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Lithium batteries get traction in SA CFAO Equipment




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PRASA launches R1.5bn rail security overhaul

PRASA has already made great strides in bringing down the number of security incidents affecting its operations. As part of its broader PRASA Rail Security strategy, the rail operator hopes that the addition of over 1 400 security personnel at its high-tech forward bases will further strengthen its crime prevention efforts.



to ensure that security is within close proximity to the assets that require protection to ensure a response time of approximately 5 - 10 minutes.”

The bases will also come with armoured and vehicles in hotspot crime areas.

“A minimum of two eight-man carrier armoured vehicles will be deployed at each forward base as a response unit to a potential threat against assets and infrastructure.”

PRASA says these vehicles will conduct routine patrols and will be utilised in conjunction with other technologies deployed at the forward bases.

The passenger service operator also says it will not wait for crimes to happen before it takes action, as it will be gathering intelligence to preempt and manage external threats.

C4iSTAR System: PRASA and ARMS-COR's tech-driven solution

This commitment to increased security is part of PRASA's C4iSTAR - Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Information/Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting Acquisition and Reconnaissance - security solution it has developed in partnership with ARMSCOR.

The C4iSTAR solution includes the armoured response vehicles, armoured command and control vehicles, and armoured forward bases, which will have integrated communication solutions. C4iSTAR will also result in more firearms, such as high-calibre rifles for the PRASA reaction force, being procured.

Though the bases are in the process of being set up, PRASA has already improved security at some of its key facilities.

“Four depots, namely East London, Paarden Eiland, Salt River and Springfield

Continued on P2

SEW-EURODRIVE champions energy efficiency across sectors



SEW-EURODRIVE supports its customers by conducting on-site energy assessments and product population surveys at no cost.

SOUTH Africa's adoption of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) mandates that all newly imported electric motors meet IE3 premium efficiency levels. SEW-EURODRIVE, however, has long been ahead of this curve, having standardised on IE3 motors more than eight years ago.

The company's commitment to sustainability ensured that its customers transitioned to the advanced technology without bearing additional costs.

Willem Strydom, business development electronics manager at SEW-EURODRIVE South Africa, highlights that several industry sectors have been proactive in shifting towards energy efficiency. Rising electricity prices have driven industry to adopt IE3 motors, with SEW-EURODRIVE estimating that these motors consume 7% to 8% less energy compared to IE1 models. Strydom says that when paired with Variable Speed Drives (VSDs), energy savings can reach up to 15%.

“Energy efficiency not only reduces operational costs but also aligns with companies' decarbonisation goals,” says Strydom. “As most electricity in South Africa still comes from coal, reducing consumption directly lowers carbon footprints.”

Read full article on 9

By Larry Claasen

High-tech equipment towers PRASA's new security bases

THE Passenger Rail Agency of SA (PRASA) is getting serious about fighting crime on the tracks with the establishment of dozens of “forward bases,” which will enable its security personnel to respond to crime incidents within minutes.

The rail utility has committed to spending R1,5-billion on security in its Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), according to its corporate plan for the 2024 to 2027 period.

This will see it setting up at least 57 forward bases, which will cover a radius of 35km, and have a staff complement of 25 members allocated to each of them. This means there will be well over 1 400 security personnel stationed at its high-tech security bases.

These bases will come with state of the art equipment and infrastructure, which will operate independently from the power grid.

“The forward bases will be resourced with drone operations and localised monitoring of operational centres and assets.”

In addition, the bases will have ballistic level 3 ballistic armour - which is designed to protect against a variety of rifle rounds - as a way to protect against potential attacks on personnel.

Rapid response and armoured vehicles in crime hotspots

The idea behind these forward bases is to offer a rapid response to security incidents. “The intention of having forward bases is

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PRASA launches R1.5bn rail security overhaul

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depots, have fully implemented the e-security solution. In addition, it is expected that the technology will continue to drastically reduce crime that impacts passenger rail services.”

The programme also includes the installation of CCTV in critical operational areas such as substations and tie stations, drone operations, high site radio towers, warehouses

and control rooms.

Its efforts are paying off as it has been able to reduce the number of security incidents by 80%, to under 1 000 for the 2022/23 period, from a high of 4 747 in 2019/20.

PRASA protection officers gain policing powers

The addition of the bases, new infrastruc-

ture and equipment further supports PRASA’s Protection Services Officers, who have been designated Peace Officers under the Criminal Procedures Act. This means they have the power to make arrests, enforce certain laws, and conduct searches and seize evidence under specific circumstances.

In effect, the powers and resources of the

Protection Services Officers means they will in effect become the new South African Railways Police, which was used to protect the country’s rail infrastructure, harbours and international airports. In 1986, it along with its 16 000 officers was merged into the then South African Police Force.

Though the PRASA’s Protection Services Officers share similarities

with the old South African Railways Police, it is a far more sophisticated operation, as it is looking to use technology as a force multiplier.

By leveraging technology, in combination with the bases, it thinks it can cut the number of security boots on the ground.

“Implementing the forward bases will mean that physical security can be reduced over three years.”

South Africa’s gas crisis: Surviving Sasol’s 2028 exit

With Sasol’s gas supply ending in 2028, industries face a R500-billion threat. Can the new gas aggregator and private sector funding secure South Africa’s energy future?

By Larry Claasen

The next few months will be critical in the formation of the gas aggregator, the company to be formed by South Africa’s largest gas consumers, as a way to avert the “gas cliff.”

The goal of the gas aggregator is to ensure a continuous supply of gas before Sasol, the monopoly supplier of large-scale natural gas, stops supplying industries by June 2028.

The impact of this cut-off cannot be underestimated as the Industrial Gas Users Association of Southern Africa (IGUA-SA) executive officer Jaco Human says.

South Africa’s gas crisis: 70,000 jobs and R500bn at stake

The inability of IGUA-SA’s members to source gas in time will see industries that directly



employ 70 000 people and contribute between R300-billion and R500-billion annually to the economy severely affected.

Sasol says it can bring gas safely into the country from its gas fields in Mozambique up to June 2028, but then the taps will have to be shut off.

“It’s physically impossible to bring in additional gas beyond that point, and we’ll simply be subject to a decline,” Human, speaking at the Africa Energy Indaba, in March.

things are happening.”

Aside from Qatar, Ramokgopa said the government was also talking to unspecified other parties, to ensure that it gets “the best price.”

He said getting to the correct price point was key because there is a price point that would make it commercially unavailable, even if it managed to secure a supply.

South Africa’s gas crisis: IGUA-SA races against time

things moving.

“This means we will have 30 months to develop the infrastructure. So we are walking a fine line at the moment, as you can imagine,” said Human.

South Africa’s Gas Crisis: Facing a double threat to supply

Aside from the gas cliff, the growing demand for gas is also putting supply under pressure.

The current demand for gas sits at 200 petajoules a year, but demand is expected to at least triple by 2033.

ten by the private sector.

Human said having the private sector backing an infrastructure project of this scale is something new for them.

“It’s a big decision and it’s a big mind shift for the private sector to move into a space where traditionally, the government should be playing a role in terms of providing energy security and stability.”

This means aside from the time constraint, ensuring the necessary funding was in place was also a major hurdle.

South Africa’s gas crisis: Government seeks solutions abroad

The gas cliff was also top of mind for the government, with the Electricity and Energy minister, Kgosiensho Ramokgopa, who was also speaking at the same Africa Energy Indaba, saying that after load shedding, it was the second thing that kept him up at night.

“If we don’t do anything of significance in the next two years, the potential of wiping out 5% of the country’s GDP and affect 100 000 jobs.”

Ramokgopa said that was why the government had approached Qatar about securing supply. Though he did not give details on the negotiations, he said “conversa-

Though the government is using its influence to avert the gas cliff, IGUA-SA is not slowing down its efforts to secure its supply.

Human said when it came to the creation of the gas aggregator, the shareholder agreement was being finalised and that the board was likely to be appointed by the end of May 2025.

At the same time, the terms sheets for the supply chain were also being concluded.

“It’s not only gas, it’s also gas transportation agreements, it’s capacity reservations and those kinds of things.”

While all this is being done, the final off-take agreements must be concluded by December 2025, which will, in turn, set the timeframe to get

“So, we’re actually sitting with a double whammy. And the whammy here is simply, the double whammy is saying, we need more gas, we don’t have infrastructure, but what we’ve got we’re also going to lose. And therein lies the predicament for South Africa,” said Human

South Africa’s gas crisis: Private sector must step up

One way to ensure supply is to use Sasol’s pipeline in Mozambique to pump gas from a third-party supplier to South Africa. But even if this is done, \$610-million will be needed to be invested in Maputo or in Basra, which will be underwrit-

“So, the problem that we have here is that there are certain risks. The biggest one is time. The second one is failure to underwrite that particular investment if we can’t find the right solution in terms of the overall transaction.”

But even if the country manages to dodge the gas cliff, it is still behind where it should be said Human, who pointed out that it lagged behind neighbouring countries like Mozambique and Namibia in developing domestic gas resources.

“We see what is happening in Mozambique, we see what is happening in Namibia. And South Africa is probably about 10 to 15 years behind in the development of its own upstream gas resources.”

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B20 South Africa 2025 Moves from Cape Town to Joburg

By Larry Claasen

THE initial plan for Cape Town to host the B20 South Africa 2025, the business-oriented summit of the G20 South Africa 2025, has been changed, with Johannesburg now hosting both summits at the end of the year.

Hosting the B20 South Africa summit would have been a boost for the Western Cape's tourism and hospitality sector, as it would have brought 2 000 delegates to the Mother City. About half of the delegates would have been international representatives, among which, would have top-level executives.

B20 South Africa 2025 to coincide with landmark G20 event

The hosting of the G20 summit in South Africa

will be the largest international event to happen in the country since the hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

The decision to move the summit to Johannesburg was driven by the need to have it physically closer to the G20 summit, said Anthony Costa, head of the B20 South Africa secretariat. The G20 summit will be held from 22 to 23 November, while the B20 will take place between 18 and 20 November.

The G20 (Group of Twenty) is an international forum of 19 countries plus the European Union, which aims to address global economic and financial issues.

It was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the finance ministers and central bank governors of the most important industrialised and developing economies to discuss

international economic and financial stability.

To facilitate these discussions, a member nation hosts an annual meeting of heads of state, along with a series of meetings to set the agenda for the summit. Like the G20, the B20 will also have a series of meetings and its own summit.

B20 South Africa 2025 plays a key advisory role to the G20

The B20 acts as an adviser on business-related matters for the G20 and is not a decision-making body in itself.

"We don't make policy, we don't implement policy, but we advocate, we develop and we advocate for policy. So we are dependent on the G20 discussing and actually adopting and implementing those particular policies," said Costa.

B20 South Africa 2025 shift brings global attention to Joburg

Though the Western Cape's tourism and hospitality sector will lose out, Johannesburg will have its time to shine, as it will host well over 20 heads of state plus their own sizable delegations, including US president Donald Trump – if he chooses to attend – as well as the CEOs of major multinational businesses.

"It's going to be a very busy time in Johannesburg with the G20 and associated events. But we are working with the hospitality groups and hospitality associations to try and make sure that there's enough for the delegates to be suitably accommodated and to be able to travel in and out of Johannesburg for the summit," said Costa.

Global Trade Shift: South Africa's historic opportunity

Seizing the global trade shift with critical infrastructure reforms

By Chris Hattingh

THE world is entering a period of economic turbulence, driven by shifting trade policies and investment flows. The incoming US administration is set to trigger structural shocks that will ripple across global markets, making the landscape increasingly complex. Unlike past cycles, which were largely commodity-driven, these disruptions will be deep and lasting.

"Unlocking the full potential of the AfCFTA will require tackling non-tariff barriers such as..."

South Africa at the crossroads of global trade shifts

For emerging economies like South Africa—grappling with sluggish growth and mounting debt—this is a pivotal moment. The country has a clear choice: implement bold, pro-growth reforms to become more resilient and capitalise on evolving trade patterns, or remain stagnant and vulnerable to global volatility.

Modernising infrastructure to capitalise on global trade

A key determinant of success will be South Africa's ability to modernise its trade infrastructure, particularly its ports and railways—both of which have long been plagued by inefficiency and mismanagement. However, a shift may finally be underway. The extent to which the government and Transnet genuinely embrace private sector investment will define whether South Africa can harness the opportunities presented by these global shifts.

Breaking Transnet's monopoly: A key to global trade success

For decades, Transnet has monopolised rail infrastructure, stifling competition and innovation. But the recent Request for Information (RFI), issued on 23 March by the Department for Transport, signals a potential turning point. Transnet's Private Sector Participation unit will assess private-sector involvement in critical railway corridors, including:

- The Northern Cape to Saldanha Bulk Minerals Corridor
- The Northern Cape to Nelson Mandela Bay Corridor
- The Limpopo and Mpumalanga to Richards Bay Bulk Minerals Corridor
- The Intermodal Supply Chain PSP Project

Private sector investment: Essential for global trade growth

Transnet's financial position is dire, and the government's fiscal constraints mean that private-sector investment is no longer optional—it is essential. But for investment to be meaningful, it cannot be limited to mere cash injections into Transnet. Without urgent regulatory reforms to break Transnet's monopoly and allow private ownership of rail infrastructure, the country's railway network will continue to deteriorate.

If South Africa fails to act decisively, competitors like Namibia and Mozambique will continue to siphon off business, further weakening the country's trade position. On the other hand, if South Africa embraces a competitive, modernised rail and port system, it could emerge as a dominant trade hub on the continent.



Unlocking Africa's potential through enhanced global trade

Beyond benefitting South Africa alone, successful public-private partnerships in infrastructure could position the country as a key driver of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Intra-African trade remains dismally low at just 17% of total trade—compared to 68% in Europe and 59% in Asia. Given the rising uncertainty in global trade, boosting regional trade is more crucial than ever.

Unlocking the full potential of the AfCFTA will require tackling non-tariff barriers such as inefficient ports, cumbersome permit processes, and high crime rates.

Addressing these challenges will not only enhance trade within Africa but also attract greater investment into manufacturing and other key sectors, strengthening South Africa's long-term economic prospects.

The choice is clear. If South Africa embraces reform, allowing meaningful private-sector participation in rail and port infrastructure, it can position itself as a resilient, competitive player in global trade. If it clings to outdated monopolies and protectionist policies, it risks falling behind, missing a once-in-a-century opportunity to reshape its economy.

The time for action is now.

Crusader Logistics celebrates 10 years with Goscor Lift Trucks

GOSCOR Lift Trucks (GLT), a leader in materials handling solutions, proudly celebrates its decade-long partnership with Crusader Logistics, a trailblazer in supply chain solutions. This collaboration exemplifies a shared commitment to innovation, reliability, and customer satisfaction, underscoring GLT's position as a trusted partner in the logistics sector.

Crusader Logistics first partnered with GLT nearly ten years ago, drawn by GLT's competitive pricing and specialised expertise in narrow-aisle material handling equipment (MHE), such as Bendi forklifts. Over the years, this relationship has evolved into a strategic alliance, with Crusader naming GLT as their preferred MHE contractor. Today, Crusader operates a fleet of 55 GLT machines across its national facilities, including counterbalance forklifts, reach trucks, very narrow aisle ma-

chines, and power pallet trucks.

Stuart Roos, MD of Crusader Logistics, highlights the significance of this partnership, "GLT has consistently demonstrated their understanding of our operational needs. Their ability to deliver innovative solutions, such as narrow-aisle applications, has been instrumental in optimising our warehouse space and revolutionising our racking configurations."

Roos believes GLT's solutions are integral to Crusader's success in demanding logistics environments. From supporting narrow-aisle operations to standard ride-ons, he asserts GLT's equipment enhances efficiency and ensures seamless materials handling. "Their robust aftermarket support, group servicing to minimise downtime, and short-term rental (STR) capabilities address critical challenges faced by warehouse operators," he states.

National warehousing executive at Crusader Logistics, Myen Naidoo, emphasises the importance of uptime in the logistics industry, stating "our business relies on fully operational equipment to meet daily KPIs and service levels. GLT's commitment to minimising downtime and maintaining competitive pricing has helped us achieve operational excellence."

Crusader Logistics has referred GLT to several partner warehouses, underscoring their trust in GLT's products and services. Roos affirms this trust, by stating "we're confident that we have chosen an ideal business partner who truly understands our needs. GLT's consistent service and innovative approach make them an invaluable ally in our operations."

Reflecting on the partnership, GLT's Patrick Barber, director of business development, believes, "Crusader Logistics' trust in

GLT over the past decade is a testament to our shared values and dedication to excellence. We're proud to provide solutions that empower their operations and look forward to many more years of collaboration."

The success of the partnership between Crusader Logistics and GLT highlights the power of trust and collaboration in business. Over the past decade, GLT has consistently demonstrated its commitment to understanding the unique needs of Crusader Logistics, ensuring that their operations run smoothly and efficiently.

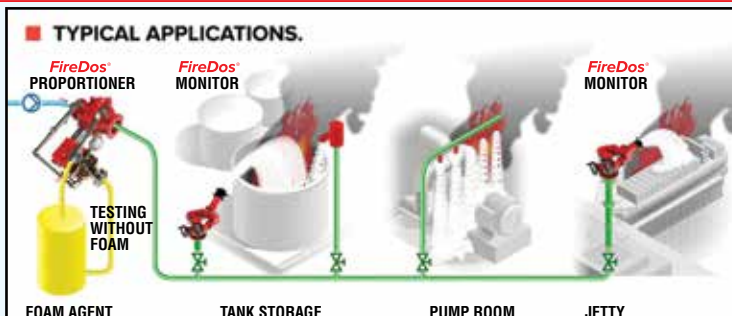
As both companies continue to grow, GLT will remain a trusted partner, providing the ongoing support and innovative solutions necessary for Crusader's continued success. This enduring partnership reflects the shared values of reliability, excellence, and dedication to meeting customer needs.

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Rand-Air's Class Zero certified, diesel oil-free compressor.

AIR quality in food and beverage manufacturing is paramount. Utilising Rand-Air oil-free air compressors, which are Class Zero certified, is essential to avoid oil contamination. Jeopardising food safety would be catastrophic for any organisation in this industry, leading to production downtime, lost revenue and irreversible brand reputation damage.

Rand-Air (part of the global Atlas Copco group), the industry leader in specialty industrial rental equipment, has been providing their expertise in the Food & Beverage (F&B) space for over 50 years and fully understands the challenges faced by companies in the industry. Besides air compressors, Rand-Air also rents specialised generators, steam boilers, chillers and pumps to various industries.

Rand-Air oil-free air compressors: Certified air purity

Daryn Jack, Rand-Air's business development manager, has extensive experience in the compressor industry having been with Atlas Copco for 10 years prior to transferring to Rand-Air. He says, "The benefit of Rand-Air being part of the Atlas Copco group is that we have an extensive range of the

most up-to-date equipment geared towards efficiency and energy/fuel savings. Our oil-free electric and diesel driven air compressors are ISO 8573-1 Class Zero certified, the international standard for air purity."

Ensuring compliance through Rand-Air oil-free air compressors

Rand-Air's certifications and accreditations include ISO 22000 (food safety), and ISO 22001 (contaminant-free systems). This means that F&B customers utilising their oil-free compressors, are assured of complete peace of mind concerning their production processes and end-products.

Jack says F&B manufacturers should be cautious when opting for air compressors that do not meet these standards. He also debunks the term 'technically oil-free' saying: "There is no such thing. A compressor is either 100% oil-free or oil-injected. With oil-injected compressors, air is passed through filters to remove oil particles. This is too risky as traces of oil can remain in the system causing contamination of the end-product."

"Rand-Air oil-free compressors are 100% oil free and Class Zero certified, which is the highest standard for air

purity and trusted globally for sensitive applications in industries where even the smallest trace of oil is unacceptable."

He adds that with stricter industry regulations coming into force, companies will be required to upgrade to certified oil-free compressors.

