehicle's status and pre-pay for recharging, while drivers will be directed to their closest charging hub. GoMetro CEO Justin Coetzee says, "This is a new approach to electrifying the smaller-vehicle public transport industry. We believe it will spark an entirely new economic sector and is socio-economically very important for the automotive sector."

Historical data gathered by GoMetro indicates that replacing urban taxi and shuttle fleets with eKamvas will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 13,7 tons per vehicle per annum, says project lead Rudi Kriel.

"Most taxis spend up to three hours a day between morning and evening peak hours at the ranks we have analysed, more than sufficient time to fast-charge an eKwamva," Kriel says.

"EVs have fewer breakdowns than internal combustion vehicles, and are cheaper to run, which leads to increased profitability per vehicle - and they have a longer life expectancy," he continues.

The 15-seater eKamva has a range of more than 200 km between charges, fast-charges within 75 minutes via a 60kW DC charger and slow-charges overnight for 10 hours. It delivers an estimated 40-70% cost savings over traditional vehicles on running costs, depending on the fuel price (inland vs coastal) and distance of the taxi route in question.

EVs are considered a silver bullet to globally decarbonise the transport sector. The development of low-carbon transport in cities is part of the global agenda to delay climate change and relates to many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. While EV sales have increased substantially in the Global North and many international vehicle manufacturers plan to stop production of combustion engines as early as 2030, in sub-Saharan Africa, the transition to EVs continues to be painstakingly slow.



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SCANIA

Enviro Automotive expands its battery-electric vehicle (BEV) portfolio with the debut of the new SRM T3 EV 1



ENVIRO Automotive has expanded its battery-electric vehicle (BEV) portfolio with the debut of the new SRM T3 EV 1.6-tonne forward-cab bakkie.

This versatile commercial electric vehicle offers a sustainable, eco-friendly solution, combining modern efficiency with the durability required for today's transport and logistics challenges.

Shineray Reefer Motors (SRM) is a leading Chinese automotive brand recognised for producing reliable, cost-effective commercial vehicles. As part of the Shineray Group, SRM specialises in light commer-

tainability goals while improving operational efficiency."

The SRM T3 EV offers a class-leading electric propulsion system that delivers fundamental advantages, including zero emissions and instant torque, making it ideal for urban deliveries and load-hauling. Its synchronous electric motor produces 60 kW and 220 Nm and drives the rear wheels. It features a 53,58 kWh lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery, offering a driving range of up to 300 km per charge.

Charging the SRM T3 EV is easy because it supports both AC and DC charg-

cargo space. This design maximises its 1 625kg payload capacity while maintaining manoeuvrability on tight city streets.

"Our new EV bakkie is highly customisable, with options for various configurations, including a flatbed, cabin box, or high box to suit various business needs," adds Brink. "With a maximum payload of 1,6 tons—equivalent to the weight of a mid-size SUV—the T3 provides significant versatility for transporting goods efficiently across different industries."

Designed with driver safety and comfort in mind, the SRM T3 EV features advanced driver-assistance systems and a reinforced body structure, ensuring enhanced protection and a safe driving experience. Its 195/70 R15 LT tyres handle uneven surfaces with ease, while the McPherson independent front suspension and 6-leaf spring rear suspension ensure stability and support for heavy loads.

The SRM T3 EV features front disc brakes and rear drum brakes, along with ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) and EBD (Electronic Brakeforce Distribution). Its safety credentials include dual SRS airbags, EPS (Electric Power Steering) with Auto Return and a reverse camera with parking sensors.

For more information, visit our website, www.enviroauto.co.za or contact Francois Malan at sales@enviroauto.co.za or 082 857 9582.

"Our new SRM T3 EV is designed for urban logistics and last-mile deliveries, offering businesses a practical, efficient, and eco-friendly solution"

cial and electric vehicles, offering efficient, eco-friendly solutions.

The SRM T3 EV, a flagship model, meets the growing urban demand for zero-emission vehicles.

"Our new SRM T3 EV is designed for urban logistics and last-mile deliveries, offering businesses a practical, efficient, and eco-friendly solution," says Gawie Brink, technical director at Enviro Automotive.

"It is ideal for modernising fleets and supporting global sus-

ing standards. A full charge takes just three hours with an 11 kW AC charger, while a 55 kW DC charger delivers a 20 to 80% charge in about 35 minutes, reducing downtime and boosting business productivity.

The SRM T3 EV measures 5 190mm (L) x 1 770mm (W) x 1 995mm (H) and supports a 3 400mm wheelbase. It offers the biggest load box in the LCV segment, measuring 3 100mm (L) x 1 680mm (W) x 370mm (H), providing 5,2m² of

ISUZU celebrates 60 years of trucks and 45 years of bakkies: a heritage of resilience and growth

ISUZU MOTORS South Africa is marking 60 and 45 years of truck and reliable bakkie production in the country.

As one of the renowned vehicle Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) in South Africa, ISUZU is proud of its long heritage and positive contribution to South Africa and the continent at large.

This is a demonstration of the company's resilience, moulded through multiple transitions from General Motors and Delta, ultimately becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of ISUZU Motors Limited on 1 January 2018.

When General Motors exited the South Africa market in 2017, ISUZU MOTORS Limited decided to assume ownership of the assembly facility and associated facilities in South Africa.

This ensured that the production of the vehicles which had been serving the African continent with distinction would continue. The decision by ISUZU MOTORS Limited demonstrated their long-term commitment to the South African economy and its workforce.

Billy Tom, ISUZU's president, has been instrumental in steering the company through turbulent times, including the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"ISUZU's ability to



In 1979 the first generation of light commercial vehicles carrying the ISUZU brand name came off the production line at ISUZU's Nelson Mandela Bay Plant. Its engineering team (from left to right) Daryl Chetty, Le Clue Mostert, Sarel Du Plessis and Francois Schellingerhout were instrumental in the restoration of this blue first-generation ISUZU bakkie.

stay resilient during industry transitions and the global crisis has been key to our success. We remain dedicated to the people who build our vehicles and the markets we serve across the African continent," Tom said.

Under him and his leadership team, ISUZU has continued to innovate, expanding into the African markets, and increasing production capabilities. Billy Tom also emphasises ISUZU's commitment to transformation. With a Level 1 B-BBEE status for five consecutive years, ISUZU has set a high standard for inclusivity and diversity within the automotive industry. "Our workforce reflects the makeup of South Africa. We are proud

of our efforts in driving change both within ISUZU and in the broader community," Tom noted.

Other notable achievements by ISUZU include being the number one truck brand in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle (MCV and HCV) cab-on-chassis segments for 11 years consecutively, Manufacturer of the Year in the South African Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (SAVRALA) for four consecutive years, internationally recognised Top Employer for two consecutive years, and Eastern Cape Best Exporter into the African continent in 2023.

Looking ahead, ISUZU is strategically positioning itself to take

advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and grow its footprint across the continent. Tom's vision includes transforming ISUZU to becoming a leader in sustainable business practices, combining reliability and creativity to achieve mutual growth in the African continent.

ISUZU's journey of resilience and growth continues. This is built on the strength of its people, dedication to transformation and a vision for African growth. The company remains a proud contributor in South Africa's automotive sector, delivering quality vehicles while creating meaningful impact in the communities it serves.

Volkswagen - Water conservation awareness is key to sustainability

VOLKSWAGEN Group Africa commemorated World Water Week with an awareness campaign aimed at encouraging employees to be more mindful of their water usage.

During National Water Month in March, the South African government highlighted that the average South African consumes 237 litres of water per day, significantly higher than the global average of 173 litres per day. Despite this, South Africa ranks among the 30 driest countries in the world, with an average annual rainfall of just 460mm, less than half the global average,

according to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Volkswagen Group Africa is committed to water conservation. Since 2010, the vehicle manufacturer has successfully reduced its water consumption in production by 73%. "We continue to explore ways to further reduce our usage," said Ulrich Schwabe, production director.

Schwabe noted that the rainwater harvesting at the engine plant and the component plant which was installed last year saved approximately 5 000 kilolitres of fresh water

in 2023.

"This year we have significantly increased our storage capacity by repurposing the old paint shop tanks into water storage tanks. Rainwater which is harvested would have been lost to stormwater drains," said Schwabe.

Additionally, the wastewater recycling plant can recycle about 200 kilolitres per day.

Clean water is reserved for processes that require uncontaminated water, while treated effluent water is used in ablution facilities and other processes that are less dependent on clean water.

