



**VARIOUS FACTORS
SUPPRESS
AGRIBUSINESS
CONFIDENCE IN Q2**

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**CONSTRUCTION,
CIVIL &
STRUCTURAL
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LEGAL FOCUS ON SOUTH DURBAN R90BN 'BATHTUB'

THE gritty industrial area of Prospecton, south of Durban has been thrust into the spotlight after reports that Toyota South Africa Motors' Japanese insurer, Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance has filed a claim in the Durban High Court for R6.5 billion in damages and business interruption caused by flooding in April 2022.

The case against eThekweni Municipality, Transnet and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is concentrating focus on the South Durban Basin and begs the question whether this older industrial area receives the public services and investment its hefty contribution to the region's economy warrants.

According to Business Day, the insurer alleges that the floods cost TSAM almost R4.5 billion in plant repairs and rehabilitation and more than R2 billion in business interruption. The case reportedly claims that the three defendants share the responsibility for the floodwaters that caused the damage due to their failure to maintain waterways and drainage systems.

Business Day reports that Craig Woolley, a partner at law firm Norton Rose Fulbright SA, which is acting for Tokio Marine and TSAM, said that several other Prospecton companies affected by the 2022 floods were also taking action against the three parties.

Less flashy than new developments in the north and west of the municipality, Prospecton hosts other



According to 2022 estimates, the South Durban Basin accounts for 20% of eThekweni Municipality's value-adding production (GDP). This aerial photo shows the extent of flooding in the area in April 2022.
Image: A comprehensive economic flood risk assessment for Prospecton - www.haskoning.com

national and international companies like South African Breweries, Mondi and the South African Petroleum Refineries (Sapref).

Unlike TSAM, which recovered after four months of intensive and expensive cleanup and rehabilitation, the oil refinery was totally shut down due to the damage caused by flooding and has not operated since the April 2022 floods. The oil refinery was sold by bp Southern Africa and Shell Downstream South Africa for a symbolic R1 in May 2024 to the state-owned Central Energy Fund (CEF). The CEF has said it intends to increase the refinery's capacity

from its pre-closure 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) to between 400,000 and 600,000 bpd.

DUTCH EXPERTISE

In October last year, the eThekweni Municipality received the Dutch Risk Reduction and Surge (DRRS) report, handed over by the Netherlands Ambassador. The report was a collaboration between the Dutch government and the municipality, a process which started in March 2023 when the Municipality requested the assistance of the DRRS programme to help formulate a plan to compre-

hensively increase the flood resilience of the South Durban Basin.

In response to the request, the DRRS programme commissioned an economic flood risk assessment for Prospecton. It also mobilised a team of experts who visited Durban to develop a roadmap to achieve a comprehensive flood resilience strategy for the Prospecton area.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

The economic flood risk assessment carried out concluded that the total damage estimate of the April 2022 flood event was R75 billion,

while the economic flood risk (or estimated annual damage) is estimated to be R500 million per year. Relative to the 2022 GDP in eThekweni Municipality of R461 billion and the estimated GDP in the South Durban area of R90 billion, this risk is deemed too high and creates a clear sense of urgency to act, according to the report.

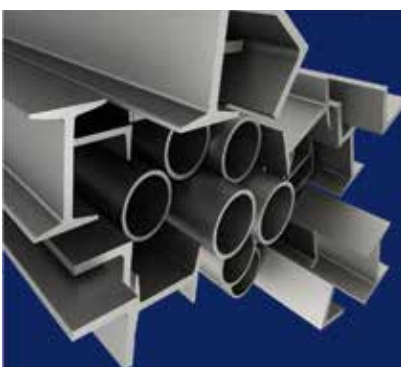
While the sense of urgency is clear from an economic perspective, the report continues, it does not mean that future risk reduction measures should solely focus on the economy. It should also address the social and environmental challenges. This area is an important economic driver for local GDP and provides many jobs for the local communities.

THE UMLAAS CANAL

In its investigation into the situation, the report describes Prospecton as a low-lying, flood-prone area which used to be a larger estuary in which the Mlazi River and Isipingo River confluence towards the sea. With embankments on both sides, the area is topographically considered 'a bathtub'.

The functioning of the Umlaas Canal is critical during flooding. According to the report, flooding of the Prospecton area resulted from three breaches in the Umlaas Canal and was further exacerbated by excessive rainfall in the area.

Previous investigations suggest that the canal *continued on page 2*



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Agreement positions UKZN at the forefront of disrupted energy management

THE University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has signed a pioneering Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Hong Kong-based tech company, Youtility, in a bold move to redefine South Africa's energy future. The partnership will introduce cutting-edge, AI-driven technology set to transform how electricity is managed and distributed, with payments handled through an intelligent, next-generation blockchain billing platform.

According to UKZN, the JVA marks a key milestone in the institution's vision to become South Africa's first predominantly renewable green university, while also marking a significant step forward in developing a blueprint for future national energy distribution. Eskom Distribution, recognising the potential of this innovation, will participate in an observational and advisory capacity, positioning UKZN as a national test bed for this next-generation energy technology.

Speaking at the Launch event and signing ceremony at UKZN's Westville campus, acting deputy vice-chancellor for research and innovation at UKZN, Professor Anil Chuturgoon, welcomed the initiative, calling it a "defining moment" in addressing South Africa's long-standing energy challenges, "This concept of green energy is going to transform the energy landscape in South Africa," he said.

Acting director of the UKZN Eskom Power Engineering Program, Professor Leigh Jarvis, echoed this sentiment, saying that the partnership embodies visionary leadership, innovative thinking and a shared commitment to meaningful transformation. "At its core is the recognition that the future of electricity lies in disruption networks and decentralised energy systems, microgrids underpinned by solar energy, storage and advanced operating systems. These are emerging as key pillars in building a resilient, flexible, and inclusive energy landscape."

Youtility director, Wayne Mostert, spoke of the genius of Youtility's technology in its next-generation Cloud-based, sentient operating system, Wizdom, which is touted to be



Seen at the launch event and signing ceremony held at the UKZN Westville campus: (Back Row) from left: Professor Leigh Jarvis, acting director of the UKZN Eskom Power Engineering Program; Professor Neil Koorbanally, acting dean of Research at UKZN; Dr Nhlanhla Msomi, director of Innovation at UKZN. (Front Row) from left: Wayne Mostert, director: Youtility and Professor Anil Chuturgoon, acting deputy vice-chancellor for Research and Innovation at UKZN, signing the Joint Venture Agreement between UKZN and Youtility. Photographer: Sethu Dlamini

more than just a software suite – "Wizdom is an evolving, AI-driven utility brain with enhanced capabilities which include real-time, decentralised decision-making and smart discharge of power into- micro and macro-grids," he explained.

Drawing parallels with past tech revolutions, Mostert likened Youtility's ambitions to the digital disruption of entertainment media. "Where Blockbuster failed to adapt, Netflix scaled using data, agility, and customer-centricity. Similarly, Youtility is poised to revolutionise the utility sector through sentient, decentralised and user-empowered infrastructure, creating a new global standard," he said.

Professor Jarvis further highlighted the far-reaching benefits of the pioneering initiative. "The resolution of the data and real-time

nature will open up insight into electricity use and enable unparalleled control over power flow in relation to solar, storage and grid," he said.

The project will roll out in phases across UKZN's five campuses (Westville, Howard, Edgewood, Medical School and Pietermaritzburg campuses), beginning at Westville.

Students will also play a crucial role in establishing this transformation, from assisting with hardware maintenance to contributing to research and optimisation projects.

"Through this JVA, we envision student-led spin-off companies and a direct link between academic learning and the industries shaping our energy future," said Jarvis.

Legal focus on South Durban Basin

continued from page one functions below its design capacity. This is likely caused by the localised low points of the parapet wall and the likely assumption of a more favourable roughness coefficient in the original design.

The report says the Umlaas canal has failed and flooded on three occasions: May 1959, September 1987 and April 2022. After the 1987 flood, the Umlaas Flood Working Committee was established. It agreed that the 1 in 100-year design water level was the benchmark. This would be the minimum capacity required for the eThekweni Municipality to take over the canal and the maintenance from the Transnet Port Authority.

Contrary to speculation, the report says the Shongweni Dam is not the root cause for the flooding per se, as it performed as designed and the resulting flood wave had dissipated by the time it had reached the Umlaas Canal.

THE PLAN

The DRRS report identifies and further

elaborates numerous technical, institutional, social, environmental and financial building blocks to form a high-level strategy. These building blocks focus on various stages of the project development cycle and include a list of priority actions for the short-term. Each of the building blocks is linked to an overall planning as well as to a lead organisation. As such the roadmap provides guidance as to how flood resilience can be improved in the next 4 years and onwards.

Receiving the report last year, eThekweni City Manager Musa Mbhele said the report will help guide the city in exploring new developments and risk mitigation measures. "The report will assist the city to safeguard the economy as we will be implementing all the recommendations stipulated in the report by the Netherlands government," he said.

THE RESPONSE

The MEC for Human Settlements and Transport, Siboniso Duma addressed the media in response to the legal claim, saying

he had met with TSAM's president and CEO, Andrew Kirby and that "in our engagement..., [he] pointed out that the litigation proceedings against the Department of Transport, eThekweni Municipality and Transnet SOC Limited are not being facilitated and/or funded by Toyota South Africa Motors.

"He further stressed that Toyota would not benefit in any way from the subrogated recovery action against us. Mr Kirby has emphasised his commitment to work with us to build this province," Duma said.

eThekweni Municipality's spokesperson Gugu Sisilana said the municipality would not comment on the matter as it is sub judice. She also said she could not confirm a media report that the municipality is investing R113 million in upgrading the Umlaas Canal.

Transnet said it is aware of the litigation initiated by Toyota insurers and has filed a notice to defend. "It would therefore be premature to substantiate further on the substance of the case," the state-owned logistics company said in a response to questions.

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Various factors suppress agribusiness confidence in Q2

AFTER a notable uptick in Q1 2025, the Agbiz/IDC Agribusiness Confidence Index (ACI) fell by 5 points in Q2 2025 to 65. Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist, Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz) says most respondents pointed to the uncertain global trade environment, lingering geopolitical tensions, and the domestic animal disease challenge as some of the key factors constraining the sector.

Despite the slight decline, the current level of the ACI, implies that South African agribusinesses remain optimistic about business conditions in the country. The better summer rains and improvements at the ports, which have enabled exports with minimal interruptions, are some of the positives. This survey was conducted in the second week of June, covering various agribusinesses operating in all agricultural subsectors across South Africa.

The ACI comprises ten subindices; six of them declined in Q2 2025, while the rest remained unchanged.

The turnover subindex confidence is down by 5 points to 55 in Q2 2025. "We observed a deterioration in sentiment among agribusinesses operating in the red meat sector, while others maintained a roughly unchanged view from the previous quarter. Similarly, the net operating income subindex fell by 5 points to 65 points in Q2 2025. The drivers were the same as the turnover," says Sihlobo.

The sub-index measuring export sentiment volume fell by 40 points to 60 in Q2 2025. This is still a relatively favourable level. For example, in Q1 2025, South Africa's agricultural exports totalled US\$ 3.36 billion, up 10% from the same period a year ago, according



to data from Trade Map. Thus, the decline in sentiment in Q2 is a normalisation.

The general economic conditions subindex fell by 15 points to 50 in Q2 2025. This indicates concerns about growth prospects this year due to both domestic and global constraints.

The market share of the agribusiness subindex fell by 5 to 65 points in Q2 2025. Most respondents maintained an essentially unchanged view, which enabled the high base to lead to a mild decline in sentiment, Sihlobo explains.

UNCHANGED VIEW

The employment subindex remained flat from the previous quarter at 55 points in Q2 2025. The generally favourable sentiment reflects the upbeat production conditions in field crops and horticulture.

The capital investments subindex was unchanged from Q1 2025 at 75 points. This is unsurprising, as high-frequency data,

such as tractor and combine harvester sales, have remained strong in the first five months of this year, he says.

The general agricultural conditions subindex remained unchanged at 80 points from the first quarter of 2025. This mirrors the positive effects of La Niña rains in the 2024/25 summer season, which has boosted production conditions in field crops and horticulture.

CHANGES IN INTERPRETATION

The subindices of the debtor provision for bad debt and financing costs are interpreted differently from the abovementioned indices. A decline is viewed as a favourable development, while an increase signals growing financial strain.

In Q2 2025, the financing costs indices increased by 10 points to 85. This came as a surprise, as the easing interest rates in the country would have made the financing environment better.

However, the debtor provision for bad debt was unchanged from Q1 2025 at 50. Sihlobo says the subindex remaining at this level suggests that some farmers may still face financial pressures from the previous season, and there will likely be more from the livestock industry, which is currently struggling with foot-

and-mouth disease.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In essence, the ACI results for Q2 2025 illustrate that the mood in the sector remains upbeat about the recovery this year. Still, the results also show that the recovery will likely be uneven as some key subsectors struggle with animal disease. "The dominance of geopolitical concerns amongst respondents' views illustrates South Africa's agricultural sector's strong dependence on export markets and the need to work to diversify markets.

"China, India, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt are among the key markets we should expand into. Still, as we drive the diversification, we must work vigorously to retain the access we have in various markets in the EU, UK, Africa, Asia, Middle-East and the Americas, amongst others," says Sihlobo.

"Also important is the collaborative efforts between business and government on addressing the biosecurity issues in South Africa's agriculture, along with pushing for more efficient network industries, better management of the municipalities, and the implementation of the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan, which is key for the long-term growth of the sector," he concludes.

Industrialisation of the supply chain a focus of renewables masterplan

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy says that the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) will drive localised manufacturing and skills development not only within South Africa but can also provide a blueprint for the rest of the continent.

SAREM was launched on 13 June 2025 during the Africa Green Hydrogen Summit (AGHS) and introduced to stakeholders during a seminar on 19 June 2025 at the Africa Energy Forum (AEF).

SAREM has an overall vision, which is the "industrialisation of the renewable energy and battery storage value chain to enable inclusive participation in the energy transition, serving the needs of society, and contributing to economic revival."

Among others, and with specific targets, SAREM seeks to:

Support local demand for renewable energy and storage by unlocking market demand and system readiness.

Drive industrial development by building renewable energy and storage value chains, through localisation drives in both the public and private sector markets, and supportive trade and industrial policies.

Foster the inclusive development of renewable energy and battery storage value chains by driving transformation of the industry, supporting the development of

emerging suppliers, and contributing to a just transition.

Build local capabilities in terms of skills and technological innovation to enable the rollout of renewable energy and storage technologies and associated industrial development.

Deputy Electricity and Energy Minister, Samantha Graham-Maré said: "The rollout of SAREM will unlock significant job creation, while ensuring a just energy transition. It is a plan that is comprehensive, resilient, and focused on the industrialisation of the renewable energy sector.

"These are crucial aspects, as they will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs across the value chain, while building the skills capabilities needed for the industry. We are seeking to ensure that 25,000 people are employed in the sector by 2030, with a particular focus on the upskilling and active participation of young people and women.

"This living plan allows us to manoeuvre with flexibility and build on facets that are already in place. It strengthens our hand as we work towards achieving SAREM's core objectives. We will continue to monitor and evaluate our activities as the plan is executed, so that we can accurately respond to the needs of the sector," concluded Graham-Maré.

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Demographics and renewables are prompting a rethink of Africa's energy systems

WITH 70% of the continent's population under the age of 30 and a projected population surge to 1.7 billion by 2030, Africa is on the cusp of a demographic transformation. That's an additional 350 million people – equivalent to the entire population of the United States – in just five years. Half of them will live in cities, intensifying the demand for reliable, scalable, and clean energy. The centralised, slow-moving energy models of the past are ill-equipped to meet this challenge. Instead, Africa has a historic opportunity to leapfrog legacy systems and build an energy future that is digital, decentralised, and sustainable from the outset.

This is the reality of the energy trilemma. Countries across the continent need to address the challenges of access to energy, sustainability, and affordability. The buildings and construction sector accounts for 30% of CO2 emissions. There is huge scope for efficiency and to curb emissions.

According to Schneider Electric, Africa's energy future must be shaped by solutions that emerge from within – designed for local needs, grounded in local conditions, and driven by local talent. The continent's diverse environments and rapidly evolving urban and rural dynamics require energy systems that are adaptable, resilient, and context-specific.

Schneider Electric is proud to launch its Innovation Hub: a space dedicated to collaboration, delivering tailor-made solutions, and nurturing African ingenuity. By investing in local innovation and fostering cross-sector collaboration, Schneider Electric aims to build an energy future that is not only sustainable, but truly African by design. By fostering local innovation and enabling cross-sector collaboration, it aims to build an energy ecosystem that is not only sustainable, but also authentically African.



A BLUEPRINT FOR ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

First, it must have a digital foundation, according to Schneider Electric. Digitalisation is the cornerstone of

a modern, efficient, and resilient energy landscape. It is the key to enhancing grid stability, reducing energy waste, and empowering communities.

For example, Drakenstein Municipality, situated in the Western Cape, has as part of its decarbonization goals started to replace its existing 11 kV oil electricity distribution infrastructure with Schneider Electric's modern, digitised and green RM AirSeT air-powered ring main unit.

This reduces the Municipality's carbon footprint by using pure air instead of SF6 gas and also forms part of its long-term vision, not only to have an upgraded, sustainable

and well-maintained electricity distribution network, but also to be a decarbonising frontrunner in the local government space.

In Senegal, for example, the digitalisation of the distribution network has enabled the remote control of 600 substations, enhancing reliability for 2.2 million customers. This is the kind of leapfrogging that technology makes possible.

Second, it must be sustainable and efficient by design. The continent is home to 60% of the world's best solar resources, but has so far installed only 1% of the world's solar PV capacity. Harnessing this immense renewable wealth is crucial, and Schneider Electric says it is seeing it happen through vital partnerships with utilities and independent power producers across Africa. At the same time, Schneider Electric champions energy efficiency, which is the fastest and most cost-effective way to achieve sustainability.

Finally, and most importantly, Schneider Electric says the solu-

tion must be powered by people. "We firmly believe that human capital is the continent's most precious resource. This belief must be backed by action. That is why our company is committed to playing its part in training one million people in energy management by 2025, a goal of which 825,000 have already been reached. It is also why we support initiatives like the Gaia Energy Impact Fund, which helps local entrepreneurs expand clean energy access," the company says.

PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATION

Realising this vision at scale cannot be done in silos, according to Schneider Electric. The level of investment required to modernise and expand Africa's energy infrastructure makes collaboration between the public and private sectors essential. A collaborative framework where risks and expertise are shared is essential.

Foot and mouth disease vaccine rollout underway

VACCINE has been sourced from Botswana to combat the persistent foot and mouth disease (FMD) out-breaks, especially in KwaZulu-Natal and on farms in other provinces where the disease had been identified, the Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen said on 19 June.

"The arrival of these vaccines marks a significant step in our efforts to contain the spread of FMD, enhance biosecurity, and explore long-term solutions, including local vaccine production," Steenhuisen said.

Owing to the biological nature of the vaccine, it was escorted by police to the Onderstepoort Biological

Products (OBP) headquarters for distribution. The Department of Agriculture stated that this entity with-in its department will oversee the distribution of the vaccines to State Veterinarians in the affected areas, and they will be administered free of charge. With this consignment, the traditional vaccination areas for preventive vaccination in Limpopo and Mpumalanga will also be covered. A second batch of vaccines is on order with the Botswana Vaccine Institute, according to the department.

Steenhuisen emphasised that vaccination of cattle is part of the department's strategy to get FMD under control. Additionally, the

department will soon hold discussions with industry to develop a long-term plan to render the country FMD-free, which will start with clear regionalisation to ensure that South Africa continues to export its highly sought-after beef and red meat products to the rest of the world.

On 19 July, the status of outbreaks during the previous two weeks, in addition to continued outbreaks in KwaZulu-Natal, included cases detected in pockets in Gauteng, North West, and Mpumalanga. According to the Department of Agriculture, in Gauteng, there are clusters of outbreaks in the East Rand, West Rand and around Heidelberg.

The outbreaks around Heidelberg are also affecting farms in Mpumalanga. In the North West, outbreaks have been reported around Ventersdorp, Potchefstroom and Rustenburg. FMD-positive properties have been placed under quarantine, and vaccination of affected animals has commenced.

"Biosecurity is everybody's responsibility. All care is being taken by our veterinary services and abattoirs to ensure that beef and beef products from FMD-positive animals are safe for consumption," said Steenhuisen. He emphasised that FMD is not harmful to humans and that consumers can continue buying beef products with confidence. He

highlighted that biosecurity should be taken more seriously.

"Biosecurity is something that has to be everybody's responsibility, from the farmgate, to the auction house, to the abattoir, to the consumer. We all have a role to play in ensuring that South Africa become synonymous with the highest level of biosecurity – that we adhere to the regulations," he stated. The minister recently gazetted new interim regulations for the movement and sale of animals, which will be strictly enforced. "Those who break the law must feel the consequences because there are grave economic consequences if the law is broken in this regard," he said.

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Service and quality make SEW-EURODRIVE a leading player in KZN

SEW-EURODRIVE, a global leader in automation and drive technology, has been serving the South African market since 1986. With five assembly facilities located across the country, the company has developed a strong national presence that supports a wide range of industries. Its 26,000 sqm head office in Johannesburg is currently undergoing a major 17,000 sqm expansion, aimed at further strengthening its after-sales service and repair capabilities.

Supporting this national footprint are regional branches strategically located in Durban, Cape Town, Nelspruit and Gqeberha. Among these, the KwaZulu-Natal branch in Durban stands out as a key contributor to the company's operational capacity and customer responsiveness in the region.

KZN BRANCH

The Durban branch is a cornerstone of SEW-EURODRIVE's strategy in South Africa, playing a central role in ensuring regional access to the company's wide-ranging solutions. Initially established in Westmead in 1998, the branch experienced sustained growth, prompting the move in 2010 to a larger purpose-designed facility in Prospecton.

This Prospecton location has proven to be a highly strategic choice. Situated within reach of the majority of the province's industrial hubs, the branch has access to approximately 80% of its customer base within a 100 km radius.

This proximity enables SEW-EURODRIVE to offer rapid response times for product deliveries, collections and on-site technical support – an increasingly critical differentiator in industries where downtime can be costly.