Tailored solutions with Rand-Air oil-free air compressors

As a solutions provider, Rand-Air is customer-focused, offering technical support and

their need is, and where our equipment is going to be utilised so that we can tailor an optimal solution."

With many companies not having contingency plans in place or backup compressors, Rand-Air is fully geared toward unplanned emergencies when the customer experiences a breakdown. "We have a rule of thumb that our technicians have to be onsite within four hours with a machine or to repair one of our machines. We have over 40 technicians countrywide who are certified to service and maintain our rental equipment 24/7."

Rand-Air oil-free air compressors: Reliability and maintenance

Rand-Air takes full responsibility for its rented equipment to ensure it runs optimally at all times. Planned maintenance schedules are in place and compressors are remotely monitored in real-time using advanced technology, thereby allowing for early warning fault detection.

Jack concludes, "Technology offers a

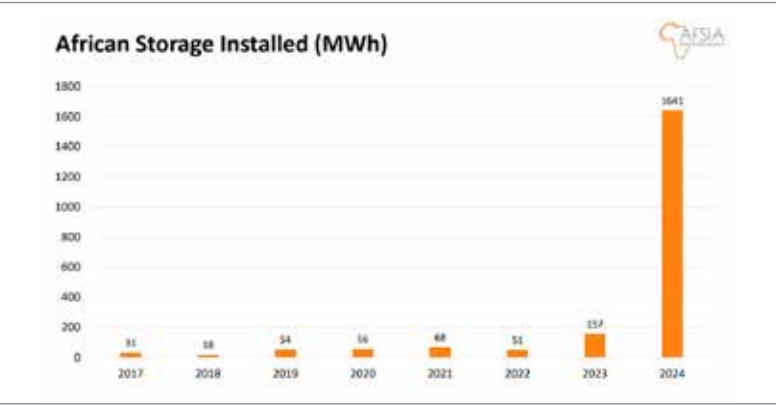


Daryn Jack, Rand-Air's business development manager.

industry expertise. "It's most important to view the customer's property, to walk the plant with face-to-face engagement," says Jack. "This is critical to understanding what the customer currently has on site, what

massive advantage to companies renting our equipment, as it enables us and the customer to continually monitor machine operation, thereby optimising plant operations and reducing downtime."

Battery price drop boosts Africa's solar energy storage - AFSIA



By Larry Claasen

THE slow uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) has inadvertently led to a **battery price drop**, resulting in cheaper solar storage on the continent, says African Solar Industry Association (AFSIA) CEO John van Zuylen. EV sales were expected to show strong global growth, but this has not materialised. Goldman Sachs says rising concerns around EV capital costs, uncertainty around the numerous elections in 2024, and worries over a shortage of rapid-charging stations all contributed to the headwinds faced by the EV market.

EV slowdown leads to battery price drop, boosting solar sector

With EV demand depressed, battery makers were left with excess production capacity and stock, which in turn boosted the solar energy sector.

"A lot of companies have invested in manufacturing capacity. And luckily for us, a bit too much," said van Zuylen at the Africa Energy Indaba in Cape Town in March.

This has led to a sharp fall in prices. In 2024, there was an 18% decrease, following the 13% drop in 2023. The scale of the decrease can be seen in the price of batteries falling faster than the price of solar panels over the last 15 years.

When it comes to running a solar system, batteries have long been the

most expensive element, but this is changing at an alarming rate.

"Suddenly, we're reaching that point where batteries are just one element of a normal solar installation. And every percentage point that they become cheaper, there's always that next customer who says, 'Now it's commercially viable for me.' And it's just a snowball effect," said van Zuylen.

Battery price drop sparks solar energy storage boom in Africa

The AFSIA's 'Africa Solar 2025 Outlook' report highlighted the impact of the battery price drop on energy storage on the continent.

"While the annual capacity recorded by AFSIA stalled around 50 MWh (excluding solar home systems and residential systems) until 2022, the use of storage tripled in 2023 and then experienced another tenfold increase in 2024."

The report did not expect to see a slowdown in energy storage projects.

"This exponential growth is likely to continue, as AFSIA has already identified 18 GWh worth of projects under development."

Battery price drop drives shift to affordable lithium tech

Aside from cheaper batteries, the shift in technology to lithium batteries has also boosted the solar industry.

"They're a lot more user-friendly. They're

much easier to use. They were expensive, and then they became significantly cheaper," van Zuylen said.

Battery price drop attracts private investors to solar energy

The drop in battery prices and the adoption of lithium batteries is supporting a trend that sees private investors backing the commercial and industrial (C&I) segment in the solar industry. Van Zuylen said this trend has been growing for the past five years and represents an expansion of funding from large development agency-backed mega-projects and donor-funded home Solar Home Systems.

The C&I segment in South Africa has been especially strong, as local businesses have been investing in solar to secure their own electricity supply as a way to cope with the energy crisis.

Battery price drop turns load shedding crisis into opportunity

Though load shedding has hurt the economy, van Zuylen said it has also helped develop the country's solar industry to the extent that there are now dedicated financing products and even local battery producers.

"South Africa is now home to three African giants of battery manufacturing—Solar MD, Freedom Won, and BlueNova. These are, in my little solar world, our unicorns."

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Unlocking the power of versatility with truck-mounted cranes - CFAO



THE market for truck-mounted cranes in South Africa is significant, with numerous industries recognising their durability, versatility and ability to operate in the toughest, most challenging environments.

When 600SA, a division of CFAO Equipment, secured the exclusive distributorship of the PESCI@COPMA® range of truck-mounted cranes for South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa late last year, it was a strategic response to a growing customer need and a commitment to enhancing its crane offerings.

Sonia Pretorius, national sales manager

for 600SA, explains why truck-mounted cranes are a game-changer.

“These are just some of the top reasons to invest in this versatile equipment. Whether customers are looking for new or pre-owned equipment, there is a perfect solution for virtually every application.”

Streamlined operations

Truck-mounted cranes integrate transportation and lifting, allowing loads to be moved from one location to another without the need to arrange separate lifting equipment at both ends. Truck-

mounted cranes are also ideal for jobs in remote locations that lack access to standard lifting equipment, offering a true end-to-end solution.

Quick setup, fast results

Whether lifting, loading or offloading, the setup is fast, and the results are immediate. Time is money, and truck-mounted cranes deliver efficiency. With simple, quick deployment, these cranes reduce downtime and speed up project timelines.

Incredible versatility

Perhaps one of the greatest advantages of truck-mounted cranes is their ability to handle multiple tasks. In addition to lifting and transporting, they can be equipped with secondary booms, jibs, remote controls and lifting work platforms for a host of applications.

Adaptable across industries

Truck-mounted cranes are suitable for a diverse range of industries from mining, construction, logistics

and municipal infrastructure projects, to rescue services, road utility services, agriculture and rigging.

“Ever wondered how heavy bathtubs and accessories are lifted into high-rise buildings? It’s done using cranes with a reach of 15 to 27 metres, or more if a jib is added,” explains Pretorius. “Choosing the right crane for each specific task involves considering multiple technical factors, but the adaptability of these cranes ensures they can handle any job.”

On-demand convenience

Owners can deploy the crane whenever they need to, avoiding delays. Whether it’s to fell a tree, lift a heavy piece of concrete or move a container, operators can get it done immediately. The cranes are ideal for jobs that lack loading bays or when work needs to be performed directly within a container.

Competitive edge

Investing in truck-mounted cranes offers businesses the

opportunity to tackle a broader range of projects and scale up operations. “With this equipment, businesses can easily take on larger jobs or rent them out to other operations for additional revenue. This leads to a significant competitive advantage in the marketplace,” notes Pretorius.

Added flexibility with PESCI-COPMA cranes

Pretorius highlights that a key benefit to owning a PESCI-COPMA crane is its knuckle-boom feature, which provides increased flexibility in confined spaces or when lifting loads close to the truck, making it more versatile than other cranes available on the market.

“600SA offers a pre-purchase consultation to assess which crane is best suited to a particular operation. After this, we assess the truck used and calculate truck-to-crane stability to ensure safety when lifting loads. Included in these calculations are axle loads, centre of gravity and the structural impact on the truck chassis,” she adds.

Overberg Wind Farm hits financial close. Paving the way for its construction

RED Rocket, a leading renewable energy independent power producer, has reached financial close on the first phase of the Overberg Wind Farm, marking a major milestone in South Africa’s clean energy transition.

This means it has secured all the necessary funding and completed all financial agreements required to proceed with the construction and development of the Overberg Wind Farm.

Adding to Red Rocket’s portfolio of wind farms, Overberg Wind Farm will be the latest in a series of groundbreaking renewable energy projects, reinforcing Red Rocket’s position as a leader in the country’s renewable energy sector.

Overberg Wind Farm will be developed in two phases, with Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Group, securing the first 230MW of the total 380MW export capacity. This will deliver an estimated 750GWh of clean energy annually to

RBM, significantly reducing its carbon footprint and reinforcing its commitment to sustainability.

Once fully operational, Overberg Wind Farm will be South Africa’s largest privately developed single wind farm, significantly contributing to the country’s energy security.

Located near Swellendam in the Western Cape, Overberg Wind Farm will operate under a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), further demonstrating Red Rocket’s commitment to delivering high-impact renewable energy solutions at scale.

Matteo Brambilla, CEO of Red Rocket, welcomed the partnership with Rio Tinto, stating: “We are proud to collaborate with Richards Bay Minerals on this landmark project. Overberg Wind Farm is a testament to what is possible when ambitious renewable energy targets meet the expertise and drive to bring them to life.”



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Cummins secures contract to maintain Transnet's aging tugboat fleet



By Larry Claasen

CUMMINS' seven-year contract to maintain Transnet's tugboats not only cements its decades-long relationship with the transport authority but also positions the company as a key player in Transnet's operational turnaround.

The deal involves Cummins providing aftermarket services, including parts, repairs, and engine rebuilding, covering six ports between Durban and Cape Town, including Port Elizabeth and East London.

This contract marks a full-circle moment for Cummins, as it was the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) for the tugboat engines, some of which date back to the 1970s.

The longstanding relationship, combined with Cummins' expertise in marine engineering, has enabled the company not only to service Transnet's aging engines but also to provide more fuel-efficient, cutting-edge equipment.

Rebuilding engines for enhanced reliability

"Some of these engines, of course, we cannot just repair, they might be quite old. So we remove them from the vessel. We bring them onto our rebuilt centres, whether in Durban or in Cape Town, we completely strip the engine to its core. We machine the block. We remanufacture and ReCon the entire engine, returning it to factory specifications, which offers renewed life of the engine and parts," says Cummins

coastal & midlands regional leader, Tshepiso Ndlovu.

In having Cummins as a contractor, Transnet not only has a partner that knows it well, it also has one that can respond quickly to needs as it has technicians and branches in key locations like Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London.

Strategic stock management boosts operational efficiency

Lead times for parts are minimised through proactive forecasting and communication with Transnet. Cummins pulls stock from its Johannesburg warehouse and, if necessary, from overseas factories.

This is especially important for Transnet, as it is under pressure to improve the operating performance of its ports. To ensure uptime for the tugboats, Cummins meets regularly with Transnet.

Collaboration at the core of service delivery

"We've happened to have a very good relationship with the team that we are working with in Transnet. We have weekly contract meetings and weekly technical meetings," says Ndlovu.

She adds: "Our Cummins technical team, Transnet technical team meet on Mondays, go through their work in progress, make sure everybody's updated. And then on Thursdays, the contract teams, which are sales people, meet to assess the progress and status, leaving the opportunity for changes to be made timeously and in joint

agreement?"

The importance of enabling Transnet to improve its performance is not lost on Cummins.

"They are a very big contributor in our country. We want to see them succeed. And as a good national or global citizen, it is our responsibility to make sure that companies like Transnet continue to thrive, says Ndlovu. "So we are taking this partnership very seriously because our failure will affect so

many other people or so many other things that we might not even know of. So we really are invested in making sure that they succeed and we can give them as much support as we possibly can," she notes.

omy is not limited to Transnet, as it is also committed to servicing companies along the continent's coast. "So Cummins' commitment is that we will service our product wherever it is. So we need to make sure that we keep to that commitment. We have set up some branches across the world and in branches where we don't have Cummins entities, we build relationships with local entities," Ndlovu says.

"This is also part of



Cummins coastal & midlands regional leader, Tshepiso Ndlovu.

many other people or so many other things that we might not even know of. So we really are invested in making sure that they succeed and we can give them as much support as we possibly can," she notes.

Expanding marine excellence across Africa

Cummins' commitment to improving Africa's marine econ-

our initiative to make sure that we empower the communities in which we operate. So if you look at just South Africa, in Mozambique, we have dealers and partners that we're working with in the marine. In Angola, we have dealers and partners," she adds.

Ndlovu highlights that Cummins service is available wherever you dock, be it on land, or on water.

First-of-its-kind solar project to power Darling Green Country Estate and Swartland Municipality



From left: SPS team - Charles Neethling, Richard Olley (Gridworks), Dorita van Themaat, Francois van Themaat, Stefan Bothma, Paul Mansour, Swartland Municipality Executive Mayor Harold Cleophas, and Darling Green team - Klaus Göbel, Mary-Park Göbel, Rurik Göbel, Ralph Rabie.

SUSTAINABLE Solutions (SPS), in partnership with Darling Green Country Estate and TouchPoint Energy, has successfully commissioned a 1MW solar plant in the town of Darling, within the Swartland Municipality. This pioneering project marks a significant step forward in South Africa's renewable energy landscape, with far-reaching benefits for both the local community and the national grid.

panded sufficiently to consume most of the energy produced.

SPS was chosen to implement the project as a "one-stop shop" for both technical solutions and funding. Touchpoint Energy (formerly Genesis) played a key role in the project's early stages by assisting with its conceptualisation, design, and legal documentation.

The Darling Green solar project uniquely offers estate residents

of the country. Currently in its final design stage and undergoing Eskom's approval process, the 5MW project is expected to be commissioned by mid-2026. SPS, in collaboration with Darling Green Utility, will oversee the distribution of this renewable energy, further cementing the estate's role as a leader in sustainable power solutions.

The project has created significant short-term job opportunities, benefiting the local economy, with more jobs expected to be created in the medium term. Long-term plans involve expanding the grid from the solar farm to supply power to the entire town of Darling, a model that could be applied to other towns in South Africa.

Francois van Themaat, MD (Large Projects) at SPS, and Klaus-Gustav Göbel, founding shareholder of Darling Green Country Estate, expressed their enthusiasm for the project, stating: "We are proud to have commissioned this pioneering initiative in South Africa. We extend our gratitude to Swartland Municipality for their forward-thinking approach to renewable energy and their invaluable support in bringing this project to life. Residents of Darling Green Country Estate can take pride in knowing that their future energy needs will be met by the Swartland sun shining on the Darling solar plant."

"The project has created significant short term job opportunities, benefiting the local economy, with more jobs expected to be created in the medium term."

The 1MW solar plant, which came on-stream on 10 March 2025, will supply clean, sustainable energy to the newly developed Darling Green Country Estate, powered by the recently established green energy provider, Darling Green Utility. A portion of the surplus energy generated by the plant will be sold to Swartland Municipality under a three-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), further reinforcing the estate's commitment to fostering a greener future. By the end of this period, the estate is expected to have ex-

"guided meter power," protecting them from load shedding during Stages 1 and 2. This initiative aims to provide a more affordable and reliable electricity solution, ensuring a stable power supply at all times.

Furthermore, plans are underway for the development of an additional 5MW solar farm adjacent to the existing 1MW plant. Darling Green Solar (Pty) Limited has secured approval to access the Eskom grid in Darling, allowing for the wheeling of 5MW of power to customers connected to the Eskom grid in other parts

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Propak Africa delivers a powerful showcase of cutting-edge packaging innovations



PROPAC Africa brought together more than 500 local and international exhibitors, presenting thousands of cutting-edge products, technologies, and services across the packaging, plastics, printing, food processing, and labelling sectors. Over four dynamic days, the event served as a powerful platform for innovation, industry connection, and commercial opportunity, drawing strong engagement from professionals across the value chain.

Adding significant value to the overall event experience, over 60 expert speakers delivered compelling, informative sessions at the two seminar theatres and at the Institute of Packaging SA (IPSA) half-day conferences.

Taking place from 11-14 March at the Expo Centre in Johannesburg, over 12 500 visitors attended Propak Africa – a 28% increase from the 2022 edition of the event.

MD of Specialised Exhibitions, Gary Corin, described the show as having “a really positive vibe” and that the trade that has taken place has been exceptional. “We’ve had a high number of good quality visitors, and our numbers are up from three years ago – substantially so. It’s really encouraging, not just for the show, but also for the economy and for the industries the show represents.”

As organisers, Specialised Exhibitions recognises the significant investment exhibitors bring to the

show floor—not only in state-of-the-art machinery and product displays, but also in the presence and time of their senior executives actively engaging with visitors. “It’s impressive to see the industry coming together and the investment made,” says portfolio director Mark Anderson. “The entire spectrum of the packaging sector is represented at Propak Africa—packaging, plastics, processing, labelling, and printing for packaging—truly bringing the full supply chain under one roof for four days.”

“Exhibitors have been selling machinery off their exhibition stands. We’ve seen a number of ‘sold’ signs on the big machinery displayed at Propak Africa,” says Ander-

son. “The show has surpassed expectations. Our onsite rebooking programme for the next Propak Africa in 2028 has already secured just under 70% of the exhibitors.”

Exhibitor feedback has been extremely positive with hundreds of sales leads generated, sales made from the stands, reconnecting with existing customers and new connections made with potential customers, both local and international. The advantage of meeting face-to-face in this environment cannot be found anywhere else.

“We look forward to hosting our exhibitors and visitors again at the next Propak Africa from 7-10 March 2028 at the Expo Centre in Johannesburg,” says Anderson. “There is also a big demand for packaging in the Western Cape, so we run Propak Cape around 18 months after each Propak Africa, both rotating on a three-year cycle. We’re looking forward to seeing many of our exhibitors and a lot of our visitors down in the Western Cape in October 2026”.

For further information visit www.propakcape.co.za and www.propakafrika.co.za

Final call for entries for Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards



Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards judges.

Time is running out to enter the 2025 Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards. The organisers urge businesses and individuals working in the supply chain management field to submit their entries before the closing date of 17 April 2025, to showcase their achievements and help to raise the standards of supply chain management across the continent.

These prestigious awards, which are now in their fourth successful year, aim to elevate and advance supply chain management in Africa. While recognising and celebrating innovation, resilience and excellence in the supply chain industry, they also enable collaboration, industry benchmarking, the sharing of knowledge and best practices to drive supply chain excellence and Africa’s economic growth. “Entrants are not merely competing, they are helping to shape the future of supply chain management in Africa,” says Liesl de Wet, a director of the awards. “There is growing recognition of the key role that supply chains play in business success and economic growth,” she states.

Garry Marshall, chair of the judging panel, says that the awards benefit businesses, staff, clients and all role players in an organisation’s supply chain. “A company making headway in Africa’s increasingly innovative and competitive logistics environment will benefit immensely from submitting an entry to the Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards,” he asserts. “The fulfilment of seeing the initiative achieve recognition from distinguished subject experts will delight and moti-

"Over 200 nominations were received from across the continent. The participation from 48 African countries reflects the diversity and innovation driving Africa’s supply chain sector."

vate staff, clients and other stakeholders in the logistics network.”

This year’s Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards feature 12 important categories that businesses and individuals can enter. These categories are:

- Demand Planning and Management
- Humanitarian and Health Supply Chain Management
- Innovation and Change Management
- International Trade
- Inventory, Warehousing and Distribution Management
- Manufacturing and Production Management
- Preservation of the Environment
- Procurement and Supply Chain Management
- Supply Chain Co-ordination and Collaboration
- Talent Management
- Technology Information Systems and Related Fields
- Transport (all modes & intermodal)

Since their inception in 2022, the Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards have become a key event on the industry’s calendar. “Looking back at the successes of the last few years, the numbers speak for themselves,” De Wet

says. “Over 200 nominations were received from across the continent. The participation from 48 African countries reflects the diversity and innovation driving Africa’s supply chain sector. A total of 90 winners were recognised for excellence, from sustainability initiatives to digital transformation in supply chains and more.”