There is also a re-

newed effort to raise awareness among employees and their loved ones about the importance of water conservation. "Each of us needs to adopt habits that reduce our water consumption. While we recognise that issues such as ailing infrastructure and poor maintenance in the public sector contribute to water wastage, individual responsibility is crucial," Schwabe emphasised.

Volkswagen Group Africa is committed to reducing its environmental impact, with water conservation playing a vital role in reaching this goal.

Babcock committed to a greener future



Replacement of generator with solar panels at Middelburg

Babcock's state-of-the-art sales, parts and service dealership in Middelburg was constructed in 2015 to offer responsive regional support and service across its entire construction equipment product range.

The building was equipped with a 500 kVA generator as a back-up power supply so that customers could access service support 24-hours a day from Babcock regardless of national power outages.

While this was sufficient for some time, the diesel used in the generator impacted negatively on the air.

A solar solution was identified to replace the generator which would meet with the branch's energy requirements, while also adhering to Babcock's sustainable procurement policies.

Following a load study to assess the energy consumption, the supplier proposed a solution that would guarantee power during load shedding and meet Babcock's target on climate change commitments of ensuring the use of 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The new solar installation, which has been fully functional since April 2024, comprises a 150-kilowatt hybrid inverter system driven by 198 x 550-watt solar panels installed on the roof, making it one of the largest solar installations in the region.

BABCOCK is demonstrating its commitment to a greener future through initiatives that align with South Africa's environmental objectives, while also operating within Babcock International's goal of environmental sustainability.

"We seek out opportunities where we can make a difference within our working environment to be more eco-friendly, and reduce our carbon footprint," says SHE manager at Babcock, DJ Marais.

Two such examples are supporting the Carbon Trust's 'Zero Waste to Landfill' goal, and exploring the use of renewable electricity.

Dedicated waste transfer facility at Bartlett

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs, the average South African produces a staggering one tonne of waste per year. Up to 65% of waste in the country is recyclable, yet only 10% is being recycled annually.

Landfills across South Africa are reaching capacity, particularly in metropolitan areas.

As Mpendulo Gindza, President of the Institute of Waste Management of South Africa, says, "This situation requires everyone's involvement – from households to business."

"We have gone to great lengths to find a suitable permitted waste management service provider that operates beyond compliance and is fully committed to the 'Zero Waste to Landfill' goal"

Babcock already recycles waste but has recently taken it a step further by creating a centralised waste transfer facility at its Bartlett site for all recyclable waste. An under-utilised space covering an area of 46 m² within the warehouse yard was repurposed into a secure waste transfer facility where the waste will be sorted according to different categories before it is collected by a permitted waste

management service provider.

This includes oil cans and containers, different types of plastics, packaging for parts, and recyclable office and warehouse waste.

"We have gone to great lengths to find a suitable permitted waste management service provider that operates beyond compliance and is fully committed to the 'Zero Waste to Landfill' goal, while also having the resources to responsibly manage recyclable hazardous waste such as industrial oil," says Marais.

What makes this facility unique is that it was built almost entirely with recycled materials.

"Even the locks are repurposed wheel spanners," says Marais. Another unique aspect of the facility is that Babcock is encouraging its employees to bring their personal industrial waste to this facility instead of disposing of it with general waste.

The facility is expected to be fully operational by the last quarter of 2024.

Inospace acquires iconic Telkom building on Cape Town's Foreshore

Inospace is set to transform the iconic Telkom building into a flagship urban logistics and business storage hub, combining history with innovation.



INOSPACE has acquired the historic Telkom building at 15 Lower Long Street, Cape Town, strategically expanding in a strategic move to expand its urban logistics and last-mile delivery network into the heart of the central business district.

This high-profile building, which has been a fixture on the Cape Town Foreshore since the early 1970s, is set to be transformed into one of Inospace's flagship logistics and

had been renovated to function solely as a telephone data centre for Telkom.

Over the years, Telkom invested more than R200-million into the building to suit its specialised needs. However, as telecommunications technology evolved and needs shifted, the building eventually became redundant and was put up for sale.

The building spans nine levels, including underground parking, retail, and office

talisation. Inospace is set to invest significantly in upgrading and repurposing the building to suit the city's growing demand for storage and urban logistics solutions. The 13 500 square metres of space will be offered at a highly competitive cost compared to other B-grade industrial buildings, delivering unmatched value for businesses seeking to establish a presence in Cape Town's CBD.

With its strategic location, the site will offer premium storage and urban logistics solutions, meeting the needs of both businesses and individuals. Bordered by four streets and directly opposite the Cape Town International Convention Centre, the building boasts high visibility and excellent connectivity to major transport routes, ensuring swift access to last-mile delivery services.

Inospace, a leader in last-mile logistics real estate said despite challenges such as high interest rates, municipal hurdles, and political uncertainty in May, the company experienced a significant post-election recovery, achieving a 12.2% overall rent roll increase for the financial year, with 7.2% growth on a like-for-like basis.

The privately-owned company, which operates an R1,3-billion joint venture with Fortress Real Estate, marked its seventh consecutive year of over 10% like-for-like rent roll growth. Inospace maintained a robust cash collection rate above 95% for the quarter, showcasing its operational resilience.

"The building spans nine levels, including underground parking, retail, and office spaces on the lower floors and five floors with 6-metre-high floor plates perfect for business storage or urban logistics."

business storage hubs.

Built in the early 1970s on reclaimed land in the Foreshore district, the building initially served as a central telephone exchange for the South African Post and Telecommunications (SAPT), which managed postal and telecommunications services under one umbrella. This iconic structure stood alone in the area for years, surrounded only by parking lots and the nearby Imperial Cold Storage facility.

It also housed the Roggebaai Post Office, making it a central hub for postal and telephonic communication services.

In 1991 SAPT separated into two entities, creating Telkom to focus on telecommunications services and leaving postal operations under the newly formed SAPO.

By 2004, the post office had been relocated, and the building

spaces on the lower floors and five floors with 6-metre-high floor plates—perfect for business storage or urban logistics. The top floor offers premium office space with stunning views of Cape Town and the V&A Waterfront, adding an element of prestige to this dynamic building.

This property's incredible load-bearing capacity and power availability make it exceptional. With 2 500 KVA of power and state-of-the-art generators (valued at over R25-million), the building is fully equipped to meet high-energy demands, making it ideal for conversion into a logistics hub. Its robust design, specialised concrete cladding, and GB6 zoning allow for flexibility in its future use for logistics, storage, retail, or commercial projects.

This property presents an unparalleled opportunity for re-



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Babcock committed to a greener future

BABCOCK is demonstrating its commitment to a greener future through initiatives that align with South Africa's environmental objectives, while also operating within Babcock International's goal of environmental sustainability.

"We seek out opportunities where we can make a difference within our working environment to be more eco-friendly, and reduce our carbon footprint," says SHE manager at Babcock, DJ Marais.

Two such examples are supporting the Carbon Trust's 'Zero Waste to Landfill' goal, and exploring the use of renewable electricity.

Dedicated waste transfer facility at Bartlett

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs, the average South African produces a staggering one tonne of waste per year. Up to 65% of waste in the country is recyclable, yet only 10% is being recycled annually.

Landfills across South Africa are reaching capacity, particularly in metropolitan areas.

As Mpendulo Gindza, President of the Institute of Waste Management of South

Africa, says, "This situation requires everyone's involvement – from households to business."

Babcock already recycles waste but has recently taken it a step further by creating a centralised waste transfer facility at its Bartlett site for all recyclable waste. An under-utilised space covering an area of 46 m2 within the warehouse yard was repurposed into a secure waste transfer facility where the waste will be sorted according to different categories before it is collected by a permitted waste management service provider.

This includes oil cans and containers, different types of plastics, packaging for parts, and recyclable office and warehouse waste.

"We have gone to great lengths to find a suitable permitted waste management service provider that operates beyond compliance and is fully committed to the 'Zero Waste to Landfill' goal, while also having the resources to responsibly manage recyclable hazardous waste such as industrial oil," says Marais.

What makes this facility unique is that it was built almost entirely with recycled materials.

"Even the locks are repurposed wheel span-

ners!" says Marais. Another unique aspect of the facility is that Babcock is encouraging its employees to bring their personal industrial waste to this facility instead of disposing of it with general waste.

The facility is expected to be fully operational by the last quarter of 2024.

Replacement of generator with solar panels at Middelburg

Babcock's state-of-the-art sales, parts and service dealership in Middelburg was constructed in 2015 to offer responsive regional support and service across its entire construction equipment product range.

The building was equipped with a 500 kVA generator as a back-up power supply so that customers could access service support 24-hours a day from Babcock regardless of national power outages. While this was sufficient for some time, the diesel used in the generator impacted negatively on the air.