To ensure it maintains this level of service excellence, the branch is equipped with semi-automated production lines that allow skilled assemblers to work efficiently and effectively. Business continuity is further safeguarded through infrastructure that includes a 100 kVA backup generator and water tanks. This ensures operations continue uninterrupted during power or municipal water supply disruptions, making the company increasingly independent from grid and supply restrictions and limitations.

KEY MILESTONES AND GROWTH IN KZN

Over the years, the KZN branch has built its reputation on tailored solutions that meet the specific needs of the region's diverse industries. From supplying standard gear units to designing and manufacturing customised replacement units, the branch's flexibility and responsiveness have underpinned



The SEW-EURODRIVE Durban assembly and repair facility provides localised support for the full range of drive solutions.



Clifton Bridge, branch manager at SEW-EURODRIVE SA KZN.



SEW-EURODRIVE offers customised coating solutions for harsh environments, providing corrosion resistance and paint protection up to OS3 specification to ensure durability and performance.

its expansion.

Integral to this capability is the sophisticated stock management system in place. Daily stock deliveries from SEW-EURODRIVE's Johannesburg head office are managed via an automated stock level indicator that monitors part usage in real-time. This system automatically adds items to the next-day delivery schedule, ensuring the Durban branch is always well stocked and ready to respond.

The result is a rapid stock rotation cycle that minimises shelf time and significantly reduces the risk of component degradation from the region's coastal environment, an important consideration when maintaining product integrity. A well-structured fly-in fly-out (FIFO) policy is also in place to support operational efficiency.

FACILITIES AND CAPABILITIES

The KwaZulu-Natal branch boasts a full-service workshop and assembly facility capable of handling SEW-EURODRIVE's well-known 7-series gearmotor range. Units ranging in size from 27 to 107 and motors of up to 22 kW can be assembled or repaired on-site.

Every unit – whether new or refurbished – undergoes rigorous in-house testing using the branch's dedicated motor test panel (MTP). This system is capable of testing units up to 55 kW, ensuring that every product meets strict perfor-

mance standards before it leaves the facility.

The branch also offers highly customised solutions for industry-specific applications, including the replacement of non-SEW geared units. Customers with existing installations can benefit from custom-manufactured shaft sizes, special materials such as stainless steel for corrosion resistance and paint protection systems up to OS3 specification.

Replacing competitor units often involves managing differences in equipment footprints. SEW-EURODRIVE addresses this by arranging for the local manufacture of adapter plates, allowing for seamless drop-in replacements. This capability often means the company can respond faster than other OEMs – an advantage that is particularly valuable when operations cannot afford delays.

In addition, the branch's engineers are skilled in retrofit solutions. For example, torque arm gearboxes can be fitted to existing conveyor systems with minimal modification – usually just repositioning the mount – thereby reducing downtime and costs.

ROUND-THE-CLOCK SUPPORT AND SPARES PLANNING

Availability and responsiveness are critical for industrial customers, and SEW-EURODRIVE's Durban branch delivers both. The facility

operates 24/7, every day of the year including public holidays. A technical engineer and gearbox assembler are always on standby, accessible via a dedicated emergency number.

When emergencies arise, the branch can configure, assemble, paint and dispatch gearboxes or motors within an impressively short turnaround time. This service has proven invaluable to customers with continuous operations where unplanned downtime can be extremely costly.

To further support operational resilience, SEW-EURODRIVE offers complimentary site surveys to help customers manage their critical spare parts inventory. Trained personnel from the Durban branch assess the plant and categorise parts according to their operational impact. For instance, a gearbox driving bread through an industrial oven would be tagged as 'red' due to its critical role, while other parts may be classified as 'yellow' or 'green' depending on their urgency and availability.

This collaborative planning results in a tailored spares strategy where SEW-EURODRIVE and the customer agree on which parts should be stocked on-site and which can be held at the branch, ensuring uninterrupted operations.

INDUSTRY FOCUS AND KEY APPLICATIONS

The Durban branch services some

of KwaZulu-Natal's most vital sectors, including sugar, mining, ports and manufacturing. In the sugar sector, SEW-EURODRIVE technologies support operations from cane crushing and refining to upstream irrigation systems used by farmers.

In the mining sector, the company's robust gearboxes and drive systems are trusted in applications such as conveyors, crushers and slurry pumps, serving both OEMs and mines directly. The reliability and performance of these units are essential for operations that often run under extremely harsh conditions.

Port and harbour applications also rely heavily on SEW-EURODRIVE products. Equipment like jib cranes and straddle carriers – many sourced globally – depend on high performance gear units maintained locally by the Durban branch. These units are serviced to international standards and are subject to internal audits to ensure compliance and performance.

The manufacturing sector across KwaZulu-Natal is another key customer base, encompassing a range of industries from automotive production to food and beverage processing. SEW-EURODRIVE's standard gearmotor range is widely used in these industries to power precision automation systems and production lines.

FUTURE GROWTH AND INNOVATION

The Durban branch has more than doubled its gearbox output in the past five years, now assembling close to 2,500 units annually. This number excludes units that are shipped from Johannesburg to customers in KwaZulu-Natal, further underscoring the scale of activity in the region.

With capacity still available, the branch is well-positioned to support future growth, particularly as customers increasingly show interest in SEW-EURODRIVE's smart factory technologies. These solutions integrate the latest developments in IoT and cloud computing, enabling real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance.

Sustainability is another core focus area for innovation. The company standardised on energy efficient IE3 motors over eight years ago and uses variable speed drives to deliver energy savings of up to 15%. Today, following years of innovation and growth, the company delivers greater efficiencies and a broader more diverse product range.

In addition, SEW-EURODRIVE has developed a proprietary CO₂-reduced lubricant for its gear units, derived from sustainable biomass, which helps customers meet their environmental goals while maintaining optimal performance.

www.sew-eurodrive.co.za



Single platform approach provides a solution to cybersecurity threats

A STUDY titled "Securing OT with Purpose-built Solutions" conducted by Kaspersky in collaboration with VDC Research, illuminates the shifting landscape of cybersecurity within the industrial sector. Focusing on key industries such as energy, utilities, manufacturing and transportation, this research surveyed over 250 decision-makers to unveil vital trends and challenges faced in fortifying industrial environments against cyber threats.

A strong cybersecurity strategy begins with complete visibility into an organisation's assets, allowing leaders to understand what assets need protection and assess the highest risk areas. In environments where IT and Operational Technology (OT) systems converge, this demands more than just a comprehensive asset inventory. Kaspersky suggests that organisations must implement a risk assessment methodology that is aligned with their operational realities. By establishing a clear asset baseline, organisations can engage in meaningful risk assessments that address both corporate risk criteria and the potential physical and cyber consequences of vulnerabilities.

Recent survey findings reveal a concerning trend: a significant number of organisations



are not engaging in regular penetration testing or vulnerability assessments. Only 27% of respondents perform these critical evaluations on a monthly basis, while the majority (48%) conduct assessments every few months. Alarming, 17% do so only once or twice a year, and 7% address vulnerabilities solely as needed. This inconsistent approach can leave organisations vulnerable as they navigate an increasingly complex threat landscape.

Every software platform is inherently vulnerable to bugs, insecure code, and other weaknesses that malicious actors can exploit to compromise IT environments. For industrial companies, effective patch management is therefore crucial to mitigate these

risks. However, studies reveal that many organisations encounter significant challenges in this area, often struggling to allocate the necessary time to pause operations for critical updates. Disturbingly, many organisations patch their OT systems only every few months or even longer, significantly heightening their risk exposure. Specifically, 31% apply patches monthly, while 47% do so every few months, and 12% update only once or twice a year.

These challenges in maintaining effective patch management are exacerbated in OT environments, where limited device visibility, inconsistent vendor patch availability, specialised expertise requirements and regulatory compliance add layers of complexity to the cybersecurity landscape.

As IT and OT systems increasingly converge, there is a pressing need to harmonise these traditionally disparate systems, which have often relied on proprietary technologies rather than open standards. The challenge is further intensified by the rapid proliferation of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, ranging from cameras and smart sensors for asset tracking and health monitoring, to advanced climate

control systems. This explosion of connected devices broadens the attack surface for industrial organisations, underscoring the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures.

For industrial customers, Kaspersky provides a unique ecosystem that seamlessly integrates specialised OT-grade technologies, expert knowledge and invaluable expertise. Kaspersky Industrial Cybersecurity (KICS), a native XDR platform for critical infrastructure, is the cornerstone of this OT ecosystem, that offers centralised asset inventory, risk management and audit, and enables security scalability across diverse, distributed infrastructure via a single platform. Additionally, Kaspersky recommends that industrial organisations adopt the Secure by Design ideology when deploying new OT devices or systems.

"At Kaspersky, we bring the Secure-by-Design concept to life through our Cyber Immunity approach. This means building products that are resilient by architecture – able to withstand attacks, even those exploiting unknown vulnerabilities. Our clients benefit from stronger protection, simplified maintenance and a lower total cost of ," says Dmitry Lukiyan, head of KasperskyOS business unit.

Water solutions company wins awards for health and safety

XYLEM Africa, a leading vendor for pure water solutions and innovations, has been awarded the Gold Award for health and safety performance by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), the world's largest health and safety programme.

For 2024, Xylem won a total of eighteen RoSPA Awards – 15 Gold and 3 Silver – awarded to Xylem Water Solutions and Services

(WSS).

Xylem's Cape Town site won its second consecutive Gold award, and Xylem's Kempton Park site in Johannesburg achieved its first Gold award.

The RoSPA Award recognises organisations that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to high safety standards. Earning so many awards is no small feat. The company says it is a clear

reflection of its vigilant and accountable safety culture, where care is front and centre.

"At Xylem, safety is the foundation of everything we do. Creating a safe environment is what allows us to deliver with excellence every day. Today, I'm proud to recognise our Water Solutions and Service team for their outstanding achievements in safety performance. Safety is not a milestone – it's a mind-

set. By continuing to lead with safety, we build a stronger, more resilient WSS. Congratulations, and thank you to every colleague who made this recognition possible," said Chetan Mistry, Xylem Africa's strategy and marketing manager.

BENCHMARK

Sponsored by the UK's National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH), the RoSPA Awards scheme is the longest-running of its kind in the UK. It receives entries from organisations across the globe, making it one of the most sought-after achievement awards for the health and safety industry. Now in its 69th year, the awards receive nearly 2,000 entries annually from over 50 countries, encompassing more than seven million employees.

Xylem Africa's engineering, workshop, and storage facilities once again demonstrated their commitment to safety standards and culture, meeting the satisfaction of the RoSPA judges. "Nebosh is delighted to be the headline sponsor of the RoSPA Awards. Recognising excellence in health and safety is essential to ensure we celebrate achievement. But it is also about reinforcing a culture of care, accountability and continuous improvement. These awards serve as a powerful reminder that employee safety and wellbeing transcend borders, and looking after our people so they can go home safe, healthy, and happy every day also drives sustainable success and resilience," said Dee Arp, Nebosh Chief Quality Officer and the head judge of the RoSPA Awards.

Xylem is a leading innovator in the water technology market, with brands such as Flygt, Sensus, Godwin, and Lowara, and a significant partner network serving sectors from public utilities to commercial businesses and industry.



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Exposed aggregate in the spotlight as demand for surface retarders rises

AN upward trend in the use of surface retarders in South Africa's construction and infrastructure sector is shining a spotlight on the increasing popularity of exposed aggregate concrete finishes. According to Michelle Fick of Chryso Southern Africa, this trend reflects a growing appreciation for both the aesthetic and functional benefits that exposed aggregate offers.

"Exposed aggregate is no longer just a decorative finish; it's being adopted across a wide range of applications from pavements and driveways to architectural facades and public infrastructure," says Fick. "The textured non-slip surface offers a safer option for high traffic zones, while the natural stone aesthetic enhances the visual appeal of buildings and outdoor spaces."

The finish is also ideal for preparing concrete surfaces that will receive a subsequent layer. Whether it is a waterproofing membrane, screed



or cladding, the roughened texture created by the exposed aggregate allows for superior bonding, improving the durability and lifespan of the entire system. This makes it a preferred solution not only in aesthetic applications but also where structural performance is key.

Chryso Southern Africa offers surface retarders designed specifically to meet these evolving needs. The company's products facilitate reliable consistent exposure of the aggregate to the required depth – up to a maximum of 3 mm – ensuring a uniform and high quality result. This

is essential for specialist applicators who rely on precision and repeatability, particularly in large-scale or architecturally sensitive projects.

"The simplicity of the application process is another advantage," Fick explains. "After the concrete is poured, the surface retarder must be applied evenly before the concrete begins to set. Following a predetermined curing period, the surface is washed with water, removing the top layer of cement paste and revealing the aggregate below. A final sealant is then applied to enhance the surface's durability and finish."

Sealants can be selected to suit different environments and project needs, including internal and external use, UV resistance and finishes ranging from matte to high-gloss. This flexibility allows architects and contractors to customise the final appearance while ensuring long-term performance.

Significantly, Chryso was the first manufacturer to offer a mineral solvent-free water-based retarder designed to prevent soil and ground-water pollution during the cleaning of treated concrete. The product contains no toxic substances, is 85% biodegradable, classified as harmless, and complies with EEC Directives 88/379 and 93/18.

Fick notes that Chryso's surface retarders are developed with the applicator in mind, offering not only technical consistency but also ease of use in site conditions that can often be challenging. "Our retarders provide reliable performance even under variable tem-

perature and humidity conditions, which is critical for projects with tight timelines and complex environmental demands."

With sustainability and safety continuing to drive specification choices in the built environment, the use of exposed aggregate finishes is expected to grow. "The combination of visual impact, surface durability, slip resistance and improved bonding makes it a smart choice for both new builds and renovations," Fick says. "As the trend gains momentum, we are committed to supporting the market with reliable solutions that ensure consistent, high-quality results."

As urban spaces evolve and developers seek more creative yet practical finishes, the role of surface retarders – and particularly exposed aggregate – is likely to become even more prominent in shaping the look and functionality of tomorrow's concrete structures.

Drone technology cuts maintenance and repair costs

STEINMÜLLER Africa's intelligent engineering services has expanded with the addition of the Elios 3 caged inspection drone to its fleet, enhancing inspection capabilities and reducing costs for power stations by reducing the need for human inspection services.

"The drone is designed for inspections in dangerous, cluttered, and confined spaces. It's a safer, more accurate way to gather information in hazardous areas," says Carel van Aswegen, group QC/NDT manager, Steinmüller Africa.

"Using this drone allows us to cut downtime for inspections – sometimes by as much as 50% – not only through the accurate data it provides, but also thanks to its accessibility," says Van Aswegen. "We can

inspect damage in boilers once they cool down to around 50°C, without waiting for permits required for human entry or installing scaffolding and sky climbers. The drone also identifies damage locations with greater accuracy."

Developed to be more than just a robust drone, the Elios 3 is the first indoor mapping and inspection drone capable of transforming asset data into digital insights. Its carbon fibre protective cage (measuring 18.9" in width and 13.8" in height) provides 360-degree collision tolerance, allowing it to navigate tight, complex environments without risk of damage. The drone's advanced stabilisation system ensures smooth, stable flight even in turbulent conditions. This is cru-



cial for capturing high-quality visual and thermal data.

Equipped with a 4K camera, flight control sensors, an inertial measurement unit (IMU), a magnetometer, a barometer, a thermal imaging sensor, three computer vision cameras, a time-of-flight (ToF) distance sensor, and LiDAR technology, the Elios 3 delivers high-resolution imagery and enables precise 3D mapping,

even underground. This enables the creation of accurate digital twins of inspected assets, featuring intuitive reporting on a 3D model and real-time situational awareness integrated into the piloting app.

The Elios 3 also features advanced flight path detection, allowing it to autonomously navigate complex, GPS-denied environments with precision. Real-time data transmission enables inspectors to monitor live feeds and make quick, informed decisions, while its modular payload capabilities offer additional flexibility.

Steinmüller Africa has also used the drone for post-incident investigations. "A client recently experienced an explosion on-site. We quickly mobilised the drone to assess the damage for safe entry, providing

the team with exact locations and live footage of the surroundings, enabling faster, more targeted care," Van Aswegen explains.

Beyond current client benefits, the Elios 3 opens new opportunities for Steinmüller Africa. "The drone can be used almost anywhere it's unsafe, impractical, or financially unviable for a person to go," he adds. This includes coal storage tank facilities, grain silos, underground mines, manufacturing plants, warehouses, boilers, tunnels, cell phone towers, railway transport tankers, and bridges.

Steinmüller Africa began using Elios drones in 2017, becoming the first company in South Africa to acquire the technology from Swiss manufacturer Flyability.

Working in combination to serve SA's construction industry

SINCE the successful global rebrand from Doosan to Develon two years ago, Develon South Africa has intensified its expansion programme with the launch of new equipment and the continued strategy of increasing the company's footprint throughout Southern Africa.

"An important focus of our support to customers is to ensure our machines deliver the highest standards of performance and reliability in tough conditions that are unique to Africa," explains Johann Viljoen, national sales manager, Develon SA, a global leader in earthmoving equipment. "Our broad range of robust Develon machines – including excavators, articulated dump trucks (ADTs) and wheel loaders – has been developed to perfectly suit local harsh operating environments.

Features for high efficiency, versatility, stability and low maintenance requirements are critical in many sectors, including construction, mining, quarrying and civil engineering. Durability of machines is key, as every equipment owner strives to prevent downtime, because failure can significantly impact project deadlines and negatively affect budgets.

"Develon equipment is built with eco-friendly, high-powered, fuel-efficient engines, a robust chassis structure and advanced hydraulic systems, to maximise performance and reliability in arduous environments. Additionally, our equipment features low emissions, enhanced operator safety, increased comfort, and precise control. Convenient design features enable quick and effortless maintenance procedures.

"Because productivity and deadlines are critical in every project – whether it's in infrastructure development, bulk earthworks or mining – the choice of construction machinery is of paramount importance.

"Our team's sound advisory service on correct equipment selection for specific tasks is enhanced by a broad branch network offering technical support, easy access to quality branded spare parts, reliable repair and maintenance, as well as operator training services.

"The equipment selection process involves considering which machine will deliver the highest efficiencies for every project and which machines, when used together, are able to deliver even greater results.

"A fine example of achieving high productivity and maximising return on investment when pair-



ing machines, is the combination of the Develon DA45 Articulated Dump Truck (ADT) and Develon DX800 excavator. Often on job sites, when excavators and haulers are mismatched in capacity, speed, or fuel economy, there are problems with project delays, overuse of fuel and mechanical stress.

"Not only does the complementary duo of the DX800 and DA45 over-

come the challenges of arduous terrain, but it also ensures adherence to project deadlines and budget restraints. Taking a closer look at the benefits of pairing, Develon specialists highlight greater productivity, as a result of load capacity alignment for optimised cycles, similar duty cycles to reduce idle time and shared technology integration for smoother operations," says Viljoen.



KZN-based electrical and energy solutions company relocates branches

MAGNET Electrical, a key player in the energy and sustainability industry, has relocated its facilities in Pietermaritzburg and Germiston as part of an ongoing growth and expansion journey.

The company's head office remains in Durban, with branches in Germiston, Richards Bay and the Pietermaritzburg branch is now located at Campsdrift Park.

The Pietermaritzburg move was finalised at the end of April and is a strategic initiative aimed at improving accessibility.

Similarly, for Magnet to better serve its growing client base across key industrial regions, the company's Johannesburg office also relocated to a new facility in Sunnyrock, Germiston.

Magnet's chairman, Brian Howarth, 2024 recipient of the Standard Bank KZN Top Business Award for the Leader of the Year, expressed his enthusiasm about these moves: "The new facilities not only enhance our operational capabilities but also reaffirm our

commitment to delivering exceptional service to our clients."

The business has been servicing clients in Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Gauteng for over 53 years and was founded on electrical supply. It has since evolved to become a multi-disciplinary expert in the energy and sustainability industry.

MARKET-LEADING BRANDS

A distinct advantage for Magnet is its collaboration with market-leading industrial brands. Partnering with top manufacturers ensures that its clients have access to the latest technologies and innovations.

For more than 30 years, the company has been a dedicated distributor for Schneider Electric, offering the largest stockholding of automation products. Its reputation is built on vast product availability and top-notch technical expertise.

As the exclusive NEMA hub for Eaton prod-

ucts in KwaZulu-Natal, the company is among South Africa's fastest-expanding distributors for this brand. Its growth as a Siemens distributor further solidifies the company's strong market position.

"Our engineers specialise in turnkey projects with a strong focus on energy efficiency and sustainability. We audit, design and install solutions for warehouses and factories, including hazardous areas," says Howarth.

Magnet has successfully completed numerous turnkey projects. Recent projects include a power factor correction solution for a lubricating oil blend plant in KwaZulu-Natal, a power backup project for a



plastic packaging manufacturer, and a lighting upgrade in a manufacturing facility in Johannesburg, aimed at enhancing the customer's compliance and efficiency.

Dissolved gas analysis identifies hidden transformer faults

WEARCHECK, specialists in condition monitoring, is now accredited to perform DGA, or Dissolved Gas Analysis, for transformers, following a recent assessment

by South African National Accreditation System (SANAS). The company's Johannesburg transformer oil testing laboratory now has ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for testing DGA, moisture,

tion of faults and potential failures is very important.

DGA saves transformer operators money on avoidable repairs, time, and helps avoid greater problems such as interrupted power supply. It also helps prolong the life of the transformer.

Nel explains the process, "Small amounts of gases are formed in the oil when a transformer is in operation. Using DGA, hidden problems inside the transformer are revealed by detecting the gases in the oil.

"Some of the common transformer problems and the associated gases include oil overheating (ethane and ethylene), insulation paper overheating (carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and acetic acid gases), air ingress (oxygen and nitrogen), and partial discharge (hydrogen gas and carbon monoxide gases), sparking and arcing type of faults (methane and acetylene).

"The early detection of potential transformer faults enables remedial action to be implemented, and major failures averted," he says.

CASE STUDY

Nel discusses a WearCheck client that only requested M/A/D (moisture / dielectric / acidity) results over the years, and when the very first DGA was done, it showed a critical error.

"The DGA indicated an actual internal electrical problem; however, the client wasn't convinced and even did two oil changes in 24 months, hoping this would solve the problem. Changing the oil did not fix the problem, however. This only removed evidence of the problem. The actual electrical fault was still present in the transformer, and a new trend was then required after the oil was changed.

