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DYWIDAG

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ON THE COVER

Innovation is key to solving the water challenges with which the country grapples. This includes revolutionising construction practices to deliver critical municipal water infrastructure quicker and more cost-effectively. At the same time, these new builds need to be robust so that they continue to add value for many years with minimal maintenance and repairs. This method of construction has proven itself time and again when building reservoirs and, more recently, two water towers, among the latest innovation in precast concrete from a recognised leader in the field, Corestruc.

Turn to page 56.

The South African construction industry is faced by an onslaught of challenges. Primary is the lack of infrastructure investment by government. This has had a severe impact on the industry, which in turn directly impacts its ability to stay competitive and to retain talent. Despite this, the industry has remained resilient for more than a decade, delivering standout projects and is seemingly waiting for that time when infrastructure development will start playing a vital role in resurrecting our economy.

Once a symbol of growth because infrastructure development was paramount, the industry is also grappling with various other challenges that hinder it from contributing effectively to the country's development and job creation.

The volatile South African economy, compounded by global uncertainties, has led to a significant reduction in both public and private sector investments. Inflation and global supply chain disruptions have led to rising costs of construction materials such as cement, steel, and fuel. This not only increases the overall cost of projects but also reduces profit margins for contractors, forcing some to cut corners or abandon projects altogether.

Because expertise has exited the country in search of better job opportunities elsewhere, the scarcity of skilled labour has intensified. Although, in the context of massive unemployment, the country does not face a general labour shortage, there is now a significant demand for specialised skills. The construction industry, once seen as attractive to school leavers, is now, within the context of the prolonged downturn, not seen as an attractive career option.

While there is a large pool of unemployed youth, there is a gap between the skills they possess and what the industry requires. This has led to delays, low productivity, and quality issues in construction projects.

The industry is finding innovative ways to bridge this gap. This includes automation and digital workflows. It is also attempting to make the industry more attractive to younger talent.

CESA, one of the bodies that aims to address the growing skills shortage, is proactively working to assist the industry by addressing the root cause in the country's education system where the issues around science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are hampering factors to develop skilled labour.

South Africa's Best Contractors

Despite the challenges, many companies have attained the highest level in the local construction landscape. Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) plays a critical role in South Africa's construction sector, particularly when it comes to regulating and promoting the growth of contractors. One of the main tools to do this is the CIDB grading system, which ensures that construction projects are awarded to contractors with the appropriate capacity, expertise, and financial capability.

Construction World publishes a 32 page feature on some of these companies that have attained Level 9 (the highest level) for civil engineering and general building . It is one of the objectives of *Construction World* to recognise excellence. Attaining this level is no small feat.

BEST PROJECTS
2025
TWENTY - FOURTH

It is fitting that the first call for entries for Best Projects 2025 is published in this issue. Turn to page 58 for an overview, entry requirements and the categories.

This is the 25th consecutive year Best Projects will recognise excellence and innovation in the built environment. Over the years projects executed by big and small companies have been recognised. This is an indication that company size is not necessarily a pre-requisite for excellence.

The deadline for entries 8 August and the awards event will take place early in November.

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Skilled labour shortage threatens Africa's CONSTRUCTION FUTURE

While semigration and ageing workforces put pressure on South Africa's building sector, industry-led training interventions in the Western Cape offer a glimmer of hope.

A severe shortage of skilled labour is undermining construction across Africa, with South Africa among the hardest hit. In a 2024 report, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) identified the skills gap as a major contributor to substandard construction work and escalating project costs.

This shortage impacts the entire construction value chain—from design and build to maintenance. Contractors are increasingly forced to redo subpar work, driving up costs and delaying project completion.

In South Africa, the problem is especially acute in the Western Cape, where rapid urban growth and semigration have increased the demand for housing and infrastructure. This has pushed up property prices and strained regional resources, including the pool of skilled workers.