A solar solution was identified to replace the generator which would meet with the branch's energy requirements, while also adhering to Babcock's sustainable procurement policies.

Following a load study

to assess the energy consumption, the supplier proposed a solution that would guarantee power during load shedding and meet Babcock's target on climate change commitments of ensuring the use of 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The new solar installation, which has been fully functional since April 2024, comprises a 150-kilowatt hybrid inverter system driven by 198 x 550-watt solar panels installed on the roof, making it one of the largest solar installations in the region.

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Altron Arrow starts Inventory Management as a Service

ALTRON Arrow announced last month that it has launched a new business process outsourcing service (BPOS) called Inventory Management as a Service (IMaaS).

IMaaS helps minimise inventory issues by offering an outsourced end-to-end inventory management solution, including warehousing.

The solution is ideally suited to customers in the electronics manufacturing market who are facing challenges with their stock holding and are losing – or cannot account for – components. Altron Arrow is able to resolve these problems while, at the same time, improving reporting, providing real-time inventory tracking and visibility, streamlining warehouse operations, reducing waste and improving audit compliance.

Altron Arrow's IMaaS offers significantly reduced inventory-related costs by optimising stock levels and minimising overstocking and stockouts.

This allows businesses to avoid tying up capital in excessive stock – and the associated storage costs – while at the same time helping ensure it has sufficient stock to meet



Altron Arrow MD Renato Martins

customer demand. A significant benefit is that IMaaS provides measurable return on investment and tangible cost savings to businesses.

Another advantage of Altron Arrow's IMaaS solution is dramatically-improved inventory accuracy, a reduction in errors in stock management and forecasting, and real-time, data-driven insights for better decision-making. Furthermore, an improved inventory management system allows for improved cashflow.

Renato Martins, MD of Altron Arrow, said, "Efficient inventory management is the cornerstone of a successful business. However, successfully managing stock can be complicated. In a highly competitive business environment, keeping costs contained is critically important and inventory management

failures can be costly for a business, impacting both profitability and the sustainability of the business. That's why we are introducing our IMaaS offering, including in software development and customising a newly-acquired x-ray scanner." Altron Arrow helps customers with a broad offering which includes BPOS, electronic components distribution, enterprise computing solutions and supply chain management.

About Altron Arrow

Altron Arrow is the leading distributor of electronic components in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is a 50/50 joint venture partnership (established in 1998) between Altron Ltd, South Africa's JSE-listed premier multi-billion Rand Information and Communication Technology Group, and Arrow Electronics, Inc.

Cquential urges warehouse sector to get ready for Black Friday

BLACK Friday, which is scheduled to take place in South Africa on 29 November this year – can be chaotic for warehouses, with skyrocketing demand adding intensified pressure and logistical challenges that put the sector to the test.

This is according to Cquential Warehouse Management, a member of the Argility Technology Group, the specialist retail predictive and prescriptive analytics organisation within global enterprise, Smollan.

"Black Friday challenges include increased volumes, a spike in demand and all governed by strict completion timelines. Added to this are the difficulties around managing inventories, lack of availability of additional labour and the inevitability of returns. Moreover, throughout this process, quality control and accuracy must be maintained," says Rina

Redelinghuys, Cquential customer services executive.

She says managing employee morale and fatigue can be difficult amid staff frustration with limitations of existing systems and uncertainty surrounding the effectiveness of operational processes, infrastructure and technology.

"These issues can be addressed through real-time data analytics that yield insights, reporting that enhances visibility and automated tracking of KPIs. Only in this way can operations be optimised," says Redelinghuys.

Cquential Warehouse Management System (WMS) can proactively manage these challenges through:

- Real-time stock level and demand monitoring.
- Automated inventory tracking and reporting.

- Dynamic labour and resource allocation.

Redelinghuys confirms Cquential WMS is also scalable to handle increased volumes. "The system automatically manages tight deadlines to ensure on-time completion through automated scheduling and task assignment, plus real-time monitoring of deadlines and order status. Visibility of the combination of task prioritisation according to deadlines and urgency assist to guarantee timely completion.

Cquential WMS streamlines inventory management by offering real-time tracking, reporting and automated stock replenishment. It also optimises labour management by automating resource allocation, monitoring workload and performance in real-time and enabling seamless task assignment and scheduling.

Returns processing is simplified through automation and inventory tracking augmented by integration with support systems. Real-time validations of inventory and order tracking ensure top-tier quality assurance. Detailed reporting provides further insights and accuracy.

"Challenges around securing sufficient shipping and courier capacity also adds fuel to the Black Friday stress fire," Redelinghuys notes.

"Automated shipping and courier integration with transport management systems plus allocation of shipping resources based on demand, solves this problem.

"At the end of the day, peak season chaos should not be a barrier to efficient warehouse operations. Cquential WMS can remove this stress by empowering a business to reap the benefits of Black Friday," Redelinghuys concludes.



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Condra helps Special Steels expand

SPECIAL Steels, a leading national supplier of certified steel round bar, hollow bar and plate to South Africa's engineering, mining and manufacturing sectors, is moving. The move from Wadeville, Johannesburg, to larger premises in Roodekop, will provide much needed extra warehouse space to meet increased demand for the company's alloy and low, medium and high-carbon steels. The company sources these directly from international mills for stock, and distributes countrywide.

Special Steels MD Byron Ferguson said the new warehouse floor area of 22 800 square metres would provide more than three times the space of the company's current 7 000 square metres in Wadeville.

"At 23 000 square metres, Roodekop will accommodate increased stockholdings as well as the specialised equipment we use to cut, bore and finish steel to exact customer requirements," Ferguson said. "It will also provide space to expand our precision-cutting and profiling capabilities, deep-hole drilling, facing and centring services."

"We will be moving in phases so that we can maintain uninterrupted steel deliveries to customers throughout," said Ferguson. Among the companies working closely with Special Steels to achieve a smooth transition is crane company Condra, which is to manufacture three new cranes and refurbish a further fourteen currently in use at the Wadeville warehouse. Each of these seventeen machines will be delivered, installed and commissioned according to a specific timetable dovetailing with the phased move.

Special Steels ordered the new cranes in July, and the refurbishments in August.

THESE MACHINES HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED TO ENDURE

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



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The refurbishment order is the biggest for this service yet received by Condra. It includes not only comprehensive inspection and repair of the fourteen overhead cranes in use at the current warehouse, but also a substantial change to their dimensions.

Spans will be extended by 1,5 m to fit Roodekop's wider bays, and hoist lifting heights will be increased from 6 to 8,5 metres. This work will be executed simultaneously with the inspection and replacement of brakes and bearings, a check of all mechanicals and electricals, and careful realignment of crane girders and crabs to ensure true-running frames. Of the fourteen cranes to be refurbished, seven are Condra machines covered by the company's maintenance programme and expected to run reliably for many years to come. Condra will also assume responsibility for maintaining the other seven refurbished cranes.

The workflow and logistics of the Special Steels cranes are being carefully planned and coordinated. Condra will deliver, install and commission the three newly manufactured cranes as the first step in the programme. These are 2 m-class workshop machines already at an advanced stage of production, featuring standard speeds, variable drives on all motions and remote control supported by pendant back-up. Two will be identical 10-ton units servicing the same bay and spanning 29,4 metres. The third, a 25-ton capacity crane spanning 18,3 m, will replace a competitor's crane which is to be scrapped.

Next on the schedule will be the first three refurbished cranes to be delivered in October, then three more in November, four in December and the final four in January 2025.

Each refurbished crane has its own timetable for removal from the Wadeville warehouse, transportation to Condra's factory in Germiston, stripping, inspection, girder extension, refurbishment, reassembly and transportation to the new warehouse in Roodekop for installation and commissioning.

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South African business should do more to enforce e-waste regulations



By Larry Claasen

THE country's e-waste regulations, which has the goal of reducing electronic waste, came into effect on 4 November 2021. Despite coming into force, in a Q&A with CBN, E-waste Recycling Authority (ERA) CEO Ashley du Plooy says, as a whole business have yet to enforce the regulations.

"There is another group who reluctantly comply with the EPR Regulations and try to do the minimum to stay within compliance"

CBN - From what you have seen, has the business community embraced what is required from them regarding the e-waste regulations?

Du Plooy - When it comes to producers of EEE and lighting (the people to whom the regulations apply), it's been a mix of responses. Some sectors have embraced the EPR Regulations and have been great partners with us from the get-go - like the ICT sector.

Then there is another group who reluctantly comply with the EPR Regulations and try to do the minimum to stay within compliance.