The principal sponsor of the 2025 Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards is Forte Supply Chain Solutions with category sponsorship from the Road Freight Association and support sponsorship from BidAir Cargo and Supply Chain Now. This year’s event partners are Logis-T Africa, the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics (CILT), the Road Freight Association (RFA), supply chain industry body SAPICS, the Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE), South African Express Parcel Association (SAEPA), Smart Procurement World, SupplyChain-First.com and the Transport Forum.

This year’s event will culminate in a gala dinner in Johannesburg in August 2025.

To find out more or to submit an entry, visit the Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards website <https://www.ascea.co.za/>

Future-proofing mining with smart payment solutions - adumo Payouts

THE Mining Indaba remains one of the most significant gatherings for the global mining industry, bringing together thousands of industry leaders, stakeholders, and innovators. This year, adumo Payouts CEO Steve Mallaby attended the event for the first time, gaining first-hand insights into the evolving landscape of mining and how financial technology solutions can support industry transformation.

Reflecting on the event, Mallaby noted the strong emphasis on technology and innovation, particularly in areas like automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and sustainable mining practices. However, while technology is shaping the future of mining, there remains a critical human element

that cannot be overlooked.

“One of the key themes at the Indaba was the balance between automation and human capital,” said Mallaby. “Despite rapid advancements in mining technology, people remain at the heart of the industry.”

As the mining industry modernises, financial solutions like adumo Payouts’ card-based incentive systems can play a crucial role in supporting workers, streamlining payroll, and enhancing financial inclusion.

“The well-being and empowerment of mining workers were major discussion points,” explains Mallaby. “Mining companies are making strides in gender balance and workforce sustainability, and digital financial tools can

support these efforts by ensuring timely, secure, and transparent payments.”

Mallaby highlights that adumo Payouts’ solutions provide an innovative way for mining companies to reward employees, distribute incentives and bonuses, and manage payments more efficiently. Cash is becoming increasingly risky and inefficient, while digital payment solutions offer a safer and more scalable alternative.

One of the most compelling discussions at the Indaba revolved around the barriers to technological adoption. A thought-provoking session titled ‘Are people the biggest technology progress block?’ explored the common reasons for resistance to change and how companies can effectively in-



adumo Payouts CEO Steve Mallaby

troduce innovation.

“There is a real concern about job displacement due to automation,” notes Mallaby. “But what is often overlooked is how technology can be used to improve financial security and enhance workforce well-being. For example, our digital payment solutions providing faster access to incentives.”

SEW-EURODRIVE champions energy efficiency across sectors

SOUTH Africa's adoption of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) mandates that all newly imported electric motors meet IE3 premium efficiency levels. SEW-EURODRIVE, however, has long been ahead of this curve, having standardised on IE3 motors more than eight years ago.

The company's commitment to sustainability ensured that its customers transitioned to the advanced technology without bearing additional costs.

Willem Strydom, business development electronics manager at SEW-EURODRIVE South Africa, highlights that several industry sectors have been proactive in shifting towards energy efficiency. Rising electricity prices have driven industry to adopt IE3 motors, with SEW-EURODRIVE estimating that these motors consume 7% to 8% less energy compared to IE1 models. Strydom says that when paired with Variable Speed Drives (VSDs), energy savings can reach up to 15%.

"Energy efficiency not only reduces operational costs but also aligns with companies' decarbonisation goals," says Strydom. "As most electricity in South Africa still comes from coal, reducing consumption directly lowers carbon footprints."

SEW-EURODRIVE supports its customers by conducting on-site energy assessments and product population surveys at no cost. "These evaluations identify inefficiencies, helping companies to plan their transition to IE3 motors strategically and cost-effectively," he says. "The data collected also provides early warnings about potential equipment failures, reducing downtime risks."

To further ease the shift, SEW-EURODRIVE advises customers to prioritise upgrades in motor classes with lower stock levels and balance replacements between larger and smaller motors for maximum impact. VSDs are often recommended to manage peak energy demands, reducing penalties and extending motor lifespans.

Looking ahead, Strydom believes MEPS will accelerate the adoption of even higher efficiency standards, paving the way for IE4 and IE5 motors. SEW-EURODRIVE

is already leading this innovation with its IE5 synchronous motors, which feature integrated permanent magnet technology and deliver up to 50% lower energy losses compared to IE3 models.

"SEW-EURODRIVE's commitment to advancing energy

efficiency is backed by our 300-strong global research and development team," he says.

"We are already pioneering IE6 technology, setting new benchmarks in sustainability and performance."

With its forward-thinking approach and robust

customer support, SEW-EURODRIVE continues to drive energy efficiency advancements in South Africa, helping industries meet sustainability and cost-saving goals.

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



SEW-EURODRIVE supports its customers by conducting on-site energy assessments and product population surveys at no cost.

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- SANS780 2021 Edt5.1 & ISO9001
- Transformers | Miniature Substations
- Dry type | Cast Resin | Oil Cooled Transformers
- Quality | Lead time | Customer Satisfaction | Custom Design
- Special Application | VSD | Rectifier | Solar PV Application | Power | Distribution etc



Field Service scope of work:

- Oil sampling and analysis.
- On site oil purification and oil regeneration.
- Thermal imaging of transformers and substations.
- Transformer installations and commissioning.
- Rigging and Transport of Power transformers.
- Servicing and testing of On Load Tap changers.
- Primary and secondary injection testing.
- Circuit breaker servicing and testing up to 132kV.



Lithium-ion batteries gain massive traction in South Africa - CFAO Equipment



THE uptake of lithium-ion batteries within South Africa's material handling and industrial equipment industry has, in some instances, outpaced that of other African and European countries, according to Duan Tredoux, national operations manager of Industrial Power, a division of CFAO Equipment.

South Africa made a rapid transition to lithium-ion batteries, commencing in 2019 and 2020. During the Covid-19 pandemic, at a time when businesses were cautious with their acquisitions, there was still strong demand for lithium-ion batteries.

a smart solution in a country grappling with ongoing power challenges.

"While there has been a reduction in load shedding in recent months, the country's power infrastructure is still prone to breakdowns, resulting in intermittent power outages in the various regions," explains Tredoux.

He believes that load shedding and South Africa's energy challenges have likely played a significant role in driving the rapid adoption of lithium-ion batteries.

"One key advantage is that lithium-ion batteries can be

the charging process. Lithium-ion batteries can be charged from 0% to 100% in around two hours, compared to lead-acid batteries, which require about eight hours.

However, users of lithium-ion batteries should be aware that they draw more current during charging than lead-acid batteries. Charging too many lithium-ion batteries simultaneously could add pressure on the power grid.

To address this, Tredoux recommends that customers with large forklift fleets use a staggered charging approach to avoid overloading the system.

Additionally, lithium-ion batteries are more energy-efficient. "For instance, if a lead-acid battery is charged with 100 amps, it can only use around 65 amps of that, with the remainder being lost to chemical reactions and heat. On the other hand, a lithium-ion battery can absorb up to 95 amps of the 100 amps input," Tredoux explains.

In late 2024, Industrial Power introduced eco-chargers with a five-year factory warranty offering 95% energy efficiency, surpassing the industry standard of 90% efficiency.

Lithium-ion batteries don't require a dedicated battery bay for charging, unlike lead-acid batteries. Since the batteries don't need to be removed from equipment during charging and don't emit harmful chemicals or gases, they can be safely charged anywhere in a distribution centre (DC), provided there are charging points available.

"Lithium-ion batteries don't require a dedicated battery bay for charging, unlike lead acid batteries."

Tredoux highlights that while the lithium-ion to lead-acid battery ratio may fluctuate slightly year on year, lithium-ion has undoubtedly become the preferred battery choice for most industries. "In 2023 and 2024, we saw a 95% uptake of lithium-ion compared to just 5% for lead-acid. We expect a similar trend this year as the advantages of lithium-ion batteries, particularly their sustainability benefits, make them an attractive choice for local businesses."

Opting for lithium-ion batteries not only supports companies in meeting global and local sustainability targets but also offers

'opportunity charged.' This means they can be charged as soon as there is power, without risk of damage should the power cut again. Lead-acid batteries, on the other hand, require at least eight hours of uninterrupted charging. A power loss will result in the entire process commencing again."

Another major factor driving lithium-ion adoption is the pressure from global corporations to adopt greener practices. Lithium-ion batteries have a significantly lower carbon footprint compared to their lead-acid counterparts. For example, no hydrogen gas is emitted during

BYD Energy Storage launches Battery-Box LV5.0+ Energy Storage System and Power-Box inverters at Solar & Storage Live Africa

BYD Energy Storage, a business division of BYD Co. Ltd., a provider of integrated renewable energy solutions, introduced the new BYD Battery-Box LV5.0+ at Solar & Storage Live Africa in Johannesburg. This new residential energy storage system is the latest addition to the award-winning Battery-Box solution family. The Battery-Box LV5.0+ can be used with BYD Energy Storage's own Power-Box inverters and is also compatible with inverters of many proven inverter partners.

Contributing to a successful green power transformation in South Africa, the Battery-Box series of residential energy storage solutions has achieved significant success in the country and across the continent since 2018. With over 1.1 million Battery-Box systems installed globally, the system's safety and reliability are key factors in its success. The flexibility of the modular battery storage solution, along with the ease of installation, has also contributed to its popularity. The low voltage (LV) system Battery-Box LV5.0, introduced in 2024 in South Africa, has established itself as a favourite among the installer community due to its straightforward commissioning. BYD Energy Storage now introduces the latest generation of this system with the Battery-Box LV5.0+.

BYD Battery-Box LV5.0+

The latest system generation Battery-Box LV5.0+ builds on the popular and proven system features of the Battery-Box LV5.0 but offers an even better performance, higher power output and an increased warranty. The modular system can be scaled from 5.12kWh to 163.84kWh.

It is also the first Battery-Box in this series that can be combined with BYD Energy Storage's new Power-Box hybrid inverters as a complete solution offered by BYD Energy Storage. Alternatively, the LV5.0+ can also be used with low-voltage inverters from many established inverter providers.

Installation and commissioning have never been easier due to the fast cabling and one-button auto commission. With the one-button



auto-configuration of compatible inverters, the system finishes the installation by adapting the system to the inverter. There is no separate BMU, every module can be connected to the inverter, just like the Battery-Box LV5.0.

Other key features include:

- **Highest safety standards with 4-level safety**
 - Cell safety with BYD Energy Storage's proven LFP cells and explosion-proof drop design
 - Module safety with thermal runaway prevention and real-time temperature management
 - Pack safety with 24/7 real-time monitoring key parameters of the battery system as well as insulation, electrical safety and short-circuit protection
 - System safety with real-time diagnosis of key components and an automatic warning and insurance cut-offs
- **Proven reliability** with a 10-year warranty and compliance with national standards such as UL 1642/IEC 62619/RED/EMC/UN38.3.

- **High performance** with fast charge and discharge capabilities
- **Intelligent Management** offers 24/7 online monitoring and analysis, remote diagnosis and OTA updates and real-time data & energy flow on BYD Energy APP. The BYD Energy APP enables remote diagnosis and self-fault detection.

offers an integrated generator control and supports up to 200% peak output power.

BYD Power-Box Hybrid Inverters

The Battery-Box LV5.0+ is available as an end-to-end solution in combination with BYD's own hybrid inverters, and can alternatively be combined with many low-voltage inverters by the established inverter partners.

Both single-phase hybrid inverters Power-Box SL3/3.68/4.6/5/6K and Power-Box SL7/8/10K come with a 10-year warranty and offer the high safety known from the BYD energy storage solutions, including lightning protection, 24/7 electrical safety monitoring, etc.

- **The Power-Box SL3/3.68/4.6/5/6K** allows for 150% PV input oversizing, offers IP66 and SPD TypeII protection.
- **The Power-Box SL7/8/10K** allows for a maximum of 20A PV input current,

"The African market is very important for BYD Energy Storage. As the continent is eager for green transformation solutions, our storage solutions are always in high demand, and as we continue to listen to our customer's feedback and needs, we are constantly striving to optimise our solutions and add features that meet the demands of the market," said Jiang Feng, Residential Energy Storage System Director of BYD Energy Storage. "The 1C charge and discharge capability provides better performance, and with the option to combine the Battery-Box LV5.0+ with our Power-Box inverters, we offer a one-stop shop concept while offering our customers full flexibility with their inverter choice."

Availability

The new BYD Battery-Box LV5.0+ solution combination will be available from July across Africa, Middle East, Asia and other markets.

Detailed product information of BYD Battery-Box LV 5.0+ will be available from mid-April at: <http://www.bydenery.com>

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John Thompson pioneers integrated energy solutions, transforming the future of steam generation and sustainability

JOHN Thompson, a division of ACTOM, is transforming the energy sector with a new comprehensive approach to steam generation and energy management. Moving beyond traditional boiler manufacturing, the company now provides fully integrated solutions that allow businesses to focus on their core operations while ensuring sustainable and reliable energy supply.

improvements, green solutions and complete management of boiler facilities. By outsourcing their energy needs, companies reduce operational complexities, lower costs, and enhance efficiencies, enabling them to invest in growth and innovation. Peter Rube, GM of the Energy Management Business Unit at John Thompson, explains, "At John Thompson, we don't just provide equipment

to plant operation and efficiency improvements, we empower businesses to reduce operational complexities and focus on growth and innovation." A key element of John Thompson's approach is the conversion of waste byproducts and sustainably sourced fuels into valuable revenue streams. This commitment to sustainability not only improves operational efficiency but also aligns with circular economy practices by repurposing waste, reducing environmental impact, and creating new economic opportunities for clients.



"Unlike conventional boiler manufacturers, John Thompson offers a seamless, service-driven energy partnership."

John Thompson's service offering includes equipment ownership, plant operation, efficiency

– we offer a complete energy solution. By managing the entire energy process, from equipment ownership


Unlike conventional boiler manufacturers, John Thompson offers a seamless, service-driven energy partnership. The company prioritises greener solutions by enhancing fossil fuel equipment efficiency and integrating sustainable alternatives

such as biomass firing and combined heat and power solutions. With over two decades of experience in steam outsourcing, John Thompson is well-positioned to meet the growing demand for innovative energy solutions. John Thompson provides businesses with a stable and predictable


energy supply, taking full responsibility for energy generation. This ensures consistent performance, regulatory compliance, and proactive maintenance. By managing all aspects of energy operations, John Thompson enables companies to simplify their energy needs, op-

timise uptime, and receive expert engineering support—all while benefitting from guaranteed cost savings. "Our integrated approach to energy solutions is not just about supplying steam; it's about forging partnerships that drive efficiency, sustainability, and long-term value for

our clients," says Gideon Bosman, proposals engineer at John Thompson. "We are committed to redefining energy management by offering complete solutions that empower businesses to focus on their core strengths while achieving their sustainability goals."



Directive for the importation of liquid fuels pressure equipment for use in Combustion and Fuel Handling Systems for Industrial Thermoprocessing applications including the licencing of persons working on liquid fuel systems



1. Purpose of the Directive

To ensure that Importers and Suppliers of liquid fuels combustion systems are appraised of the South African Regulations and Standards applicable to such imported equipment and that persons working on the combustion and fuel handling systems are licenced to undertake liquid fuel work.

Verifying and registering pressure equipment within the gas business has been the task of the Southern African Gas Association (SAGA) since 2010 and expanded on 2022 to include liquid fuels as an energy source for the Industrial Thermoprocessing Equipment (TPE).

The Department of Employment and Labour mandated the SAGA to administer an Equipment Verification Scheme known as the Safe Gas Equipment Scheme (SGES) covering an array of energy sources for TPE of which liquid fuels is one.

2. Applicable South African Legislation, Regulations, Standards, Mandate, Directives and Rules Governing

- Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Pressure Equipment Regulations (PER) Regulations 5(3) and 17(1)(c).
- SANS 347 Categorisation and conformity assessment of pressure equipment.
- SANS 13577-2 Industrial furnaces and associated processing equipment – Safety - Part 2: Combustion and fuel handling systems. Reference to paragraph 4.3 for liquid fuels.
- Reference to SANS 13577 implies the use of SANS 329 until officially replaced by SANS 13577 through publication of the PER and as incorporated in the Health and Safety Schedule.
- Directive 1/2024: Placing equipment in the market.
- Directive 2/2024: Importation of New or Second-hand Combustion and Fuel Handling Systems for Industrial Thermoprocessing Equipment (TPE).
- Department of Employment and Labour (DoEL) mandate to administer an equipment verification scheme referred to as the Safe Gas Equipment Scheme (SGES).
- Rules Governing the Scheme.

3. Importation of liquid fuel combustion and fuel handling equipment

This directive must be read in conjunction with Directive 2/2024 to ensure full compliance to this directive.

4. Licencing of persons working with liquid fuels equipment

For clarity, reference is made to the PER as follows:

Regulation 1 – Definitions

- "fluid" means gases, liquids, vapours in pure phase and mixtures thereof and may contain solids in suspension;
- "gas" means gases, liquefied gases, gases dissolved under pressure, vapours and those liquids whose vapour pressure at the design temperature is greater than 50 kPa above normal atmospheric pressure

Regulation 17 (1) (c), for gas ["fluid"] reticulation equipment and systems, quote unquote...

No person shall – (c) 'construct, replace, repair, modify, test or remove an appliance, or pressure equipment related to the gas ["fluid"] system unless such person is an authorised person.

Taking direction from the above regulation, persons working on liquid fuel systems need to be registered and licenced as an authorised person. Persons currently registered as Gas Practitioners who work with liquid fuels can request an upgrade of their current licence to include liquid fuels dependant the portfolio of evidence is supportive of the request. Once licenced, the person can sign off compliant work done by issuing a Certificate of Conformity (CoC). The SAGA manages training and licencing.

Liquid fuels as an application type has also been added to the Industrial Thermoprocessing CoC as an energy source, which implies those persons working with liquid fuel systems need to ensure equipment permits are available for equipment placed in the market to enable signing off work done thereby ensuring a compliant and safe liquid fuels combustion and fuel handling system.

5. Implementation

Even though industry was informed via a communique on 8 September 2022 as to the expansion of the SGES to include liquid fuels being a fuel source for TPE applications and confirming compliance as from 15 September 2022, participation by the liquid fuels industry has been slow placing Users at risk regarding compliance to the PER.

With immediate effect Manufacturers, Importers and Suppliers to ensure equipment permits for liquid fuels are in place and businesses to ensure persons working in the liquid fuels industry are in possession of a valid TPE liquid fuels licence.

Should you require further clarification or assistance in the implementation of this Directive, please contact SAGA offices on 011 476 4403.

Artic Driers: A go-to supplier for compressed air treatment



WITH over 35 years in providing air treatment solutions, Artic Driers has proven itself as a critical partner when it comes to providing quality compressed air.

The family-owned company that is operated by Paul Cockfield, and is level 2 BBBEE compliant, understands that without clean and dry compressed air, production rates drop and product rejects become common.

The product range offered is very comprehensive and includes air dryers, inline filtration, auto drains, receiver tanks, compressed air instrumentation as well as waste oily water condensate management systems. A range of adsorption media is also stocked in bulk.

To ensure consistent product performance, after sales support and maintenance crews provide support to all clients.

All crews are equipped with hand held dew point meters.

Global sourcing AND local manufacturing

Products are imported from a variety of worldwide supply partners and distributed from the APEX warehouse in Benoni. The Sahara heatless twin tower low dew point dryers are manufactured in the same facility.

Artic has the capability to produce special purpose air treatment packages. These may be skid mounted or even fabricated into standard containers. Skid packages make installation simpler and faster, and they are becoming popular with clients.