John Matthews, CEO of Garden Cities and a key member (past president and current EXCO) of the Master Builders Association Western Cape (MBAWC), says the region's skilled labour shortage is critical. "The average age of skilled artisans in the Western Cape is 57, with few new entrants and limited skills transfer from those exiting the industry," he explains. "As a result, newly qualified artisans are often placed in supervisory roles before they're ready – simply because no one else has the required experience. This lack of skilled labour also forces some employers to rely on semi-skilled workers, which brings further challenges in terms of quality and safety."

Several systemic issues compound the problem:

- There is a lack of vocational training institutions and ineffective agencies, such as CETA, that fail to support industry needs.
- A short-term focus among businesses that prioritise immediate needs over the long-term development of their workforce.
- The industry lacks structured succession planning and workforce development strategies.

According to Chandré Abrahams, Chairperson of the MBAWC Marketing Committee, the sector faces low wages, high education costs, and poor perceptions among youth. "Despite high demand, construction wages remain low, leading skilled workers to seek better-paying jobs elsewhere," he says.

He adds that the overemphasis on university degrees – often at the expense of vocational qualifications – has created a workforce rich in theory but lacking practical expertise. This knowledge gap contributes to poor workmanship, cost overruns, and project delays.

These challenges demand long-term commitment from all stakeholders. "Industry leaders must invest in training, improve wages, create better pathways into the sector, and change the narrative around construction careers," says Abrahams. "If not addressed, the labour shortage will worsen, threatening economic growth and public infrastructure delivery."

While the Western Cape offers a case study in crisis and innovation, the skilled labour shortage is not confined to South Africa. In Kenya, for instance, a youthful population has not translated into a skilled construction workforce, with many relying on informal and unstructured apprenticeships. Rapid urbanisation has outpaced training efforts in Nigeria, and security concerns continue to disrupt workforce stability. Across many countries, labour rigidity – often linked to outdated policies or strong union influence – prevents timely adaptation to changing market needs.

Proposed solutions include greater collaboration between the government and the private sector to expand Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes and create community-based, on-site training opportunities.

New technologies such as automation, Building Information Modelling (BIM), and modular construction have the potential to reduce manual labour demands. However, uptake remains limited due to cost concerns and clients' reluctance to invest in innovation.

South Africa's high unemployment rate further complicates the issue, as reducing labour through automation clashes with national job creation goals. "The solution isn't to replace people – it's to upskill them," says Abrahams. "Workers must be trained to operate and manage new technologies, improving productivity without sacrificing jobs."

The MBAWC has taken a proactive approach. Its initiatives include free short courses, a part-time 'Site Foreman and Supervisor' programme, and an 'Entrepreneurship for Contractors Development Programme'. The MBAWC also offers the 'Master Builders Association Development Trust Bursary', which supports students in civil engineering, construction, and quantity surveying disciplines.

This model is proving effective – and replicable. "Kenya, Nigeria, and other provinces in South Africa could benefit from similar training-driven approaches, provided there is adequate funding, policy support, and industry participation," says Abrahams.

However, one of the biggest obstacles remains the lengthy regulatory approval process for construction projects. ⊙

The Critical Role of cidb **Registration in the 2025 cidb ERWIC Awards Journey**

As South Africa's (SA's) construction sector is preparing for a new era of growth and transformation, the Construction Industry Development Board (cidb) is placing the spotlight on women trailblazers with its 2025 Empowerment and Recognition of Women in Construction (ERWIC) Awards.

This year, the cidb is urging women contractors to seize the moment by registering with the organisation – an essential step to unlocking the doors to industry opportunities, quality assurance and national recognition through the prestigious ERWIC Awards initiative, a key driver for #WomenBuildingOurFuture.

Bongani Dladla, cidb CEO, highlights that the Awards are not only a platform to honour excellence but also a catalyst for women-owned businesses to access new markets, skills development and sustainable growth. "Registration with cidb is more than a compliance requirement when entering the Awards. It is also a licence to practise and a statement of quality that opens doors to projects, partnerships and developmental support, allowing for more women to build our future," says Dladla.