Then there is the third group we call 'free-riders', who would like to see the EPR Regulations not work out and wish that the regulations did not

apply to them.

CBN - The regulations are still relatively new. What has been the biggest challenge in getting business/people to dispose of e-waste?

Du Plooy - When it comes to the producers, there are regulatory officials and chief financial officers who are struggling to get their companies to comply with the EPR Regulations.

The reason they're struggling is due to the fact that they should have been compliant from November 2021 and that means they may have a backlog in terms of complying with their obligation to pay EPR fees.

Then there are producers who suggest that they've got waste from their products under control, that they're managing this waste fine themselves - but evidence of this is lacking.

Another big challenge is the fact that, because the regulations are new, not all producers have the systems to facilitate reporting (in terms of how the regulations matters are required to be reported on).

For consumers, there is just a general lack of understanding and priorities might be elsewhere. It's up to us to educate and also densify infrastructure for recycling drop-off points with our service providers and producer members.

CBN - Where do you think, in terms of the collection and disposal of e-waste, improvements can be made?

Du Plooy - What we've discovered is that there is waste product coming from consumers (the public) and then there is waste product coming

from businesses. The drop-off points and buy-back centers for Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment and Lighting (WEEEL), is a good way of collecting waste coming from ICT and domestic appliance products, as well as lighting.

However, with waste generated by consumers (commercial and industrial businesses), specialised collection systems still need to be developed - for example Solar power plants which have concentrated installations of product and the consumer infrastructure will be inadequate for collecting this kind of waste.

Similarly with batteries, specialised collection from both the public and businesses needs to be developed and refined.

CBN - Can you scale the impact of the regulations and collection programme? i.e. The impact on landfill, businesses and the broader society.

Du Plooy - Scale of membership and producers that are compliant with EPR will help spread the cost of operating the EPR Scheme that addresses the question of maximum collection and treatment of e-waste.

Increased public awareness of e-waste and its proper treatment, an area in which ERA has made phenomenal strides, which has driven up public participation in e-waste collection and will continue to do so as we continue with our public awareness campaigns.

In the same way that people are aware of plastic, bottles, cans etc, we're working to scale the awareness and increase participation in addressing these waste streams.

AES advises local industry on how best to benefit from biofuels

THE local manufacturing and industrial sector is showing increasing interest regarding switching to biofuels as a fuel source. However, the biomass fuels market is mostly still in its infancy, making it extremely challenging for South African companies to make the right decisions when moving away from traditional fossil fuels.

"Quite often the available information on biofuels is varying and it can be difficult to get the facts - based on experience - to support a decision.

Therefore, a local energy optimisation partner's knowledge can be invaluable," says Dennis Williams, commercial director of Associated Energy Services (AES), a leading operations and maintenance service provider to the steam and boiler sector.

"In AES's case, clients benefit from our hands-on experience and knowledge of fuel sources and thermal energy options. The final decision depends on individual clients' needs and their short-, medium- and long-term objectives," Williams explains.

'Chipping in' on the biofuels debate

Although the drive for a switch to biofuels is the

reduction of emissions, Williams says carbon accounting can be a contentious topic, with the view that biomass is carbon neutral, resulting in the promotion of the use of biomass, even though more carbon dioxide is emitted than the same energy plant would using coal: "This is because the actual stack CO2 emission per unit of thermal energy is higher. However the CO2 emitted from biomass combustion is deemed to be absorbed by biomass that grows to replace that which has been used," he points out.

In practical applications, it should also be considered that the chemical composition of wood includes alkaline metals such as sodium, potassium and high chloride levels. Chemical interaction between the fuel components and the furnace refractory lining at high temperatures increases corrosion levels, elevating maintenance costs.

"Furthermore, biomass can be contaminated with sand, grit and dust. Silica-based, this interacts with the biofuel components inside a furnace, resulting in fouling and slag formation," points out Ray Lund, operations director of AES.



Gavin Evezard, Projects Director at AES.

Lund advises that biofuels also present ethical challenges to some companies: "When asking clients which operate on biomass why they had strict and narrow policies when sourcing fuel, we learnt that they wanted to ensure they were sourcing 'genuine waste' as fuel - rather than residue that was produced by cutting down trees specifically for fuel."

One prospective client presented AES with a sliding scale of the most appropriate to least desirable choices of biofuels. Going forward, Lund believes that blue chip companies will increasingly drive ethical sourcing

and require biomass to be certified as a fuel.

Even then, due to the quantum of energy required for the thermal process, larger industry has limited choices of fuels which can support the significant level of energy supply required.

"An added consideration is the ability of biomass-fuelled boilers to respond to changes in load or steam demand. "Solid biofuels, in general, respond slowly. If you have a very erratic steam profile on a pressure-sensitive process, solid biofuels are less suitable," points out AES projects director, Gavin Evezard.

RMB Ventures celebrates pioneers of green innovation at GreenPitch 2024

RMB Ventures has reaffirmed its commitment to driving South Africa's green economy and empowering South African businesses to achieve their full potential as a key sponsor of the 2024 GreenPitch Challenge. Recognising the sector's pivotal role in driving future economic growth, RMB has sponsored this event since its inception in 2015, challenging early-stage green enterprises to pitch sustainable business ideas. Entries were reviewed by a panel of judges, with the winners receiving funding to help realise their business potential and contribute to the country's green development.

The final prize giving event was hosted by

GreenCape. Dragonfly (powered by Anisoptera), an SMME developing cutting-edge AI and IoT solutions for waste management, emerged as the overall winner. Dragonfly impressed judges with its ability to enhance operational efficiency and improve the quality of recycled materials being returned to the circular economy, significantly reducing landfill waste.

The runner up was AERO Greens, which manufactures sustainable, soilless vertical farming systems housed in shipping containers. Their innovative approach utilises aeroponics to reduce water usage by 98% compared to traditional farming. By integrating renewable energy and advanced

biomimicry-inspired cooling systems, they ensure year-round, high-quality crop production with minimal environmental impact.

The People's Pick award, chosen through an audience voting poll, was Silence SA, an exclusive distributor for Silence™, Europe's leading manufacturer of electric motorcycles and electric vehicles. Silence Smart Rent is involved in the business of providing smart rental solutions.

The winners in each category received a cash prize sponsored by RMB Ventures, as well as other prizes sponsored by Pulse Digital, Green Connexion, Thinkroom, AltGen and The Ethical Agency.

"Congratulations to all the finalists and

winners," said Ewan Gray, Private Equity Transactor at RMB Ventures.

"We are proud to be associated with GreenPitch and the way in which this competition supports early-stage green startups through education, funding and awareness of these projects in the media. As these green businesses grow and scale, they will create new jobs, develop new green technologies and contribute to a more sustainable economy."

"Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, conserving energy, and protecting our natural resources will all support efforts to reduce the effects of climate change and improve our overall environmental health," he concludes.

Integrated Pump Technologies - Rapid response is vital in dewatering Africa's mines

AVAILABILITY of the right equipment – and the expertise to ensure ongoing performance – are proving to be important differentiators in the market for Integrated Pump Technology, as it forges further growth in Africa as a dewatering pump specialist for the mining sector.

Good stock levels are crucial in responding to customer's urgent dewatering needs, says Jordan Marsh, MD at Integrated Pump Technology – and this was once again confirmed at the latest Electra Mining Africa exhibition.

"With visitors to our exhibition stand coming from all over Africa, it was clear mining customers need a dewatering equipment partner who is responsive and has the right equipment in stock," says Marsh.

"They also need quick turnaround times on the larger diesel-powered pumps, which we can achieve with our Godwin units."

The mining regions in which Integrated Pump Technology operates have some of the wettest mines in the world, where dewatering is essential for safe and efficient operations. With its range of Grindex submersible pumps and Godwin diesel driven pumps, the company has the depth of experience and local expertise to provide the optimal dewatering solution.

"In one of our recent customer engagements in Zambia, we supplied suitable 90 kW pumps to a contractor who urgently needed to



dewater a section of a mine," he explains.

"Due to our deliberate policy of holding extensive stock in-country, we could quickly get the units on site so that the customer could achieve their goal even quicker than they had planned."

In addition to timeously receiving a quality solution, the customer also has the comfort of Integrated Pump Technology's distributor's high level of experience and knowledge of the product – which is further backed up by the company's field staff who support its distributor network. Marsh highlights that the company's localisation policy ensures local distributors are carefully chosen for their knowledge of customer needs, their regulatory compliance and their technical resources.

Holding good stock levels of relevant equipment is one aspect of being able to respond quickly to customers' emergencies. Another important element is being able to put together pumps systems locally, he says.