CDK Refrigeration Dryers: superior construction

CDK Refrigeration Dryers, manufactured in Thailand, are a superior construction to many other offerings in the compressed air dryer market. Stainless steel plate to plate heat exchangers are used throughout, the inlet and outlet pipe galleries are

also manufactured from stainless steel, making it perfect for oil-free compressors.

Oil-free Air Compressors generate condensates with very low PH value that quickly corrode any mild steel exchangers, and even dryer inlet and outlet headers.

Advanced instrumentation and control

CDK Dryers also have superior instrumentation and control, with the ability to monitor all parameters. Such as Inlet compressed air temp, dew point temp, air/gas temperatures, and ambient, to mention a few of the controllers' many features.

They can also be synced to start and stop with a dedicated compressor. Power outages often create re-start headaches. CDK dryers re-start automatically on resumption of power. The dew point set point is also adjustable from the controller.

These features amongst many, are password protected in a variety of layers, to prevent unauthorised changes to the dryers' settings.

SAHARA Desiccant Heatless Dryers: Locally manufactured excellence

SAHARA Desiccant Heatless Dryers are

manufactured in RSA to local pressure vessel codes with a wide range of unique features.

The controllers can handle up to a 5 valve configuration, they also communicate with SCADA systems, have synced start-ups with a dedicated compressor, and have an auto reset to the previous sequence after a power outage.

They have the ability to operate with dew point monitors or even a dew point controller to reduce regeneration purge air losses. Artic's patented shuttle system has reduced the Sahara's moving parts to an absolute minimum.

Filter Casings, Artic provides a huge range of imported and locally produced air filter housings that can contain any 1 of 6 different grades of filter elements to suit any requirements.

Locally produced filter casings are SANS pressure code compliant, and are coated to resist interior and exterior corrosion. All the element fixings are stainless steel. Artic carries a stock of casings with capacities up to 150 m³/min at 7 bar.

Call Artic Driers now with your requirements on 011 420 0274 and speak to their sales team

Collaboration sees Cape Town Container Terminal get two 500kVA generators

STAKEHOLDERS in the export-orientated fruit value chain, together with the Western Cape Government and Transnet Port Terminals, are pleased to announce a new collaboration aimed at enhancing operations at the Cape Town Container Terminal (CTCT).

The public sector partnership (PSP) involves the installation of two additional 500kVA generators at the terminal with 60 reefer container plug points each. This upgrade will enable the terminal to increase capacity during the peak deciduous season by providing an additional reefer stack.

The generators, commissioned with funding from the Western Cape Department of Economic Development & Tourism, Agbiz, Hortgro, the South African Table Grape Industry (SATI), the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum (FPEF), and the KAL Group, mark a milestone in PSP projects executed at the Cape Town Container Terminal.

By increasing the terminal's capacity to handle containers during peak weeks, when volume surges are experienced – and providing a separate reefer stack which can be loaded during periods of high



wind – this project will contribute to improving the terminal's overall output during the peak deciduous fruit export season.

"We look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on fresh produce exports from the Western Cape and to continuing our collaboration with the Western Cape Government and Transnet Port Terminals to drive growth and development in the sector," said Agbiz CEO, Theo Boshoff.

"This project benefits exporters operating out of the Cape Town Container Terminal directly and serves as a pilot project for future initiatives. We can apply the lessons learned to pave the way for future PSP projects between Transnet Port Terminals and

cargo owners."

Boshoff added, "The agricultural industry relies heavily on the logistics sector in South Africa. Although cargo owners are not the direct clients of the terminal, we have fostered a strong relationship over the past few years. We stood ready to assist when Transnet Port Terminals requested generators and mobile plug points, and we quickly delivered on our offer."

This initiative is a good example of the power of PSP projects in driving economic growth and development.

Dr Ivan Meyer, the Western Cape Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development & Tourism, said the province's Growth for Jobs strategy includes tripling export from the Western Cape by 2035, which requires reducing the cost of logistics, and improving the efficiency at the port. Support to primary stakeholders to address challenges in the Port of Cape Town is therefore a key priority.

"The request from Transnet Port Terminals to contribute towards standby generators for the peak deciduous fruit export season is consistent with this strategy. The partnership with Transnet Port Terminals and fruit exporters on this project will substantially reduce the risk of delays in large volumes of perishable cargo movement that is associated with disruptive events, such as extended periods of high wind speeds," said Meyer.

According to Transnet Port Terminals' Western Cape managing executive, Oscar Borchards, they are committed to implementing continual improvements that can assist exports out of Cape Town. "Our focus is to continue strengthening our relations with all our stakeholders within the entire value chain," Borchards said.

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Unleash a full range of drilling solutions with Atlas Copco DrillAir compressors

ATLAS Copco's DrillAir range of air compressors are specifically developed and engineered to provide maximum air flow at any pressure setting, delivering game-changing efficient and sustainable solutions for a multitude of drilling applications including ground engineering, drill and blast, water well, geothermal and foundation drilling.

Power Technique.

"Hole deviation, pipe failure, borehole instability, formation damage, lost circulation, pipe sticking, mud contamination, accelerate wear and tear and poor hole cleaning are disruptive to machines and equipment causing costly breakdowns that result in lost productivity, reduced production and expensive repairs."

Cassell points out that drill operators are



Atlas Copco Drillair Y35 compressor delivers perfect balance between pressure and flow.

"The keystone of the Atlas Copco DrillAir is their scientific engineering, which is based on the principles and interrelationship of pressure and flow..."

"We can say with confidence that we know the drill, with our deep understanding of the tough challenges faced by this industry," asserts Jonathan Cassell, APE sales engineer at Atlas Copco

inclined to maintain their rigs and compressors, usually only acquiring a new unit when a new contract is awarded, or when their current machines reach end-of-life.

"Extended machine

lifecycle and low operational and ownership costs are key for these operators. This spurs us, as forward-thinkers, to create value for our customers by designing premium quality, reliable and efficient products, and advanced technologies, supported by service excellence. When operators invest in any of our DrillAir

compressors, they invest in peace of mind; the superior, reliable, and efficient performance of these units over an extended life cycle enable them to meet their contractual commitments which is paramount to their business sustainability and profitability."

"When it comes to efficient drilling, one size never fits all,"

stresses Cassell. "Given the variation in hole depth and hammer size, selecting the right product is key to optimising operations."

This is where Atlas Copco's DrillAir range demonstrates its value by enabling operators to select the right product for their core business, while offering the added flexibility of adapting to variations

in well depth and hammer size for custom applications.

The keystone of the Atlas Copco DrillAir is their scientific engineering, which is based on the principles and interrelationship of pressure and flow, enabling the machines to pinpoint the optimal combination tailored to a specific application. The perfect balance between these two variables forms the backbone of these exceptional machines, giving operators full control over these parameters which is key to optimising both time and fuel efficiency.

The DrillAir compressors are packed with technology that boosts drilling efficiency while saving on fuel. "Essentially, with our integrated DrillAir technologies, customers not only achieve faster drilling speeds but also optimise fuel consumption in the process," affirms Cassell.

Dynamic Flow Boost provides up to 4 m³/min additional flow for faster flushing and drill stem refilling, reducing overall drilling time.

Moving on to Atlas Copco's advanced PACE™ system (Pressure Adjusted through Cognitive Electronics), Cassell highlights the advantage offered by this intuitive software package. "This leading-edge technology enables the customer to tap into the electric engine to control multiple pressure and flow settings, matching them to their application needs.

This dynamic optimisation feature is particularly useful when transferring products of different bulk densities by allowing the operator to preset different flow and pressure settings for the required demand in application.

For more information: www.atlascopcogroup.com

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The latest GDP results suggest improved performance from the Western Cape agricultural sector



Minister of Agriculture Dr Ivan Meyer

AGRICULTURE rebounded to a 17,2% growth rate, lifting South Africa's GDP growth to 0,6% in Quarter 4 of 2024 and for the 2024 year, according to Statistics SA's national quarterly GDP figures released on 4 March 2025.

Commenting on the agriculture sector's performance, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture Dr Ivan Meyer said, "Growth in this sector was driven by increased activity in field crops and animal production, as extreme weather occurrences subsided." He added that this suggests a positive performance for the Western Cape's fruit, grain, and livestock farming.

Regarding economic growth in 2025, as of 5 March, S&P Global expects South Africa and the Western Cape's economies to grow by 1.8%

and 2,1%, respectively, with Agriculture (5%) and Trade (3,2%) key drivers in the province.

"Economic conditions are expected to improve as we continue to implement the priority focus areas of the Western Cape Growth For Jobs Strategy, which is building an environment conducive to improved economic growth and job creation," said the Minister.

In Quarter 1 2025, the Bureau for Economic Research's Business Confidence Index (BCI) for the Western Cape stood at 52, outperforming the rest of the country's 45 index points.

Minister Meyer stated, "The Western Cape is the only province in positive investment territory. Effective governance and clear economic growth plans inspire hope and confidence. We have seen record

exports of agri products from the Western Cape due to increased agri production. Our farmers, agri workers, and producers remain resilient and are key drivers of our Growth For Jobs strategy."

Premier Alan Winde added, "Our agricultural sector is a critically important component of our economy. This one sector alone employs more than 200 000 people in the Western Cape, so ensuring its resilience and boosting its growth potential is a priority, especially in the fiscal climate we currently find ourselves in. We will keep supporting our rural and farming communities in any way we can, helping them to become part of our economic recovery and success."

"Amid current geopolitical developments, we forecast more significant demand for our agri exports, and we will keep engaging with our global trading partners to facilitate more exports. A 5% increase in our agri exports alone over 5 years will result in 22 900 new jobs in the Western Cape. Through economic diplomacy, we will continue to target new markets in the Middle East, ASEAN group, India, China and Africa to unlock further employment in our region. Growing the economy and creating more jobs are the Western Cape Government's apex priorities, and the agri sector is ready to deliver," concluded the Minister.

Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation: Leading the way in domestic and international trade credit insurance

IN today's fast-paced global economy, businesses face an ever-evolving landscape of risks, especially when it comes to trade credit.

As companies navigate economic uncertainty, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical shifts, the need for financial security has never been greater. Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation (CGIC) has long stood at the forefront of mitigating these risks, providing a robust framework for businesses to trade with confidence - both locally and internationally.



A legacy of trust and innovation

With over six decades of experience in trade credit insurance, CGIC has established itself as a trusted partner for businesses across a variety of industries. The corporation has consistently played a pivotal role in safeguarding businesses against non-payment risks by ensuring that suppliers are compensated even if their buyers default. This financial protection is critical for businesses looking to expand, as it enables them to extend credit terms to customers without fear of destabilising their cash flow.

Through its comprehensive risk assessment capabilities, CGIC helps businesses make informed credit decisions, ensuring they remain resilient in an unpredictable market. By leveraging advanced

credit analytics and deep industry insights, CGIC provides tailored solutions that support sustainable business growth.

Empowering domestic trade

For South African businesses operating in the domestic market, CGIC plays a crucial role in fostering economic stability. By offering trade credit insurance to companies across various sectors, CGIC ensures that businesses can trade freely without the looming threat of bad debt.

CGIC's expertise in evaluating the financial health of buyers allows suppliers to extend credit with greater confidence. This, in turn, enhances liquidity in the market, encourages investment, and stimulates overall economic activity. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) especially benefit from CGIC's risk mitigation services, as it provides them with the

security to scale operations without exposure to excessive financial risk.

Driving international trade growth

Beyond domestic markets, CGIC has been instrumental in facilitating international trade. Global commerce comes with heightened risks, including currency fluctuations, political instability, and economic downturns in foreign markets. CGIC's international trade credit insurance solutions provide businesses with the necessary risk coverage to engage in cross-border transactions with confidence.

By partnering with global reinsurers and leveraging international expertise, CGIC ensures that South African exports can penetrate new markets while maintaining financial security. This is particularly vital for industries that rely on global supply chains, as CGIC helps mitigate the risks

associated with international buyers failing to meet their payment obligations.

Strategic risk management and credit insights

What sets CGIC apart is its proactive approach to risk management. Rather than simply providing coverage after a default occurs, CGIC works closely with businesses to assess potential risks before they become liabilities. Its sophisticated credit intelligence platform enables companies to make data-driven decisions, identifying high-risk buyers and sectors early on.

This forward-looking approach has made CGIC a leader in trade credit insurance, as businesses increasingly seek partners who can offer traditional insurance solutions. By continuously refining its risk assessment methodologies, CGIC ensures that its clients are always ahead of market trends.



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Agri-Expo to host 31st Commonwealth Agriculture Conference 2026 in Cape Town



Agri-Expo GM, Breyton Milford.

AGRI-EXPO will be hosting the 31st Commonwealth Agriculture Conference 2026 in Cape Town.

The Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC) was founded in 1957 and is a confederation of more than 50 Agricultural Societies, from 21 Commonwealth Countries. It will be holding its conference at the Century City Conference Centre, from 1 to 5 November 2026.

The RASC has a strong network of members, organisations and supporters who demonstrate best practices in agriculture, as well as bringing new ideas and research to the fore.

agricultural sector, is the conference host.

"As the sole voice of agriculture in the Commonwealth, the RASC plays a crucial role in the promotion of agriculture," says Agri-Expo GM, Breyton Milford, and serves as a Trustee on the RASC Board.

RASC has awarded the bid to Agri-Expo, marking the second time South Africa has hosted the event, the first being in 2001 in KwaZulu-Natal.

Dr Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development, and Tourism, praised Agri-Expo's achievement in securing the bid.

"Agri-Expo is synon-

Trustee from the UK, was impressed by the Western Cape's agricultural diversity. "Hosting this global event in Cape Town presents an incredible opportunity to showcase South African agriculture to the world," he said.

We look forward to welcoming between 200 and 300 delegates from more than 20 Commonwealth countries."

By gathering experts, practitioners, and emerging leaders, we aim to shape the future of agriculture and address global challenges, from food security to climate resilience.

Each RASC conference is designed to deliver a programme that combines presentations, debates, and interactive sessions, as well as hands-on experiences in local agriculture.

Through these activities, delegates gain insights into emerging trends, build professional networks, and deepen their understanding of the agricultural issues facing our world. Our conferences emphasise relevance, adaptability, sustainability, and connectivity—values that are essential for advancing agriculture in today's dynamic environment.

Its biennial conference is also a crucial opportunity for Next Generation (NG) delegates, future leaders who bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions.

By nurturing their growth and connecting them with industry leaders, we build a resilient and adaptable agricultural community for the future.

The involvement of the NG within the RASC and its member societies holds significant importance.

Since 2004, the NG has been organising its own biennial conference preceding the main RASC Conference, facilitating the exchange of information and knowledge among its members.

Over the years, the NG conference has grown in prominence, serving as a platform for NGs to engage, share experiences, and establish connections with like-minded individuals.

ymous with agricultural excellence," Meyer said, referencing the society's historic role in the establishment of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and its successful public-private partnerships.

"We are excited to host this conference, particularly given the current global landscape," Meyer continued. "The Western Cape is committed to economic growth, and attracting international conferences aligns with our vision."

Julian Taylor, RASC

A modest fuel price cut boosts the agriculture profitability outlook



By Paul Makube,
senior agricultural
economist, FNB
Commercial

SOUTH Africa's monthly fuel price for April 2025 has been adjusted downwards, driven by a combination of rand appreciation and lower international Brent crude oil prices.

The rand strength-

ened by 1,1% to R18,30 per US dollar, while international crude oil prices fell sharply by 5% month-on-month to \$71,04 per barrel following the Trump tariff onslaught that unsettled markets, as well as an improved global supply outlook.

The latest announcement from the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources indicates that petrol

prices will decrease by 58 cents and 92 cents per litre for the 93 and 95 grades, respectively, in April 2025. This brings prices down from February levels of R21,51 per litre and R21,62 per litre.

Similarly, diesel prices for 0,05% and 0,005% sulphur content will decrease by 84 cents and 86 cents per litre, respectively, to R19,32 per litre and R19,34 per litre.

The bearish outlook for international crude oil prices—driven by US tariffs, sluggish economic growth in China and India, and increased output by OPEC+—suggests the possibility of further fuel price reductions in the coming months.

This is positive news for the agriculture sector, as lower fuel prices reduce transportation

costs for both production inputs and the distribution of produce to local and international markets, ultimately improving farmer profit margins.

The agricultural sector is gradually recovering from the devastating 2024 El Niño-induced drought, which led to a 22% year-on-year decline in summer crop harvests.

However, the production outlook remains strong, supported by excellent seasonal rains since the beginning of 2025.

Additionally, lower fuel costs will help keep food inflation on a downward trend, following four consecutive months below 2% year-on-year, including a record low of 1,9% year-on-year in February — the lowest since January 2011.

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"RASC has awarded the bid to Agri-Expo, marking the second time South Africa has hosted the event, the first being in 2001 in KwaZulu-Natal."

It hosts a biennial conference, tours, and seminars. These are attended by member societies – bringing the commonwealth together to network, socialise and look to the future.

Its conferences focus on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, fostering knowledge exchange, and creating a space where ideas and experiences are shared across diverse regions and sectors.

Agri-Expo, a professional promotion and organisation for the

SOUFFLET Malt and HEINEKEN Beverages announce commercial partnership to supply malt for South African brewing operations



SOUFFLET Malt and HEINEKEN Beverages have entered a commercial partnership in South Africa, with Soufflet Malt set to supply malt used in Heineken's South African operations. As part of this agreement, Soufflet Malt will invest €100-million to build a new malting facility, strategically located next to HEINEKEN's Sedibeng Brewery near Johannesburg, and set to be operational by mid-2027.

The new facility will be the most technologically advanced malthouse in South Africa and will produce 50% fewer emissions than the industry average by using trigeneration and solar energy. Its location next to the brewery will enable malt to be transferred via conveyors, reducing both emissions and costs.

With a production capacity of nearly 100 000 tons, the facility will create 55 full-time jobs and support over 200 local South African barley growers. Soufflet Malt will source 100% of the barley locally. To achieve this goal, Soufflet Malt has been working in the region for

several years, building long term partnerships with both commercial and developing farmers. Through training, mentoring, and commercial support, Soufflet Malt is helping them adopt agronomic best practices to grow high-quality, premium barley.

This new malting facility will play a key role in reaching both companies' long-term sustainability goals, create local employment, and bolster HEINEKEN's supply chain in South Africa.

"This significant investment by Soufflet Malt, in partnership with our company, marks a monumental commitment to South Africa and is a venture we are immensely proud to be part of. Our company is deeply committed to the region, continuously enhancing our investment in the country. Our focus is on intensifying our support for local production, local sourcing, and job creation. This project is a clear testament to these objectives and aligns with our 'Brew a Better World' agenda, underpinned by sustainable practices and supporting the communities in which we oper-

ate," said HEINEKEN Beverages MD, Jordi Borrut.

"This partnership perfectly reflects Soufflet Malt's ability as the world's leading maltster to bring value by delivering agile and locally tailored solutions to long-standing global clients, such as Heineken. We are proud to be able to support HEINEKEN Beverages deliver its ambitious vision for South Africa through our unique capabilities that seamlessly blend innovation in agronomy with global malting expertise and a locally-integrated supply chain" said Jorge Solis, CEO of Soufflet Malt.

"Our collaboration with HEINEKEN Beverages marks an exciting chapter for Soufflet Malt to further strengthen the South African malt supply chain. We look forward to deepening our partnership with local farmers, fostering the development of sustainable barley farming across the country and contributing to the long-term prosperity of South Africa through this initiative", added Guillaume Couture, President EMEA at Soufflet Malt.

Tired of your brew tasting like a maybe? Enhancing beer brewing precision with VEGA

BREWING beer is not an easy process - ask any brewer. The process requires utmost precision in every step. Even the slightest variation in ingredients or brewing techniques can significantly impact the final flavour and aroma of the beer. To ensure precision, it is important to measure and control the pressure and point levels in the wort kettle and hops dissolver. Using VEGA instrumentation can offer numerous benefits to breweries.