"In this case, the DGA was indicative of an actual fault, and the oil changes did not fix the fault. This is very important, as a lot of clients only test for M/D (moisture / dielectric), and not the full DGA analysis." Eventually, the client made the decision to include all tests in their ongoing maintenance plan.



WearCheck transformer technicians Kefilwe Ntshabele (SANAS nominated representative & technical signatory) and Tumelo Seobi (laboratory supervisor and SANAS technical signatory)

acidity, dielectric strength, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Gert Nel, WearCheck's transformer division manager, outlines the importance of DGA in transformer maintenance. "Dissolved Gas Analysis is used mostly for fault detection in transformers, and it is critically important that the analysis is accurate. By analysing the gases dissolved in the transformer's oil, we gain important clues about the health of the transformer.

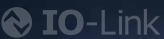

"WearCheck is pioneering the way in transformer maintenance in Southern Africa, and this SANAS accreditation is a strong selling point for our laboratories."

Transformers help transfer electricity over long distances, often playing a key role in a region's infrastructure and ensuring a stable power supply to cities, industrial plants, and other critical users. Therefore, early detec-

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Prospecton-based electrical wholesaler joins distribution programme

SCHNEIDER Electric South Africa officially announced its partnership with ARB Electrical Wholesalers earlier in June.

ARB Electrical Wholesalers, with headquarters in Prospecton, is one of the country's foremost distributors of cables, electrical, lighting, and renewable energy solutions, while Schneider Electric South Africa is a global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation.

The partnership sees ARB joining Schneider Electric's pres-

tigious Distribution Hub and Pro Retailer Programme – a programme designed to significantly improve the accessibility and convenience for customers to procure an extensive range of electrical products and solutions.

ARB Electrical Wholesalers has a national footprint of 23 branches across all nine provinces, supported by over 700 skilled professionals. With a robust e-commerce platform and deep technical expertise, ARB says it is well-positioned to provide end-to-end electrical solutions

across southern Africa.

"This is a very important partnership for Schneider Electric as it gives us coverage and availability in a bigger market through ARB's twenty-three branches nationwide," says Devan Pillay, cluster president: Anglophone Africa, Schneider Electric. "We are excited about this prospect and to be associated with such an established name in the distribution of leading brands in the electrical space."

As an official partner in the Distribution Hub and Pro Retailer

Programme, ARB will offer Schneider Electric's complete product portfolio, catering to service wholesalers, re-sellers, panel builders, and system integrators.

"What makes this a great fit for Schneider Electric South Africa is that ARB's distribution and logistics capabilities are complementary to our new hub model," adds Pillay. "They have a state-of-the-art 40,000 sqm distribution facility near Midrand, which gives them the full capability to service electrical distribution and project requirements

of all scopes and sizes – not just across South Africa, but across the globe. They also have a fleet of one hundred and eighty-three vehicles supporting their national reach."

"Partnering with Schneider Electric marks a significant milestone in ARB's journey," says Blayne Burke, group CEO of ARB Holdings. "This collaboration not only enhances the range of world-class solutions we can offer our customers but also aligns with our strategic vision to drive innovation and sustainability through best-in-class products."

Arc flash safety is in the details

BMG, in business for over 50 years, provides comprehensive process solutions to all sectors of industry, allowing customers to access all essential quality branded engineering components, technical services, and support from a single reliable supplier. This integrated approach guarantees lower production costs and higher efficiencies.



safety challenges, correct product selection is very important in all sectors," states Andrew Johns, business unit manager, BMG's tools & equipment division.

"Before selecting arc workwear and PPE for use in hazardous industries, where second and third-degree burns can occur, it is important that an arc assessment is conducted. Once the arc haz-

ard has been determined, the correct level of protection can be selected.

"An arc flash – which can reach temperatures up to 20,000°C – is a potentially fatal explosion of extreme light and radiant heat, as a result of a short circuit on an electrical panel. An arc flash can be caused by dust, dropping tools, accidental touching, condensation, corrosion or a faulty installation. Possible injuries include second and third-degree burns from the extreme heat of the blast, burns from airborne molten

metal, metal oxides and vaporised copper, concussion and head injuries, hearing impairment, damaged eyesight and even death. An arc flash can also cause fire in the surrounding work areas.

"Because injuries in these dangerous working conditions can be fatal, we believe it is essential that all selected workwear and PPE have undergone relevant testing. Tests should include fabric and garment analysis and be supported by official certification, giv-

ing assurance that adequate protection will be provided.

"Included in BMG's range of Dromex workwear and PPE are dependable arc protection products that have been developed through consultation with experts, testing fabric combinations and working with world-leading testing facilities. The range includes a head-to-toe PPE solution that is lightweight, comfortable and provides the highest level of protection against an arc flash."

Turnkey, prefitted junction box solutions

In today's fast-paced electrical industry, the phrase "time is money" certainly holds true. Electrical contractors and wholesalers alike seek solutions that streamline installations while ensuring compliance and reliability. A range of prefitted junction boxes from Pratley, now available ex-stock, offer a practical, time-saving, and high-quality solution designed for convenience and efficiency.



The ability to source high-quality junction boxes that are prefitted with terminals without delay is a significant advantage for electrical professionals. With these prepopulated boxes now available ex-stock, contractors no longer face extended lead times, while electrical wholesalers can maintain a steady supply to meet demand.

According to Tristan Blades, technical projects manager at Pratley, prepopulated junction boxes in popular terminal configurations such as single- and three-phase enhance convenience for both electrical wholesalers and contractors.

"This approach shortens lead times between manufacturers and wholesalers, allowing the wholesaler to stock these

boxes and improve service levels for their contractors," he explains. A challenge that electricians often face is the time required to fit junction boxes with terminals before installation. Pratley's fitted boxes solve this by eliminating

that step.

Uncompromised quality and compliance Pratley's fitted boxes are manufactured to meet stringent industry standards, ensuring safety, durability, and regulatory compliance. "For hazardous areas, it is a regulatory requirement that junction boxes be populated with the correct terminals," says Blades.

Pratley's fitted boxes offer an innovative, practical, and compliant solution for electrical professionals looking to save time and improve efficiency. With an IP66/68 rating when used with appropriately rated cable glands and blanking plugs, these junction boxes provide the reliability and safety required for various electrical applications.

"For wholesalers and contractors Pratley's Fitted Junction Boxes are the ultimate ready-to-use solution," concludes Blades.



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Despite a weak start, the market could perform better this year

THE release of first-quarter GDP figures for 2025 indicated a disappointing growth rate of 0.1% quarter-over-quarter, seasonally adjusted, which was down from 0.4% in the fourth quarter.

On a year-on-year basis, the growth rate remained virtually unchanged at a weak 0.8% in the first quarter.

John Loos, senior economist at FNB Commercial Property Finance, says this begs the question as to whether investment in the property market in South Africa can maintain its strengthening momentum in 2025.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

"Despite a poor start to 2025 for the economy, we do believe that investor demand for commercial property can continue to strengthen moderately in 2025. The FNB Property Broker Survey for the first quarter of 2025 did show a perceived quarterly strengthening in commercial property sales activity in all three major commercial classes, i.e., office, industrial and retail property. This investor demand strengthening early in the year was likely supported by three 25 basis point interest rate cuts by the SARB, commencing in September 2024," says Loos.

"We believe that the moderate increase in commercial property demand early in 2024 has benefited the commercial mortgage lending sector mildly, translating into a gradual further acceleration in year-on-year growth in the value of commercial mortgage advances, from 5.26% at the end of 2024 to 6.25% at the end of April 2025. This growth acceleration commenced towards mid-2024, after reaching a low of 3.16% in May last year.

"Our one concern relating to commercial property demand had been a pause in interest rate cutting by the SARB at its March 2025 meeting, but it resumed cutting with a 25-basis point cut at its May meeting. FNB expects a further 25 basis point rate cut in the second half of the year.

"A further concern for the property market in recent months has been the great uncertainty created by US-instigated trade tariff wars, which have risked weakening the global economy significantly, should high US import tariffs be implemented. Whilst we are not out of the woods yet, with President Trump still attempting to cut tariff deals with major trading partners, he has backed off from a



number of his trade tariff threats, and it increasingly appears as if global import tariffs could settle at significantly lower levels than what was threatened. Therefore, a sharp global economic slowdown could be averted, which in turn would limit the pressure on South Africa's export growth.

"The biggest direct risk of a global trade war would be on South Africa's industrial property class, especially the manufacturing component thereof, but insofar as it may ultimately slow South Africa's entire economic growth rate, it would pose risks to the country's broader property sector too," says Loos.

According to Loos, the global trade tariff war has contributed to FNB lowering its GDP growth forecast to 1.3% for 2025, from nearer to 2% initially, but this would still represent a moderately improved growth rate on the 0.6% of 2024.

'MODERATE'

Loos asks what would continue to make property investment more attractive for investors in 2025, after a dismal 2024 that saw a

-0.8% base rental decline on all commercial property according to MSCI data, and net operating income growth only slightly positive at 0.5% with the help of impressive containment of operating cost growth?

He says, interest rate cutting aside, FNB expects commercial property rental growth to accelerate in 2025 on the back of further decline in vacancy rates. In the first quarter 2024 FNB Property Broker Survey, brokers as a group perceived further decline in vacancy rates in all three major commercial property classes compared with six months prior to the survey.

"The First Quarter Rode Report, reports accelerated year-on-year national rental growth in the area of office space (A+, A and B-Grade), from 4.2% in the prior quarter to 4.8% in the first quarter, while prime industrial rental growth, too, showed acceleration from 6.7% year-on-year in the final quarter of 2024 to 7.3% in the first quarter of 2024.

"Improved rental growth is expected to contribute to stronger net operating income growth in 2025, although the sector will have its work cut out again in terms of containing operating cost growth, as sharp electricity tariff increases take effect, along with some big, planned water tariff increases in key metros.

Why the real estate insurance model must evolve

By Jason Griessel, head of Cushman & Wakefield | Broll strategic risk services.

OPINION | THE cost of insuring South Africa's built environment is more than a line item – it has become a systemic pressure point. As premiums climb year on year, the financial burden doesn't stop at landlords' doorsteps. It filters down to tenants, retailers and ultimately to every consumer navigating a shopping mall, in fact, every taxpayer.

This isn't merely a sectoral squeeze. It's economic inefficiency. Escalating insurance costs inflate operating margins, strain competitiveness and threaten sustainability and growth.

If resilience is the true measure of sustainability, then our current insurance paradigm is failing the test.

WHEN RISK PERCEPTION OUTPACES REALITY

At the core of the issue is a global-local misalignment. South African risk is largely written

by offshore reinsurers, primarily British and European syndicates, who apply models that often fail to reflect lived realities on the ground. Political unrest, for instance, triggered abrupt cover withdrawals in the past. Sasria stepped in, but at a long-term fiscal cost.

This points to a deeper issue: perception is distorting price. With global reinsurers "holding the pen", underwriting power lies far from the assets themselves. The outcome is inflated premiums based more on global volatility sentiment than data-driven local risk profiles.

CLOSED LOOPS AND CAPTIVE MARKETS

This is exacerbated by little transparency and even less competition. Infrastructure assets are predominantly reinsured offshore, not due to lack of local capacity, but because entrenched relationships and legacy pathways dominate decision-making.

Even real estate financing structures are part of the inertia. Banks often recommend,

and can even mandate, insurer preferences, locking property owners into high-margin ecosystems that reward status quo over strategic review. With a captive market, innovation is muted and efficiency sidelined.

When taxpayer-funded government buildings are included in this model, the call for transparency and data-driven risk profiles becomes more than financial, it becomes an ethical and fiscal imperative.

INSURANCE AS A STRATEGIC LEVER

Cushman & Wakefield | Broll modelling indicates there are achievable savings of 8% to 12% in insurance premium expenditure through better communication, strategic alignment and more sophisticated data engagement. For a REIT paying, say, R80 million in insurance premiums annually, that translates to R8.75 million in year-one relief alone.

In an economy constrained on every side, where more marketing promotions or parking revenue increases can only take you so far,

insurance stands out as one of the last controllable costs for property. Yet most CFOs are hesitant to touch it. The fear of post-crisis blame looms large, and so a "don't fix it if it isn't broken" attitude ensures outdated models persist under the guise of prudence.

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Unless we challenge the model, we remain bound by it. Change starts with asking some tough questions:

- Why aren't we diversifying our reinsurance sources, for instance, into Asia, to inject competitive pressure?
- Why do we accept decades-old syndicate defaults without contest?
- Why has the sector resisted innovation in data and risk structuring?

These questions are calls to action. We're not suggesting burning bridges, but we are endorsing building better ones. The real estate insurance of the future must be data-forward, enabling and locally aligned.

Insurance body highlights heightened fire risk in winter

THE winter months in South Africa are commonly associated with a heightened risk of fire-related incidents due mainly to the significant drop in temperatures, prompting many to consider various heating methods to keep warm. At the same time, cold, dry conditions create an environment conducive to wildfires due to a lack of rain during the season.

The impact of these fires can lead to devastating outcomes, ranging from loss of life, human displacement, health risks (from burns and smoke inhalation) and business interruptions caused by home or business fires. Open-air or veld fires may also destroy vegetation, livestock, and damage infrastructure.

In light of this, the South African Insurance Association (SAIA) reminds South Africans of both the personal and financial impact that fire-related incidents can have. SAIA encourages individuals and businesses to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to reduce fire hazards and protect their families, property, and livelihoods.

The Association says that for many households, the significant threats that cause residential fires include using unmonitored heating devices, such as home open fires, gas and electrical heaters, and electrical blankets. These risks are often exacerbated by electrical faults resulting from poor maintenance or overloading systems and appliances. On the other

hand, wildfires and veldfires are caused mainly by human error, either through efforts to stay warm or burning dry, overgrown vegetation for visibility or safety reasons.

Themba Palagangwe, general manager: governance and transformation at SAIA, says: "Recent reports have shown increases in fire-related incidents and insurance claims. This underscores the urgent need for South African households, communities, and businesses to unite and collaborate to prevent winter fire incidents. This is essential for preserving the quality of life and reducing financial strain for individuals and businesses."

SAIA recommends that households and businesses take simple and practical steps to

safeguard themselves against unforeseen fire incidents, many of which are preventable.

PREVENTING VELDFIRE HAZARDS

- Clear dry vegetation around properties to create defensible spaces.
- Adhere to local fire bans and regulations, avoiding open flame or spark-causing activities.
- Stay informed and prepared, including developing community emergency action plans.
- Always monitor fire activities and ensure all flames are out before leaving the area with fire.



Locally-made seven-axis CNC lathes make the cut

PINETOWN-based, FAS Machine Tools was recently awarded a contract by a Pretoria firm for the supply of one of the company's seven-axis Synchronette CNC lathes to manufacture male and female pins for multi-pin plugs.

Peter Frow, CEO of FAS Machine Tools, says the contract was awarded on a price-performance comparison against imported machines. According to Frow, the specification of the Synchronette was a perfect match for the application due to

the machine's extremely quick cycle times, which are made possible by its ability to have as many as four tools working simultaneously on the workpiece. Also, the unique electro-mechanical chucking system allows bar feed-up times of under one second.

According to Frow, the machine architecture includes:

- An eight-station turret which moves on two axes,
- A dedicated turning slide which moves on two axes,
- A dedicated forming slide, and

- A dedicated parting slide

The turret of the Synchronette is equipped with live turret tooling.

For this particular contract, the parts are required to come off the machine complete with centring and drilling of the rear of the component. This is achieved by means of the rotating pickup head, which transports the semi-finished part to the rear of the machine, where a gang-tool array completes the machining of the part.

As the machine is intended to run 24/7, it is equipped with an automatic

magazine barloader, allowing it to operate for extended periods unattended.

FAS Machine Tools has several of its larger Synchroturn CNC lathes running successfully in the field. These machines can handle bar sizes up to 60 mm, whereas the Synchronette is supplied with either 26 mm or 36 mm spindles.

Frow claims that FAS Machine Tools' seven-axis CNC lathes are priced significantly lower than equivalent imported machines.



Dual-chuck tube laser cutter delivers precision at speed

BODOR, a global leader in laser cutting solutions, has introduced the S-Series professional dual-chuck tube laser cutter, engineered to help manufacturers across the metal furniture, fitness equipment, EV industries, and external industries achieve faster throughput and higher precision while dramatically reducing material waste.

Metal tube processing often faces challenges such as high material waste, time-consuming manual setups, inconsistent cutting quality, and difficulties working with rusted or oily surfaces – all of which can hinder productivity and increase costs.

The Bodor S-Series addresses these challenges with intelligent processing, a dual-chuck design, and adaptive software – streamlining workflows, improving cut quality, and minimising material waste for more efficient, reliable production.

DUAL-CHUCK INTELLIGENT PROCESSING

The S-Series features a smart dual-chuck system, combining a roller-style front chuck and long collet rear chuck with bidirectional movement and a maximum rotational speed of 200 r/min, ensuring stable, high-speed, and highly efficient tube processing.

The front chuck moves forward, allowing the laser head to cut precisely between the two chucks. This layout provides a more balanced force across the tube, improving cutting consistency and overall stability. As a result, even the final section of the tube is cut with the same accuracy as earlier segments.

The front chuck opens to its full range, while the long collet rear chuck firmly clamps the tube's end. This allows the laser to cut through the exact centre of the tube with minimal safety distance, reducing tail waste to as little as 40 mm and achieving a high-precision result.

DUAL-ZONE SERVO SUPPORT

The S-Series is equipped with a dual-zone servo-following support system, designed to maintain uniform precision throughout the entire cutting process. In the loading zone, servo-controlled

rollers paired with deep U-shaped bionic supports ensure smooth and steady material feeding. In the unloading zone, servo-driven support plates adjust dynamically to match the tube's position and movement.

MANUAL-FREE DRAWING

The S-Series introduces a built-in auto-drawing function, developed specifically for the metal tube processing industry to eliminate the need for manual drafting before cutting.

This smart feature allows users to simply input key specifications – such as tube length, wall thickness, and hole spacing—into the system. Within seconds, the software automatically generates a precise 3D model schematic based on the entered data. With just one click, the cutting process begins, enabling operators to go from concept to execution without manual design work or CAD expertise.

OPTIONAL FUNCTIONS

To meet diverse fabrication needs, the S-Series offers a suite

of optional smart features that enhance accuracy, adaptability, and operational efficiency. These include:

- One-second centering, instant cutting. Precise alignment is achieved in just one second with laser profiling sensors—20× faster centering, 2× higher cutting accuracy, and stable performance even on oily or rusted tubes.
- Bevel cutting enables clean, angled cuts that require no secondary grinding. Weld-ready right off the machine, this function saves both time and labour in downstream processes.
- Weld seam recognition. Equipped with a high-resolution sensing camera and AI-driven learning algorithms, this system accurately detects weld seams in real-time and adjusts the cutting path.

OPTIONAL AUTOMATION SYSTEMS

To further enhance productivity and reduce manual workload, the S Series supports two powerful automation options designed

to streamline the loading process across various tube profiles.

S-TRANS AUTO LOADER

Specifically engineered for the S-Series, the S-Trans is a high-capacity automatic loading system capable of supporting up to 1,800 kg of raw material.

It accommodates square, round, rectangular, and oval tubes, and enables batch and bundle feeding to minimise restocking frequency. Ideal for high-volume production environments, S-Trans reduces manual labour, saves operational costs, and significantly boosts processing efficiency.

S-LOADER ASSIST DEVICE

The S-Loader is an auxiliary loading solution compatible with the S-Series. It supports a wide range of profiles, including square tubes, round tubes, rectangular tubes, angle irons, and channel steels. S-Loader enables automated feeding, supports mid-cycle material replenishment, and features a safety interlock system between the loader and the main machine to ensure seamless and secure operation. It's a user-friendly and safe solution for flexible loading demands.

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Revolutionising plasma cutting with precision and innovation

As a leader in CNC profiling, Manufacture and Design Electronics (MADE CC) continually pushes boundaries, delivering powerful solutions that maximise efficiency, reliability, and performance. The company says its scope of business extends beyond precision engineering to transforming industries with game-changing plasma technology.

"With a reputation built on speed, expertise, and unwavering quality, MADE CC is trusted by businesses across the country – and beyond," says owner Rob van Zyl. "Our highly skilled technicians are always on the move, ensuring fast service and expert support wherever our machines operate. This mobility allows us to serve international clients efficiently, giving them cutting-edge South African engineering with unmatched turnaround times."

In both KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, MADE CC is setting new standards with high-definition plasma systems designed for precision, speed, and consistency. "Whether



tackling complex metal fabrication or expanding operations, our state-of-the-art machinery ensures superior reliability and peak performance," says Van Zyl.

LEADING TECHNOLOGY

The company integrates world-class brands into its CNC profiling solutions, ensuring supreme precision and durability. "We work with

Hypertherm, Kjellberg, Eckelmann, and Messer – trusted names in cutting technology – guaranteeing high-performance plasma systems built for demanding applications," says Van Zyl.

PERFORMANCE MEETS RELIABILITY

Service extends beyond technology at the company. "We ensure

every client operates at maximum efficiency. From expert installation to operator training and dedicated support, we provide seamless solutions to keep businesses running. Every HiCut machine we've ever sold remains in active production – except for two impacted by the 2022 Durban floods, both of which were swiftly restored or upgraded," says Van Zyl.

LEADING CNC PROFILING

Innovation is a pillar on which MADE CC is built. The company delivers low-maintenance, high-performance CNC profiling solutions, ensuring:

- Reliable, durable machinery engineered for maximum uptime.
- Rapid turnaround on service and support.
- Readily available spares and consumables for hassle-free operations.
- Expert training and technical assistance, keeping workforces at peak efficiency.

- Strengthening local manufacturing

Van Zyl says that MADE CC is proudly South African and champions local innovation and economic growth. "Every machine we produce supports a network of South African manufacturers and suppliers, ensuring industry-wide benefits."

The company's partners include steel processing and fabrication specialists; powder coaters, gear makers & electroplaters; electrical parts and consumable suppliers; precision machinists for gantries and rails; and nut and bolt manufacturers.

"By outsourcing strategically, MADE CC ensures cost-effective production, scalability, and consistent machine delivery, keeping industries moving at full speed," says Van Zyl.

"With a reputation for speed, reliability, and industry expertise, businesses trust MADE CC to power their operations. We deliver precision engineering backed by lightning-fast support and South African excellence," he concludes.