"With our well-equipped technical facilities in South Africa, we apply our 'local build' approach to

speed up the supply of the larger self-priming diesel pumps," he says.

"We know that mines can face lead times of 22 to 30 weeks when they order a fully-assembled pump from abroad. We can do the same job in just two to three weeks, all in accordance with original equipment manufacturer (OEM) specifications."

The long lead times for overseas builds are often due to the availability of diesel engines in the country of assembly, he points out. By leveraging its local partnerships with diesel engine OEMs, Integrated Pump Technology can rather source its engines in countries like South Africa. This allows the company to bring in only the wet end of the system, to conduct the assembly locally – and closer to the customer.

"With our strong technical capability, we provide the option of trailer or skid mounted diesel driven pumps," he says. "The customer may also have a preference for a certain make of diesel engine, to suit their on-site skills set; we engage with a range of OEMs and can source various options for the customer."

ENERGYValves, a division of EMVAfrica and a provider of valve solutions, has opened a new facility in Cape Town. The new premises, located at the corner of Milan and London Circle, Brackenfell Business Park, Brackenfell, will enhance ENERGYValves' capacity to serve the Cape Town market and surrounding areas.

"Our goal is to ensure growth in the valves industry and to become the best valve supplier out there"



to meet the unique needs of its clients.

• **Strategic Location:** Situated in the heart of Brackenfell Business Park, the new facility offers excellent accessibility for clients and partners, fostering stronger business relationships and operational efficiency.

• **Comprehensive Solutions:** In addition to valve solutions, the new workshop will also stock a wide range of valve accessories, making ENERGYValves a one-stop shop for all valve-related needs.

"We are thrilled to expand our base of operations," said Justin Orwin, Branch Manager for EMVAfrica CPT. "This expansion is a testament to our commitment to providing exceptional valve solutions and services. The new premises will not only enable us to increase our capacity but

also enhance our ability to serve the Cape Town market," CPT Valves sales manager, Cameron Du Plessis added.

"What makes ENERGYValves products stand out in the market is our excellent product standard and quality. By ensuring that our customers are given the best quality product at a reasonable price, we position ourselves strongly in the current market landscape."

Reflecting on the future, Du Plessis said, "Our goal is to ensure growth in the valves industry and to become the best valve supplier out there. It makes me proud to see the valves department grow. The more growth, the better the future in the business for me. It gives me joy to know that our customers and clients are happy with our service, and we will continue to serve them with pride."

The expansion underscores ENERGYValves' dedication to driving growth and

innovation within the valve industry. As the company continues to expand its footprint, it remains committed to delivering superior quality products and services that meet the evolving needs of its customers.

The opening of its Cape Town facility follows ENERGYValves, which is one of EMVAfrica's three divisions (ENERGYMetals and Multi Alloys), relocated to its very own facility in Kyalami Office Park, Midrand, Johannesburg, in May 2023.

That move was prompted by ENERGYValves' growth over the past few years which amplified the need for more space to accommodate increased stock holding and resources.

"Our new facility will enhance our operational efficiencies by giving us better access to infrastructure, transportation networks and utilities," said Anesh Prithilall, valves business unit manager for ENERGYValves, at the time.

A division of EMVAfrica



ENERGYValves EXPANDS ITS PRODUCT RANGE

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



Werner Pumps has patented its wet and dry combination jetting and vacuum truck unit



WERNER PUMPS, a leading manufacturer of high-pressure jetting equipment in South Africa, has patented its wet and dry combination jetting and vacuum truck unit, designed and manufactured locally in South Africa.

The company has already built and sold the first few units and believes demand for such trucks will continue to grow.

Sebastian Werner, MD at Werner Pumps, says the company has built on the success of its IMPI Combi Unit, a versatile machine suited to many applications, to fill a gap in the market for a truck that is able to meet dry vacuuming application requirements too.

"We found that customers were looking for a machine that could not only be used in wet jetting and vacuuming applications, such as storm water

drain or sewer cleaning, but also for dry applications, such as dust suppression on mines or managing fly ash in power generation facilities," he says. "We developed a new version of our vacuum pump to address these needs, and we've seen that the unit performs well in the 'in-between' applications too, such as vacuuming slurry. This makes it a great investment for customers using it for multiple applications. We've already deployed the first unit, and the customer is very happy with its performance."

As with the dry-only system, the high-pressure pump on the Werner wet/dry IMPI system has a capacity of 295l/min at 135 bar and is fitted with a pneumatically operated regulating valve, making pressure adjustment simple and contributing to operator safety.

The vacuum pump has a 2400m³/hr suction capability, and the vehicle is fitted with a 12 500l stainless steel tank. Other features include a hydraulic slewing suction boom, two hydraulic-driven hose reels and multiple toolboxes.

"We're always looking to innovate based on what our customers need," says Werner.

"We also love to prove that South Af-

rica offers great local products and technology that can compete with our international counterparts and even exceed what they offer for the African market."

About Werner Pumps

Werner South Africa Pumps & Equipment has been designing, manufacturing, supplying and maintaining specialist high-pres-

sure jetting equipment for 30 years.

Aside from its in-house manufacturing capabilities, Werner Pumps specialises in the supply and maintenance of high-pressure jetting equipment, German high-pressure pumps, high-pressure sewer cleaning hoses, Swiss-engineered Nozzles by ENZ, and high-pressure guns, lances and cleaning equipment.

Festo - Redefining industrial automation with the new VTUX

FESTO recently introduced its latest innovation in the form of the Valve Terminal VTUX. This innovation marks the beginning of a new era in valve terminals with its features making it an impressive solution for the future.

"Since our groundbreaking introduction of the world's first valve terminal back in 1987, we have developed numerous other terminals, each with its own specific focus. Thus, our adaptable Valve Terminal VTUX draws on years of experience and offers a highly expandable solution, enabling Festo customers to stay ahead of the ever-evolving technical changes in machine generations, from digitalisation, and cloud connectivity to machine design issues," says Skye Prato, business unit manager at Festo South Africa.

The valve terminal seamlessly amalgamates the advantages of three classic valve terminals ranges that have set waves in industry: CPV, MPA-L/S and VTUG, into a single user-friendly system.

This solution offers an impeccable combination of cost-effectiveness and advantages, leaving no room for doubts.

It features an intuitive, modular configuration of essential functions, superior performance, and effortlessly integrable capabilities, all of which can be easily incorporated into the smallest of spaces.

A closer look at the simplified disassembly and design of the VTUX from an expert During a recent conversation with Skye Prato, the Valve Termi-

nal VTUX took centre stage, as he delved into the valve terminals disassembly process, providing valuable insights into its features, upgrades, and versatility for various applications.

Prato's first point of emphasis was on the disassembling of the valve, highlighting its user-friendly design. With just a few screws and an allen key, users can easily access the valves, making maintenance and troubleshooting a breeze. The modular design allows for effortless removal and replacement of components, minimising downtime and maximising productivity.

One of the most noteworthy upgrades to this technology is its redesigned valves, which have been expertly engineered to deliver higher flow rates and improved efficiency. As a seasoned expert, he further explained how the valve design has been optimised to accommodate larger flows without increasing the footprint. This innovation allows for greater flexibility and scalability, ensuring seamless integration into a wide array of automation processes.

The ultimate slim and lightweight solution

Focusing on portability and convenience, Festo developers have put significant effort into reducing the size and weight of the VTUX valve terminals, a successor to the three previous classic valve terminals. This has resulted in a valve that offers excellent speed, payload and flow characteristics. These terminals are ideal for installation on handling systems or robots, where size and weight can significantly

impact performance.

Systematic interlinking

With just one 10 mm valve and a working connection of up to 8 mm, high flow rates of up to 670 l/min can be achieved thanks to this invention. In addition, VTUX offers a spectrum of interlinking plate widths tailored to varying flow demands while employing the same 10mm valve. The two interlinking plate sizes for tubing diameters of 4mm, 6 mm and 8 mm can be combined. Interlinking plates are available in four valves or a single valve configurations as well. The single connecting plates and modular tie rods enable a system that can be expanded as required to be set up within a short period of time.

High-speed communication

The streamlined, high-speed serial communication employed within valve terminals and base plates significantly minimises the need for extensive cabling and tubing, while facilitating seamless integration of functionalities and diagnostic capabilities. VTUX offers a wide array of interfaces supporting various bus systems and communication standards, including IO-Link. Thus ensuring its adaptability, future readiness across diverse electrical networks and machinery setups. Whether deployed centrally in setups with numerous IOs and valve positions or used in decentralised valve terminals, the valve proves to be a versatile solution.