The process of brewing beer involves the use of hops, which give it a distinct flavour and aroma. Achieving the right balance of hops during the brewing process is crucial for producing a high-quality product. Precise measurements play a deciding role in ensuring this balance. In particular, when blending and cooking wort and hops in the wort kettle, it is essential to have reliable control of dosage and cooking. This is where integrated pressure and point-level measurements come in.

The measuring tasks in the wort kettle and hops dissolver encompass pressure and point-level measurements, which cover a range of up to 5 m. These measurements must be taken under challenging conditions, including tempera-



VEGA's sensors meet the highest standards for beer brewing, ensuring quality and efficiency.

tures ranging from 10 degrees Celsius to well over 100 degrees and pressures of 2 bar and beyond. These conditions introduce unique challenges, such as foam, condensation, and the presence of solids in the liquid. However, with the right equipment and expertise, these challenges can be overcome, resulting in a superior product that beer lovers will enjoy.

"The VEGAPOINT 23 stands out as a compact capacitive limit switch tailored for water-based liquid detection."

VEGA's process instrumentation is designed to meet the rigorous demands of beer brewing applications. These sensors are not only reliable but also crafted with certified materials compliant with FDA and EC reg-

ulations. The benefits extend further with cost-effective, maintenance-free operation, ensuring durability and reliability throughout the brewing process. Additionally, their user-friendly design simplifies setup and commissioning via a standardised VDMA-compliant interface.

The VEGAPOINT 23 stands out as a compact capacitive limit switch tailored for water-based liquid detection. Equipped with a tube extension, it offers versatility and ease of use. With optional universal connections for hygiene adapters, installation efforts are minimised, making it an ideal choice for hygienic processes in the

ing monitoring capabilities.

Similarly, the VEGA ABAR 39 serves as a universal pressure transmitter, equipped with a metallic measuring cell suitable for gases, vapours, and liquids up to 130°C. Featuring a display with the on-site operation and a coloured 360° status display, it ensures easy monitoring and control. Its fully welded metallic measuring cell enhances reliability, while IO-Link communication facilitates seamless integration into control systems, further optimising brewery operations.

The meticulous process of brewing beer demands precision at every stage. By employing VEGA instrumentation for pressure and point-level measurement in the wort kettle

VEGA is known for its long history of innovation and is recognised as a global leader in the field of measurement technology.

and hops dissolver, breweries can elevate their quality standards, ensuring consistency and excellence in every batch brewed.

VEGA is known for its long history of innovation and is recognised as a global leader in the field of measurement technology.

VEGA is dedicated to precision and reliability, and its customised solutions have had a positive impact on businesses worldwide, improving processes, efficiency, and quality standards. VEGA's sensors and instruments are known for setting new benchmarks in accuracy, durability, and performance, driven by a commitment to excellence.

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Weir's wear reduction technology cuts energy costs in pumping

AS part of Weir's mission to support its customers' sustainability efforts, Wear Reduction Technology (WRT®) upgrades have made both WARMAN® and ENVIROTECH® pumps more energy efficient and longer lasting.

With Weir's large installed base of WARMAN® and ENVIROTECH® pumps around the world, the most impactful sustainability strategy was to improve the efficiency of equipment already in the field, according to Marnus Koorts, GM original equipment at Weir. The best place to start was with its renowned WARMAN® AH® pumps which are used by almost every mine on the planet.

"Our aim was to enhance our current models to deliver superior wear life and energy efficiency," he says. "The WRT component combination does this by allowing upgrades that integrate seamlessly into existing infrastructure without extra capital investment."

Introduced to the African market in 2010, WRT® components deliver an energy saving of 3 to 5% to WARMAN® AH® pump owners and have extended the lifespan of these pumps by from 30% to 50%. This has meant direct on-site cost savings and significantly reduced energy consumption from the large number of these pumps in operation worldwide.

At the heart of the WRT® component breakthrough is improved hydraulic efficiency, achieved through advances such as the optimised design of the impeller and throatbush. For instance, the WRT® impeller features specially developed vanes that guide fluid more efficiently, reducing turbulence and minimising energy loss.

"The design of the WRT impeller improves flow characteristics, compared to older designs with steeper vane angles," he explains.

In another innovation, the new design of the impeller guides fluid more efficiently to mitigate against the creation of eddies. These eddies are swirling circular currents of fluid which form within the pump volute due to turbulent flow, and lead to fluid moving against the main flow, wasting energy and increasing wear on internal components.

"We have also improved efficiency by minimising the surface area of the WRT im-

PELLER, by reducing the number of vanes from five to four," he says. "This creates more space for the material to flow while still delivering the same duty."

Critical to the impact that the WRT® component upgrade has had on energy efficiency in

pumping operations is its enthusiastic uptake by the market. Koorts highlights that Weir's strategy was to make the transition for customers as easy and economical as possible. Being interchangeable with WARMAN® pumps' older technology, the

WRT® components allow customers to switch over without extra capital expenditure – by changing to WRT® options when existing parts need to be replaced.

"This has already allowed most of our customer base to adopt the latest energy-efficient

options," he says. "In Africa, for instance, all new WARMAN AH pumps sold contain WRT technology and a majority of our existing WARMAN AH pumps have already been converted."

With Africa being home to a large in-

stalled base of ENVIROTECH® pumps, the WRT® component technology has been extended to this popular range. Koorts notes that the company is committed to Africa and to the technologies currently in use.

"For the past two years,

therefore, we have been supplying our ENVIROTECH pumps with WRT as standard," he says. "Today, more than half of all our ENVIROTECH pump spares sales are WRT designs."

For more information: www.global.weir



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From air and power to water: Atlas Copco's bold strategic evolution

IN Southern Africa, where effective water management is key to mining, agriculture and infrastructure, Atlas Copco's Power Technique business area has steadily evolved from being a leader in portable air and power solutions to becoming a significant player in portable pump solutions. Since the strategic decision to enter the pump market in 2016, which marked a pivotal point, Power Technique went on to expand its

offerings to address the region's growing need for reliable, high-performance dewatering systems.

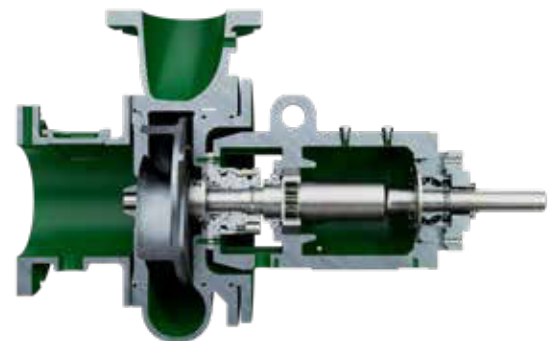
Following the launch of its inaugural pump, the PAS range, a centrifugal pump engineered for optimal water management efficiency with capacities of up to 1,200 m³/h, Power Technique has continued to broaden its portable pump portfolio, ranging from compact models with capacities of 200 m³/h to high-capacity options exceeding 2,800 m³/h. These pumps are specifically designed to tackle a variety of dewatering and water management challenges within mining and construction operations as well as infrastructure projects. "Engineered for optimal performance, reliability, and efficiency, our robust pumps enhance uptime, simplify installation and maintenance, reduce fuel consumption and offer extended lifecycle, all

while delivering significant environmental benefits," says Theuns Viljoen, business development manager at Atlas Copco Power Technique. "These features have been instrumental in solidifying our strong presence in the pump space and significantly increasing our market share both locally and cross border."

For more information: www.atlascopcogroup.com

For more information: www.atlascopcogroup.com

Vaughan Chopper pumps: Heavy-duty solids-handling pumps



VAUGHAN Chopper Pumps, represented in Southern Africa by Monitor Pumps & Systems, are high-performance pumping solutions designed to handle the most challenging solids-laden fluids across various industries. Known for their durability, efficiency, and exceptional solids-reduction capabilities, these pumps have been widely used in wastewater treatment, agriculture, food processing, and industrial applications.

components—hardened impellers, cutter bars, and wear plates—work together to shear through tough materials, such as rags, plastics, and industrial waste, eliminating the need for expensive grinders in front of the pump.

Key features and benefits: Pumps guaranteed not to clog

With clog-free performance and unlike traditional pumps, Vaughan Chopper Pumps effi-

sist to wear.

Vaughan pumps are used in a variety of industries, including:

- Municipal wastewater treatment: Prevents pump and pipeline blockages.
- Agriculture: Handles manure, bedding, and fibrous crop residues.
- Food processing: Pumps and processes organic waste efficiently.
- Industrial settings: Manages sludge, chemicals, and heavy solids.

These pumps operate efficiently, reducing power consumption while maintaining high throughput. Their ability to chop solids before pumping improves flow conditions, leading to smoother operation.

Vaughan offers a range of pump models with customisable configurations, including submersible, dry-pit, and self-priming configurations. Users can select from various impeller types, cutting mechanisms, and motor sizes to suit specific needs.



How Vaughan Chopper pumps work

Vaughan Chopper Pumps feature a unique chopping mechanism that enables them to macerate large, fibrous, and solid materials into smaller, manageable pieces before pumping. This process prevents clogging, reduces downtime, and ensures continuous operation. The cutting

components—hardened impellers, cutter bars, and wear plates—work together to shear through tough materials, such as rags, plastics, and industrial waste, eliminating the need for expensive grinders in front of the pump.

Designed for demanding environments, these heavy-duty constructed pumps are built with robust materials such as hardened steel and cast iron, providing long-lasting performance and re-

Vaughan Chopper pumps proven reliability

With decades of experience, Vaughan has built a reputation for quality and reliability. Their chopper pumps are engineered for longevity, reducing the need for frequent replacements and repairs.

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Integrated Pump Technology pumps effective mine dewatering across Africa

INTEGRATED Pump Technology has been at the forefront of helping mining operations deal with the persistent challenges posed by groundwater ingress, both at surface and underground.

Groundwater can cause significant disruptions to mining activities, particularly during the rainy season, which varies across different regions of Africa.

safety.

MD Jordan Marsh explains that, as the authorised distributor of Grindex electric submersible pumps and Godwin diesel-driven self-priming pumps, Integrated Pump Technology provides a range of reliable dewatering solutions tailored to various applications.

"Both these pump ranges are well-known global brands that are

been quick to adopt dewatering solutions from us, knowing that our team understands the requirements and the support is in place to ensure reliable operation," he says.

The uptake being experienced is a reflection of Integrated Pump Technology's strategic drive to expand its footprint in key markets. One of the most notable success stories comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia.

The increasing global demand for copper, driven by the world's push toward a lower-carbon future, has led to an expansion of mining activities in these regions. Many of the copper mines in the DRC, known as some of the wettest in the world, present a unique challenge when it comes to managing water ingress.

Marsh highlights that dewatering has become an indispensable task for these min-

ing operations. "Our Grindex submersible pumps have long been the go-to solution for dewatering in these extremely wet mines, and with the addition last year of the diesel driven Godwin pump range to our portfolio we have seen increased demand for these units, whether skid or trailer mounted," he says.

Integrated Pump Technology is committed to establishing and maintaining robust sales and support channels through local distributors, and this is seen by end-users as vital to the service being offered.

Commenting on the application of Grindex submersible pumps, Marsh says that many Southern African copper mines are not only expanding but also going deeper underground which exposes them to greater volumes of groundwater.

"Grindex pumps, known for their durability and effectiveness, are playing a



With tailored solutions and local support, Integrated Pump Technology ensures continuous operation for mines across the continent.

"Integrated Pump Technology is committed to establishing and maintaining robust sales and support channels through local distributors, and this is seen by end-users as vital to the service being offered."

From heavy seasonal downpours to localised conditions in different geographic and geological environments, mining operations need effective dewatering strategies to ensure productivity and

designed to handle the often harsh and unpredictable conditions that mines face across the continent. Mining operations in many parts of Africa, where dewatering is mission-critical, have

pivotal role in keeping these deeper mining operations operational and safe. Significantly, the demand is for both smaller pumps (3.7 kW and 5.6 kW) and larger units (up to 90 kW)," he notes.

Beyond the DRC and Zambia, Integrated Pump Technology continues to make in-

roads into other areas including East and West Africa. Central to Integrated Pump Technology's success is its commitment to building a comprehensive distributor network across the continent.

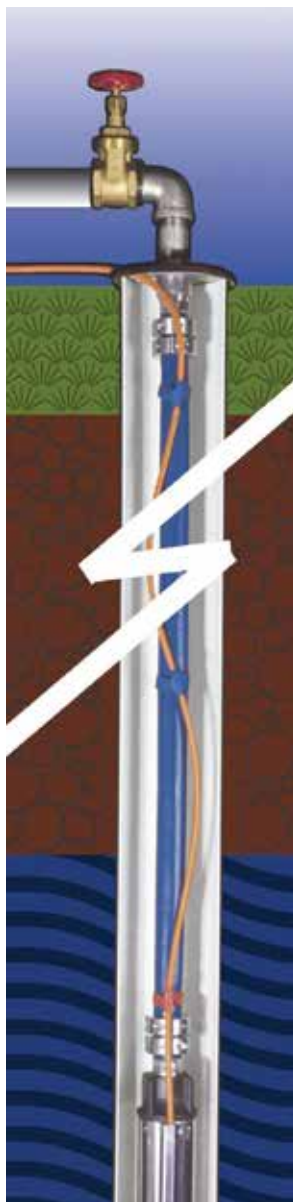
This network ensures that mining operations in countries

such as Angola, DRC, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda are supported with the necessary expertise and equipment to meet their specific challenges.

For more information: <https://www.pump-technology.com/>

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Industrial fire protection nozzles for superior suppression



One of Spray Systems Co.'s many advanced fire protection nozzles.

SPRAYING Systems Co., represented in Southern Africa by Monitor Engineering, is a leading provider of high-performance industrial fire protection nozzles designed to deliver optimal fire suppression in industrial, mining, and hazardous environments. Their nozzles ensure efficient water or foam distribution, rapid fire suppression, and enhanced safety in critical applications such as power plants, chemical processing facilities, warehouses, and marine operations.

Types of industrial fire protection nozzles for targeted suppression

Spraying Systems Co. offers a wide range of fire protection nozzles, each designed for specific fire suppression needs.

- Full Cone Nozzles produce a uniform spray pattern for broad coverage which is ideal for cooling surfaces and suppressing flames in large areas.
- Hollow Cone Nozzles deliver fine mist sprays for maximum heat absorption in applications requiring rapid temperature reduction.
- Flat Fan Nozzles provide a concentrated spray for targeted fire suppression and are effective for conveyor systems, narrow corridors, and fire curtains.
- Aspirating Foam Nozzles are used for foam-based fire suppression in fuel storage areas, generating high-expansion foam to

smother flames and prevent re-ignition.

- Misting Nozzles produce ultra-fine mist for total flood systems and cooling applications and are common in gas turbine protection and electrical room fire suppression.

High-performance fire protection nozzles for industrial use

Spraying Systems Co. nozzles are precision engineered and designed for precise droplet size, flow rate, and spray coverage to maximise fire suppression efficiency.

Constructed from high-quality materials such as stainless steel and brass, these durable and corrosion resistant nozzles withstand harsh environments and prolonged exposure to water and chemicals.

Customisable industrial nozzles for fire safety systems

A variety of sizes and configurations allows for customisable flow rates and spray angles to suit different fire suppression requirements, ensuring complete protection for diverse applications. Nozzles are optimised for low and high-pressure systems and therefore compatible with water mist,

foam, and deluge fire protection systems, offering flexibility for different fire hazards.

Spraying Systems Co. nozzles meet global fire safety regulations, including UL certification, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards, ensuring reliable performance in emergency situations.

Industrial fire protection solutions backed by spray technology expertise

Understanding the science of spray technology and how to implement it is essential for success in fire protection applications. Monitor Engineering experts work closely with fire engineers and systems designers in providing vital information on their spray products for critical applications such as fire protection for combustible materials and equipment in industrial plants; for conveyor, storage and transformer fire protection in mining; for cooling turbines and preventing fires in electrical equipment; or for suppressing fires in hazardous processing areas such as in the oil and gas sector.

For expert advice contact grant@monitorspray.co.za, <https://www.spray.co.za>

PPE manufacturer BBF highlights OHS legal compliance



Willie Coetzee, BBF's SHEQ services manager.

BBF Safety Group, South Africa's leading local manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is highlighting the importance of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legal compliance. This is in light of the Department of Employment and Labour's (DOEL) proposed amendments to South Africa's health and safety legislation.

Passionate about creating safe working environments, BBF adopted an integrated approach to workplace safety in recent years, incorporating into its business a dedicated SHEQ Services division that includes consulting and training.

New legislation expected to more strongly enforce OHS legal compliance

Willie Coetzee who manages BBF's SHEQ services says, "BBF is unique in South Africa in that we offer a full portfolio of head-to-toe PPE plus the added value of professional OHS legal compliance services. OHS legal compliance is not a nice-to-have, it's a must-have."

From small businesses to large corporations, in all sectors of industry, companies have an obligation to set up an OHS legal compliance management programme. Coetzee says, "Section 8 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act states that every employer shall provide and maintain a safe and healthy work environ-

ment. This will be enforced even more so when the new legislation comes into being."

Non-compliance has consequences: Revenue loss due to production downtime and fines/imprisonment

The fines imposed on companies by inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour for non-compliance are heavy. Coetzee cites an example of a company whose production was halted when an inspector arrived unexpectedly finding OHS anomalies. To avoid lost revenue, exorbitant fines, and possible incarceration of the responsible executive, companies should ensure that they are fully OHS compliant.

"Accountability ultimately lies with the CEO," says Coetzee, "Section 16 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act outlines certain duties a CEO is charged with. It's for this reason that I include top management in my first training session. The new draft legislation, not yet published, indicates that fines could be as high as R5-million or five-years' imprisonment or both. Current legislation states that fines can be up to R100 000 or 24-months' imprisonment or both, or R50 000 or 12-months' imprisonment or both."

Moreover, employees are also legally obligated to cooperate with their employers, to ensure compliance with duties and requirements as laid out in Section 14 of the OHS Act.

Driving workplace safety with comprehensive OHS compliance solutions

BBF offers specialised services in developing and implementing robust OHS legal compliance programmes while upskilling workforces to meet regulatory standards. "A legal compliance programme starts with the training," says Coetzee. "We conduct

thorough risk assessments and identify workplace non-conformities. This allows us to implement corrective measures, followed by monthly inspections and audits to help employers maintain a safe, healthy, and legally compliant work environment."

New developments in BBF's PPE and the export market

Recognising the critical need for proper safety training, BBF provides expert-led work-at-height training to equip workers with the knowledge and skills to operate safely in high-risk environments. Complementing this, BBF has introduced advanced belted and non-belted harnesses with 45mm webbing, engineered for maximum durability and security when working at height. These innovations set new benchmarks for workplace safety, particularly in industries where fall protection is paramount.

BBF's product portfolio of leading safety footwear and workwear brands (BOVA, Frams, Sisi, Nikki, Lemaitre, and Wayne) continues to evolve, catering to both men and women, including pregnant ladies. With a growing focus on comfort and style, BBF's latest safety footwear ranges are not only highly reliable but also fashionable—an evolution that has been well received by customers. Manufactured locally at four ISO:9001 accredited facilities, BBF's products are also exported to over 40 countries, reinforcing their reputation in the global market.

By taking a proactive approach to safety, BBF empowers businesses to not only meet but exceed OHS requirements, fostering a culture of compliance and quality of work life.

Coetzee concludes, "At BBF, we strive to keep people safe by providing a complete workplace solution that is OHS compliant."