A trusted standard for temperature control available in SA

Myles Crosthwaite Sales and Services is excited to introduce a new agency – Tool-Temp – to South Africa. It is a brand driven by reliability, safety, and innovation. According to Myles Crosthwaite Sales and

Services, Tool-Temp is the trusted standard for temperature control.

Made to Swiss quality standards, Tool-Temp has been a leader in producing temperature control and cooling units for the manufacturing sector since 1973. Filtration

carts clean out contaminated lubricants

With decades of experience, the company specialises in ensuring industries operate at optimal temperatures, offering over 60 standard models and a variety of customised solutions. The company's extensive product portfolio includes temperature control units, process thermostats, and cooling units or chillers, catering to a wide range of industries, including plastics, metal casting, rubber, printing, laminating, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and food.

Innovation is at the heart of Tool-Temp, highlighted by its Matic product line and the Iris control system, which allows for advanced process temperature control through enhanced

connectivity and user-friendly communication. With a global presence supported by 16 branches and numerous agencies, Tool-Temp is committed to providing fast repair and spare parts services, ensuring assistance is available anytime, anywhere.

Myles Crosthwaite Sales makes it possible to discover how Tool-Temp South Africa continues to push the boundaries of temperature control technology, ensuring that businesses not only meet their operational demands but also enhance efficiency and sustainability.

"At the KITE 2025 Trade Show, we invite you to join us as visitors



will have the opportunity to engage with our experts who are passionate about transforming industry standards. Whether you are looking to optimise energy consumption, improve process stability, or integrate smart technology into your operations, our dedicated team is eager to collaborate and share insights. Embrace the future of industrial temperature control with

solutions that are not only reliable but also environmentally conscious, as Tool Temp remains steadfast in its commitment to innovation and excellence," says Myles Crosthwaite.






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Filtration carts clean out contaminated lubricants

If a contaminated lubricant isn't dealt with promptly, it can affect the entire machinery system that it forms a part of. This can result in increased costs from downtime and equipment repairs, or worse, having to replace equipment entirely. Dealing with a contaminated lubricant requires the whole system to be flushed to prevent further damage.

According to Lubrication specialists, Lubrication Engineers (LE) South Africa, for effective filtration, the right tools are essential. The company recommends a 'kidney-loop' filtration cart to help drain contaminated lubricants from systems.

Gavin Ford, national marketing manager at LE, says the filtration cart is often the first step when LE helps a client solve issues. "We'll get complaints of machinery issues like loud operating volumes, high temperatures, or excessive vibrations. From experience, we know that most of these issues are linked to contaminated lubricants. About 80% of the time, the oil needs to be cleaned, rather than replaced, so we run the kidney-loop system to do this."

The system mechanically separates out any particles or water from the system, which helps to prevent further damage to the machinery.

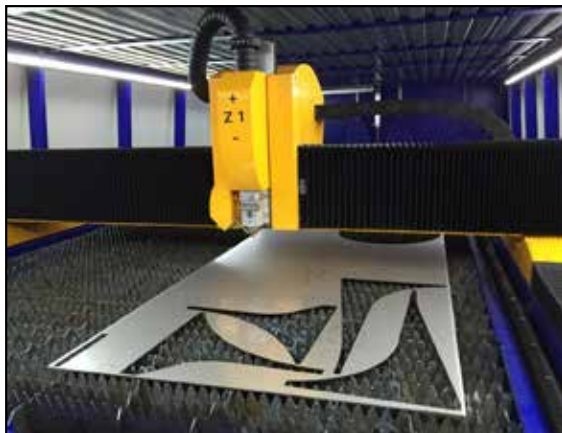
Once the system has been decontaminated, it's important to diagnose the issue. Contaminants can be introduced due to a newly installed part, such as a pump or motor, not having a breather installed with it, or water entering the system during cleaning procedures. "Once we've filtered the lubricant, diagnosed the problem and fixed it, we run the machinery and then do another analysis to check that everything has been sorted out," says Ford.

In addition to decontamination, filtration carts can be used in a variety of applications, such as dispensing or pre-filtering new oil.



Europe's latest laser cutting machine launches with precision and versatility in Durban

In today's fast-evolving manufacturing industry, precision, efficiency, and adaptability are more than just goals – they are necessities. At the forefront of this innovation is Laser Techniques, leveraging the latest Microstep laser cutting machine to redefine the standards in metal fabrication. With capabilities tailored for both flat sheet cutting and tube processing, this cutting-edge technology is setting new benchmarks for quality and versatility. Laser Techniques says the Microstep laser cutting machine delivers unmatched cutting precision, as it is engineered to deliver exceptional accuracy, crucial for industries demanding high-tolerance components, such as pharmaceutical, automotive, food and beverage, and medical devices. Thanks to its high-power fibre laser source, even the most intricate geometries are executed flawlessly on both flat and tubular materials. What truly sets the Laser Techniques Microstep laser system apart is its dual functionality. Traditional laser systems often specialise in either flat sheets or tube cutting, but the



Microstep laser handles both with seamless integration. Whether working on mild steel, stainless steel, aluminum, or more exotic alloys, the system can transition between 2D flatbed cutting and 3D tube cutting without compromising on performance. The company benefits from the Microstep machine's advanced automation features, including a dual automatic exchange table for

loading & unloading, intelligent nesting software, and real-time online diagnostics. These features minimise downtime, reduce material waste, and ensure a continuous production flow. With its ability to process complex parts in fewer steps, the system significantly boosts operational efficiency.

From one-off prototypes to large-scale production runs, the Microstep laser cutter offers the flexibility to adapt. Its user-friendly control system and quick changeover between materials or job types make it ideal for custom fabricators and mass manufacturers alike.

Laser Techniques can now serve a broader client base with faster turnaround times, all while maintaining tight tolerances and consistent quality.

Equipped with the latest fibre laser technology, the Microstep system is more energy-efficient compared to older CO₂-based machines. This translates to lower operational costs and, consequently, a lower cost per piece.

Coupled with reduced material wastage and fewer rejected parts due to high accuracy, Laser Techniques' clients benefit from both economic and environmental savings.

The clean edges produced by the Microstep laser reduce or eliminate the need for grinding, deburring, or secondary finishing.

This not only speeds up the production process but also ensures a higher-quality surface finish – crucial for components that require welding or assembly, at an affordable cost.

The company says by integrating the latest Microstep laser cutting machine, it has positioned itself as a leader in high-precision, multi-format laser cutting. Whether the need is for flat sheet components or complex tubular structures, this investment in advanced technology ensures clients receive unrivalled quality, speed, and value.

"In an industry where the smallest detail can make the biggest difference, we continue to deliver — one perfectly cut part at a time," says Kevin Baitz, director at the Techniques Group.

Comprehensive steel supply and services across KZN

SINCE 1980, NJR Steel has grown both organically and through acquisitions to become one of the country's leading steel merchants. The company has expanded its footprint to include value-added services, manufacturing capacity, and an extensive product inventory.

The group currently has a network of 26 branches located across South Africa, including three in KwaZulu-Natal, based at Bridge City in Durban, in Glencoe and in Pietermaritzburg.

"Each branch, adapting to each region's specific needs, carries an extensive range of products and stock, runs a delivery fleet and provides value-added services to consistently offer customers high levels of support and service at the right price," says Nick Chapman, NJR Steel's group marketing manager.

"One of NJR Steel's key strengths lies in our reliable availability of a comprehensive range of steel products and services. Our branches have steel retail hardware stores, allowing customers to source everything they need for their projects in one visit. This convenience streamlines procurement and saves customer's valuable time by offering complementary products like paint, welding rods, nuts and screws, gate accessories, and cutting and grinding disks.

The company uses its buying power to the advantage of its customers. "The size of our business, backed by a central buying facility, allows us to cater to clients needing large steel orders across a range of products without relying on third-party suppliers," he says.

EXTENSIVE PRODUCT RANGE

Certified high-quality rebar and reinforced mesh are available for construction projects. NJR Steel's Durban branch supplies steel reinforcing mesh and rebar cut and bend, which plays a critical role in ensuring the structural integrity, durability, and safety in construction projects. NJR has supplied

steel to numerous prestigious construction projects within Umhlanga and throughout the many residential estates along the North Coast, including Zimbali, Zimbali Lakes, Seaton, Palm Lakes, and the yet-to-be-launched Hemsley Country Estate in Ballito. The company also supplies to many RDP housing projects within KwaZulu-Natal.

Rebar and reinforced mesh are essential steel components that provide reinforcement and strength to a building's foundation and concrete structures, setting the stage for a solid and reliable living environment.

NJR Steel's Durban branch supplied around 100 tons of steel used in the Amandletu School Bridge in the Amaoti Inanda area after floodwaters washed it away in April 2022, a project undertaken by Qajana Group and eThekweni Municipality.

The company is also supplying rebar cut and bend and ref mesh into several sections of the many civils road works, being seen along the highways.

A recent project that has just been completed is the Mzimkhulu River Bridge on the N2 and the Kokstad interchange, which is nearing completion.

"You can expect excellent customer service from your local branch – we will help you find the best pricing and ensure your queries, quotes, and orders are processed quickly and efficiently. We have extensive delivery capability, from Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, all the way up the east coast to Manguzi and Kosi Bay," says Anthony Chapman, NJR Steel branch director for Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Structural steel is fundamental to the company's product range and includes flat bars, angles, channels, window sections, columns and beams.

NJR Steel also stocks a wide range of quality steel plates, sheet metal and coil and slit strips. "Our steel plates include mild steel plates, S355 graded steel plates, boiler plates, corten plates, vas-trap, and manufactured base plates," he says.

The company also offers an extensive range of commercial quality hot rolled, cold rolled and galvanised sheets.

Round tube, square tube and rectangular tube are also available. "We supply a broad range of steel tubing – including hot-rolled round, square and rectangular tubing, cold-rolled round tubing, galvanised tubing, tested conveyance tubing and drawn pipe."

The company also supplies multiple fencing options, including high and medium security mesh fencing, palisade fencing, chain link fencing and diamond mesh fences.

Through NJR Steel's value-added services, quality and accountability are ensured throughout the process. Customers can access a range of services, including coil processing, cut-to-



length, de-coiling, slitting, IBR and corrugated roofing lines, flat bar lines, as well as reliable deliveries. These are all managed within the group and eliminate the need for third-party contractors.

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Galvanised steel is a smart choice for infrastructure in varied environments

WITH infrastructure demands rising across Africa, selecting the right materials for structural and roofing applications has become a critical decision for engineers, architects, and developers. The International Zinc Association (IZA) Africa Desk highlights the enduring performance and versatility of hot dip galvanised structural steel and continuously galvanised roof sheeting, particularly in the face of tough environmental conditions.

"Whether you are designing for deep South African underground mines or the corrosive local coastline, galvanising provides a proven and cost-effective corrosion protection system that extends the life of steel by decades," says Simon Norton, director of IZA Africa.

Hot dip galvanised steel, coated with a layer of zinc plus an organic coating, is especially valued in structural and roofing applications for its durability, low maintenance

requirements, and lifecycle cost benefits. When exposed to the atmosphere, zinc forms a protective patina of complex zinc carbonate that shields steel from corrosion, even in aggressive environments. Zinc also provides cathodic protection to the underlying steel. "It is a double whammy of benefits!" comments Norton.

INLAND VS COASTAL APPLICATIONS

Norton advises that while standard hot dip galvanised steel performs well in inland areas with low to moderate corrosion exposure, additional considerations are necessary for coastal or industrial zones. Inland in South Africa, the extensive deep underground mining industry will benefit substantially from the use of galvanised steel for mine shaft steel and buntons, as these are exposed to very corrosive mine waters and conditions underground.



"In sea salt sprayed coastal areas, it is essential to use thicker zinc coatings on steel sheet or duplex systems, namely galvanising followed by paint, to withstand the increased corrosive impact," explains Norton. A site-specific corrosion risk assess-

ment (using ISO 9223) should guide the choice of coating type and thickness for continuous galvanised roof sheeting, with SANS 121 (ISO 1461) as a benchmark for hot dip galvanising standards in South Africa.

For roof sheeting, continuous galvanised (zinc-coated) steel is widely used due to its formability and corrosion protection. However, it cannot be used without a primer and organic overcoat, which is known as a duplex system. Hence products such as Chromadek are specified. Zinc-aluminium coated products such as Bluescope Colourbond and Safal Colourplus can also be specified, particularly in coastal zones (the ultra-version).

This is due to enhanced corrosion resistance in marine atmospheres resulting from the zinc-aluminium coating layer on the steel. However, again bear in mind that all these roof and cladding products have

an organic coating on top of the zinc or aluzinc layer to provide that extra duplex system and protection from the external environment, notes Norton.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Galvanised steel contributes to sustainability goals, aligning with global green building practices. Zinc is a natural, recyclable metal, and galvanised steel can be reused or recycled without loss of physical properties of the basic contents, namely steel and zinc.

"Galvanising supports Africa's infrastructure development by increasing material lifespan, saving valuable capital and by lowering total environmental impact," says Norton. "IZA Africa is committed to providing expert knowledge about appropriate zinc applications to ensure safe, economical, and long-lasting infrastructure across the continent."

Marking a 100-year legacy of safety, with a focus on the future

DEKRA Industrial and its adult-based education and occupational skills training division, the Institute of Learning (IOL), showcase a milestone at A-OSH 2025. The company celebrates Dekra Global's 100 years of safety leadership and reaffirms its

purpose: to create safer workplaces, foster learning and opportunity, and honour Dekra's founders – whose vision, persistence and hard work have shaped the company into what it is today.

A-OSH 2025 is especially meaningful for the company, as it coincides with Dekra Global's centenary and the celebration in South Africa.

Through this dual lens – one of global impact and local roots – the company is connecting its heritage with expansive, forward-looking leadership.

"At the core of this is faith and belief: in our people, in our purpose, and in our power to make a difference," said Christopher Mörsner, head of training and Consulting at the Dekra Institute of Learning.

"From our forebears in 1925 to today's employees in 2025, we have been united by a common purpose: to protect and nurture people, creating opportunities which make a tangible difference to their lives. We are also fuelled by gratitude for Dekra's amazing and inspirational legacy, which we are proud to be a part of, and is close to our hearts, as well as for our dedicated staff and leaders today," Mörsner says.

CULTURE OF SAFETY

Dekra Industrial's and the IOL's consistent presence at A-OSH reinforces its holistic, integrated approach to safety, which combines advanced non-destructive testing (NDT) and inspection services, Process Safety Management (PSM), and occupational skills training for a wide range of sectors, including high-risk industries. The IOL's competency-based training is designed to shape not just technical skills but also the mindset, addressing behavioural risks, decision-making, and organisational change to create a culture of safety.

"We work at the intersection of systems and people," says Mörsner. "Our role is to help organisations move from compliance to a culture of

proactive safety – where decisions are data-driven, interventions are timely, and employees feel personally accountable. Our presence at A-OSH reinforces the importance of occupational health and safety and culture of safety approach."

NEW MARKET OFFERINGS

At A-OSH 2025, Dekra IOL is introducing its emergency preparedness kit and process offering: a structured, practical solution which supports a real-time emergency

response, including first aid resources, contact documentation, lighting and fire extinguishers – all prepared for use at on-site assembly points.

"We identify gaps and needs in the market. This offering is about providing industry with structure, clarity, and accountability when it matters most," says Mörsner. "It helps eliminate confusion during emergencies and ensures that lives are protected through streamlined emergency response coordination."

The company will also soon be launching an additional e-commerce payment portal, designed to make adult-based education and occupational skills training more accessible. Clients can now browse, purchase and begin training online, with options enabling interest-free payments over three months. The platform includes more than 100 short and full-length online courses.



Johan Gerber, managing director at Dekra Industrial, Christopher Mörsner, head of training and consulting at Dekra IOL and Lothar Weihofen, Dekra Global country manager

"Affordability should not be a barrier to education," says Mörsner. "This platform supports individual learners and companies who want to invest in their people, and reflects Dekra IOL's commitment to continuous improvement, learning and development."

BRAND AMBASSADORS

To honour Dekra Global's 100th anniversary and South Africa's cultural heritage, Dekra Industrial and the IOL welcome acclaimed singer Riana Nel as one of their A-OSH 2025 brand ambassadors.

"This is in celebration of our cultural heritage, as the popularity of Riana's relatable music bears testament to – and reflects – her passion and care for people," says Mörsner.

Complementing this is sports brand ambassador Deon Fourie.



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Three-in-one: cutting, welding and cleaning

BMG's tools & equipment division supplies and supports an extensive range of welding products and systems, which enhance efficiencies and ensure optimum safety during metal working in all sectors.

"BMG is committed to assisting industry create a healthy, clean and safe environment for welding procedures, through the supply of the latest equipment and advanced technologies, which is supported by technical expertise," says Andrew Johns, business unit manager, tools & equipment division, BMG. "Our welding products and services are tailored to meet specific customer requirements and are designed to reduce risks associated with welding and cutting fumes, grinding dust and oil mist. The company's portfolio of welding-related products also comprises a wide range of inverter welders, accessories, electrodes, welding wire and personal protection equipment (PPE).

"Laser welding, cutting and cleaning equipment are relatively new to the welding industry, and we have

extended our range of Jasic equipment to include the recently-launched Jasic 3-in-1 handheld laser welding machines, designed to safely perform welding, cutting and cleaning tasks. These versatile machines offer quick, dependable and cost-effective performance, reducing the need for post-weld treatments. These compact machines also ensure a smaller footprint compared to traditional metal inert gas (MIG) and tungsten inert gas (TIG) welders. Jasic's advanced laser welding technology is known for precise welding with minimal heat-affected zone (HAZ), resulting in stronger and neater welds, with less distortion," says Johns.

BMG's range of Jasic welding equipment also includes arc inverter welders, TIG and MIG welders and plasma cutters. The portfolio comprises manual metal arc (MMA) welders (140 amps to 630 amps) TIG inverters (200 amp to 400 amp) water-cooled pulse



units, AC/DC TIG units (200 amp to 400 amp) water-cooled pulse units and MIG/MAG inverters (250 amp to 500 amp) dual pulse water-cooled units. Plasma cutters range from a single-phase 45 amp hand-held unit, to a three-phase 160 amp cutting inverter that is capable of cutting up to 50 mm.

Plasma cutters with CNC capabilities are also available.

Jasic is a leading international developer, manufacturer and supplier of welding inverters and integrated welding solutions that represent

value, reliability, durability and innovation.

BMG specialists work closely with every customer to ensure the selection of the correct equipment and appropriate and safe use of each system. Factors for careful consideration include selecting the appropriate welding process and equipment, based on the materials to be welded and their thickness. The most commonly welded materials are aluminium, mild steel, stain-

less steel and alloys. Many plastics can now also be welded. It is also important that only suitably trained operators use welding equipment.

BMG specialists also encourage businesses to be mindful of the hazards of welding fumes and the importance of protecting workers' health through the extraction and control of these fumes. Airborne welding fumes are a mixture of metal fumes and gases produced during welding operations, which are harmful to workers. Toxic welding fumes can contain a mixture of manganese, chromium

VI, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and ozone – which cause serious short and long-term health problems. For this reason, it is critical that PPE and workplace safety equipment is suitable for every welding and cutting application.

All Jasic components are subjected to rigorous testing, including vibration and drop, waterproof, safety, comprehensive parameter and EMC tests, as well as harmonic wave and flicker testing. BMG supports Jasic industrial products with a comprehensive three-year warranty.

According to BMG, these products are suitable for safe and dependable use in many industries, including mining and quarrying, rail, aviation and shipping, power generation, chemicals and petrochemicals, agriculture, construction and general engineering.

BMG's welding products and services are tailored to meet specific customer requirements and encompass dependable welding and cutting processes, welding fume extraction and filtration systems, as well as PPE and safety equipment.

Linked vibration monitoring in three axes

MACHINE vibrations are important indicators when assessing the current condition of a machine. Damage to rolling element bearings and other machine components can be detected at an early stage, preventing costly machine downtime. Ifm's new and smart IO-Link vibration sensor helps to implement a simple and scalable condition monitoring approach using a single device.

The new VVB30x condition monitoring sensor, which ifm will be presenting at the SPS in Nuremberg, continuously detects vibrations in all three dimensions. From the measured values recorded, the sensor calculates proven indicators to evaluate the machine's condition: information on fatigue (v-RMS), mechanical friction (a-RMS), impacts (a-Peak) and

bearing wear (Crest factor). As an additional wear indicator, the surface temperature is also transmitted. Furthermore, the sensor offers a whole range of other smart functions. In the basic condition monitoring version, the sensor can continuously analyse and, if required, reliably communicate any imbalance developing in the machine. The sensor also calculates the machine operating hours based on the machine-related vibration level, which is another auxiliary variable in modern maintenance. Last, but not least the DataScience condition monitoring version of the device also comes with a smart bearing demodulation process for reliable and con-



tinuous bearing analysis, known as BearingScout.

The new vibration sensor uses IO-Link for data transmission, device diagnostics and parameter setting. This enables users to implement vibration monitoring and analysis in a SCADA system by any manufacturer using standard fieldbus protocols. Optionally, this can be done simultaneously via a standardised MQTT or HTTPS interface in any IT system. With the moneo IIoT platform, ifm electronic offers a whole range of smart additional functions for root cause failure analysis, making it easy to implement IT-based condition monitoring.

Configuration is also very easy via IO-Link. In accordance with the respective machine category as

defined in ISO 20816-3, predefined limit value profiles are stored directly in the device and can be adapted to the target application using the corresponding system command. In the event of a limit value being exceeded, a detailed root cause analysis is easily pos-

sible, even without moneo, thanks to the integrated BLOB ring memory. Up to 12 seconds of raw data can be made available automatically if required. Additionally, the sensor maintains an internal characteristic value history, providing an overview of the last nine days.

'Green' technology cuts CO2 emissions

ABB has been selected by GreenIron, an innovative Swedish company working in the mining and metals industries with its patented materials reduction technology, to provide automation and control system solutions for a first commercial facility in Sandviken, Sweden.

GreenIron's hydrogen-based reduction technology will be industrialised for fossil-free and energy-efficient production of metals, producing fossil-free sponge iron that can then be used in industries such as steel-making. A single furnace is expected to reduce carbon emissions by around 56,000 tonnes per year compared to traditional coal-based meth-

ods, with the only residual product being water. Scaling up to 300 furnaces would correspond to roughly 35 percent of Sweden's annual CO2 emissions.