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Xylem opens offices in Richards Bay

The new office expands direct services and support for water solutions to the greater Richards Bay area.

XYLEM, the world's leading provider of pure water technologies and solutions, has opened a new office in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal.

Attracted to this ever-developing region for its growth in the water, industrial, and mining sectors, Xylem's presence near the new RBIDZ (Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone) will ensure faster service delivery and help support economic development in the region.

"Opening offices in the region brings Xylem closer to numerous companies and trade opportunities"

The Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (RBIDZ) is a new economic hub that encourages international export competitiveness and clusters smaller, downstream manufacturing businesses around existing major industries. It offers tax and duty-free incentives, world-class infrastructure and competitive input costs.

Opening offices in the region brings Xylem closer to numerous companies and trade opportunities. The offices also establish a direct relationship with Richards Bay, the third largest municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, and support modernising its wastewater and water delivery infrastructure.

Enhancing delivery of water solutions

Richards Bay is a pivotal economic centre on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal, offering Xylem a strategic opportunity to grow its regional presence. The city is home to numerous water-intensive industries that rely on efficient water management solutions, such as mining, manufacturing, and the port of Richards Bay.

With premises now open in this region, Xylem Africa will deliver:

Significantly reduced response times

- Access to Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) level support
- Direct access to Xylem's extensive range of products and services
- Strengthened relationships with local industries and municipalities
- Increased employment and support for partner businesses
- Sustainable water technologies and lifecycle services, maintenance, repairs, and rentals.

"We are honoured and excited to be taking ground in the Richards Bay region. Richards Bay aligns perfectly with several of Xylem's strategic objectives and goals. Being closely situated to the RBIDZ, we can focus more effectively on this important market, enhancing our ability to drive customer success,

expand our presence in emerging markets, and concentrate on serving public utilities. By engaging with local communities and stakeholders, we aim to support the region's economic growth while promoting sustainable practices," says Reuben Marowa, director, sales and operations at Xylem Africa.

Growing Xylem's African presence

The Richards Bay offices expand Xylem's direct footprint across South Africa, joining its continental headquarters in Johannesburg and major offices in Rustenburg and Cape Town. Xylem Africa also has regional offices in Algeria, Morocco, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Egypt and a large network of partners that have been serving customers across the continent for over 60 years.

Globally, Xylem has a presence in over 150 countries. The parent company is based in the USA and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Xylem employs over 23 000 people globally and earned over \$8-billion in revenue during 2023.

Yet, Xylem's success stems from its local focus, working through employees and partners on the ground to understand the unique water challenges of different areas. Whether it works with countries, communities, companies, or individuals, Xylem strives to create direct connections and deliver solutions that make sense to the place and its people.

BMG's new EVO series electrically operated diaphragm pumps are perfect for caustic services

BMG's new EVO series™ electric diaphragm pumps – which form part of Ingersoll Rand's ARO fluid handling products – are designed to enhance energy efficiency and improve fluid handling productivity in many industries, including the chemical and petrochemical sectors.

EVO metallic diaphragm pumps are manufactured in cast iron, aluminium 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 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, extended service life and the best cost of ownership.

"The new EVO 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



ARO EVO series electric diaphragm pump.

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 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"

"Due to the high-resistant three chamber design, there is no need for a pulsation dampener. These pumps have a true deadhead when the downstream valve is closed, automatically preventing the pumps from spinning, while holding the pressure."

EVO electrical

diaphragm pumps can handle the most aggressive and corrosive fluids and 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.

Other important features of EVO electrically operated diaphragm pumps are easy installation and maintenance – even in confined spaces and because this is a single pump system, there is no need for users to

purchase accessories. This system, with built in control and monitoring capabilities, is IOT ready and offers full integration through PLC or HMI devices.

These electric diaphragm pumps, which conform to stringent international quality and safety specifications, are also supplied with hazardous duty certifications for hazardous environments. Apart from applications in the chemical and petrochemical sectors, these pumps are designed for use in processing, mining, wastewater treatment, manufacturing and general industry.

Also in BMG's ARO range are the PRO series air-operated diaphragm pumps, designed to efficiently pump any type of liquid – from clean, light to medium viscosity fluids, to highly corrosive and abrasive fluids. ARO pumps can also transfer large particles without damaging the pump.

Notable features 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.

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VEGA Instruments: Precision is the ultimate trend - intelligent technology provides effective solutions

IN Africa, municipalities encounter significant challenges regarding water scarcity and management. Precisely measuring and monitoring water resources is vital to prevent waste and ensure equitable distribution.

Traditional methods often fall short due to inaccuracies and the inability to provide real-time data of high quality. The VEGAPULS 6X is widely recognised as the leading radar sensor in the smart technology measurement category.

This cutting-edge radar sensor is specially designed for accurate and fail-safe bulk liquid measurement. Its innovative technology offers unparalleled precision, providing accurate readings regardless of environmental conditions.

By offering real-time data, the VEGAPULS 6X helps municipalities manage water resources more efficiently, reducing wastage and enhancing service delivery. As a bonus, it minimises maintenance needs, saving municipalities both time and money.

Enhancing Energy Sector Efficiency

Power generation utilities encounter significant obstacles in their sector, especially in effectively managing and optimising power generation and distribution. Accurately measuring fuel levels in power plants is essential to ensure seamless operations and prevent costly disruptions. Conventional measuring devices often struggle with reliability, resulting in inefficiencies and potential safety risks that can be both expensive and life-threatening.

In the described scenario, the VEGAPULS 6X steps provide a comprehensive solution. Its advanced radar technology enables highly accurate and reliable measurements, even in challenging conditions such as extreme temperatures or high dust environments. This reliability ensures that providers can sustain consistent energy production, decreasing downtime and enhancing overall efficiency.

Benefits of Smart Measurement

The introduction of advanced technologies such as the VEGAPULS 6X brings numerous important advantages for African municipalities. Firstly,

the primary benefit lies in the enhanced accuracy and reliability of measurements. The VEGAPULS 6X provides precise data, facilitating improved decision-making and resource management. Secondly, its real-time

data capabilities enable prompt responses to any issues, averting potential escalation of problems.

The durability and low maintenance requirements of these sensors translate to municipalities allo-

cating resources more effectively, focusing on service improvement rather than constant equipment repairs. The integration of smart technologies is a critical step towards more sustainable and efficient municipal services.

Being Smart the VEGA way

The engineer no longer has to worry about the accuracy of data received from level sensors at the reservoir. By incorporating smart technologies such as the

VEGAPULS 6X, daily operations have been transformed, equipping the utility with the necessary tools to ensure a consistent water supply for residents. This technological advancement in measurement instrumentation not only tack-

les the challenges faced by municipalities but also sets the stage for a more sustainable future.

The question remains: How will you embrace the VEGAPULS 6X to enhance service delivery in your municipality?

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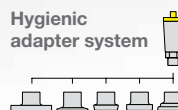
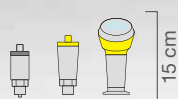


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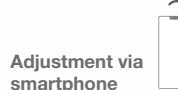
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VEGA HOME OF VALUES

Gauteng Province leaking city infrastructure is a national systemic risk to South Africa



By SA Water
Chamber's CEO,
Benoît Le Roy

THE threat of Day Zero in Gauteng has been in the headlines daily for several months now as escalating water outages in the three metros can no longer be ignored. What is the definition of Day Zero?

There does not seem to be any universal definition but the one that comes up first when searching online is "Day Zero refers to the critical point at which a city's water supply is predicted to be nearly completely depleted, leaving taps dry and communities in crisis."

It is generally accepted that dams supply most of our city water supplies where their levels are generally the key measurement.

In the Gauteng dam supply system, the IVRS (Integrated Vaal River System) however the dams have been well above 50%, up to 100% recently, and not the cause for Day Zero threats, let's have a look at the threats in Gauteng.

Several items are leading to this Day Zero threat in Gauteng, namely:

1. Metro water distribution systems are leaking between 30% and 40%.
2. The bulk water supplier, Rand Water, is facing a growing financial threat to its ability to supply water with poor payments

from its customers, the cities.

3. Over abstraction by Rand Water to try and overcome the leaking metro systems are illegal as they exceed the Water Use Licence and hence threatens the sustainability of the IVRS, consequently the regulator has ordered Rand Water to meet its legal obligations resulting in reducing supply to the metros over a period of time.

The leaking city infrastructure is a national systemic risk to South Africa having escalated from around 30% a decade ago to nearly 50% in 2023. This is mainly due to leaking pipes where assets have neared the end of their design life and have not been maintained adequately.