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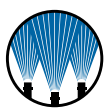
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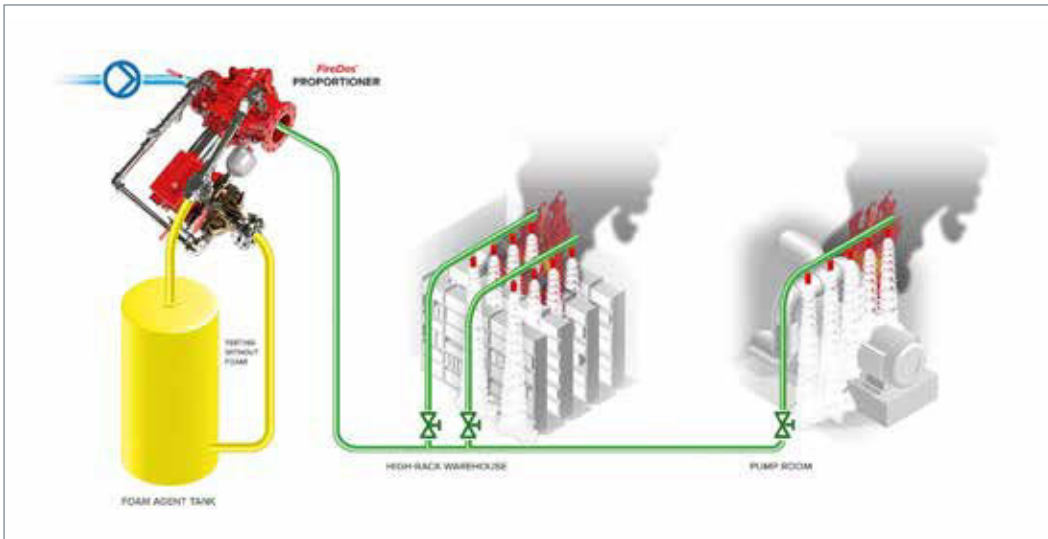
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Extinguishing fires flexibly: A large volume flow of extinguishing water and a constant proportioning rate are a must - FireDos



THE results of the extinguishing system statistics of the Bundesverbandes Technischer Brandschutz e.V. (bvfa) for the year 2023 prove once again: Stationary extinguishing systems with automatic activation are highly effective and offer a decisive time advantage when fighting incipient fires. In order to be able to react flexibly to fires, a large extinguishing water volume flow of the proportioning system with a constant proportioning rate is crucial.

According to the bvfa's 2023 extinguishing system statistics, in German, IT systems, electrical switchgear and machine tools have the highest fire risk. In terms of sectors, the metalworking industry is the most affected. The statistics are based on 85 reports from operators, installers and manufacturers of stationary extinguishing systems. According to this survey, the extinguishing success of sprinkler systems on incipient fires is high. 59% of extinguishing successes with sprinkler systems were achieved with just one or two sprinklers. The fire is contained at an early stage so that personal injury and property damage are minimised.

In almost all reported cases, 98% of the extinguishing processes, the stationary extinguishing systems were triggered automatically. 88% of the fires occurred during working hours. Compared to manual activation, this time

advantage can be decisive for the timely escape of employees and the success of the extinguishing process. If the fire occurs outside working hours, stationary extinguishing systems are the only effective solution for alerting the fire brigade and fighting the fire at the same time.

According to the bvfa, the highest fire risk is in electricity- and machine-intensive sectors such as metal processing or the automotive industry. Very high temperatures are generated in the event of a fault. Lubricating oils and highly flammable coolants are also used. These spread as mist in the machines and can lead to a deflagration under certain circumstances, e.g. due to tool breakage.

FireDos has been developing stationary foam proportioning systems for extinguishing systems since 1995. The purely mechanical concept consisting of a water motor and piston pump offers absolute functional reliability. Driven by the extinguishing water flow, electricity and emergency power supply are not required. All types of foam agents, including highly viscous foam agents, can be added.

The devices are designed for small and large extinguishing water flows of 70 to 25,000 l/min. A constant proportioning rate over a wide operating range guarantees automatic adaptation to variable extinguishing scenarios. Due to the wide

operating ranges, the use in any foam extinguishing system, such as sprinkler and deluge systems, wet and dry systems, is possible. Incipient fires that only require one or two sprinklers to be opened can be extinguished at an early stage. But even in the case of spreading fires, the extinguishing process can be flexibly adapted to operate several sprinklers.

Extinguishing systems must be tested regularly to ensure that they function properly in the event of a fire. This also applies to the proportioning system. The foam concentrate can be fed back into the foam concentrate tank under real operating conditions via the return connection and its volume recorded. The proportioning rate is calculated from this and from the simultaneously determined extinguishing water volume, without premix or extinguishing foam being produced. This saves costs and protects the environment.

This is how easy it is to test the proportioning rate:

- The test circuit can be activated via the 'recirculation / proportioning' ball valve.
- The volume flow is measured while the extinguishing water circulates.
- The water motor drives the foam concentrate pump in direct proportion.
- Foam concentrate is circulated and measured using a

flow meter.

- The proportioning rate can be calculated.

Cape Town to host Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, FM Expo, and Fireexpo in 2025

EXCITING news for the Western Cape! Specialised Exhibitions, a division of the Montgomery Group, is bringing four of its highly successful trade shows — Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management Expo, and Fireexpo — to Cape Town from 21 to 23 October 2025 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

These co-located events will now provide businesses and professionals in the Western Cape with a platform to explore the latest innovations in security, occupational health and safety, facilities management, and fire

safety.

Whether you're a seasoned industry player or a newcomer, Securex South Africa, A-OSH EXPO, Facilities Management Expo, and Fireexpo in Cape Town promise to be a game-changing event.

Mark Anderson, portfolio director at Specialised Exhibitions, highlights the strategic timing of this move: "The Western Cape government's safety initiatives, such as the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP), have successfully reduced crime rates in certain hotspots. Pair this with the region's increasing OSH, facilities man-

agement, and fire safety sectors, and the time is ripe for a Cape Town-based event."

Attendees can look forward to:

- Innovative Solutions – Discover cutting-edge products and services tailored to the Western Cape's unique challenges.
- Networking Opportunities – Connect with industry leaders in security, health and safety, facilities management and fire safety.
- Knowledge Sharing – Access valuable insights and trends that are shaping these industries.

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WearCheck Water wins accreditation for microbiological testing



Kensani Mbuli of WearCheck Water with accreditation certificate for microbiological testing

WEARCHECK Water's Johannesburg laboratory was recently awarded ISO/IEC17025 Accreditation for Total Coliforms and E.coli Testing, after a rigorous audit process, adding to the

company's extensive list of certifications, and reinforcing the company's adherence to national and international work-quality standards. WearCheck Water operates under the umbrella of specialist

condition monitoring company, WearCheck, which is the only oil analysis company in Africa with ISO 9001 quality certification and ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management programme, and ISO 17025 accreditation for its laboratory-centric quality management programme. WearCheck Water recently earned SANAS accreditation for AdBlue®/DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) testing.

GM of WearCheck Water, Thelma Horsfield, is proud of her team's achievements.

"It is no easy task to set up the method and gain accreditation - we work for many months to fine-tune methods that we can confidently present to SANAS for approval. Our ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is for the membrane filtration method used in detecting total coliforms and Escherichia coli (E. coli) in water

samples. This accreditation underscores the lab's commitment to delivering precise and reliable water-quality testing services.

"Total coliforms are a group of naturally occurring bacteria found in soil, vegetation, and surface water. Although most coliforms are harmless, their presence in drinking water can indicate possible contamination by pathogens. E. coli, a specific type of coliform, is commonly found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. Certain strains of E. coli can cause serious illness, making its detection crucial for public health.

"The membrane filtration method used by WearCheck Water is a gold-standard technique in microbiological water analysis. It involves passing a water sample through a membrane filter that traps bacteria. The filter is then incubated on se-

lective media, allowing the identification and enumeration of total coliforms and E. coli colonies.

"By securing ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for this method, WearCheck Water's Johannesburg laboratory

"This accreditation not only reflects a high level of technical competence, but also entrusts the individual with substantial responsibility."

demonstrates our technical expertise and commitment to safeguarding public health through accurate and dependable water-quality testing," says Horsfield.

Khensani Mbuli is the WearCheck Water laboratory assistant who played a key role

in securing the accreditation. Through this, she was appointed as an ISO/IEC 17025 Technical Signatory – a significant professional milestone in the field of laboratory testing and calibration.

Horsfield elaborates, "This accreditation not only reflects a high level of technical competence, but also entrusts the individual with substantial responsibility. A Technical Signatory (TS) holds the authority to validate and approve test results, ensuring they meet international standards of accuracy and reliability.

"The journey to becoming a TS is rigorous and demands extensive knowledge, experience, and dedication. The process involves comprehensive training in quality management systems, proficiency in specific testing methods, and a thorough understanding of ISO/IEC 17025 requirements. Candidates

must demonstrate their technical competency through assessments, internal audits, and continuous professional development.

"This role carries immense responsibility, as the TS is accountable for the integrity and validity of laboratory results. Their decisions directly impact public health, environmental safety, and regulatory compliance. Upholding these standards requires unwavering commitment, attention to detail, and adherence to best practices."

Khensani Mbuli is now the seventh member of WearCheck Water's team of accredited senior Technical Signatories, joining Moses Lelaka, Thelma Horsfield, Lerato Letsoalo, Lorato Hotane (nominated representative), Katlego Mokoroane and Michelle Wium.

For more information, please visit www.wearcheck.co.za



Clean water is pivotal to industrial health

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Western Cape water plan tackles drought risks

The Western Cape Water plan aims to increase supply through augmentation, water conservation and demand management, infrastructure development, and governance.



Western Cape Premier Alan Winde

By Larry Claasen

THE Digicon held by Western Cape Premier Alan Winde in March highlighted the province's efforts to become more water resilient and mitigate the impact of possible droughts.

Though the Western Cape is no longer dealing with a water crisis, the fears sparked by it nearly reaching "Day Zero" – the moment when the taps run dry – are driving it to become more water resilient.

Western Cape water strategy aims to prevent future crises

This has led to the Western Cape committing to adding 341-million m³ of water by 2035.

As a way to avert another water crisis, a 15-year plan has been developed, which in turn has led to the Cape Water Resilience Strategy 2035.

The aim of the strategy is not only to secure the water supply but also to drive development in the province, said Graham Paulse, the head of department for the Department of Local Government.

This will see the Western Cape, City of Cape Town, local municipalities, and the national government working together to add 341-million m³ of water through augmentation, water conservation and demand management, infrastructure develop-

ment, and governance.

Western Cape water plan emphasises environmental restoration

Augmentation will involve the removal of alien plant species and the restoration of wetlands. Water conservation will focus on reducing domestic water consumption and increasing efficiency in business and industrial use.

There are also extensive plans not only to maintain existing infrastructure but also to develop new water-related projects. The strategy also includes governance interventions to improve skills and strengthen disaster preparation.

The Western Cape has also assessed the water security risk of its municipalities and introduced interventions, such as requesting the national Department of Water and Sanitation to increase the water licence capacity of some municipalities and assisting them with borehole initiatives.

Western Cape water projects receive major investment boost

For the 2025/26 period, Paulse said that R32-million had been committed to priority projects, such as raising the Dassieshoek Dam in Langeberg.

The Western Cape is also looking to develop town-based Water Resilience Plans for all its municipalities.

Paulse said that when measured year-on-year, there has been a significant improvement in water resilience in the province.

"As we move towards a broader water resilience strategy within the province, our efforts over the last 10 years are yielding significant improvement in the water supply systems in the province."

The efforts to manage water resources were also noted by Winde.

"If I look back at the last time we had a drought and I look at water usage just in the city of Cape Town, we are still using less water per capita now with a population growth that's unbelievable, and we're still using less water per capita than we were using before the drought in 2017," he said.

Western Cape water planning expands to include flood mitigation

The province is not only planning for droughts but also for excessive rainfall, noted Winde.

"We've also got to be prepared for when the rains come. We don't want the floods to wash everything else away again. Are we getting that right? Are we making sure that the water's going to go into the water catchment areas? Are the canals open? Are the drainage areas open?"

Protecting the ecology of South Africa's water systems - SRK Consulting

THE sustainability of South Africa's water systems demands a careful balance between human water needs and the ecological health of our rivers.

Kerry Grimmer, a principal hydrologist at SRK Consulting, highlights the significance of considering ecological water requirements (EWRs), which are fundamental to responsible water management.

"The 'reserve', as outlined in South Africa's National Water Act, is designed to ensure that water is allocated not just for human consumption but also to sustain the health of our aquatic ecosystems," she explains. "The reserve comprises two components: the basic human needs reserve, which ensures essential water supply for people, and the ecological reserve, which maintains the integrity of river systems."

"Using the Desktop Reserve Model developed by Professor Denis Hughes and Rhodes University, SRK determines the appropriate EWRs for different river systems."

She emphasises the importance of incorporating EWRs into hydrological models, ensuring that water projects do not compromise the health of rivers.

Natural flow

"When SRK assesses water resources for projects, we take into account the needs of existing downstream users," she says. "We also recognise that, if we don't protect the natural flow and quality of our water systems, we risk long-term degradation of the river."

She highlights that water management demands a fair distribution of water between human consumption (domestic water supply), agricultural irrigation, mining and industry, and environmental conservation. If too much water is extracted, the consequences could include loss of biodiversity and habitat destruction.

In addition, the return water into a river



system can result in poor water quality, especially when coupled with unnaturally decreased river flows. This can be caused by applying fertilizer to irrigation water, for example, which can be washed into the river system or seep into the groundwater. Non-compliant return water from a water treatment plant could also compromise water quality.

SRK's methodology includes determining how much water must remain in a river to support its natural ecosystem.

Long-term health of rivers

"This is especially important when assessing the yield of a dam or a water supply system," she continues. "The more water allocated to the EWR, the less is available for allocation to users. However, this sacrifice is necessary to preserve the long-term health of our rivers."

Different river systems and catchments require varying levels of EWRs, depending on their condition. They are therefore classified on a scale from Class A, which represents pristine conditions, to Class E, which indicates severe

degradation.

Using the Desktop Reserve Model developed by Professor Denis Hughes and Rhodes University, SRK determines the appropriate EWRs for different river systems.

"The calculations take into account natural flow patterns, which are the flows that would occur without any man-made impacts," she explains. "Our goal is to mimic natural conditions as closely as possible, ensuring that our rivers continue to function as healthy ecosystems."

For more information: <https://www.srk.com/>

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Industrial gear units for mixing and agitating processes - BMG



BMG's Nord agitator drive systems – which easily move large masses in agitating and mixing applications – consist of an electric motor, frequency inverter, MAXXDRIVE® gear unit and accessories.

NORD Drive Systems – designed by German precision engineers, Getriebebau Nord and assembled locally by BMG – encompass modular drive configurations that ensure optimum performance of mechanical speed control for specific applications, in almost every industry.

Typical applications are in water, wastewater, waste and raw materials management.

“Nord drive solutions, which meet stringent local and international quality standards, are known for reliability, energy-efficiency, low noise levels, extended service life and reduced

maintenance,” says Johan “Os” Stoltz, product specialist – national product specialist, Nord Drive Systems, BMG’s electromechanical drives division.

“These modular drive systems incorporate advanced drive technology and special design features, to meet the precise requirements of every operation. Pumps, mixing and agitating systems are required to meet high demands in environmental technology, to distribute safe drinking water, convey wastewater and circulate activated sludge.

“BMG’s Nord agitator drive systems

– which easily move large masses in agitating and mixing applications – consist of an electric motor, frequency inverter, MAXXDRIVE® gear unit and accessories. The Nord MAXXDRIVE series is the only complete industrial gear unit system on the market with a one-piece Unicase lightweight housing for mixing and agitating processes.

“Nord helical and helical bevel gear units – available from BMG in various sizes and speed ratios – offer high operational reliability and protection against leaks through optimum sealing. The robust and rigid design enables the system to cope with excessive loads, while the short total axis spacing results in low bending torques and extended operation times for the entire drive system.

“BMG also offers a wide range of attachment options for simple and economical integration into mixing and agitation industry applications. We also supply numerous NORD drive components as explosion-protected ATEX versions, for safe operation in hazardous areas, including Zone 1, 2, 21 or 22.”

Nord MAXXDRIVE units offer high output torques, from 15 to 282 kNm and ensure reliable operation even

under extreme conditions. These compact industrial gear units are designed for vertical and horizontal installation positions, requiring minimal space.

An important feature is the IEC/NEMA approved (SAFOMI – Seal-less) adapter for agitators, which prevents vibrations during operation.

This adapter includes an oil compensation volume, so attachments and wearing parts, like an oil tank and drive shaft sealing ring, are not necessary. This results in greater operational reliability and reduced maintenance. Existing MAXXDRIVE helical gear units with standard IEC/NEMA adapters can be easily converted for SAFOMI adapters.

Nord drive systems for agitators, pumps and mixers used in process plants are engineered with reinforced bearings and increased bearing spacing.

Reinforced and larger output shaft bearings allow the gear unit to absorb high radial and axial bearing loads that occur during the agitating process. Advantages of oversized output bearings include quick assembly, large bore capacities, high radial load capacity and longer service life.

For more information: www.bmgworld.net

Innovative steps must be taken to tackle the country's water challenges

By Yershen Pillay, CEO of the Chemicals Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA)

MORE than three million South Africans lack access to essential water, and 19% of rural communities in South Africa do not have access to a reliable water supply. An estimated 26% of our schools face severe water supply challenges, and only 23% of our municipalities achieved good capacity scores for effective water management.

Economic forecasts indicate that water demand in 2030 could exceed supply by 10%. Given the grim picture painted by the data, how do we address the water problem and end water poverty? As we observe World Water Day, this is a crucial question for the chemical industry and society.

As a skills and training authority, CHIETA is committed to providing the requisite skills needed to change the narrative through our initiative to create “wantrepreneurs”. We want to explore partnerships on clean water harvesting to ensure

that South Africa is not left behind.

The escalating water crisis requires immediate action by all stakeholders in society. A root cause analysis points to failing municipal infrastructure, climate change leading to changing rainfall patterns, and the lack of innovative solutions as possible causal factors.

South Africa needs an innovation-driven strategy focusing on novel water security solutions. Five innovation-driven solutions can be considered. First, new technologies can help us achieve water independence for all.

This requires deliberate leveraging of digital and green technologies for more effective water management. We need more significant investments in new water technologies, such as climate-resilient water systems that will assist us in ending water poverty and meeting our sustainability goals.

Second, a concerted effort to mainstream water as a circular resource with more incentives for firms who treat and recycle water in their businesses. Businesses need to see

what's in it for them before they commit to sustainable water practices.

Our current water infrastructure is unable to distribute value to citizens. Poor water infrastructure is often the most visible sign of water poverty. From an innovation perspective, we should not push water infrastructure into communities but provide an enabling environment where local economic development is forced to “pull” water infrastructure into communities.

The fourth strategic intervention is to adopt innovative pull strategies, such as investing in new skills for effective water management. This is far more effective at triggering sustainable water development and facilitating water security for all. This is the role of a highly qualified and competent water engineer. By closing the skills gap in water management, the country could position itself as a global leader in producing high-quality water-related skills for the international market.

During a recent lecture by Professor Omar Yaghi, a global expert in reticular chemistry, new research on clean water production was explored in detail. Reticular chemistry is the science of linking molecules using strong bonds and may provide sustainable solutions to clean water production. With over 30 years of research, Yaghi has demonstrated how metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are driving advancements in clean water production in various parts of the world.

There is more water in the air than in all rivers and dams in the world. Professor Yaghi and his team have developed MOF water harvesters that can harvest water from the air. This exciting and useful technology produces ultra-pure, distilled water, with the MOF acting as a molecular filter. Imagine the possibilities of every rural community having an independent water harvester at their doorstep!

The fifth strategic intervention for facilitating water security is to adopt independent water harvesting from the air using research from the field of reticular chemistry.