The integration of the ABB Ability™ System 800xA distributed control system (DCS) will enable the scaling up of GreenIron's operations. The powerful automation platform will manage the entire industrial process, with the capabilities to integrate control, safety and power management into one system. It will mean overall plant visibility for optimisations, efficiencies and better decision-making based on data and insights, according to ABB.

GreenIron paves the way for cir-

cular production processes by producing valuable raw materials from residual products such as landfills and residues as well as virgin ore. The sponge iron products can be used in steel or other metal fabrication processes, including electric arc furnaces, smelting plants and foundries.

"The collaboration with ABB is a crucial part of our scaling up and future growth as we commence commercial production," said Ulrika Molander, chief operating officer of GreenIron. "ABB's system will enable us to make informed decisions, stabilise operations at every stage, and analyse data for our continued journey. It's an exciting time for us."



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KZN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY EXPO PREVIEW

DATE: 22 - 24 JULY 2025 - TIME: 9:00 - 17:00

VENUE: DURBAN EXHIBITION CENTRE

16

Fuel your competitive edge with tech that transforms – only at KITE 2025

Uncover the tools and trends redefining production, performance, and efficiency

As the pace of industrial advancement accelerates, there's never been a more important time to connect with the technologies, expertise, and insights that can shape an organisation's future. The KwaZulu-Natal Industrial Technology Exhibition (KITE) 2025, taking place from 22 to 24 July at the Durban Exhibition Centre, offers exactly that – a vibrant, solution-focused platform tailored to the unique needs of KwaZulu-Natal's industrial, manufacturing, and engineering, maritime, agricultural, and mining sectors.

"KITE continues to serve as a powerful driver of growth and innovation, providing visitors with direct access to the tools and strategies needed to thrive in a developing landscape. Whether your focus is on energy, mining, manufacturing, automation, or logistics, KITE brings together the right suppliers, technologies, and insights – all under one roof," says Charlene Hefer, portfolio director at Specialised Exhibitions – a division of Montgomery Group.

SEE WHAT'S POSSIBLE ACROSS EVERY INDUSTRY

Visitors to KITE 2025 will experience a dynamic showcase of groundbreaking products and services, many of which are being introduced to the market for the first time. From smart automation solutions and AI-powered systems to sustainable energy innovations and next-gen industrial tools, the show floor helps professionals unlock greater efficiency, performance, and growth.

"With hundreds of brands represented, the exhibition is not just about seeing new products – it's about discovering real solutions to the challenges facing your operations. Whether you're a plant manager, procurement specialist, engineer, or business owner, the tools to streamline processes, reduce downtime, and cut costs are waiting for you at KITE," says Hefer.



Find the full spectrum of industrial technology solutions at KITE 2025

BACKED BY INDUSTRY LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Key industry bodies that understand the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses in KZN and beyond proudly support KITE. This backing ensures that the event is relevant, impactful, and aligned with the needs of the sector.

Support by the South African Institution of Mechanical Engineering (SAIMEchE), the Lifting Equipment Engineering Association of SA (Leeasa), the South African Capital Equipment Export Council (Saceec), the Society for Automation, Instrumentation, Mechatronics and Computer Engineering (SAIMC), and the Production Technologies Association of South Africa (PtSA), strengthens the show's credibility and enhances the

quality of engagement between exhibitors and visitors. Attendees can expect to interact with representatives from these organisations and stay up to date with best practices, standards, and support available to their industry.

INSIGHTS THAT INSPIRE – SEMINAR SESSIONS NOT TO MISS

In addition to the exhibition floor, visitors can gain valuable knowledge and inspiration through KITE's free-to-attend seminar programme. Hosted in the SAIMEchE Seminar Theatre, these sessions cover the most pressing topics facing modern industry – from artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0/5.0 to energy resilience, automation, and sustainable manufacturing.

"With practical case studies, expert panels,

and tech-driven presentations, the seminar sessions offer insight that can be applied immediately in the workplace. Whether you're curious about predictive maintenance, data integration, or supply chain visibility, you'll leave with fresh ideas and action points," says Hefer.

Each day covers a specific theme, with day 1 focusing on technology enhancing productivity, problem-solving, integrating generative AI into workflows, digital twinning, virtual reality VR 2.0, Day 2's theme discusses how key technologies of the fourth and fifth industrial revolution create new innovative opportunities and disrupt existing systems, including augmented reality, cybersecurity and IoT. The theme for day 3 is sustainable technologies, green energy technologies, smart factories, machine learning, and data analytics.

A FULL VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Beyond the stands and sessions, KITE offers an energising visitor experience designed to encourage connection, collaboration, and learning. Enjoy live demonstrations, interactive displays, and product launches throughout the venue – giving you hands-on opportunities to explore technology in action.

"If you're involved in the lifting industry, we suggest booking your place at the one-day Leeasa Lifting Seminar. Leeasa will also be launching the Forklift Operator Competition this year, and we'll once again be running the New Products and Innovations Awards – co-hosted by Saceec (South African Capital Equipment Export Council) and judged by Eric Bruggeman, CEO of Saceec," says Hefer.

Visitors are encouraged to pre-register for free on the KITE website – www.kznindustrial.co.za – to avoid queues at the expo. The website is also a valuable source of updated information on the seminar sessions.



22 - 24 July 2025

Durban Exhibition Centre, KZN
9am - 5pm Daily

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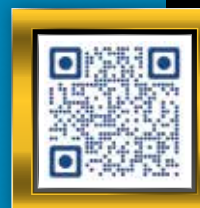
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Experience smart overhead lifting technologies at KITE

RGM Cranes, Africa's largest manufacturer of overhead cranes, is proud to participate in the KwaZulu-Natal Industrial Technology Exhibition (KITE) 2025. As a leader in lifting innovation, RGM Cranes will be exhibiting at Stand OS 8, where visitors can experience two standout technologies: the Gravity Ant electric manipulator and the Aluminium Light Crane System – both designed to redefine efficiency, precision, and safety in industrial handling environments.

With over 36 years of industry expertise, RGM Cranes specialises in the design, manufacture, installation, and maintenance of overhead lifting systems across a wide range of sectors. At KITE 2025, the focus is on smarter, more ergonomic lifting solutions tailored to modern production demands.

A key highlight on the stand will be the Gravity Ant, a compact yet powerful electric manipulator engineered by European partner Güralp.

Designed for high-frequency production environments, the Gravity Ant enables operators to lift, move, and precisely position components with minimal effort. Its intuitive Float Mode responds to the lightest touch, making it ideal for repetitive tasks in assembly lines, workshops, and other fast-paced settings. Integrated safety features – including dual-hand control and emergency stop functions – ensure peace of mind without compromising speed or control.

Also on display will be the Aluminium Light Crane System, a modular and lightweight overhead solution ideal for light-load applications and precision workspaces. Known for its effortless assembly and ergonomic operation, the system is particularly well-suited for manufacturing facilities, automotive workshops, and warehousing environments where



Alex (left) and David Dowling

adaptability and user-friendly handling are key. Its anodised aluminium profile ensures quiet, low-friction travel with excellent strength-to-weight performance for smooth, user-friendly operation. Visitors will get to see firsthand how this system simplifies installation while delivering consistent, smooth movement in day-to-day use.

"Our focus at KITE is to demonstrate how advanced handling tools can boost productivity and safety without adding complexity," says Alex Dowling, group CEO / chairman at RGM Cranes. "Both the Gravity Ant and the Aluminium Light Crane System reflect our ongoing commitment to innovation that solves real-world challenges."

"We've seen a growing demand for equipment that doesn't just perform but also improves the daily working environment," adds David Dowling, chief operating officer at RGM Cranes. "These technologies answer that call with simplicity, strength, and smart design." Attendees are encouraged to visit Stand OS 8 to engage with the RGM Cranes team, view live demonstrations, and discover how these innovative solutions can transform their operations.

Why manufacturers must embrace intelligent core ERP

THE manufacturing sector is experiencing an unprecedented surge in data generation, according to Marius Wessels, manager: professional services for Syspro Africa. Thanks to the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) on the factory floor and across the manufacturing supply chain, manufacturers now gather vast amounts of data from factory floors and supply chains, unlocking opportunities for unparalleled insights and efficiencies.

IIoT devices, including sensors, QR codes, smart labels, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, and Near Field Communication (NFC) chips, are revolutionising connectivity and interoperability, enabling manufacturers to monitor processes, improve quality control, and understand their operations.

All this IIoT technology provides a wealth of data points for manufacturers to draw from when looking for insights into their business operations. However, data alone is not enough – the actual value of IIoT lies in how this data is harnessed and analysed.

A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

IIoT provides real-time information on asset locations, conditions, and performance, offering manufacturers critical insights into their operations. These insights can optimise production, enhance process efficiency, and strengthen supply chain management. However, these benefits require the right tools to transform raw data into actionable intelligence, Wessels continues.

The key lies in integrating IIoT with robust Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. By combining the power of IIoT with ERP, manufacturers can unlock the potential of big data analytics and accelerate their smart factory transformation. With advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), manufacturers can:

- Predict and prevent costly unplanned maintenance.
- Forecast trends with precision and agility.
- Respond swiftly to customer demands and market fluctuations.
- Streamline and optimise supply chain operations.
- Intelligent Core ERP

Accurate, AI-driven forecasting is driven



by the data from a business's ERP system, which generates sales and inventory reports to reliably predict seasonality, provide demand forecasting, route optimisation and inventory management. An Intelligent Core ERP system furthers these capabilities by offering a unified platform integrating advanced technologies like AI, ML, big data, and real-time analytics. This system goes beyond automation; it facilitates intelligent decision-making by consolidating data from across the business and providing real-time visibility into manufacturing operations. Key benefits include:

- Enhanced forecasting and inventory management. AI-driven insights eliminate guesswork, ensuring optimal inventory levels and preparation for market changes.
- Improved quality control. Integrated quality management reduces defects, maintains compliance, and ensures consistent product standards.
- Optimal resource utilization. Real-time data enables better allocation of resources, minimising waste and unplanned downtime.
- Scalability and adaptability. As manufacturers grow, Intelligent Core ERP systems scale effortlessly to support new processes, products, and markets.

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Smart factories thrive on visibility, connectivity, and autonomy – qualities made possible by the synergy between IIoT and Intelligent Core ERP. While IIoT generates a wealth of data, ERP transforms it into actionable insights that enable manufacturers to achieve end-to-end visibility and traceability across the supply chain. It also enhances efficiency and reduces costs through predictive analytics. Seamless collaboration is fostered, and communication across operations is streamlined. It also enables

better quality control and compliance with more sophisticated operational oversight. Superior customer experiences are delivered by anticipating and fulfilling demand with precision.

According to Wessels, as manufacturing becomes increasingly complex and competitive, embracing Intelligent Core ERP is no

longer optional. It is the foundation of resilient, agile, and future-ready operations. By integrating IIoT data streams and leveraging advanced analytics, manufacturers can adapt to today's digital landscape and secure their position as industry leaders.

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Their water treatment solutions cover everything from raw and domestic water to rainwater and borehole filtration – promoting water conservation and pollution control. Offerings include media, flocculants, self cleaning screens, and bottled water plant components.

To enhance system performance, **ZF** supplies pneumatic components like dryers, compressor filters, tubing, valves, and vacuum accessories.

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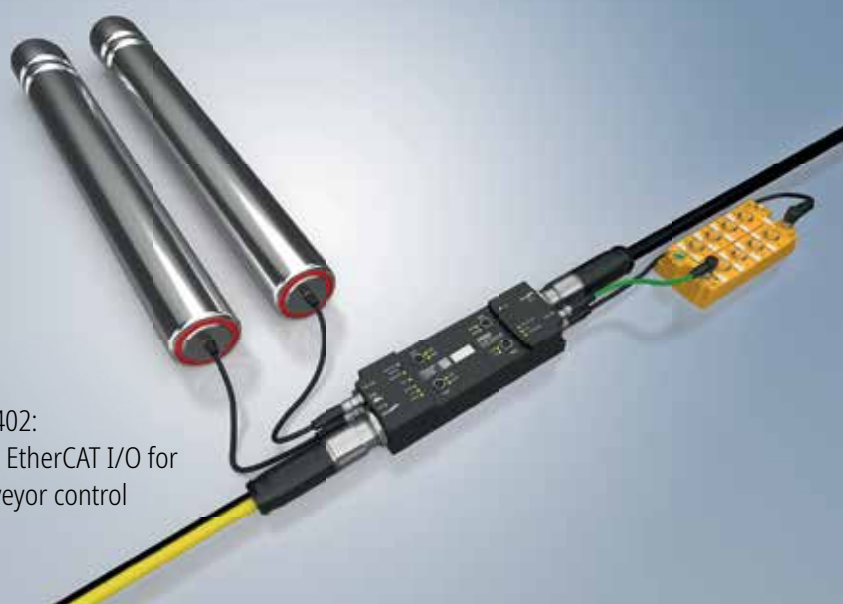
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We look forward to seeing you at the Durban Exhibition Centre, Stand C14

Beckhoff will be showcasing our comprehensive range of EtherCAT-based control technologies at the KwaZulu-Natal Industrial Technology Exhibition 2025. Visit us to explore the latest innovations in industrial PCs, I/O and fieldbus components, drive technology, and automation software. Our New Automation Technology stands for universal and industry-independent control and automation solutions that are used worldwide in a large variety of different applications, ranging from CNC-controlled machine tools to intelligent building control.

We look forward to seeing you at the Durban Exhibition Centre, KZN, Stand C14 from 22–24 July.

Beckhoff Automation South Africa & sub-Saharan Africa, located in Johannesburg, was established in 2006. Cape Town, Durban and Gqeberha branches cover their respective regions. Beckhoff South Africa has a fully-equipped training centre and service centre, as well as a highly competent and customer driven sales and technical support team. Beckhoff SA supports their customers directly through experienced staff, as well as through a network of certified system integrators. Beckhoff South Africa therefore guarantees proficient customer service and advice throughout the country.

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BECKHOFF

Convenient component supply to the food and beverage sector

RS South Africa, a trading brand of RS Group plc, and a leading provider of industrial product and service solutions, is reinforcing its commitment to the country's dynamic food and beverage sector. Backed by a comprehensive portfolio of over 800,000 products, extensive technical expertise, and end-to-end service capabilities, RS is assisting food and beverage manufacturers to tackle operational challenges, ensure compliance, and drive sustainable growth.

A CORNERSTONE OF SA'S ECONOMY

The food and beverage industry is a vital pillar of South Africa's economy, contributing about 25% to the country's total manufacturing output and generating over R800 billion in annual revenue, according to Statistics South Africa & TIPS, 2023. The sector encompasses the entire value chain, from farming and processing to packaging and distribution, and is continually evolving in response to shifting consumer expectations, regulatory requirements, and technological advancements.

"The food and beverage sector is one of the most dynamic and vital components of South Africa's industrial landscape. Our mission is to support our customers with the right ingredients, including technical expertise, a wide product portfolio, and future-forward service



solutions, to help them navigate their operational challenges and stay competitive in a fast-paced market," comments Erick Wessels, sales director of RS South Africa.

COMPLETE SOLUTIONS

RS offers tailored support across every stage of food and beverage production. From head-to-toe PPE and hygiene management solutions to food-safe lubricants, sensors, and thermal imaging equipment, it helps companies meet strict hygiene, safety, and performance standards. These solutions are designed to withstand harsh environments, including extreme temperatures and corrosive conditions, ensuring consistent and reliable operations.

In partnership with industry leaders such as Festo, RS delivers high-quality automa-

tion solutions that help streamline production, improve product consistency, and increase overall plant efficiency. These include electric and pneumatic technologies specifically designed for food manufacturing and packaging applications.

DRIVING EFFICIENCY

RS is also helping companies manage rising operational costs through its predictive maintenance solutions and innovative services. The RS Maintenance Solutions suite includes condition monitoring, managed lubrication, calibration through its UKAS-accredited laboratory, oil analysis, and digital insights via RS Industria. These services allow food manufacturers to proactively address equipment faults before they lead to costly breakdowns and unplanned downtime.

By supporting customers with actionable data and integrated maintenance strategies, RS helps build resilience into operations and extend the life of critical assets. In addition, its range of RS PRO own-brand products provides high-quality, cost-effective alternatives to well-known brands.

With sustainability high on the industry's agenda, RS is also helping manufacturers reduce their environmental footprint. The company's energy management services assist

in cutting unnecessary usage, implementing efficient lighting systems, and eliminating air leaks, all contributing to a lower carbon footprint and reduced costs.

According to global consultancy McKinsey & Company, industrial energy reduction initiatives can lead to cost savings of between 20% and 50%, a vital consideration in a sector grappling with soaring energy prices. RS supports food manufacturers in implementing these strategies effectively, ensuring they align with broader ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) goals and net-zero targets.

For manufacturers operating across borders, RS's Export Department ensures smooth, secure, and compliant international shipping. Specialising in hazardous packaging that meets IATA standards and managing all custom documentation in-house, RS guarantees dependable delivery anywhere in the world. This makes RS an ideal supply chain partner for multi-site and multinational food and beverage organisations.

As digital transformation becomes essential for operational agility, RS is equipping customers with future-proof technologies. In collaboration with Siemens, RS supports companies in optimising energy consumption, strengthening supply resilience, adapting to shifting consumer demands, and ensuring transparent production processes.

Design software solutions partner receives global recognition

MODENA Design Centres does more than deliver Autodesk solutions; it redefines how businesses maximise the value of their technology. "Our commitment to service excellence, innovation, and client success has once again been recognised on the global stage. We are proud to announce that we have been named the 2025 Services Partner of the Year for the EMEA region in Autodesk's prestigious Worldwide Channel Sales & Services Platinum Club Awards," says Jay Moolman, director and general manager at Modena AEC and Infrastructure.



"Winning the Autodesk Platinum Award for Services Partner of the Year 2025 is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and the success of our clients," says Moolman. "At Modena, we believe in showing up, pushing boundaries, and shaping the future of the built environment. This recognition reaffirms our mission to build a meaningful digital future with people at the centre of everything we do."

The Services Partner of the Year title is awarded to the partner that delivers the highest volume of favourable services, as measured by outstanding customer satisfaction (CSAT) scores. According to the company, this means that it not only leads in service delivery volume but also consistently receives top ratings from clients.

Autodesk's award criteria are stringent, ensuring that only the best-in-class partners are recognised. To qualify, service engagements must be delivered by accredited professionals and receive a minimum CSAT score of 5 or greater. This ensures that the

award is not just about quantity but also about exceptional quality and client impact.

The company takes a highly personalised approach, ensuring that every service it provides is tailored to meet the specific needs of clients.

A team of Autodesk-accredited professionals brings deep industry knowledge and technical skills to every engagement. The award reinforces the company's reputation as the most trusted Autodesk service provider in the EMEA region.

In its commitment to client success, the company empowers clients to fully leverage Autodesk technology to drive efficiency, productivity, and profitability. Modena also ensures that clients stay ahead of the curve through its expertise in Optimise Accelerators, Adopt Accelerators, and Partner Defined Service Accreditations.

"This award is a powerful validation of Modena's unwavering commitment to our customers' success through the delivery of industry-leading services and consulting," says Clive de Lange, sales director at Modena Durban. "It reassures our clients that they have partnered with a company at the forefront of service delivery, meeting and exceeding global standards. At Modena, we are obsessed with making our customers successful - our success is rooted in theirs. This is not our first Autodesk Services Partner of the Year award, and it certainly won't be our last. Our dedication to continuous development, improvement, and innovation ensures that we remain the Autodesk partner of choice for years to come."

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**WHERE INNOVATION
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Additive manufacturing – a solution to lead time emergencies in KZN

WHEN a critical component supplier quotes 14 weeks' delivery from Germany and production stops on Monday without that part, it's an opportune time to find an alternative solution.

According to Rapid 3D, the maraging steel knife demonstrates what's now possible. Complex surface patterns that would bankrupt traditional manufacturers cover the blade – honeycomb textures, intricate lattices, and custom designs. The precision-fitted polymer handle and branded metal studs represent multi-material integration achievable in a single build process. Polymer surface finish was post-processed to production standards using DyeMansion technology.

For engineers, the connections are immediate: those 'impossible' blade patterns mirror the complexity of conformal cooling channels in injection

moulds, optimised lattice structures in brackets, and textured surfaces for medical implants. The multi-material precision reflects real manufacturing requirements where metal and polymer components must integrate seamlessly.

BUSINESS REALITY

Post-loadshedding, every KZN manufacturer recognises supply chain fragility. Currency volatility makes imported parts unpredictable, and local content requirements add pressure. Yet most '3D-printing solutions' still focus on prototypes, not production realities.

"Most additive conversations start wrong," says David Bullock, CEO of Rapid 3D, which has guided KZN manufacturers through digital transformation for over two decades.



"Clients ask, 'Can you 3D-print everything?' That's the wrong question. The right question is: 'Which specific parts make economic sense to produce locally, on-demand?'"

Not every part belongs on a 3D-printer. High-volume, simple geometries rarely make sense. But when an injection moulding tool needs conformal cooling channels, when critical manufacturing equipment requires consumable

spares with complex geometries, when medical devices demand patient-specific geometries – additive manufacturing delivers what traditional methods cannot.

Recent applications prove this selective approach works. Danone's dairy plant in Poland reduced part costs by 80% across 274 components using Markforged – the company's printer paid for itself within one year. Austrian packaging manufacturer Payr, cut its fibre mould production costs by 50% with EOS technology. SQP Engineering reduced tooling costs by 30% while cutting lead times from two weeks to two days.

When Casino Food Co-op's critical gear failed, halting production, 3D-printing delivered replacement gears within 18 hours, preventing substantial financial losses.

STRATEGIC PREPARATION

Rapid 3D says smart manufacturers aren't waiting for emergencies. They're identifying applications during normal operations – analysing which components face the longest lead times, the highest tooling costs, or the most complex geometries.

"Supply chain resilience isn't just about alternatives," says Bullock. "It's about having the right alternatives for the right applications."

Rapid 3D's Additive Minds-certified consultants use proven methodologies developed with Mercedes, BMW, and Airbus to identify where additive delivers measurable ROI versus where traditional manufacturing remains optimal.

The goal isn't to replace everything – it's to build intelligent backup capabilities for when traditional supply chains fail, according to Rapid 3D.