The funding required for Gauteng's metros alone is stated at around R40-billion with the city of Joburg stating publicly it alone required R26-billion, and the current number for South Africa is around R200-billion to R400-billion.

Metro's must show leadership. They must be asked for their council approved plans and not vague strategies. As things now stand, there is no plan to upgrade their pipes.

Clearly this five to ten year public-private funded program has to start immediately to avoid a total system collapse where in Gauteng alone Rand Water reports that of

its 4 200 ML/D delivered on average, the losses in the municipal systems are now at 1 600 ML/D and were 1 200ML/D a few years ago, so escalating rapidly as the distribution systems collapse.

However, the province's metros have stated that they do not have the tens of billions of rands required, the private sector is the only other avenue and for that to happen many governance issues have to be addressed. This is what we are busy with in our Nexus water Alchemy business.

In this regard, we have developed a governance framework for this and will publish it early 2025.

As Rand Water cuts back some 10% to its permitted abstractions, we see the metros running out of water purely due to their leaks and not customer demand as the data clearly shows no change between the last three years winter and summer demands, a clear sign of losses through leaks.

It is patently clear that the municipal assets have to be reinstated nationally and with utmost urgency in Gauteng to avoid reaching closer to larger water outages and eventually Day Zero whilst the dam system is ironically relatively well supplied. Whilst we cannot predict the future very accurately, the writing is on the wall if we do not act. Act we have to as the DWS is now publishing weekly Gauteng dashboards to engage all stakeholders as measurement is critical to manage the future water security interventions.

We have the solutions from ring fencing water revenues to ensure that they are efficiently used to cover their asset requirements, to pressure demand management and "LIVE" management of the water systems using the digital toolbox and lastly the political will, turbo-charged is critical and we will hence avoid the catastrophic "Day Zero" in Gauteng that is a threat to national security and economy.

Western Cape Energy & Water Council lays the foundations for growing the provincial economy and more jobs

THE newly established Integrated Energy and Water Council will coordinate and support the Western Cape government's strategies to achieve energy and water security in the province.

"We must do everything that we can to secure enough water and energy so that our economy can flourish and create more jobs," said Premier Winde at the start of the council meeting.

The scope of the Energy Council, which was set up early last year at the height of the load shedding crisis, has been expanded to achieve the objectives outlined in the Growth For Jobs strategy (G4J), Western Cape Energy Resilience and 15-year Western Cape Water Resilience programmes.

"If we are to drive economic growth and create more jobs we must secure and stabilise the Western Cape's increasing demand for electricity and water. We may have had good rains this winter and load shedding has been

suspended for now, but we are not complacent. Just as the Energy Council has been working to make the province energy resilient by enabling and empowering the private sector and municipalities to explore alternative renewable energy solutions, so too must we seek out ways to better conserve and manage our water use," stated Premier Alan Winde, "This is why we have added water resilience to the Western Cape government's key priorities. The council will assist in integrating our various initiatives."

At its first meeting, Western Cape government ministers, Heads of Departments, mayors, and municipal managers were given an update on how the newly constituted council will operate.

The council's responsibilities have been expanded to include identifying and acting solutions to avoid future water scarcity by:

- Addressing the causes of water losses;

- Investing in the construction and maintenance of water infrastructure;
- Seeking out opportunities for groundwater exploration; and
- Improving water quality.

With the mandate of the council now secured, teams across the Western Cape government will start to work on the key initiatives required to start implementing the water resilience strategy.

Increasing energy prices are totally unacceptable

The council discussed at length the continued increases in energy prices, the impact that this is having on households' budgets and the unacceptable proposal from Eskom to the National Energy Regulator (Nersa) to increase the sale of electricity by 43,55% to municipalities and 36,15% to its direct

customers in 2025.

"This kind of price increase is intolerable. How can you even put a price increase like this on the table? As the Western Cape government we will be expressing our complete rejection of this proposal. This kind of price increase impinges on the dignity of our residents – people are going to have to decide between buying food or power. Rather than keeping residents as part of the energy system this kind of price increase will just encourage those who can to exit the Eskom energy system, leaving those who cannot afford an alternative energy option stuck with an unreliable and unaffordable supplier," said Premier Winde.

"I have requested that the Western Cape government register to take part in the Nersa hearings on this proposed increase so that we can express our total rejection of these scurrilous proposals," said Premier Winde.

MANZI Water opens two additional outlets in Gauteng



MANZI Water opens two additional outlets to serve more communities amid ongoing water shortages

"Given the challenges we face regarding access to water in South Africa, MANZI Water remains dedicated to providing a reliable source of safe, clean drinking water to

those who need it," said Alfred Challis, CEO of MANZI Water.

MANZI Water notes with concern the ongoing water crisis plaguing South Africa, particularly the water shortages affecting key areas in Gauteng, and calls for greater collaboration in addressing water short-

ages when they arise.

In recent months, various MANZI Water businesses have been affected by recurring water shortages. Despite these challenges, the business has remained focused on ensuring that its customers and humanitarian partners are served in the best manner possible.

"It is a challenge to ensure that we meet surges in demand when they arise. This has meant that we have had to prepare ourselves to be resilient during times of high demand," he added. "We go to great lengths to maintain adequate stock levels when water outages occur in the various locations where we operate. This has required sourcing water from one service point to supply high demand in another, allowing us to serve our customers to the best of our abilities," he continued.

As a rapidly growing player in the prepared water industry, MANZI Water has recently opened two additional

retail outlets in the Tshwane area. The opening of these outlets, in Mooikloof Village and Silver Mall in Silverton, indicates that the growth of the MANZI Water family shows no signs of slowing down, despite challenges posed by water shortages and various maintenance issues affecting water supply.

Furthermore, MANZI Water is in the process of opening another outlet at Waverley Plaza, Waverley, which is set to launch in October 2024.

The business was founded in 2023 by a group of experienced entrepreneurs committed to serving clients and making an impact on their surrounding communities. With over 300 employees across its various outlets, the company actively strives to contribute substantially to local economies by creating job opportunities and ensuring a stable source of income for hundreds of families across South Africa.

THE NEXT GENERATION
Internships, Skills & Development Programmes

Unitrans - Shaping skills for the supply chain today and tomorrow

By Thamsanqa Ndlovu, head: people development, Abdullah Moerat, Manager: people development and Andile Luke, chief people officer.

RAPID technological advancements, the surge in data and the increasing demand for specialised expertise has led to business environments needing constant adaptation.

Staying ahead of these changes is not merely about remaining competitive – it's about building resilience and ensuring long-term success in a marketplace that is constantly changing.

Delivering the necessary skills to thrive in this environment demands a proactive approach to training and skills development. Companies must not only equip their workforce with current competencies but also anticipate future demands, ensuring that their talent pipeline is aligned with the evolving needs of the business.

At Unitrans there is agreement that this forward-thinking strategy is crucial for keeping the company future-fit and agile in the increasingly complex supply chain landscape.

Dealing with disruption

Change is inevitable. Today's businesses operate in vastly different ways and in much more volatile environments compared to two decades ago.

They must be more innovative, agile, inclusive and customer-focused. The rapid pace of technological advancements has brought further disruption, re-shaping the operational landscape and demanding a significant shift in the skills required to thrive in this new environment.

Supply chain companies have recognised the changing environment.

The demand for new skill sets, such as



data scientists, engineers and cybersecurity experts, has surged, while the need for ongoing workplace learning has become critical. Conventional training approaches are no longer sufficient to meet these emerging needs.

Businesses must also focus on identifying and developing future skill requirements, even when they still need to be created.

Establishing learning cultures

The traditional path of graduating with a degree and entering the workforce is also no longer enough, as skills that were adequate 10 years ago are quickly outdated. Instilling a culture of ongoing learning within organisations is crucial for a competitive advantage. At Unitrans, we recognise that we have to invest in continuous training and development to stay ahead of the game.

It also involves recognising that the ways

we learn have evolved. While educational institutions remain a core part of this process, in-house development programmes and online platforms are increasingly vital for continuous development.

At Unitrans, we have introduced the U Skill-Up initiative, a dedicated weekly slot where employees at all levels can learn from experts. This approach establishes a sustainable skills framework and provides competencies that extend beyond the job's technical requirements.

Developing employees and fostering capabilities that align with a company's ethos and culture is another critical differentiator in today's competitive landscape.

Reskilling and upskilling must be integral to the employee value proposition as the demand for new skills evolves and the appetite for learning grows. Soft skills are emerging as highly sought-after, driven by the need to stand out in a competitive job market and future-proof one's career.

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Zutari - What would it take to start an agricultural revolution in Lusikisiki?