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Borehole Water Association sets record straight amid National Water and Sanitation Indaba



FOLLOWING the recent media coverage of a borehole that damaged the Gautrain tunnel in Johannesburg, the Borehole Water Association of Southern Africa (BWA) has emphasised that borehole drilling is not an illegal activity and has advocated for the responsible and legal use of borehole water amid the National Water and Sanitation Indaba on 27-28 March 2025 at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, Gauteng.

This crucial gathering highlights the government's commitment to tackling South Africa's water security challenges and ensuring reliable, sustainable water and sanitation services for all citizens.

According to Albertus Lombaard, technical advisor in the BWA Drilling Division, borehole drilling provides access to the earth's most valuable resource – safe drinking water – access to which is internationally recognised as a human right. Lombaard explained that 'Consent for borehole' procedures were in place, but these measures had not been consistently enforced or followed due to the ongoing water crisis.

"The unfortunate incident involving a non-

member of the BWA drilling into the Gautrain tunnel has highlighted the consent process, leading to a standstill in the borehole drilling industry in Gauteng," he said. "As a consequence of this incident, drillers have been arrested, and police officials are demanding to see proof of consent."

He said that city by-laws safeguard municipal infrastructure, and most municipalities implement an approval process to minimise the risk of damage to this infrastructure. The process is to gather input from various departments before drilling can be conducted.

"In light of the water crisis in Gauteng, the BWA is currently collaborating with the City of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni municipalities to expedite borehole consent approvals and reduce the turnaround time for these approvals," he said.

He pointed out that, in 2016, a memorandum of agreement (MoU) had been signed by Johannesburg Water managing director Lungile Dhlamini and BWA President, Colin Rice to encourage the city's residents to switch to borehole water – as a way of mitigating the crippling

drought.

Although the drought has not continued, the challenges related to water availability and infrastructure conditions have left many taps in the city dry in recent months, continued Lombaard, emphasising the importance of boreholes in alleviating short-term water crises.

"The BWA advocates for the responsible and legal use of borehole water throughout Southern Africa," he said. "BWA members engage in responsible drilling activities that consider risks to infrastructure and manage those risks appropriately."

He encouraged the public to consult their drilling contractor to understand and mitigate site-specific risks, adding that minimum standards from the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) were available to guide drilling activities for the successful installation of a borehole.

"The BWA has engaged with city officials to establish a working group, where we collaborate to explore ways of expediting the consent process," he said.

"The BWA urges clients, contractors and officials to approach each situation with caution and restraint while the city and industry strive to find a quicker path forward."

Groundwater is the primary source of water for over 80% of towns in Southern Africa, noted Lombaard.

"Water is life, and a compliant borehole allows responsible access to this precious resource," he said.

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Lubrication's role in achieving operational sustainability goals - Lubrication Engineers

SUSTAINABILITY isn't just something that happens at the macro level of business decision-making, it's a key principle that companies need to apply across their organisations. For those in machine-intensive sectors, which can include everything from mining to port operations, manufacturing, construction and beyond, equipment lubrication is an important area to consider in terms of sustainability.

One of the key means of improving sustainability around equipment lubrication is by using the right products. Gavin Ford, national marketing manager at Lubrication Engineers (LE) South Africa, says this has multiple benefits.

Higher quality lubricants extend the life of equipment, which reduces waste; they help it to run more efficiently, often resulting in reductions in power usage; they last longer, so overall consumption quantities are reduced; and importantly, the composition of the lubricants themselves are often more considered and have a lower direct environmental impact.

As an example, for applications on or near water, the Earthwise EAL Wire Rope Grease (3353) from LE's Earthwise range is a certified environmentally acceptable lubricant that is biodegradable, has minimal aquatic toxicity, and will not build up in fish and other aquatic life forms' bodies.

Cleaning solutions

Oil spills can cause significant environmental damage, kill microscopic organisms and harm entire food chains. "We offer a really effective solution to help with oil spills, called Oil Spill Eater II (OSE II)," says Ford.

"It converts waste into a natural food source for bacteria found in aquatic environments. Because it does this by using a biological enzyme for the conversion, unlike other supposed bioremediation oil clean-up techniques, OSE II is not a bacterium, a fertilizer or dispersant product," explains Ford.

"OSE II contains nutrients that attract indigenous bacteria. These then rapidly multiply,

which speeds up the natural spill remediation process as the bacteria release enzymes and biosurfactants that attack the spill. The biosurfactants emulsify the spill, breaking it down to be used as a food source for the bacteria, with the end products being CO2 and water."

OSE II is an extremely environmentally safe and cost-effective bioremediation process for the mitigation of large or small hazardous waste, spills and contamination. It can bioremediate most organic-based compounds and almost all hydrocarbon-based compounds.

"Often, clients use OSE II in tandem with our Greentastic industrial cleaner, which is a powerful and water-based liquid concentrate cleaner," says Ford. It is effective for cleaning like degreasing parts, washing trucks and tractors, and cleaning food manufacturing equipment and concrete surfaces. "It is non-caustic, non-acidic, non-flammable and contains no abrasives, all of which are important factors for sustainability," says Ford.

Ensuring a sustainable future: Pump innovations for wastewater treatment promote water security and sustainability - Verder Pumps

UNTREATED wastewater significantly worsens global water scarcity, with around 80% released untreated, and just 8% treated in low-income countries.

This leads to contamination, disease, declining biodiversity, and toxic algae blooms. However, effective wastewater treatment is achievable. Investing in innovative pump solutions is essential for ensuring water security, driving sustainability, and supporting socioeconomic progress, while safeguarding our health and vital resources.

Verder Pumps' dosing pump ranges are comprehensive, encompassing an array of solutions tailored to meet diverse dosing requirements which are further bolstered by the Microdos and ITC ranges. From electromagnetic solenoid-powered diaphragm pumps to peristaltic pumps and motor-driven piston and diaphragm pumps, the portfolio encompasses

a versatile suite of products designed to deliver precise and controlled chemical dosing across various applications.

These pumps are necessary in industries such as municipal water treatment for wastewater and drinking water as well as industrial wastewater management where accurate dosing is imperative.

The company's ITC DOSmart series, for example, are stepper motor metering pumps with advanced control functions to accurately automate the dosing of liquid chemicals. These dosing pumps offer high precision, broad adjustment possibilities (1:3000) and an excellent suction capacity, including with viscous products, at a flow rate of up to 60 l/hr.

The DOSmart series is also integratable with multiparametric controllers for monitoring and controlling proportional chemical dosing for water treatment and industrial processes. This includes the ability

to monitor chemical levels, flow and temperature, as well as adjust them through the control outlets.

Similarly, the ITC Dostec AC series is a new generation of dosing pumps. Its advanced control allows precise and efficient automatic dosing, making it well positioned as a versatile solution for dosing a wide range of chemicals. Available in diaphragm or piston, this series allows adaptable dosing settings, whether manual, analogue, proportional or batch, offering the ability to set up dosing programmes at set intervals for greater efficiency and operational control. With similar capabilities as the DOSmart, the Dostec AC series can manage higher flow rates (ranging from 3 to 1200 l/hr for piston and 5 to 1800 l/hr for diaphragm) and is controlled with a VSD.

Both the DOSmart and Dostec AC series pumps can be remotely monitored and con-

trolled via a Cloud-Manager App which revolutionises the way pump systems are monitored and managed, offering a seamless digital interface for real-time data access and control. This cutting-edge application enables users to remotely monitor pump performance, track operational metrics, and receive instant alerts about system status and potential issues, all from a centralised platform. The app facilitates proactive maintenance, reducing downtime and optimising efficiency, which is crucial for maintaining seamless operations.

Additionally, Verder Pumps' Verderflex® peristaltic pumps are a fundamental component of their dosing pump range. These pumps are specifically engineered to manage abrasive, corrosive, and viscous fluids, making them perfect for dosing and transferring chemicals used in water treatment processes.

By employing a re-enforced rubber hose subjected to compression and relaxation cycles, peristaltic pumps ensure the contained medium, such as lime or flocculant, remains isolated from the pump's moving parts. This design minimises downtime and maintenance costs associated with traditional pump types, offering a cost-effective and reliable solution for dosing applications. Moreover, peristaltic pumps boast advantages such as compact size, energy efficiency, continuous operation, and reduced risk of leakages, contributing to enhanced operational efficiencies and environmental sustainability.

The integration of advanced dosing pump technology not only enhances industrial processes' efficiency but also holds profound implications for environmental conservation and water resource management. By facilitating precise chemical dosing and wastewater treatment, fit-for-purpose pump solutions play a pivotal role in safeguarding freshwater sources, ensuring the sustainability of water resources.

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Condra's local production and dedication to ISO standards sees customers get quality equipment

Local crane maker cautions market over the danger of buying imported crane equipment of questionable quality

CONDRA has proven itself to be a leading player in South Africa's overhead crane sector.

This can be seen in the company building its Germiston factory expressly for crane manufacture on a site 22 000m² in area, 8 000m² of which is under roof.

There are two other Condra factories, one in Cape Town and one in Gabrovo, Bulgaria. In the Germiston works, overhead cranes are designed to specification and locally manufactured from some 250 modular sub-assemblies, the main components being hoists, drives, end-carriages, brakes, gearboxes and motors.

Condra makes all 250 except for the motors, hooks and rope, which are imported. Condra's entire hoist range – from 1 to 500 tons in capacity – is locally manufactured.

This kind of capacity means it's hard to match the group locally when it comes to market leadership in this industry. Even so, this does not mean that it has things its own way, as offshore competitors provide stiff competition.

"The most aggressive country exporting cranes and components to South Africa is China," says Condra MD Marc Kleiner.

He warns that though some cranes are price competitive, customers should seriously evaluate the quality of the equipment.

"I am not suggesting that China doesn't make good cranes, because of course there are Chinese companies that make excellent cranes, but the equipment reaching South Africa is generally the cheapest and most prone to breakdown, because it is only by buying the cheapest crane components that South African importers can compete."

Customers should also be aware that just because some cranes seem very similar to high profile brands, it does not mean their parts can be easily swapped out for each other.

"These imported hoists are not interchangeable," said Kleiner, "and neither are their parts, because the Chinese manufacturers had to make slight changes to the original design to avoid accusations of patent infringement."

"So, the risk for the end user lies in the spare parts needed for maintenance of the in-

stalled crane or hoist, because they are not interchangeable between suppliers. If he does not have the necessary spare part in stock, the supplier will try to source it elsewhere. But these parts, even

though they look exactly the same, are not.

"What then happens is that the South African crane company is forced to modify the part so that it can do the job. But by doing this, whatever warranty

came with the imported hoist is voided. It's risky, and the part likely won't perform to expectations."

Kleiner explained that, in contrast, all Condra's parts are either manufactured in-

house, or are locally sourced from South African suppliers.

"We do have suppliers in Europe but only for rope, hooks and motors. These components are all made to international ISO standards,

which means that the end user or their supplier can source a suitable equivalent from any other country.

"It's a real problem," continued Kleiner. "South African companies importing cheap

hoists or crabs or end-carriages or other components from China are not delivering high quality, interchangeable units to the end user. They are not manufactured to any kind of exacting standard."

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Water storage solutions: SBS Tanks enhance ESG goals



By Diane Silcock

WATER usage by manufacturers globally is being scrutinised, especially in water-intensive sectors of industry. With water being a key component of Environmental Social and Governance (ESG), this framework encourages responsible use and re-use of water. Companies are increasingly turning to water storage solutions to support sustainable practices and meet ESG expectations.

Water storage solutions can enhance a company's ESG value proposition and this is made possible through SBS Tanks (SBS), a leading local manufacturer and major exporter of water storage tanks. SBS has forged global partnerships with clients and communities, working together to mitigate water security risks.

World-class South African manufacturer of water storage solutions

Chester Foster, MD of SBS Tanks says, “We custom design and manufacture over 500 different types of water storage tanks at our facility in KwaZulu-Natal. Due to the modularity and scalability of our tanks, we can install them in any location in the world. They are very robust and built to withstand high winds. Applications fall within fire protection, agriculture, mining, municipal, commercial, and water conservation. We export to 27 countries and have branches in the US and Kenya.”

Addressing the need for water storage due to a failing infrastructure

Due to the ongoing water quality and infrastructure problems in South Africa, SBS is finding

that the food and beverage companies, which are prime users of water, are increasing their water storage facilities.

Large shopping centres are also storing water as they use in excess of 250 000 litres of water per day for HVAC and sanitation, along with storing water for fire suppression, should taps run dry.

In municipal applications, SBS works with community leaders, partnering with municipalities and key stakeholders, to provide communities with access to water. “With quick deployment often being a requirement, we can install a 4ML tank within a month,” says Foster.

Water reuse in mining globally

SBS provides bespoke water storage solutions to all the major mining houses around the world. Tanks are built

for raw storage of water, as well as for process water post the mining process, which the mine then cleans up and stores again for reuse.

Additionally, SBS has developed a world-first seismic calculator with the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University that determines the ability of a tank to withstand certain earthquake magnitudes on the Richter Scale. “We are extremely proud of this development. It’s an important tool for us in mining which has received approval in the US. It enables us to design our tanks taking into account seismic activity in an area.”

Next step in evolution of water provision

Foster predicts that desalination, as well as rainwater harvesting will be the next step in the evolution of water provision.

City replaces over 20km of water and sewer pipes in February



Malibongwe Mangqasana operating the machinery for the trenchless pipe replacement project in West Beach.

THE City of Cape Town’s Water and Sanitation Directorate successfully replaced 22 255m of water and sewer pipes in February 2025, as part of its ongoing infrastructure maintenance and upgrade programme.

These essential upgrades ensure a reliable water supply and the efficient conveyance of sewage through the City’s reticulation systems.

With this latest progress, the total pipe replacement for the 2024/2025 financial year now stands at 41 146m of water pipes and 76 871m of sewer pipes replaced.

In February 2025, the following replacements were made:

- 9 520m of water pipes were replaced in Simon’s Town, Hout

Bay, Kommetjie, Bergvliet, Retreat, Ottery, Fish Hoek, Macassar, Sarepta, Kuils River, Sir Lowry’s Pass Village, Strand, Devon Park, Eerste River, Gordon’s Bay, Bellville Phase 2, Wellway Park East, Sea Point, Goodwood and Panorama.

- 12 735m of sewer pipes were replaced in Constantia, Wynberg, Plumstead, Kuils River, Bellville, Table View, Montague Gardens and Panorama.

“The City has committed R523-million towards city-wide water and sewer pipe replacement. It’s commendable that the directorate has reached 82% of its targeted 50 000m of water pipes and 76% of its targeted 100 000m sewer pipes in several projects across the metropole. I have no doubt that these targets will be met, if not exceeded, at the end of the financial year in July 2025. “The City will continue to make record-setting investments in Cape Town’s water and sanitation infrastructure. The budget, now out for comment from the public, will provide the directorate with another R5-billion boost for this coming financial year – this is more than double the R2,3-billion spent on Water and Sanitation in the City’s first budget in 2022. Over the next three years R16,6-billion is being allocated to Water and Sanitation. Just this portion of the capital budget is more than the entire capital budgets of Tshwane and Ekurhuleni combined,” said councillor Zahid Badroodien, Mayoral Committee Member for Water and Sanitation.

While the City understands that construction work may cause temporary inconvenience, these upgrades are vital for ensuring long-term reliability and improved services for all residents.

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Babcock delivers 30 DAF Trucks to Tanzania's Usangu Logistics



WHEN Dutch Health sought a fleet of trucks for its Tanzanian client, one key requirement was a strong Dutch connection. Traditionally a provider of medical equipment and healthcare solutions, Dutch Health recently expanded its services to assist a Tanzanian client with the financing and procurement of a large fleet of trucks.

Usangu Logistics, aiming to become a leading surface logistics and road transportation company in East and Central Africa, required 30 new trucks to support its expansion into Southern Africa. This strategic move

enhances its ability to provide land-based logistical solutions to a growing regional client base. Securing finance for a large capital purchase is often challenging, particularly in an environment where financial institutions are increasingly risk-averse.

While Dutch Health had not previously operated in the heavy transport sector, the company demonstrated remarkable agility in securing a turnkey finance solution for the acquisition of 30 DAF CF430 FTT trucks from Babcock, the sole distributor of DAF Trucks

in Southern Africa.

A key factor in securing the deal was the requirement from Dutch Health's Netherlands-based funding partner that at least 20% of the truck components originate from the Netherlands. With DAF's strong Dutch heritage, Babcock was well-positioned to meet this criterion.

"Our collaboration with Dutch Health and ability to deliver the right vehicle specifications were key factors in Usangu's decision to choose DAF Trucks," says Alfred Hoyer, sales representative at Babcock.

The trucks, deliv-

ered with flat-deck trailers for transporting various goods, were handed over in 2024. As part of the process, Babcock sent two technicians to conduct pre-delivery inspections at Usangu Logistics' Tanzanian depot. Additionally, a shipment of genuine DAF parts was provided to support the fleet's operations. While Usangu Logistics has the capability to service its trucks locally, they can also be maintained in South Africa during trips to the region.

Looking ahead, Babcock and Dutch Health are collaborating on the procurement of an additional 30 DAF units for Usangu Logistics and exploring new opportunities for other African customers.

"We are pleased with the successful delivery of the Tanzanian project in close cooperation with Babcock. This partnership was executed with full transparency, and we are currently working on two more projects in Africa involving DAF Trucks," says Pieter Wiemers, MD of Dutch Health BV.

Transport management is critical for efficient global supply chains - SAPICS

TRANSPORTATION is a vital link in virtually all supply chains. How goods are moved and effective transport management play a critical role in the efficiency of global supply chains.

Recognising this, supply chain industry body SAPICS is committed to building excellence in individuals and enterprises involved in every component of supply chain management, including transportation and logistics.

One way that the organisation is doing this is through the annual SAPICS Conference, Africa's leading event for the supply chain profession. Now in its 47th year, this important gathering takes place in Cape Town from 8 to 11 June 2025 and will include presentations focused on transport excellence, innovation and the digital revolution that is redefining supply chain and logistics, the organisers have announced.

The SAPICS Conference offers vital learning, networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for everyone involved in all the diverse aspects of supply chain management. It is a must-attend event for all supply chain practitioners at all levels and for anyone working with the supply chain profession, SAPICS says. For the first time, Demand Driven World will be held as part of the SAPICS Conference.

An innovative transport strategy that incorporates advanced technologies can drive cost efficiency, enhance service levels and reduce an organisation's carbon footprint, reshaping



Melicia Buddan, group transport excellence manager at Illovo Sugar Africa

the way transport and supply chains are optimised. At this year's SAPICS Conference, presenters Richard Solomons and Carsten Schubert will outline how this was achieved by leading African beverage company Distell. Sourcing and logistics specialist Solomons and Schubert, who is the chief operating officer at Transnova South Africa, worked with Distell prior to its acquisition by Heineken to redesign and optimise its network and implement a cutting-edge transportation management system.

As supply chains become more complex, seamless coordination is essential. This is the topic of a compelling 2025 SAPICS Conference presentation by David Lubinsky, MD at Opsi Systems South Africa and Bremer Paauw, the Africa managing director at DHL Supply Chain, South Africa. They will share transport management and transport asset utilisation success stories from 15 countries.

"Finding the sweet spot to digital transformation in supply chains" is the title of a presentation by Melicia Buddan, who is the

group transport excellence manager at Illovo Sugar Africa. Her interactive and insightful session is designed to equip SAPICS Conference attendees with practical strategies for navigating digital transformation.

An enlightening session on the adoption of outsourcing for transporting health products across more than 10 countries will be presented by Angelina Cumba and Olivier Defawe from VillageReach, a non-profit organisation based in Seattle in the United States. VillageReach works with governments, the private sector and communities to improve how medicines, vaccines, health information and services are delivered to the hardest-to-reach people.

This year's SAPICS Conference programme features 50 local and international experts and industry leaders. The event also includes 11 practical workshops. To find out more or to register to attend the 2025 SAPICS Conference, contact event organiser Upavon.