Trust fire suppression systems on show

FOR 25 years, Advanced Fire Suppression Technologies (AFST) has safeguarded Africa's industries with more than just compliance. The company delivers confidence. With 11 fully operational branches across South Africa and a presence in more than 30 countries across the continent, AFST's fixed projects division has become a trusted name in technically sound, fit-for-purpose fire protection.

From gas suppression to early warning detection and sprinkler systems, AFST offers standalone solutions that are tailored to meet the demands of Africa's most challenging environments.

SUPPRESSION AND DETECTION

AFST's gas suppression capabilities include FM-approved clean agents and inert gases such as

FM-200 (HFC227ea) and Novec 1230 (FK-5-1-12). These systems protect mission-critical environments like control rooms, data centres, and archive facilities. They are designed to deliver rapid knockdown and zero damage, all while keeping operations uninterrupted.

The company's fire detection systems include intelligent, zoned heat and smoke detection panels. These provide fast, accurate alerts and are engineered to perform in the toughest industrial conditions. Every solution is built on decades of hands-on risk management experience.



SMARTER SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

In addition to its gas and detection systems, AFST's fixed projects division offers both traditional and mechanical sprinkler

systems. The mechanical option is a standout for clients who value speed, flexibility, and long-term value.

This innovative system arrives modular, pre-coated, pre-grooved, and ready for installation. Built to ISO 9001:2015 standards and

pressure tested up to 300 psi, it eliminates the need for welding or threading on site. The entire system bolts together quickly and cleanly.

Key benefits include:

- Faster installation, with teams able to install up to 50 percent more sprinkler heads per day.
- Minimal disruption or downtime, ideal for live environments.
- Reusable components that support future layout changes.
- Consistent, factory-controlled quality.

According to AFST, it is the perfect solution for warehouses, remote sites, multi-use facilities, or projects that demand flexibility and reduced on-site labour.

BUILT FOR AFRICA

AFST's team designs and installs custom systems that suit the unique risks of each environment. Whether the need is for gas suppression, intelligent detection, or sprinkler protection, the company brings project-specific insight and dependable execution.

With projects completed across more than 30 African countries, AFST combines deep technical expertise with regional presence. Clients benefit from fast response times, localised support, and systems that are engineered to last.

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Versatile training on offer at Mt Edgecombe facility

SHUKELA Training Centre, popularly known as STC, is a reputable and renowned Skills Development Provider (SDP) and Trade Test Centre (TTC) accredited by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). It is wholly owned by the South African Sugar Association (SASA) and is based in Mount Edgecombe, Durban.

The STC is a truly international institution as it not only trains learners from within South African borders but also those from other SADC and West African countries, as well as Dubai. Turning 51 years this year, it is one of the oldest training centres in South Africa, and prides itself on producing quality artisans that go on to compete with the best in the world.

An advantage of training at STC is that it has onsite accommodation, making it convenient for learners coming from outside Durban.

The STC is accredited to deliver Occupational Qualifications in the following trades: Electrical, Instrumentation, Refrigeration, Fitting, Turning, Fitting and Turning (dual trade), Millwright, Automotive Motor Mechanic, Diesel Mechanic, Boilermaking and Welding.

For those who do not intend to enroll for a full artisan qualification but want skills that will open up employment opportunities or enable them to start their own businesses, STC is now accredited by the MerSETA and the QCTO to offer the following Skills Programmes: Basic

Shield and Tungsten Arc Welding (12 weeks), Basic Shielded Metal Arc Welding in all positions using jigs (6 weeks), Brazing and Spot Welding Skills (4 weeks), Basic Automotive Repairing Skills (10 weeks), Basic Automotive Servicing Skills (7 weeks), Automotive Service Workshop Assistant (11 weeks) and Motor Vehicle Workshop Assistant (8 weeks).

The advantages of the Skills Programmes are that they are shorter duration and more affordable compared to the full qualification yet develop much-needed skills. Modules successfully completed in Skills Programmes are recognised if the candidate subsequently enrolls for a full qualification.



AI and robots on action at KITE 2025

KKNOWN for its cutting-edge motion plastics technology, igus will bring a full showcase of its top-performing components – from high-performance polymer bearings and energy chains to linear technology and a growing family of cost-effective robots.

igus South Africa is gearing up for a dynamic display at KwaZulu-Natal's Industrial Technology Exhibition (KITE 2025) taking place in July at the Durban Exhibition Centre. igus will feature a host of its latest innovations in Low-Cost Automation (LCA) and smart machine integration.

Central to this year's stand will be several live robotic systems in action offering attendees a first-hand look at real-world applications of igus technology in pick-and-place, assembly, CNC loading and other applications.

"Our goal at KITE 2025 is to give visitors an immersive look at how igus technology can boost operational efficiency and reduce downtime," says Ian Hewat of igus.



"We'll be demonstrating components and complete solutions from our durable polymer range. These will include everything from energy chains, cables, linear guides and wear-resistant bearings to fully functional robot arms powered by igus's robolink modular system."

"Our stand will showcase our international RBTX online robotics marketplace, the platform that helps companies to design and build customised robotic solutions quickly and affordably.

RBTX features over 500 ready-to-integrate robotics applications and components that are all tested for compatibility and performance.

"Attendees will also be able to use our newly launched AI smart assistant robot advisor that makes it easier than ever to find the right automation components online. Visitors to the stand will be able to interact with the AI assistant in a hands-on demo environment, learning how it uses real-world application data to recommend complete robotic systems.

"The AI chatbot takes the guesswork out of automation. Even without prior experience in robotics, users can simply describe their application and the AI will suggest a suitable robot arm, camera or gripper combination. It's part of our mission to remove the barriers to automation."

The AI advisor is already live and integrated into igus South Africa's robotics component shop at online, where it supports natural-language queries in multiple languages.

Leading labelling and printing technologies on show

PYROTEC, a trusted name in the printing and labelling industry for over 50 years, is excited to announce its participation in one of KwaZulu-Natal's leading industrial exhibitions. The company will be showcasing its innovative solutions designed to elevate packaging and manufacturing operations at the Durban Exhibition Centre from 22–24 July 2025 in Hall 1, Stand C17.

Renowned for its forward-thinking approach, Pyrotec offers a comprehensive range of products ideal for enhancing production efficiency, compliance, and customer engagement.

- Featured technologies include
- Advanced labelling systems for precision and standout branding.
 - Reliable coding and marking solutions for traceability and product integrity.
 - Engaging merchandising and



label options to drive visibility at retail.

- Smart factory software that improves control and productivity.

"Our aim is to provide practical, scalable solutions that meet the evolving needs of industrial and manufacturing businesses," says Brandon Pearce, general manager at Pyrotec PackMark. "This exhibition offers a great platform for us to connect with the KZN industry and demonstrate how our technology can drive real-world results."

Visitors to the company's stand will experience live demonstrations, gain insights from industry experts, and discover how Pyrotec can customise solutions for their specific operational challenges.

Whether in food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, logistics, or manufacturing, Pyrotec is ready to partner for long-term growth and success.

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Pumps lead the way in mill applications with advanced technology

In 2008, the KSB GIW MDX pump represented a major leap forward in mill duty applications. Prior to its introduction, KSB's range of GIW slurry pumps had already built a solid reputation in the industry.

Nevertheless, the MDX was meticulously designed from the ground up as a world-class mill pump for cyclone feed applications. It incorporates cutting-edge features such as an adjustable suction liner, thicker sections for improved wear life, and oversized shrouds for superior performance.

Within five years of its launch, major mines began specifying the MDX pump for new facilities and expansions. The MDX has consistently outperformed other pumps, often two to four times in certain cases. As a result, many customers have standardised on the MDX for their cyclone feed applications praising it for its best-in-class wear performance and ease of maintenance. The adjustable suction liner, which allows for nose gap adjustments while the pump is running, has been particularly lauded.

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS

KSB GIW has remained closely engaged with customers, using their feedback to continuously improve the MDX design since its

introduction to the market.

In 2009, the introduction of Endurasite and Enduraclad materials provided additional paths to enhance wear performance.

By 2011, full pump lift capabilities were introduced even for the largest pumps up to the MDX 750.

The modular wet end introduced in 2012 reduced the time required to replace a complete pump wet end.

By 2014, further hydraulic improvements were made, including adding 35% more wear material to the impeller nose and optimising casing thicknesses.

These advancements harmonised the wear life of all key wet end components, creating a consistent hydraulic design approach for larger models from the MDX 400 to the MDX 750. Additional design advancements are anticipated in 2025 to enhance the hydraulics of smaller pumps, specifically those in the 100-350 range.

ADDITIONAL UPGRADES

In 2018, the first Remotely Adjusted Mechanical Suction Liner (RAMSL) was installed, revolutionising the adjustment of impeller nose clearance by enhancing wear performance and reducing maintenance time. This was followed by the installation of the first

SLYsight in 2021, an advanced slurry pump wear monitoring technology that uses sensors to provide real-time data on pump wear, optimising maintenance schedules and extending pump life.

These features have enhanced the maintenance-friendly aspects of the MDX range, allowing for real-time data collection on pump operation, wear and nose clearance settings. This data, previously requiring planned maintenance shutdowns, can now be collected in real-time, providing operators with new tools to optimise equipment use.

FUTURE ADVANCES

Looking ahead, KSB GIW is leveraging its world-class foundry capabilities to meet market demand for larger mill duty pumps. The development of the MDX 850 will take full advantage of the expanded foundry's capacity. Additionally, the new KSB IoT and Automation Lab in Grovetown, Georgia, USA, will accel-

erate the development of digital products. Plans include a handheld version of SLYsight and a user dashboard for on-demand data to optimise equipment performance. These initiatives will introduce exciting new features to the market, ensuring the MDX product line remains ahead of the curve and continues to offer best-in-class performance.



KSB's GIW MDX pump has consistently evolved to meet changing mill applications



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Digital, visual enhancements to electronic manometer pressure sensors

THE new generation of PG-type manometers is equipped with IO-Link and modern display units. Illuminated LED markings provide a quick overview of the current measured value. In addition to the various setting options for the display unit, IO-Link offers other advantages such as easy commissioning, quick sensor replacement and remote access options.

ifm has further developed its tried-and-tested generation of type PG pressure sensors with analogue displays, by focusing on digitalising the sensors and expanding on visualisation options. The redesigned display unit now offers a quick overview of the previously defined measuring ranges and limit values through a ring of coloured LEDs.

Instead of manually applying markings to the display housing, the minimum, middle and maximum ranges can now be visualised using different coloured LEDs. Thanks to IO-Link, the desired measuring ranges can be defined quickly and easily and adapted to each application. The bright LEDs enable the user to see from a distance whether the pointer is in the green area or already close to the limit.

Process values and additional information are continuously transmitted using IO-Link technology. Because data is transmitted in a purely digital form based on a 24 V signal, it is conversion and loss-free. The PG pressure sensors boast a measuring range from -1 to 400 bar. As with previous models in the PG product family, the sensors are equipped with a robust ceramic measuring cell. For maximum safety in critical applications, the



The new generation of PG pressure sensors has a modern design. Illuminated LEDs make the display much easier to read. IO-Link helps simplify parameter setting.

measuring cell has a diagnostic function that displays the cell's status.

The electronic manometers are used in the food industry and other industrial environments. To meet the prevailing requirements, two device variants were developed with differing approvals and technical properties. For example, the device variant for food applications is permanently temperature-resistant up to 150°C and compensates for the dynamic temperature jumps that can occur in cleaning cycles.

The sensors are supplied with different connection variants. For example, the sensors can be easily and safely mounted in containers or pipes using an Aseptoflex Vario connection. The first devices of the new PG generation were made available in April this year at the Hannover Trade Fair.



Waste compactors customised to suit SA conditions

WITHOUT an effective waste management system, a country faces serious public health and environmental risks. In 2024, South Africa generated approximately 108 million tonnes of waste – 90% of which ended up in landfills, with only 10% being recycled.

Sonia Pretorius, national sales manager for 600SA, a division of CFAO Equipment, which supplies waste compactors to operations servicing municipalities and businesses nationwide, says South Africa has much to do to reduce waste sent to landfills and establish a circular economy.

“At 600SA, we are cognisant of the larger issues at play in the waste management sector, as well as the role we play in ensuring that waste is efficiently collected, compacted and disposed of. In this respect, the choice of equipment is critical.”

The business supplies Orakçi

waste compactors to waste disposal operations. “Our waste compactors reduce waste volume by up to 85%, shrinking it to just one-sixth of its original size. This ensures the waste takes up less space at the landfill and decomposes more rapidly,” notes Pretorius.

Orakçi compactors stand out in the market for their high level of customisability. “The compactors we import are not standard Orakçi units. They have been specifically modified to meet the unique demands of the South African market,” explains Pretorius. A recent innovation, for example, involves repositioning the sensors from the top of the compactor to either side of the tailgate, helping to protect them from damage caused by overhanging tree branches.

“Additionally, we have extended the rear steps of the trucks to reduce the risk of waste collectors falling, especially when navigating potholes

and other road challenges commonly found in South Africa,” says Pretorius.

Orakçi reinforced the sub-frame of its compactors with additional steel for added durability to suit African markets. Compactors operate in more rugged conditions, and thus, the steel that lies on top of the truck chassis was being jolted around excessively, causing the units to crack. Since the additional steel was added to the design, this no longer happens.

“Every year, Orakçi makes adjustments – some big, some small – but this continuous improvement is aimed at making waste collection in our country as seamless as possible,” she says.

Critical to effective waste management is making sure fleets operate at their peak, thereby reducing downtime.

Pretorius says waste compactors and skip loaders are tenacious work-

horses. “They work hard on a consistent basis, which means they must always be properly maintained. Generally, the units need to run from Monday to Friday. If they don’t, it’s extremely difficult for operators to catch up. Operating on weekends also translates into overtime costs for municipalities.”

This is why 600SA has introduced Saturday or weekend services. The business supports waste management companies by reminding them when services are due. “Our role does not stop after a unit is sold. We continue working with the contractors to make sure their equipment is always functional,” adds Pretorius.

With almost 60 years in the industry, 600SA is well-positioned to play a broader consulting role for waste collection operations. “We don’t just sell waste compactors, we partner with our customers today to help them build a legacy for generations to come,” says Pretorius.



The business was recently approached by a potential customer who was awarded a contract to operate in one of the provinces, collecting waste in seven municipalities. The operation wanted an equipment quote, but 600SA delivered considerably more.

The 600SA team helped create a business plan that covered all bases: how many compactors would be needed; what terrain the compactors would be covering; how to save on fuel costs; whether renting or buying would be the most viable option; where the equipment would be stored overnight and how many waste collectors would need to be employed, amongst other considerations.

Pretorius says the operator was grateful for the input and recognised 600SA’s commitment to going the extra mile and being a trusted partnership for customers.

Water, wastewater and refuse management the focus for national conference and trade fair

EFFICIENT water reuse is a crucial strategy for the survival and sustainable operations of South African businesses, including miners, which rely heavily on water for their processes. The Water Research Commission (WRC) has highlighted this issue, emphasising the importance of water reuse schemes to address the country’s projected water deficit.

Efficient water reuse and recovery could be a much-needed lifeline for South Africa’s mining sector, as water scarcity and infrastructure issues increasingly threaten productivity and revenues, say water sector experts speaking ahead of IFAT Africa, the leading conference and trade fair for water, sewage, refuse, and recycling in southern Africa.

Experts from various sectors will discuss the trends, challenges and solutions for Africa’s water, wastewater and refuse management sectors at IFAT Africa 2025. At this forum and exhibition, hundreds of stakeholders from around the world will come together to explore new and innovative products, expertise and technologies, and to consider solutions.

Organised by Messe Muenchen India and Messe München GmbH, IFAT Africa will be co-located with analytica Lab Africa, the only trade fair for laboratory technology, analysis, biotechnology and diagnostics in South Africa, in Johannesburg in July this year.

Advisory board members and exhibitors note that more effective water management has become crucial for the mining sector.

Lesego Gaegane, senior project

manager at the Water Research Commission (WRC), says: “As we look to IFAT Africa 2025, one thing is clear: water reuse is not only an environmental imperative but a business imperative. Industry must invest now in circular water systems that support sustainable growth, resource efficiency, and climate resilience. Research by the Water Research Commission has demonstrated that mine-impacted water, when treated to fit-for-use standards, can be safely reused, offering both economic and environmental returns. Passive treatment systems, modular reuse technologies, and real-time water quality monitoring are among the WRC-backed innovations enabling scalable reuse solutions.”

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

ION Exchange CEO Gourish Chakravorty says water is a critical resource in the mining and mineral processing industries, serving essential functions such as ore processing, dust suppression, and refining. “These operations generate large volumes of contaminated wastewater, resulting from complex physico-chemical interactions between water, minerals, and processing chemicals. As a result, sustainable water management is imperative – not only to reduce reliance on freshwater resources – but also to comply with increasingly stringent environmental regulations,” he says.

WEC Water managing director Wayne Taljaard adds: “Traditionally, much of the water used by mining activities ends up as waste. However,

through innovative treatment technologies – including advanced filtration, sedimentation, and chemical dosing – this water can be reclaimed and safely reused in the process cycle. Recovered water not only meets operational requirements but also meets regulatory and sustainability targets. Recycling process water reduces freshwater intake, mitigates environmental discharge risks, and lowers costs associated with municipal water sourcing and wastewater disposal. For sites in water-stressed regions, it also provides a critical buffer against supply interruptions.”

NuWater BD specialist James Morisse says: “Water scarcity, coupled with tightening environmental regulations, is driving a vital transformation in mining and other water-intensive industries. Long recognised as major water users, these sectors now face growing pressure to reduce their environmental impact and improve operational resilience in a water-constrained world. Effective water management is no longer optional—it’s a cornerstone of sustainable progress.”

INNOVATION DRIVES MANAGEMENT

NuWater’s Morisse says innovative technologies are at the heart of the shift mines need to make: “Advanced treatment methods such as reverse osmosis, membrane filtration, and electrodialysis are enabling the purification of varied water sources – including process streams, mine drainage, and tailings pond water – so they can be reused throughout opera-

tions. This closed-loop approach significantly reduces reliance on freshwater, easing stress on local ecosystems and ensuring greater water security, especially in drought-prone regions. The benefits are not only environmental. Water reuse delivers clear economic gains by lowering the costs of water procurement and discharge. By embracing these practices, mining and water-intensive operations enhance sustainability while improving long-term profitability.”

Hennie Pretorius, technical sales specialist at Maskam Water says: “Water recovery and reuse at mines is prescribed by law and regulated according to the mine’s Water Use Licence from the Department of Water and Sanitation. This is also applicable to other industries. To improve ESG scores, it is imperative for the sector to make use of alternative water sources and reduce reliance on ground and municipal water supply. Onsite sewage treatment for water reuse addresses this challenge.

“Several mines and industrial sites are not only recovering their process water for reuse but also eliminating the use of conservancy tanks and septic tanks by utilising modular sewage treatment plants to treat sewage to DWS General Limits. Not all modular plants are created equal, so mines should consult experts to select a modular sewage treatment plant that can do complete Biological Nutrient Removal,” he says.

Ronald van Lochem, CEO at Aquadam Steel Tanks International, points to tank design as an important factor in water recovery and reuse for mines.

“With increasing water scarcity and stricter discharge regulations, industries must implement systems that capture, store, and reuse process water reliably. New Fusion Bonded Epoxy (FBE) coated steel tanks offer a ground-breaking solution for this challenge. These tanks are designed to withstand the harsh chemical and abrasive conditions often found in mining and industrial water systems. The FBE coating provides superior corrosion resistance and extended tank lifespan, even in aggressive environments such as tailings water storage, process water recovery, and effluent holding.”

LOW HANGING FRUIT

Thomas Coetzee, engineering manager at Memcon, says the lowest hanging fruit for water recovery and recycling at mines is treating utility streams, such as acid from process streams. “Membrane technology can be used to recover water and unreacted acid from process streams, offering a powerful four-fold benefit. First, it significantly reduces the need for fresh water in acid make-up, since the bulk of the liquid involved is water. Second, by recovering and reusing acid, the consumption of expensive chemicals – often making up 70% of a process’s operating costs – is drastically reduced, leading to major savings. Third, it decreases the demand for neutralising chemicals like lime. Fourth, it reduces the volume of high total dissolved solids (TDS) in effluent streams that must be treated and discharged, improving environmental compliance,” he says.



Amidst the challenges, sustainable aviation fuels can lift SA's sugar industry

By Thomas Funke, CEO of SA Canegrowers

OPINION | AS the local sugar industry grapples with challenges like the global tariff disputes and an influx of cheap sugar imports, it is seeking to diversify into new markets for sugar cane – one of which could be the production of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). This would be a lifeline for local sugarcane growers in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

SAF sits at the intersection of agriculture, energy, and aviation. They can accelerate the green transformation of the growing aviation industry. The industry has a net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050 through the use of SAF and other innovative technologies, so there is a double benefit of combatting the climate change that could be contributing to the erratic rainfall patterns, as well as providing this opportunity to diversify the sugar industry and protect the jobs and economic growth that the industry has built over so many years.

For South African sugarcane growers, SAF represents a commercially viable pathway to diversification, export growth, and industrial renewal. Sugarcane can be a good feedstock for many environmental-

ly friendly fuels and can reduce CO2 emissions by up to 80% in comparison to conventional aviation fuel.

Figures from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported that total demand for passenger air travel was up 3.3% year on year in March this year but cautioned over tariffs and other "economic headwinds". However, IATA has committed to using sustainable fuels to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and estimates that SAF could contribute around 65% of reductions to reach that target. If South Africa moves swiftly, it could steer the sugarcane industry towards this lucrative new market, giving farmers stability and sustainability in an uncertain environment. But this pivot needs more than optimism, it needs a regulatory runway that allows SAF to take off.

The local sugar industry directly supports around 1 million livelihoods, including 24,000 small-scale and 1,200 commercial-scale growers across KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. But the industry needs to diversify as pressures



mount from health legislation like the sugar tax and imported sugar undercutting local production. While the government has offered some relief through the Sugar Industry Value Chain Master Plan 2030, the sector needs more than short-term intervention and reliance on government subsidies.

SAF could be the answer. According to IATA, the demand for SAF could reach 450 billion litres per year by 2050. South Africa is uniquely positioned to capitalise on this opportunity as sugarcane is already recognised in the Biofuels Regulatory Framework (2020) as a strategic feedstock because it is grown in rainfed areas and will not place extra pressure on the country's

food security and water supply.