A total of 1 068 families were empowered to establish a 50 m² home garden, each growing five different vegetables, and capable of feeding a family of four year-round

BY providing scaled access to inputs, training and support, the Grow the Growers project is developing lucrative and sustainable livelihood pathways for small farmers while improving food security for the community.

After the successful implementation of the Industrial Development Cooperation (IDC)-funded Social Employment programme in Lusikisiki, SANRAL

provided funding for a three-month extension, which concluded in July. The project was focused on scaling agricultural initiatives, enhancing food security and connecting small-scale farmers to commercial markets.

Many families in Lusikisiki struggle to access and afford nutritious food. Despite this, agricultural activity in the area remains limited. Where farming does occur, it is mainly subsistence-based and often relies on ineffective or unsustainable practices. The Grow the Growers Project was designed to significantly scale sustainable agriculture in the area, establishing thriving family gardens and small farms by providing access to quality inputs, training and support.

"We are thrilled with the impact of the project," says Andile Maphumulo, social sustainability manager at leading consulting engineering and infrastructure advisory firm Zutari.

"The Grow the Growers Project has established year-round family gardens at scale and has empowered small farmers to produce vegetables for commercial markets."

A total of 1 068 families were empowered to establish a 50 m² home garden, each growing five different vegetables, and capable of feeding a family of four year-round. This initiative has significantly enhanced food security in the area.

In addition, 28 high-potential farmers were equipped to scale up vegetable

production for commercial markets. Each farmer received extensive training, access to essential inputs such as seeds and fertilisers, and support with aggregation and supply logistics. A sustainable market link was established, resulting in reliable contracts to supply Wild Coast Food Markets.

The project also launched micro-nursery businesses. Each farm received a high-quality tunnel, providing a controlled environment for seedling growth. Farmers can now grow and sell quality seedlings, previously unavailable, to local growers. As a result, these farmers can generate additional income and accelerate vegetable production for home gardens in the area.

Participants were trained in effective and ecologically friendly practices that promote the long-term health of the soil and ecosystem. These practices included effective mulching, composting, and eco-friendly pest management using locally available plants such as aloe, tobacco, and wild garlic.

Project manager Amelia Visagie reveals that about R5,5-million in stipends flowed into the community between April and June, a significant stimulus to the local economy. The thriving gardens have generated excitement about agriculture as a viable, lucrative livelihood pathway. As interest continues to grow, she hopes that the gardens will spread in a widening circle of impact throughout the community.

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How a lone yachtswoman helped transform waste management

By Hugh Tyrrell

WHICH country has the most shopping malls in the southern hemisphere? Dear old RSA. Yes, we are compliant, well-schooled consumers, trundling our trolleys down the aisles for our weekly shopping.

The aftermath of this is a mass of trash heading for the landfill. Or being left to litter our land and seas with increasing harm to humans and non-humans alike.

You may believe the mass consumer society we're living in was a natural progression of our current civilisation. Not so. It was first punted as economic policy by the American government's advisors after World War 2. Thousands of soldiers were returning home and looking for work. Factories that were highly efficient at manufacturing planes, tanks and ships were standing empty.

"This country needs more fridges, washing machines, and cars. Consuming is a patriotic duty" was the refrain. Post-war prosperity boomed and the era of mass consumption soon followed. This policy (and its

products) were exported around the world.

Quality of life for millions has certainly improved. However the consequences of this tidal wave of consumption, driven by the new disciplines of marketing and advertising, was severe. So successful was this spurge of consumerism that it eventually spilled over until its waste became a worldwide problem.

Municipalities have borne the brunt of responsibility for managing waste. It had been seen as a job for transport and logistics engineers and landfill managers. Status and budgets were low and money was needed elsewhere for more urgent services like energy and water. As the population grew, so did waste.

Then in 2005, a lone yachtswoman single-handedly circled the globe. On her voyage, she witnessed widespread pollution, most of it plastic, littering the beautiful blue oceans. She came back with a passion to do something about it.

Her name was Ellen MacArthur (now Dame Ellen). The foundation she established in her name popularised the Circular Economy concept worldwide. It advocates that our economy should be designed to

recover, recycle, reuse and design out waste materials as much as possible. As nature shows us, nothing is to be 'wasted'.

As the notion of waste was reframed, a shift began in planning and management to do things differently from the old take-make-waste approach, towards a circular route. In the process, this saves resources, water and carbon, and creates new business opportunities.

By now the circular economy approach is being used worldwide. It is supported at high levels in our country and continent. As the new Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries said recently: "Africa must take the lead in developing sustainable alternatives, promoting recycling technologies, and integrating circular economy principles...we have the opportunity to redefine our economic model, not only for the benefit of our environment but also for the future prosperity of our people."



In this column over the coming months, I'll be investigating benefits and barriers, and talking to experts and practitioners to explore opportunities in the Circular Economy for Cape-based companies. Your comments and queries are welcome.

Hugh Tyrrell is an experienced communications and new business development consultant in the green and circular economy.

Mail him at hugh@greenedge.co.za

South Africa's new Public Procurement Bill will not only reshape procurement practices but also unlock economic growth

By Mervyn Naidoo, Group CEO at ACTOM



PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa's recent signing of the Public Procurement Bill into law marked a transformative moment for South Africa's supply chain industry and the broader economy, as the legislation is designed to support the growth of local businesses.

This groundbreaking act, which was signed into law on 23 July 2024 by President Cyril Ramaphosa, and the act is also part of the implementation of the State Capture report recommendations on how to prevent corruption in

government procurement.

Aside from ensuring the integrity of the supply chain, it will also provide significant opportunities and advantages for supply chain professionals, businesses, and communities throughout South Africa.

One of the key objectives of the act is to prioritise local suppliers and promote free competition.

By localising the supply chain, it also ensures aftermarket support for products.

This approach is expected to have a significant impact on the broader economy by creating jobs, fostering entrepreneurship, and driving innovation within the country.

Furthermore, the new procurement legislation potentially offers supply chain professionals, businesses, and communities several other opportunities and benefits by enabling state-owned entities to migrate from transactional to strategic procurement. In the long term, this will create more predictability for suppliers and therefore bankability on investment.

Transactional procurement is typically done on a short-term basis which means that there is no predictability in terms of demand.

This hampers investment and the long-term growth and sustainability of businesses.

Removing red tape

By enabling processes that facilitate the migration from transactional to strategic procurement, the act will inevitably remove some of the bureaucracy that existed in the past.

This in turn has the distinct benefit of facilitating strategic and public-private partnerships. Unlocking investment from the private

sector will culminate in the improved efficiency of systems, companies, and logistics, and have a positive impact on the economy.

At the same time, when companies start to invest in capital goods and expand their operations, they will need to employ more people, which will trigger much-needed job creation and the need for skills.

As a result, organisations will have to embark on training and skills development initiatives which further provides scope to partner with schools and tertiary institutions to align their curricula based on projected skills set demands. Upskilling the country will certainly create more employment opportunities and this will benefit the entire vertical supply chain.

Importantly, the Public Procurement act addresses the problematic issue of a historical lack of policy clarity around product designation and localisation.

Effectively prioritising local suppliers and supporting product designation will bolster industrialisation by providing certainty around investments through a forward view of product demand and upcoming projects.

A focus on local procurement will also ensure that there is certainty in terms of demand in the medium to long term, which in turn attracts investment into the country and allows businesses to procure new technologies.

Without this predictability, companies are likely to remain reluctant to invest in technology innovations as these are typically high-capital investments.

Driving supplier development

Ultimately, these longer-term investments will impact the entire supply chain posi-

tively, as Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) that supply larger corporations will benefit from this financing, which will inevitably drive supplier development initiatives. SMMEs are crucial to job creation and supporting them through supplier development programmes will see the rise of entrepreneurs and innovation.

By stimulating economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and hence broadening the tax base, the Public Procurement Act will also improve the efficiency of the state as it will create an economically active population and thus lighten the social burden.

Therefore, improving procurement practices will lead to a more efficient public service and a more functional country. This will invariably result in a better quality of life for citizens.

Beyond just improving procurement practices, this act can change our current situation and create an inclusive economy.

By embracing localisation, it will support investment and the reindustrialisation of the economy, triggering economic growth and setting South Africa on the right trajectory.

About ACTOM

ACTOM is an industry leader and the largest manufacturer, solution provider, repairer and distributor of electro-mechanical equipment in Africa, employing about 8 000 people with an annual order intake in excess of R11-billion.

It is a black empowered company with 34 operating units, 53 production, service and repair facilities, and more than 33 distribution outlets throughout Southern Africa.



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