For more information: <http://www.sapics.org>

The Ctrack Quarterly Transport and Freight Index – Q1 2025

THE Ctrack Transport and Freight Index (Ctrack TFI) declined for eight consecutive months to reach an index level of 112,8 in January 2025, the lowest since December 2022 and a declining streak resembling the strain experienced amid the Covid-19 pandemic, when the economy sagged into a deep recession.

At this level the index

is 5% below a year earlier and a notable 10,1% below the May 2024 print of 126,5, suggesting a significant U-turn in the latter months of 2024.

The weakness in the logistics sector has been quite broad-based during 2024, resulting in the sector subtracting from overall economic growth. This is quite a disappointing performance as the transport

sector has often in the past been an outperformer relative to the broader economy, but that trend had changed abruptly.

For calendar year 2024, three sub-sectors contracted with the heavy-weighted road freight sub-sector leading the way with a contraction of 2,8%.

Transport via pipelines contracted for a second consecutive

year, by 1,8% in 2024 (-1% in 2023), while the sub-component for storage and handling contracted for a third consecutive year.

The heavily weighted Road Freight sub-sector, which has grown notably in recent years and currently accounts for 83,1% of all freight payload in South Africa (down from 84,4% in 2023), contracted notably in 2024.



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SnoLink Logistics to boost operational capacity by 43% after Clearwater Capital acquisition

PRIVATE equity fund manager Clearwater Capital has announced the purchase of Etlin International (Pty) Ltd's temperature-controlled storage and logistics arm through a business rescue deal. This division, SnoLink Logistics, will continue to serve its existing customer base, which includes several Blue Chip retailers.

"This acquisition reflects South Africa's evolving supply chain, offering a reliable and trustworthy route to market," commented Clearwater Capital executive chairman, Harish Mehta. "Clearwater has had an interest in this sector for several years – this acquisition was a strategic one."

"Furthermore, it creates new opportunities for importers of temperature-sensitive products, like ice cream and mechanically deboned meat, to access the South African market with greater confidence."

Under the new ownership structure, the logistics provider will maintain its workforce of 480 employees. However, there are plans to grow the company in the

near future. Currently, expansion is underway nationally to increase the company's capacity by 43%. Part of this includes building a new facility in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, with construction due to commence in 2026.

Christopher Nulliah, who has been with the company for over two decades, will remain SnoLink Logistics' MD. "Navigating this new chapter under Clearwater Capital's ownership presents an exciting opportunity for SnoLink," said Nulliah.

He added, "Our continued commitment to excellence and strategic expansion plans will allow us to better serve our customers. With a focus on enhancing capacity and maintaining the highest standards in temperature-controlled logistics, we are poised for even greater growth in the years ahead."

Currently, the temperature-controlled storage and logistics arm specialises in several key services, such as the import of food products; however, it facilitates exports as well. Furthermore, SnoLink also provides solutions

for frozen, chilled, and ambient temperature-controlled product warehousing, port clearing services, and long haul and fine distribution to the country's leading retailers.

Additionally, SnoLink facilitates the export of local products, such as frozen concentrate, used in the US and European beverage industries.

Through this expanding transition, SnoLink has acquired certifications and accreditations, such as FSSC22000, a distinction granted to only a handful of cold storage operators to date. Other accreditations include PPECB, which qualifies SnoLink to handle perishable cargo exports.

Clearwater Capital, a majority black-owned private equity management firm, was founded in 2004. The firm combines strategic and entrepreneurial insight with operational excellence to deliver strong returns and drive positive social impact. Clearwater Capital is a partner of City Logistics in Fastway Couriers.

JAC Motors launches eco-friendly X200 EV 1.9-tonne forward-cab

JAC Motors South Africa, has introduced the world's first right-hand-drive battery-electric X200 EV forward-cab. Expanding its leadership in the local Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) truck market, the new, versatile X200 EV 1.9-tonne provides transport operators with a sustainable, eco-friendly, cost-effective solution tailored for smaller payloads amidst evolving logistics requirements.

The X200 EV is designed to meet today's transport and logistics demands with eco-friendly efficiency. Perfect for modernising commercial fleets, the versatile X200 EV supports global sustainability goals while reducing costs. Its reliable electric propulsion system ensures zero emissions and instant torque, making it ideal for cost-effective, last-mile urban deliveries.

The new X200 EV 1.9-tonne joins JAC Motors' versatile X-Series line-up, locally introduced in 2017 and known for its affordability, reliability and low ownership costs. The X200 2.8L TDI 1.5-tonne single-cab and 1.3-tonne double-cab, seating six, also stand out for their superior performance

and fuel efficiency, bigger payloads and higher specification levels than their rivals, including ABS and air-conditioning.

JAC Motors, founded in 1964 as a truck manufacturer, expanded into passenger vehicles and bakkies in 2007. Since 2014, it has produced battery-electric trucks ranging from 2.5 to 12 tonnes. Subsequently, after the global launch of the popular N75 EV 4-tonne in 2019, over 2 500 units have been sold to date to major worldwide transport and logistics operators like Amazon and DHL. The new X200 EV expands JAC Motors' BEV range, showcasing the company's vision of a zero-emissions future by providing efficient, cost-effective workhorses to the market.

"We have been able to successfully sign up major transport operators with our N55 EV and N75 EV trucks, and we are now building on our experience over the last three years to meet the growing demand for smaller, cost-efficient, green-energy workhorses," says Karl-Heinz Göbel, CEO of JAC Motors South Africa. "Our new X200 EV offers transport operators reliable, ef-



ficient and sustainable cost-saving solutions for their logistical needs."

Mirroring the advanced propulsion system of the N75 EV, the X200 EV features a reliable synchronous electric motor generating 50 kW (105 kW peak power) and 140/300 Nm, delivering instant torque. The X200 EV is powered by a 63.75 kWh lithium-ion phosphate (LFP) battery with a 200 Ah capacity.

With a fully charged battery, the X200 EV offers a range of up to 230 km, depending on load and traffic conditions.

It supports both European CCS2 AC and DC charging standards. Charging the X200 EV from 20% to 80% with a DC fast charger takes 35 minutes, while a full charge requires 90 minutes.

Regenerative braking helps extend battery life and range.

"The X200 EV is an economical, reliable, and safe solution for last-mile deliveries. It offers over 50% savings in fuel/energy costs compared to conventional workhorses and reduces maintenance costs by up to 70%, minimising your total cost of ownership," says Göbel.

The X-Series features JAC Motors' new heavy-duty ladder-frame chassis with rear integral bridge support, crafted using an advanced stamping and welding treatment process for enhanced durability and strength. The main advantage of a rugged, lightweight chassis frame is its optimal axle weight distribution, which improves safety and makes it robust for various body applications.



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Airlink Achieves IATA Environmental Assessment Certification

AIRLINK's environmental stewardship and sustainability practices have been recognised by the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) Organisation.

Airlink's IEnvA certification confirms its compliance with global standards for environmental practices and also with the Buckingham Palace Declaration for combatting illegal wildlife trade.

Airlink's IEnvA certification will also benefit its customers and partners.

"Airlink's business and leisure customers are increasingly focussed on limiting their environmental impact. Similarly, en-

vironmental preservation and wildlife are core to the livelihoods, enterprises and economies of many of the destinations we serve. As a vital link in that chain, Airlink has a duty to make a positive environmental impact. IATA's endorsement and international certification will help Airlink strengthen trust with its customers, industry partners, regulators and other key players," explained de Villiers Engelbrecht, Airlink CEO.

"Playing our part in the global fight against illegal wildlife trade underpins the values of our airline. This was evidenced in our recent collaboration between Airlink Cargo and the Royal Foundation's United for

Wildlife's Transport Taskforce in the repatriation of some of the world's most vulnerable and endangered animals back to their natural habitats in Madagascar," added Hardus Kuschke, Airlink executive manager cargo responsible for environmental affairs.

The IATA Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) voluntary certification programme independently assesses the commitment of airlines, airports, cargo handling facilities, freight forwarders and other aviation roleplayers, to continuously improve their environmental and sustainability performance. It is based on globally recognised standards and industry best prac-

tices, including the ISO 14001 environmental management system standard and the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA). IEnvA also provides guidelines, procedures and other tools to help organisations improve their sustainability management.

The 2016 Buckingham Palace Declaration, is a landmark agreement initiated by United for Wildlife, an organisation founded by Prince William and The Royal Foundation, to combat illegal wildlife trade. It aims to shut down transportation routes exploited by traffickers of illegal wildlife products and focuses on removing vulnerabilities in the transport and customs sectors.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Internships, Skills & Development Programmes

Empowering the Next Generation with YEP: Free courses on real-life skills for a brighter future

IN a bold move to bridge the skills gap and empower the future leaders of South Africa, New Leaf Technologies announces the launch of its pioneering Youth Empowerment Platform (YEP).

This innovative e-learning initiative is set to transform how young adults, aged 16 to 25, gain access to essential life skills that extend beyond the traditional classroom setting with the aim to equip and inspire them to excel in an increasingly competitive job market.

YEP features expertly designed content and curated top-tier courses that prepare youth for both personal and professional success. By offering this programme free of charge, New Leaf Technologies ensures that all young individuals can benefit from this transformative e-learning experience. From financial management to navigating the professional landscape, YEP provides the essential resources needed for a brighter future.

With cutting-edge eLearning technology, this platform guarantees a seamless, accessible, and engaging learning experience for all participants.

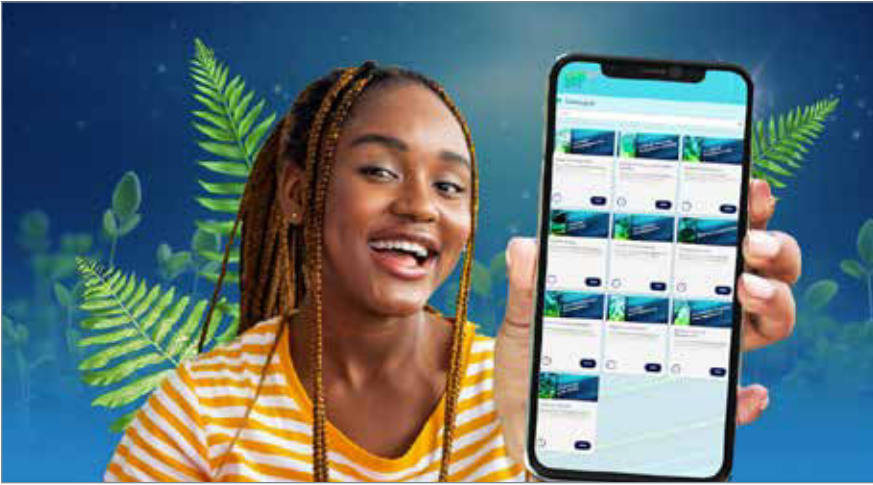
Real-life learning, tangible impact

YEP goes beyond theory, focusing on real-world skills that learners can immediately apply. For example, the Personal Finance & Budgeting course does more than just explain basic savings concepts; it provides a detailed guide to budgeting, understanding credit, and managing debt. This course directly addresses the financial challenges many young people face today.

The Workplace Readiness course prepares learners for the critical transition from education to the workforce, covering everything from CV writing to mastering job interviews and workplace etiquette. This course also includes interactive scenarios and exercises that bring the lessons to life.

Seamless learning, anytime, anywhere

YEP's mobile-responsive design ensures learners can access content from any device—desktop, tablet, or smartphone—



making learning flexible and convenient, no matter where they are.

Powering the platform's course creation and delivery is Articulate, a suite of intuitive, multimedia-friendly tools that make creating engaging courses simple and efficient. With Articulate, educators can design everything from quizzes and interactive simulations to immersive, multimedia-rich experiences that really captivate learners and encourage genuine comprehension.

Here's why Articulate is an ideal tool for YEP:

- Course Authoring Tools: Create engaging multimedia content, including videos, audio, text, quizzes, and more, to craft dynamic learning experiences.
- Student Enrolment and Management Tools: Streamline the enrolment process and manage student progress with built-in tools for easy administration.
- Progress Tracking and Reporting: The learner can track progress, monitor course completion, and generate insightful reports to ensure success.
- Gamification and Engagement Features: Encourage motivation with features like badges, certificates, and discussion prompts to work with a teammate, which foster active participation and achievement.

- Mobile Responsiveness and Accessibility: All courses are designed to be fully responsive, ensuring accessibility across all devices, with features that support diverse learning needs.
- Customisation and Integration: Articulate integrates easily with various marketing, sales, and business tools, allowing for greater customisation and functionality across platforms.

A free and accessible platform for all

One of the standout features of YEP is that it offers an exceptional course offering that is free to access for all young learners. This removes financial barriers, giving every young person the opportunity to access valuable skills and training.

New Leaf Technologies is committed to ensuring that all young people have the resources to take charge of their futures, regardless of their financial circumstances. Additionally, YEP offers seamless integration with top-tier third-party platforms, providing access to a variety of additional tools.

For more information about the YEP project or to understand how New Leaf Tech's suite of learning solutions can elevate your training to its full online potential and help you grow your business, visit www.newleaftech.com or contact New Leaf Technologies at +27 11 234 1159.

Assupol Digital Skills Programme in partnership with 22 On Sloane places 15 learners in the workplace

ASSUPOL, in partnership with 22 On Sloane, is pleased to announce that the Digital Skills Training Programme has successfully commenced its experiential learning component.

As part of this phase, 15 learners will be placed in workplace environments for three months to gain hands-on experience, further enhancing their training and development.

Following the successful recruitment of 15 young people from townships across Gauteng, the first three months of the programme focused on equipping them with essential skills through:

- Systems Development Course
- Workplace Readiness
- Entrepreneurship Training
- Consumer Education on Personal Finance

The final phase, Experiential Learning, aims to bridge the gap between formal qualifications and the practical demands of the working world.

This tailored work-readiness initiative helps first-time workplace entrants develop critical soft skills, forming a strong foundation for a successful career.

While prior work experience is preferred in some fields and a prerequisite for others — such as artisanal trades — Experiential Learning provides new entrants with real industry exposure, improving their employability.

Bongani Ntombela, programme director at 22 On Sloane, commented: "This is a significant milestone in our mission to empower young people, not only by equipping them with relevant skills but also by giving them the opportunity to apply those skills in real workplace settings. We believe this further enhances

their social mobility and enables them to become valuable contributors to the economy. The Assupol Digital Skills Programme is a much-needed intervention and should be replicated."

Head of Group Corporate Affairs at Assupol, Velmah Nzembela said, "We are proud to lend a hand in this critical National agenda to fight against unemployment. At Assupol we are passionate about participating in initiatives that bring about tangible change in the lives of the people we serve. The opportunity afforded to these young people does not benefit them alone, they will take these skills back into their communities and also contribute to the economy of our country.

For programme related inquiries and applications, please contact: Email: info@22onsloane.co, 011 463 7602 and www.22onsloane.co

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South African entrepreneurs should consider setting up offshore: Here's why

IN 2023, South Africa attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows of nearly R100-billion. However, this was just 1,4% of gross domestic product and South African business owners remain hamstrung, to a large extent, by the regulatory, economic, and infrastructure barriers that deter a greater degree of FDI.

Dani van Vuuren, business development manager at Sovereign Group, says that business owners can mitigate the impact of these challenges, and take advantage of many other favourable elements, by establishing strategic interests offshore. "South Africa is home to many global high-growth industries, particularly in sustainability, digital transformation and healthcare innovation, and offshore jurisdictions offer opportunities to attract international capital that supports profit, operations, and the ability to expand."

Van Vuuren outlines the major opportunities that South African business owners can leverage in offshore jurisdictions:

Regulatory and economic advantages: Frequent policy changes and bureaucratic hurdles hinder long-term business planning in South Africa. In addition, restrictions on money movements often deter foreign investors, especially those that are unfamiliar with exchange controls, and concerns over currency volatility and infrastructure challenges further reduce South Africa's appeal.

Establishing a company in a stable, business-friendly, offshore destination can help to mitigate these risks. Further, offshore structures enable South African entrepreneurs to reap the benefits of international

banking systems and relaxed or no exchange controls.

Credibility and confidence: Favourable destinations, like Mauritius, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Isle of Man, are well-regulated, economically and politically stable, and operate under established legal frameworks. This transparency, alongside efforts to curb money laundering and fraud, are critical components of both peace of mind and ease of doing business for South African entrepreneurs. Many of these jurisdictions have well-established and robust intellectual property protection laws, which are a crucial factor for emerging technologies and sectors.

Access to global systems and resources: International hubs facilitate easier entry into global networks and financial ecosystems, thus fostering growth through international partnerships. When it comes to staffing, operating in a foreign jurisdiction opens up access to a diverse pool of global talent, while still giving South African entrepreneurs the leeway to leverage local resources should they wish to do so.

Advantageous tax agreements: Many jurisdictions provide tax incentives for foreign-owned businesses, including lower personal and corporate income taxes, and a growing network of tax treaties. However, van Vuuren cautions that it is critical to understand the tax implications before setting up offshore: "South Africans must take the legal, tax, and regulatory frameworks of their chosen jurisdiction into account while remaining aware of South African requirements. Tax residency is of particular importance as the status of the shareholders,



Dani van Vuuren, business development manager at Sovereign Group.

directors, and company affects offshore structures, making it essential to consider local laws on controlled foreign companies, effective management, profit shifting, and transfer pricing.

Businesses that do not comply in all respects risk violating South Africa's tax and exchange control laws, leading to penalties being levied."

Van Vuuren adds that, depending on the parties involved, the business interests of an offshore company may be held by an offshore holding company, trust, or foun-

ation, and there may be key advantages for business owners who utilise an offshore structure to hold a South African entity's shares.

"Ultimately, the right offshore structure depends on a variety of factors that, in addition to those outlined above, include business objectives, operational requirements, and reporting obligations. Sovereign Group always advises business owners to partner with professionals in these fields before making any moves," concludes van Vuuren.

Consult by Momentum has appointed Johan Minnie as its new CEO



CONSULT by Momentum has announced the appointment of Johan Minnie as its new CEO, effective 1 July 2025.

A graduate of the University of the Free State Law School, Minnie holds an honours degree in Corporate Finance and Investment Management.

He brings over three decades of experience in the financial services sector, with particular depth in insurance, advisory services and business leadership. He is widely respected for building one of the most formidable adviser and broker forces in the country and for leading large-scale distri-

bution and client engagement efforts with sustained success.

He joins Consult by Momentum from Liberty Group, where he held a number of senior roles over his 27-year tenure. Starting as a legal adviser, Minnie rose to become the group executive responsible for sales and distribution and the bancassurance relationship with Standard Bank. He was also a member of Liberty Holdings' executive committee and the Wealth Exco, chairman of Stonehouse Capital and director of Own your life Rewards, all subsidiaries of Liberty Group.

"Johan is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and currently serves on the ethics and conduct sub-board of the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa. He brings a blend of strategic insight, operational excellence, and a distinctive human touch to his leadership – qualities that will serve him well in his new role."

Executive head at Momentum Advice (and former Consult CEO), Hannes van den Berg, remarked: "Consult's business is built around the value of advice – offering guidance that helps people build and protect their financial dreams. Johan's appointment is a strong endorsement of this purpose. His career has been character-

"We're thrilled to welcome Johan to Consult, as a proven industry leader with deep technical expertise and a rare ability to inspire those around him."

ised by his commitment to ensuring clients become authors of their own life stories, supported by sound, independent advice. "We're thrilled to welcome Johan to Consult, as a proven industry leader with deep technical expertise and a rare ability to inspire those around him. His track record of execution, innovation and client-centred thinking positions him well to lead Consult through its next phase of growth."

Commenting on his appointment, Minnie said: "I'm honoured to take up this role at such an important point in Consult's journey. This is a business with both legacy and momentum, and I look forward to building on that foundation. What drives me is seeing advisers and clients achieve what they didn't think possible."

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