South Africa has the existing, established agricultural farmland, transport infrastructure, and industrial processing experience to succeed. What's needed now is the right kind of investment to diversify the industry into finding these new uses for sugarcane. Policies need

to encourage investment of billions of rands to set up systems that would take ethanol produced by sugarcane and turn it into aviation or blended fuel. Strong policies to provide the regulatory environment that encourages investment will also be helpful for the growth and job creation in the many support industries that South Africa desperately needs.

Currently, policy frameworks for SAF remain fragmented and underdeveloped. This is both a challenge and an opportunity. South Africa can proactively shape a regulatory environment that attracts capital and protects its local industry, and the livelihoods that depend on it.

SA Canegrowers is working with a variety of government stakeholders

to establish a cohesive SAF strategy to innovate in this area.

The countries that move early on SAF policy will attract a larger share of global capital chasing green fuel opportunities, carbon tax credits and ESG-aligned investment which are benefits that conventional sugar exports cannot provide. There would be international demand for SAF from foreign airlines. The full value chain of SAF production from ethanol plants and refining facilities to storage, logistics, and quality testing offers broad economic spin-offs and job opportunities across various sectors such as agritech, transport, engineering, and energy. This is a long-term investment opportunity for the South African government to lead the way as a regional hub for air traffic to refuel with domestically produced SAF.

In a world where few industries offer predictable upside, sugar-based SAF may be one of the rare opportunities that turns climate and economic pressures into commercial growth. It can then not only protect the jobs in the sugar industry but also add a chance to upskill and work in various points along the sugar supply chain when turning raw sugarcane into ethanol for sustainable aviation fuels.

Innovation drives solutions to evolving logistics needs

AS Africa's logistics sector undergoes rapid change, Unitrans is consolidating its position as a trusted and forward-thinking supply chain

services partner. With a focus on customer-specific solutions and a firm commitment to supporting the continent's long-term growth, the company is delivering real impact

through smart technology, data-driven strategies and strong partnerships.

"The African logistics landscape is changing rapidly," says Edwin Hewitt, CEO of Unitrans. "And companies like ours must change with it. There's no one-size-fits-all approach anymore. Success lies in tailored solutions, flexibility and relentless innovation rooted in real-time data, technology and collaboration."

EXPERIENCE AND AGILITY

With over 100 years of experience and operations spanning 10 African countries, Unitrans is well-equipped to solve the continent's complex and diverse logistics challenges. Each year, the company transports 4.4 billion litres of fuel and chemicals, operates a fleet of 4,000 vehicles across 300 million kilometres and manages 100,000 hectares of sugarcane. In addition, its commuter services move over 80 million passengers annually.

"In this business, we've learned to be adaptable," says Hewitt. "We don't just react to change; we plan for it. Our teams bring together industry knowledge with technologies like AI, telematics and smart analytics to enhance performance across the supply chain."

From poor infrastructure and volatile demand to geopolitical uncertainty

and extreme weather, African markets face a unique set of challenges. But for Unitrans, these hurdles present opportunities for innovation. The company's tailored solutions range from drone technology in agriculture to advanced telematics in transportation, all aimed at improving efficiency, safety, and sustainability.

INTEGRATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

A key driver of this success is collaboration. "You can't succeed in this space without strong, strategic partnerships," says Hewitt. "Whether it's working with customers to forecast demand or integrating live data across the supply chain, collaboration is not optional – it's essential."

This approach is reflected in Unitrans's commitment to integrated partnerships where all players share in the risk, the work and the reward. Such alignment enables more agile, responsive operations and reduces friction across the supply chain.

Technology is another cornerstone of Unitrans's strategy, with significant

investment directed toward advanced systems and tools. However, according to Hewitt, real value comes not just from adopting new technology but from fully integrating it. "Technology only delivers results when it's embedded into daily operations. Every system we use must improve productivity, reduce risk and enhance safety. That's where true transformation happens."

Looking ahead, the company remains focused on building resilient, future-ready logistics networks that can power African growth.

"Strong relationships with suppliers, logistics providers and technology partners will be critical. By working together and leveraging the right tools, we can build supply chains that are robust, agile, sustainable and ready for whatever comes next," concludes Hewitt.



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Sugar imports will cost jobs – SA Canegrowers warns

SA Canegrowers is pleased to announce the re-election of Higgins Mdluli as the chairman of the organisation, following its Annual General Meeting and board meeting held in June in Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal.

As a sugarcane grower in Mpumalanga, Mdluli brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to advancing the interests of the 24,000 small-scale and 1,200 large-scale growers represented by SA Canegrowers.

Mdluli said: "It is an honour to be re-elected to serve as chair of the SA Canegrowers board at such a critical time for our industry. I look forward to continue working closely with our growers, partners, and stakeholders to build a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient sugar sector that supports rural livelihoods and drives agricultural and economic growth in South Africa."

But Mdluli also cautioned that the industry faces many challenges, not least of which is the increasing risk local growers face from unfair global trade practices. Foreign sugar is currently entering South Africa at prices below the cost of production and below the global



sugar price, owing to some foreign governments either heavily subsidising their industries or countries dumping their excess sugar at a loss.

For every ton of imported sugar, local sugarcane growers lose R6,000 in income and jobs are imperilled.

Local sugarcane growers are unable to compete with such unfairly subsidised imports, at a time when the industry is also facing a host of other challenges including unpredictable weather patterns, mill closures, and the sugar tax. Cheap imports further undermine the viability of farming operations and place hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk across the industry value chain – from sugarcane fields to sugar milling companies and distribution networks.

South Africa's sugar industry produces enough sugar to service the full demand of SADC

countries, leaving a surplus that is exported according to the global sugar price.

Rural communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga are especially vulnerable, where large and small-scale sugarcane growers provide much-needed jobs and stability. Rural communities depend on the jobs and income provided by agriculture, like sugarcane growing.

"Local canegrowers need greater protection from unfair sugar dumping

and subsidised cheap imports," said Mdluli.

"We call on all social partners, government, industry players, and commercial end-users and consumers, to stand with South African sugarcane growers. Our growers contribute to a thriving, inclusive agricultural economy, but to continue to do so we need to be able to compete on a level playing field," said Mdluli.

"We look forward to working with all role players as part of the next version

of the Sugarcane Value Chain Master Plan 2030 to help secure the sector well into the future."

Mdluli will serve as chair for SA Canegrowers for a year and was democratically elected from within member growers from KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. He will be supported by two vice-chairs, Andrew Russell and Kurt Stock, and Rex Talmage will represent SA Canegrowers as vice-chair of the South African Sugar Association.

Polymer bearings protect agri-equipment

A NEW generation of polymer bearings is extending equipment life, eliminating the need for lubrication and reducing maintenance on agricultural machines, all without the use of potentially contaminating lubricants.

It is no secret that agricultural equipment must withstand harsh conditions like mud, dust, moisture, vibrations and heavy loads, where heavy-duty traditional metal bearings require regular maintenance and continuous lubrication.

This is not the case with the latest heavy-duty polymer bearings from igus which exceed metal bearings in terms of durability, efficiency and smoother operation.

According to Juan-Eric Davidtz of igus South Africa, the company's iglide polymer bearings have turned the market on its head in recent times with dry (built-in) self-lubricating bearings that were once thought impossible. According to igus, they significantly improve performance, last longer and eliminate the need for external lubricants that can attract dirt and cause wear.

This feature is especially beneficial in dusty environments, where traditional lubricated bearings can fail prematurely due to contamination.

"The longevity of igus bearings is well-documented, and some of the longest-lasting ones are going on 20 years in use, where a manufacturer of harvesting machines has been using iglide bearings in its mower bars for over two decades. These bearings have endured extreme stresses, from high impact loads to varying temperatures, without the need for maintenance.

"Apart from their durability, polymer bearings offer significant advantages in terms of shaft protection. Unlike metal bearings, which can cause shaft damage over time, igus bearings are softer than steel shafts and therefore do not wear these potentially expensive components.

"Even noise is reduced, and the polymers' inherent vibration-damping properties result in quieter machinery operation, which is a feature appreciated in fieldwork and processing environments.



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How telehandlers are transforming local agriculture

IN a sector where productivity and reliability are paramount, South African farmers are increasingly turning to multipurpose machinery to meet growing demands. Among these, telehandlers, including the Faresin range, are fast becoming essential assets on farms across the country.

VERSATILITY

Although originally favoured in construction and mining, Faresin telehandlers are proving especially effective in agriculture. Their compact design and improved ground clearance allow them to operate in tight spaces like barns

and narrow farm roads, while their robust build and versatile attachments enable them to handle the rigours of harsh environments, whether lifting heavy seed bags, stacking bales, or cleaning feedlots.

"These machines are engineered to serve multiple industries, which means they're not



only tough but adaptable," explains Alistair Bennett, managing director of SkyJacks, the official distributor of Faresin in southern Africa. "For farmers, which means fewer machines doing more work across the property."

Faresin telehandlers are compatible with a wide range of attachments; from bale clamps, sorting grapples, ladles with hydraulic openings and grain buckets in agriculture, to jib booms and winches in construction, rugged buckets in mining and sweepers for industrial applications.

This flexibility allows one machine to perform tasks that would typically require several specialised vehicles, making them ideal for farms looking to streamline operations.

SAFETY AND CONTROL

Operator safety is a key concern across all heavy-duty sectors. Faresin telehandlers are equipped with industry-standard ROPS (Roll-Over Protective Structure) and FOPS (Falling Object Protective Structure), along with an additional front protection grill and an air-conditioned Queen Cab that offers 360-degree visibility and full control of all operating and safety systems.

"Safety and comfort shouldn't be trade-offs," says Bennett. "With full visibility, reinforced cab protection, and boom lights for low-light conditions, operators have complete control – even during early morning or late evening shifts."

Precision handling is enabled through highly sensitive and accurate boom controls, ideal for delicate tasks or navigating confined workspaces.

A hydrostatic drive system ensures smooth and responsive handling, precise steering options, seamless acceleration and deceleration, and better fuel efficiency; important considerations for farmers working long hours across large properties.

SMART DESIGN DRIVES COST EFFICIENCY

Fuel efficiency, lower maintenance requirements, and the ability to reduce the number of machines needed on-site all contribute to better cost control, something South African farmers are under constant pressure to achieve.

"The challenge our customers face is to reduce costs while increasing productivity and safety," says Bennett. "The Faresin telehandler, with its multi-attachment capability and durable design, is a smart investment toward that goal."

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Proactive energy management pays off

ON-SITE energy utilities such as boilers must be independently managed to achieve meaningful performance outcomes. Steam and boiler operations and maintenance expert service provider, Associated Energy Services (AES), often finds that companies incorrectly rely on a single fuel-to-product usage ratio to capture energy metrics and performance.

"This has significant implications as cost pressures, competitive forces and other challenges have decimated South Africa's manufacturing sector in recent years. Consequently, these aspects must be independently managed to give the site the best possible chance of maintaining competitiveness while maximising profit margins," advises AES commercial director Dennis Williams.

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

Williams emphasises that thermal energy operations and utilisation in production facilities contain two major processes: the conversion / generation process and the production / utilisation process.

Multiple measurements are essential, including water meters to assess feed water to boilers and makeup water, temperature probes to measure condensate and feed water temperature; and also specialised probes to measure the CO₂/O₂ in flue gas. It is also important to



monitor steam splits and condensate return volumes.

"At the outset, AES conducts an energy analysis as part of an initial proposal and solution development, identifying the current baseline and comparing it, either to client outcome expectations or AES's best-case performance baseline.

"Then, a more detailed energy analysis follows once AES is on site managing the client's boiler operations and proactively addressing cost, efficiency, emissions performance, reliability and uptime," Williams says.

As energy management requires consistent effort and intervention, AES's experience, expertise, systems and methodologies are constantly applied, via a system of meticulous

and ongoing checks.

"This intense level of energy management is beyond the scope and capability of clients – and is furthermore frequently seen as a non-core business activity – which is where AES comes in and 'fits' perfectly," he says.

SUPPORT TEAM

To this end, AES has a core national and regional team of experts to support client operations. Those on site are the critical client interface and 'hands' of AES.

While automation can successfully manage the combustion process on liquid or gaseous fuels, this does not apply to solid fuel combustion systems due to the variability of the quality of the fuel (particle size, moisture content, volatile content, ash content).

Williams says AES's on-site team focuses on continuous improvement, looking at new management approaches to better extract value: "We rely on robust personnel training, retaining hard-won industry and application experience – and fostering an environment of skills transfer and empowerment across the entire team."

BENEFITS

"The more efficient the combustion, and the lower the losses as unburnt carbon in ash, or CO₂ in flue gas. The more efficient the

management of the heat transfer process, the lower the energy losses," Williams explains.

The use of fuel – by far the highest cost – can be effectively managed through the recovery of the energy released (boiler heat transfer), ensuring that the maximum amount of energy is recovered from the fuel and converted into steam.

Closely aligned with this are the considerations of fuel costs and quality. Through its in-house laboratory, significant buying power, access to market supply and sourcing expertise, AES says it ensures that the best quality fuel is procured at the lowest cost.

The quality of the steam supply is another key consideration, Williams points out: "This relates to stability of steam pressure, maximisation of condensate return, the dryness of steam and the reliability / continuity of steam supply. These all impact how a company can effectively use the steam supplied to maximise efficiency and lower usage per unit of product."

Efficient operations also positively impact key aspects such as sustainability and emissions. Improved boiler efficiency and maximisation of condensate return, in turn, lowers resource usage (coal and water) per unit of production.

Effective maintenance management including scheduling, quality execution, planning and recommissioning all impact on objectives relating to maximised efficiency and plant reliability.

Heavy-duty V-belts for high efficiency in sugar processing

BMG's extensive range of specialised Gates belting includes heavy-duty Predator V-belts, which have been specifically designed to meet the challenges of drives that require optimal performance in harsh conditions, such as sugar processing.

Typical applications for Predator belts in the sugar industry include heavy-duty crushers, grinders, and shredders, where standard V-belts experience performance issues.

"Gates Predator V-belts – with the highest power density of any V-belts – offer dependable solutions for drives where single belts vibrate, turn over or jump off the pulleys. The Predator PowerBand design comprises several V-belts joined together by a permanent, high-strength tie band, allowing the belts to work together as one unit," explains Carlo Beukes, BMG's power transmission division business unit manager.

"Predator V-belts offer at least 40% higher power ratings than the standard industry Gates Super HC belts. The heavy-duty Predator range is manufactured from advanced materials, designed to enhance the performance and durability of machinery, also reducing maintenance requirements and minimising downtime in the most challenging environments.

"The exceptionally high-power rating per belt allows the drive designer to reduce the number of belts required, resulting in narrower pulleys and lighter weight than standard systems. All these design features increase overall drive efficiency in sugar production.

"In addition, using aramid tensile cords, these durable V-belts offer high shock load resistance and virtually zero stretch. Other important benefits are increased productivity, less frequent re-tensioning and safe operation in a temperature range between



-30°C and +60°C."

A specially treated double-fabric cover provides abrasion resistance, which means the V-belt can withstand debris, punctures, slippage, and shearing forces. The outer surface of the double fabric cover is manufactured in a

bareback, non-rubber impregnated construction, enabling the belt to endure heavy shock and impulse loads without generating excessive heat.

The Predator range is available from BMG in both PowerBand and single belts.

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Expansion of Richards Bay diesel facility gets regulator's approval

THE Energy Regulator has approved the second amendment of the conditions of the combined licence issued to Island View Storage, trading as Bidvest Tank Terminals (BTT), for the operation of a storage facility and loading facilities in Richards Bay.

The amendment adds two diesel storage tanks, with a design capacity of 15,000m³ each and thus a combined design capacity of 30,000m³ into the licence conditions.

In a media statement, the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa), said the two additional diesel tanks are currently under construction, with construction anticipated to be

completed in June 2025. The amendment will also include the new site layout showing the updated details of the storage facility.

Construction of the tanks was licensed by Nersa on 10 April 2024. With the construction phase nearing completion, the next step is to include these tanks and auxiliaries in the regulatory asset base of the licensed operation activity. The additional storage tanks are necessary from a customer demand perspective as they are being constructed following a request from a customer for additional capacity, Nersa said.

"It is important to indicate that on 6 November

2024, the Energy Regulator approved BTT's tariffs for its storage and loading facilities in Richards Bay. The approved tariffs are applicable from 6 November 2024 to 30 June 2027. The tariffs will remain in force until the Energy Regulator's approval of new tariffs for BTT's storage and loading facilities, in line with section 28(5)(b) of the Petroleum Pipelines Act, 2003 (Act No. 60 of 2003)," Nersa said.

The approval was granted at a meeting held on 29 May 2025. In Nersa's media statement, issued on 9 June, it said the Decision and Reasons for Decision document will be published on its website in due course.



Small craft harbour to be built on the South Coast

A MULTI-million rand small craft harbour development project on KwaZulu-Natal's South Coast was announced by Public Works and Infrastructure Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala on 5 June.

Zikalala says plans are on track for the construction of a small harbour in the Ray Nkonyeni District Municipality, which stretches from Hibberdene to Port Edward on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast. According to the department, Port Edward is being considered as the preferred site for a development which will include a boat launching site, fisheries and related facilities, and is expected to cost close to a billion rand and will create thousands

of work opportunities.

Zikalala said the department is still investigating where a second small harbour development can be located in KwaZulu-Natal, positively optimising the coastline the province has. According to the department, the Small Harbour development programme is targeting the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape, which it says were previously excluded under the previous government.

Addressing the 2nd day of the Umdoni Municipality Investment conference held at Scottburgh, Zikalala



reiterated government's determination to improve economic and social infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams and fibre networks to support SMMEs and industrialisation.

"Working with you, we want to build capacity, including technical, planning and project management capacity, to maintain all public infrastructure, and prioritise it in budgeting. We are determined to provide resources to maintain ageing infrastructure to prevent disasters and loss of life," said the Deputy Minister.

Zikalala said government was committed to increasing support for small enterprises, entrepreneurs and cooperatives in previously disadvantaged communities like townships

and villages, which will lead to the creation of work opportunities.

He said the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, as the custodian of state assets, has created the asset optimisation strategy which is aimed at attracting the private sector to partner with government and develop, utilise and at a later stage, transfer immovable assets back to government.

Zikalala made a clarion call for both the state and the private sector to make investments that will transform societies to give effect to a national democratic society which is truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous.

Wind industry reaffirms its support for localisation

WITH a development pipeline exceeding 53 GW and more than 3.8 GW already contributing to the national grid, South Africa's wind energy sector is rapidly solidifying its role in the country's clean energy future.

On 12 June, that future took a major step forward with the official launch of the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) – a

coordinated national roadmap to unlock the country's full green energy potential. Forming part of the contributors of SAREM, the South African Wind Energy Association (Sawea) joined other key role players as they signed the Masterplan pledge, led by the Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy, Ms Samantha Graham-Maré at the Africa Green Hydrogen Summit at

Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town.

"The Masterplan presents a strategic opportunity to align and coordinate the acceleration of renewable energy with the need to balance affordability and green industrialisation," explains Niveshen Govender, CEO of Sawea.

"Through SAREM, we can invest in and streamline localisation efforts

– driving local beneficiation and fostering sustainable development through the rollout of renewable energy."

SAREM offers a unified vision to drive South Africa's energy transition, while placing inclusive industrial development, economic transformation, and localisation at the centre, with wind energy positioned as a key pillar of delivery.

"Sawea welcomes the formal adoption of SAREM and looks forward to working closely with the government, labour, and community stakeholders to ensure its successful implementation. It represents a moment of alignment – one that sets the foundation for building a sustainable, secure, and equitable energy future for all South Africans," concludes Govender.



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Meeting the rising demand for high-performance rope solutions

AS the demand for high-performance ropes escalates across various sectors, Haggie's renewed focus on Verope underscores its commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions in southern Africa. Since becoming a distributor for Verope in 2011, Haggie has successfully introduced these high-performance ropes into the market, and a recent shift aims to deepen this relationship and enhance their offerings.

As part of a more comprehensive strategy to expand its global footprint and presence in Africa, Verope has revised its approach to the local market. This comes through a joint approach with Haggie, which traditionally manufactures its own ropes, but continually recognises the growing need for high-performance alternatives, something Verope excels at. This collaboration aims to leverage Verope's high-performance solutions and Haggie's extensive distribution

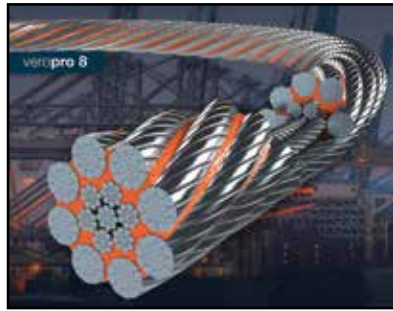
network to cater to broader market needs.

GAME-CHANGING PERFORMANCE

According to Alan Crawford, KZN regional manager for Haggie Distribution, the company is exploring new opportunities across various industries. These include the mobile crane market, the overhead crane sector, geotechnical applications, ports, and any other environments where high-performance ropes are essential.

"High-performance ropes play a crucial role in driving productivity, enhancing safety and reducing operational costs across a wide range of sectors such as marine, shipping, construction and industrial applications," says Crawford.

Citing Verope's VeroPro 8 rope, he says it exemplifies the advanced technology driving this shift towards



high-performance rope. Known for its compacted construction, this rope features reduced pressure between strands and a plastic layer that maintains lubrication, enhancing performance and longevity. These innovations result in longer lifetimes and higher breaking loads, making Verope ropes ideal for high-demand applications.

There is a worldwide movement towards increasing the use of high-performance ropes, particularly in high-demand applications. While these ropes come with a higher cost

and involve more production steps, they offer significant advantages. For instance, cranes that require three rope changes a year only need one. This reduction in downtime not only boosts productivity but also results in overall cost savings.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPECTS

The rope industry is constantly evolving, driven by research and development. Verope's team is at the cutting edge, pushing the boundaries of rope design and application. Their in-house testing facilities ensure the company remains at the forefront of the industry.

Haggie's role, on the other hand, extends beyond distribution. Practical stock planning and market demand analysis ensure competitive pricing and timely delivery. Haggie's goal is to manage stock effectively and offer economic shipment solutions.

This approach aligns with Haggie's commitment to delivering value-added services, including training and maintenance.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

"The growing demand for high-performance ropes presents exciting opportunities for Haggie and Verope," says Crawford. "As new cranes and port facilities integrate these advanced ropes, the market for high-performance solutions continues to expand. Haggie's focus on Verope's innovative products positions them to meet these demands effectively and contribute to the ongoing evolution of the rope industry. By aligning with Verope's technological advancements and focusing on tailored solutions, we are set to significantly impact the market, driving growth and enhancing performance across various sectors."

Smart features increase crane safety

THE newly launched Konecranes S series hoist offers a large bouquet of smart features which not only increase lifting device safety, but also deliver a higher level of operator protection, according to Ian Grobler, sales manager for Konecranes and Demag South Africa.

"Skimping on crane and crane operator safety can lead to major accidents that no company would wish to experience," says Grobler. "Smart features give you greater control of material handling in your production processes. From the moment operators take charge of the crane, their work becomes easier and safer due to the reduced chance of human error," he says, adding that the S series hoist also features Konecranes' world leading synthetic wire rope that offers advantages such as higher strength, reduced weight and increased durability, particularly in light to medium lifting applications where safety and less maintenance are key requirements.

SMART FEATURE BENEFITS

Konecranes, acknowledged as a leader in crane component design that translates into a safer and more productive lifting experience, offers a wide range of smart features that can be activated upon requirement, such as:

- Slack rope prevention. When using a lifting device such as a coil tong, pressing tool tong or lifting beam, slack rope prevention prevents hoist ropes from becoming slack, preventing the lifting device from falling or tilting.
- Microspeed and inching. Heavy lifting in assembly can mean that highly accurate positioning in a tight space is needed – Microspeed makes movement slow and exact and inching allows the operator to move the loads in small increments.
- Working limits. Used occasionally when there are transport vehicles



entering a facility, working limits builds temporary walls where the crane is designed to automatically stop.

- Protected areas. Where incoming materials are regularly offloaded/uploaded from trucks or forklifts, protected area allows an area to be defined where the crane is not permitted to enter.
- Sway control and active sway

control. This feature controls the acceleration and deceleration of the bridge and trolley, allowing faster load handling and more precise positioning while reducing the risk of damage to the load, crane and surrounding area. Sway control dampens existing load sway.

- Snag prevention. This feature stops crane movement if the hook, sling or load accidentally catches on something. It helps to prevent damage to the load, crane and operational areas.
- Target positioning moves the load from one of eight possible home positions to one of 120 pre-set target positions. Target positioning reduces cycle times and enhances safety.

Many other features, such as hook centering, follow me, advanced speed and extended range, load

floating and hoisting synchronisation, offer safety elements in addition to their prime function of reducing wear on mechanical parts and increasing productivity.

Konecranes smart features are already installed in the S series and are easily activated. They can also be loaded onto existing cranes.

Grobler comments, "We can customise a package of the smart

features that are required to suit a customer's production and operational requirements. Ultimately, they enable the operator to have greater control of the crane, which leads to a safer environment, increased production, less downtime and smart operator performance."

"Our goal is everyone home safe, every day," concludes Grobler.

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Chilled spraying technology delivers gains for meat processors

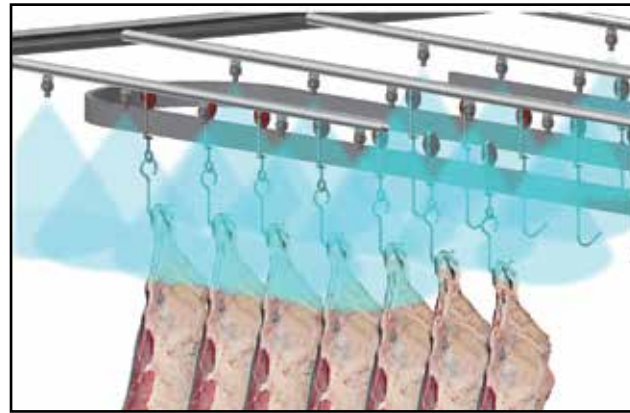
In a major leap forward for meat processors across Europe, Spraying Systems Co. has introduced its AutoJet SprayChill system – an advanced carcass chilling solution designed to slash chill loss, enhance yield, and boost profitability in one seamless upgrade, according to Grant Orsmond, director of Monitor Engineering, a long-standing distributor of Spraying Systems Co. products.

Already adopted widely outside Europe, the AutoJet SprayChill system is now fully engineered to meet EU regulations and food hygiene standards. It integrates easily with existing chilling rooms and uses precision-controlled nozzles to spray a fine mist of chilled water – approximately 2°C – onto carcasses. This rapid surface cooling helps stabilise moisture content and prevent shrinkage, directly preserving product weight and improving overall yield.

According to the company, SprayChill can reduce moisture loss by up to 2% and shrinkage by as much as 1%, resulting in substantial economic benefits. For processors handling 80,000 carcasses annually, this translates into retaining over 650,000 kg of product each year and potential savings of €2.9 million. When yield improvements worth an additional €1.2 million are added in, the system delivers a projected ROI of €20.8 million over five years.

"This technology has completely changed the game," says Orsmond. "Customers are seeing faster cooling, better product quality, and impressive returns – often recovering their investment in under six months."

The SprayChill system not only provides financial benefits but also aligns with sustainability



with minimal labour.

Beyond the numbers, the system also eases downstream processing. In many installations, cold deboning – typically a challenging process – becomes easier, with higher yields and less waste reported.

For plants looking to remain competitive in a tightening market where every kilogram counts, SprayChill represents a low-risk, high-reward upgrade. "It's not just about chilling," Orsmond adds. "It's about efficiency, compliance, and staying ahead of industry demands."

Spraying Systems Co. brings over 85 years of global expertise to this innovation. Manufactured in Europe for European facilities, SprayChill meets the highest standards for food safety, hygiene, and performance.

Getting the most out of a forklift's long-life battery

WITH most forklifts now powered by lithium-ion batteries – due to their superior efficiency, longer lifespan and faster charging times compared to traditional lead-acid batteries – users can maximise their potential by following best practices for maintenance and use.

Duan Tredoux, national operations manager for Industrial Power, a division of CFAO Equipment, says there are several effective ways for operations such as distribution centres, warehouses and manufacturing facilities to maximise the performance of their lithium-ion batteries and ensure optimum power in motion.

"While lithium-ion batteries do not require the same maintenance regime as lead-acid batteries, they can last longer and perform better if they are properly charged and cared for."



Avoid extreme overcharging or discharging
Lithium-ion batteries don't need to be fully discharged before being recharged, unlike their lead-acid counterparts. This is because they are not subject to the same memory effect as older battery technologies. In fact, partial charging is better for the battery's lifespan and operators should aim to keep the battery charge level

between 10% and 100% to maintain battery longevity.

Tredoux notes that lithium-ion batteries don't require frequent full discharges to maintain performance. "Allowing a battery to reach 0% can lead to voided warranties as well as a reduction in life capacity over time. Not only is charging during breaks or between shifts an efficient way to ensure forklifts are always ready to operate, but it also places less strain on the battery."

Charging stations – or dedicated forklift parking spaces – should be equipped with chargers designed for the forklift battery being used. Chargers that are not compatible with the battery model or are of poor quality can lead to sub-optimal charging. This can, in turn, reduce the operations efficiency as batteries then need to be on charge for longer periods.

Tredoux says Industrial Power introduced Eco-chargers in late-2024. "These chargers offer 97% energy efficiency compared to the 90% average offered by standard industry chargers. Operations should also consider investing in lithium-ion forklift batteries that have advanced battery management systems (BMS) to ensure safe and efficient charging," he adds.

High temperatures can accelerate chemical reactions inside lithium-ion batteries, which can lead to faster degradation. Alternatively, very low temperatures can reduce battery capacity and overall efficiency too. In environments that have fluctuating temperatures, forklifts should be stored in temperature-controlled areas when not in use.

Even though lithium-ion batteries require significantly less maintenance than lead-acid batteries, it is important to conduct health checks annually or biannually (in tough applications). Charging systems and batteries should be inspected for signs of wear, corrosion or damage, depending on the operation as well as conditions.

Tredoux urges users to keep their chargers clean. "Blocked or dirty chargers result in inefficient charging, which, in turn, can lead to battery drainage due to not being able to charge quickly enough."

Battery management systems should also be checked by the customer to ensure they are working correctly as they monitor the health of the battery and can alert operators to any potential issues, helping to extend battery life and prevent unexpected failures.

Most lithium-ion batteries come with monitoring systems that provide real-time data on charge levels, temperature, voltage and overall health. Gaining an understanding of each battery's performance over time can help optimise a fleet's operation and prevent batteries from going into an unsafe state.

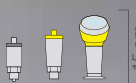
This information can be used to schedule charging cycles, identify underperforming batteries and predict when a battery may need replacement, ultimately preventing downtime.

By following these best practices, operations can maximise the longevity and efficiency of forklift fleets, reduce costs related to battery replacements," says Tredoux.

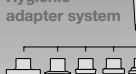
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Looking Forward

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Wireless leak detection valve automatically cuts supply

DESIGNED to prevent water leakage by automatically shutting off the water supply when a leak is detected, the Runxin F104 wireless leak detection valve is one of the latest offerings from Allmech. The company, a leading South African manufacturer of boilers and supplier of water treatment components, is the sole authorised dealer for Runxin products in southern Africa.

Anelia Hough, water treatment consultant at Allmech, says the wireless leak detection valve is suitable for a wide range of applications. "Water damage can be costly and disruptive, but the Runxin F104 leak detection valve offers a smart, automatic solution to safeguard your home or business. It can prevent damage in homes by detecting leaks in geysers, solar heaters, and water filtration systems, making it perfect for residential use, but it's also something we think will be of use to our water bottling clients," she says.

"It helps prevent water damage and water loss where clients have installed water treatment plants by detecting leaks in key areas. Once the leak is detected, the automatic ceramic ball valve is closed to prevent any further water loss or damage to the area. It's also great for clients using water cooling

systems, or operating boilers, water softening systems, pre-filtration systems and reverse osmosis (RO) or demineralisation (demin) plants."

Other applications include hotels, offices and factories, where the valve can prevent water damage and water loss in areas such as production lines, laundries, and kitchens, where a high volume of water is consumed. "If water pipes burst during non-operating hours, the valve detects the leak and shuts off the water supply," says Hough. "The valve can connect to multiple leak sensors, allowing real-time detection across different locations. It will also work well in places like gym pool rooms, where heating and filtration systems are located."

She says companies supplying water treatment solutions, such as water softening systems, water filtration systems, prefiltration systems and RO or demin plants should consider supplying this valve as a value-add product to give their clients peace of mind. "Unlike conventional detection systems that only alert users to a problem, the F104 automatically



closes the water supply when a leak is detected, preventing damage."

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

"The wireless water immersion detection valve needs to be installed in the most likely place for a leak to occur," says

Hough. "When the leak detector probe comes into contact with water, the indicator will flash and the main control valve will receive a signal, which will then close the ball valve. The entire process takes between 10 and 15 seconds. The indicator light on the unit will continue flashing until the alarm has been reset and the leak has been attended to. It also functions during power failures, making it suitable for areas with unstable electricity supply."

The main control valve can support up to five wireless water immersion detectors. The unit is sold with one main control valve and one wireless water immersion detector, but additional wireless water immersion detectors can be purchased separately.

Anti idle unit reduces fuel consumption, cuts emissions

SURFACE mining and quarrying operations are under increasing pressure to reduce costs and operate more sustainably, with calls to reduce carbon footprints becoming more pressing. This is where Booyco Engineering's Anti Idle Auxiliary Power Unit (APU), developed specifically for mobile mining equipment, is already proving to be a highly effective solution - dramatically reducing fuel consumption, lowering carbon emissions and delivering real financial returns.

In operations where diesel is one of the largest cost drivers, the numbers tell a compelling story. On average, articulated dump trucks (ADTs) idle for around 30% of the time, assuming productive time of 18 hours a day, which amounts to roughly 4.5 hours per day. During this idle time, the vehicle can burn between 30 and 50 litres of diesel per hour, simply to keep systems like the HVAC running and operators comfortable. That equates to hundreds of litres of diesel wasted per truck per week and thousands of litres across an entire fleet.

Booyco Engineering's APU changes the equation. By providing an independent power source to drive the cab's air conditioning

and essential electronics, the Booyco APU allows operators to shut off the main engine entirely during idle periods.

Grant Miller, executive director at Booyco Engineering, says the APU consumes as little as 1.5 litres of diesel per hour - compared to the 35 to 50 litres burned by a full-sized engine doing the same job. "It is a massive saving and when multiplied across a fleet, the cost reduction becomes a gamechanger," he says.

More than just a cost saving device, the Booyco APU is also helping mines meet their sustainability targets. By reducing unnecessary idling, operations can significantly reduce their carbon footprint - a critical step in meeting environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals. And with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) offering rebates under Section 12L for every litre of diesel saved, the financial incentive is even greater.

The payback period on the Booyco APU is short, making it an easy investment decision for mining and quarrying operators looking for quick tangible returns.



Booyco Engineering, a specialist in HVAC systems for mobile mining equipment, designed the APU to integrate seamlessly with its robust 24 V air conditioning units, which are already widely used in the field. The unit is T3-rated for use in ambient temperatures up to 46°C, making it ideal for hot climates across Africa. It is built for tough conditions and can be customised to meet specific customer requirements, ensuring flexibility and performance in even the most demanding environments.

Safety has not been compromised in the pursuit of efficiency. The Booyco APU continues to power critical systems such as proximity detection systems and communication equipment, ensuring that operational safety is maintained at all times, even when the main engine is shut off.

"This is not just a nice-to-have; it is a strategic advantage," says Booyco Engineering managing director Brenton Spies. "Mining and quarrying companies that embrace this technology can dramatically cut one of their biggest operating costs."

Security technician's skills win him national title

KEEERAN Ruiters of Blue Security has been named SAIDSA Techman 2025 National Champion. This title recognises him as the top security technician in South Africa.

After securing regional victories, Ruiters outperformed twelve of the country's top technicians at the finals, held at Securex South Africa in Johannesburg. His technical precision, expert wiring, and commitment to national standards earned him this prestigious title - and the recognition of an entire industry.

"This is more than a trophy. It is a testament to the quality, consistency, and care that Blue Security builds into every system, every instal-

lation, every time," said Stephen Wimborne, commercial director for Blue Security.

Hosted annually by the South African Intruder Detection Services Association (SAIDSA), the Techman competition tests the technical proficiency of SAIDSA-certified technicians in the real-world application of security systems.

Participants must plan, wire, terminate, and clearly label an intruder alarm system within a strict time limit, following SAIDSA's installation standards to the letter. This is not a theory exam. It is a live, high-pressure challenge designed to reward only the best in precision,

speed, and accuracy.

"This achievement also highlights Blue Security's investment in ongoing technical training, quality assurance, and national standards compliance. It is not simply about getting the job done—it is about getting it done properly, to standard, and with long-term performance in mind," Wimborne added.

Technical expertise is often the invisible thread holding a security system together. The wiring behind an alarm panel may never be seen, but it is that hidden precision that ensures a home or business remains protected, day and night.

2025 Features

Aug / Sept 2025

Ad Booking / Editorial Deadline: 15 August

- Facilities Management
- Food & Beverage
- Green Industries
- Hydraulics & Pneumatics
- Maritime & Ports
- Pumps, Valves, Pipes & Fittings

Oct/Nov 2025

Ad Booking / Editorial Deadline: 10 October

- Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals
- HVAC
- Materials Handling & Logistics
- Plastics & Rubber
- SHEQ Management
- Renewable Energy

January 2026

Ad Booking / Editorial Deadline: 29 November 2025

- Education & Skills Development
- Industrial Cleaning
- Motors, Drives & Transmissions
- Security
- Transport & Logistics
- Technology

Feb / Mar 2026

Ad Booking / Editorial Deadline: 7 February

- Consulting Engineers & Project Management
- Engineering Supplies
- Instrumentation, Measurement & Control
- Energy & Power
- Packaging
- Pulp & Paper
- Pumps, Valves, Pipes & Fittings

Apr / May 2026

Ad Booking / Editorial Deadline: 4 April

- Agriculture & Agro-processing
- Automation & Robotics
- Mining & Quarrying
- Petrochemicals, Oil & Gas
- Supply Chain, Distribution & Warehousing
- Water & Effluent Management

Jun / Jul 2026

Ad Booking / Editorial Deadline: 6 June

- Construction, Civil & Structural Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics
- Industrial Property & Development
- Machine Tools & Equipment
- Metals, Alloys & Fabrication
- PREVIEW: KZN Industrial Technology Exhibition
- Recycling & Waste Management
- Sugar Industry

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Integration solution connects comms platforms with CRM

TELVIVA'S customer relationship management (CRM) integration solution is designed to bridge the company's advanced communications platforms with CRM systems across unified communications and contact centre environments.

According to customer operations executive at Telviva, Kelvin Brown (*pictured*), integrations support businesses by enabling multi-channel capabilities, with a focus on customer engagement, channel-centricity and quantity of channels, as well as omnichannel capabilities, with a focus on customer experience, customer-centricity and quality customer support.

This is especially important because the modern customer is spoilt for choice when it comes to communication channels, meaning businesses have to ensure they can provide seamless, transparent and personalised engagements with customers regardless of where they occur. This requires strong, relevant insights about the customer; therefore, the starting point is a good customer relationship management (CRM) solution.

However, the world of CRM is not static. Deloitte research predicted that 72% of organisations would adopt cloud CRM by 2025. As businesses increasingly move away from legacy systems toward the cloud, there is a clear need for more flexible, cloud-based integrated communications solutions. Integrating communication capabilities with the CRM is vital for customer experience, workflow efficiency and built-in regulatory compliant features, among many more.

"Telviva's CRM integration adds valuable context from voice or text-based customer interactions, beyond just a 'timeline' or 'customer journey' event lodged in the contact or account within a CRM. Telviva's AI-powered contextual information filtering transcribes and extracts only the most relevant insights for

each unique interaction, so that businesses can focus on what truly matters in each customer engagement," says Brown. He says key capabilities of the solution include summarised engagement notes, automated transcription and intelligent task management.

He explains that the integration solution currently meets almost all business requirements. Where a business has unique challenges or complex ecosystems, as is the case with many larger enterprises, Telviva's local development team has the ability to customise solutions to provide bespoke solutions.

Brown says that Telviva complements the standard CRM integration solution with its software development kit (SDK). The SDK allows developers to embed Telviva's communication functionality into bespoke or custom CRM systems. "The SDK, which is in an advanced stage of development, provides functions such as calling and call control, various contact centre features, dashboarding for agent metrics, backend functions such as call recording and reporting, and transcription capabilities."

He says that the SDK offering will benefit larger enterprises that cannot simply migrate to cloud CRM platforms. "This solution enables organisations to integrate Telviva's telephony and communication features directly into their existing systems. This provides flexibility and access to world-class, advanced communication capabilities, while maintaining their current infrastructure," says Brown.

He explains that Telviva's CRM integrations support multiple cloud CRM platforms, saying that market demand informs which CRM platforms are supported. "The development decisions are based on market adoption in South Africa, with attention to global trends, and



driven by our customers' needs. In the UCaaS world, which is Telviva One, we support Zoho, Zendesk, Salesforce, Microsoft Dynamics and Freshdesk. On the CCaaS side, we support native CRM integrations such as Salesforce, Freshsales, Servicenow, SugarCRM and Zoho, while the business also has open channel capabilities, integrating into any other CRM, legacy and in-house developed systems."

CRM systems today are far more than just customer relationship software, as they are made up of many different components that are integral in day-to-day business operations. "For example, they may incorporate modules for billing and subscriptions, quoting, projects, support, development teams, HR and marketing," explains Brown.

"This means that if the CRM is the default screen that teams use to do their work, the connector now enables the organisation to bring its communication suite from Telviva into this workspace and closes the loop, removing another device or application, with the obvious efficiencies attached."

"In the CCaaS world, the Telviva Omni system is typically the default screen, or the single pane of glass used by the agent, and in these cases, the integration between the Telviva Omni and the CRM is there to push and pull the relevant data to the agent to manage the interaction," says Brown.

He says that Telviva caters for businesses that require a basic solution as well as those that are in need of a full omnichannel operation. "Our teams work closely with businesses to understand their unique needs and context, and then provide the best fit for their digital journeys."

Inviting forklift drivers to show their skills at KITE



ENTRIES are open for the Forklift Driver competition, taking place at the KZN Industrial & Technology Expo (KITE) from 22 – 24 July 2025. Lifting Africa encourages businesses to enter their skilled employees in this renowned competition, rewarding and recognising them for their skills, hard work, and dedication. Forklift operators can also nominate themselves by completing a simple online entry form.

The Forklift Driver of the Year competition is a fantastic way for warehouses, distribution centres, and manufacturing centres to position themselves as leaders in forklift safety and efficiency. The competition aims to recognise and reward highly skilled and safety-conscious operators.

Goscor Lift Trucks, together with Acrow Racking and Shelving, are the sponsors of the forklift driver competition.

Entry is free, and all participants must possess a valid forklift license.

The winner will receive a trophy, a cash prize, and be crowned the 'Forklift Driver Champion'!

Businesses can benefit from entering their drivers in the forklift driver competition in the following ways:

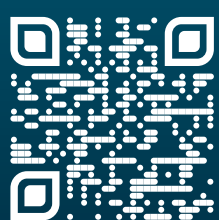
- **Skill Enhancement:** Competitions often require participants to demonstrate high levels of skill, precision, and safety. Preparing for and participating in these events can improve operators' skills, leading to better performance on the job.
- **Safety Improvement:** Emphasising the importance of safety in competitions can reinforce safe operating practices, reducing workplace accidents and injuries.
- **Employee Motivation and Morale:** Competitions can boost morale and motivation by recognising and rewarding the skills and efforts of forklift operators. It can also foster a sense of pride and achievement among employees.
- **Team Building:** Participating in competitions can encourage teamwork and camaraderie among employees, enhancing the overall workplace environment.
- **Publicity and Reputation:** Success in such competitions can enhance the company's reputation for having skilled and safety-conscious employees, potentially attracting new business and talent. The company that enters its winning forklift driver will receive a trophy and a certificate. The company will also be included in all post-event press releases.
- **Benchmarking and Best Practices:** Observing other competitors and learning from their techniques can provide insights into best practices and areas for improvement within the company's operations.
- **Employee Retention:** Providing professional development and recognition opportunities can enhance job satisfaction and increase employee retention.

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