Why cidb Registration is Key to Unlocking Opportunities

With SA's construction sector poised for significant growth, especially in infrastructure development, cidb registration has become essential for women contractors aspiring to compete and excel.

"When women-owned companies register with cidb, they demonstrate to clients and partners that their companies meet rigorous standards of performance,

financial capability, and compliance. This is vital in an industry that demands reliability and excellence and it's a powerful way to drive #WomenBuildingOurFuture," says Dladla.

Registration with cidb is mandatory for state contracts and increasingly recognised by private sector clients. Registered women contractors are positioned to benefit from the growing number of infrastructure projects and through the cidb B.U.I.L.D Programme, which prioritises women-owned businesses. Through this, they will receive targeted training, masterclasses, and mentorship to help registered contractors scale sustainably and innovate.

cidb registration is mandatory for state contracts and increasingly recognised by private sector clients. Registered women contractors are positioned to benefit from the growing number of infrastructure projects and through the cidb B.U.I.L.D Programme, which prioritises women-owned businesses, targeting them for training, masterclasses and mentorship to help registered contractors scale sustainably and innovate.

Bongani Dladla, cidb CEO

Beyond Recognition: A Powerful Network for Growth

Now in its sixth year, the cidb ERWIC Awards have evolved into a powerful network of past recipients who collaborate, share knowledge and unlock new business opportunities. "The Awards spotlight innovation and leadership among women in construction," says Dladla. "They also serve as a springboard for women to engage with large companies that are actively transforming their supply chains, supporting #WomenBuildingOurFuture at every level."

Dladla urges women in construction to embrace the changes and opportunities ahead. "We have recently seen the fall of large construction companies within South Africa, which creates space for new entrants. As the Public Works and Infrastructure Minister has said and many have echoed, SA is becoming a construction site with numerous infrastructure projects planned. Women who are registered and prepared will be at the forefront of this transformation."

He also stresses the importance of innovation, a key cidb ERWIC Awards theme, encouraging women to leverage new technologies and skills while advocating for inclusive financing solutions that prevent monopolies and promote fair competition.

The cidb invites all women in construction to register, participate and nominate themselves or peers for the 2025 cidb ERWIC Awards.

"By registering with cidb and engaging with cidb ERWIC, women are not only affirming their commitment to quality but also joining a movement to build a greater construction industry," concludes Dladla.

Gareth Robb, Contracts Director at GVK-Siya Zama.

How SA's construction industry can PRIORITISE GOING GREEN

South Africa's construction industry stands at a crossroads. With mounting environmental concerns and stricter regulations, sustainability is no longer an option but an imperative. The way we build today will shape the future, determining whether our cities become part of the climate crisis or catalysts for change, ***writes Gareth Robb, Contracts Director at GVK-Siya Zama.***

From towering skyscrapers to sprawling residential developments, every project leaves an environmental footprint. The challenge lies in ensuring that this footprint leads to progress, not pollution. But sustainability isn't just about minimising damage. It's about innovation, efficiency, and long-term economic and social benefits.

Think smarter, greener, stronger

One of the most powerful ways to reduce construction's environmental impact is through the adoption of sustainable materials. Low-carbon concrete, recycled steel, and responsibly sourced timber significantly cut emissions without compromising strength or durability. Innovations such as post-tensioned concrete slabs, which require less steel reinforcement, are proving that sustainability and efficiency can go hand in hand.

Turning waste into opportunity

The construction industry generates vast amounts of waste, much of which ends up in landfills. However, this doesn't have to be the norm. Structured waste management programmes are transforming the sector. The Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA), for example, has set ambitious benchmarks, requiring projects to divert at least 50% of waste from landfills, with some achieving up to 70% through meticulous sorting and storage solutions.

Despite these efforts, contamination remains a major challenge. Proper segregation of hazardous materials, such as oil-based products, is crucial to maximising recycling efforts and reducing disposal costs. By implementing

stringent waste separation protocols, construction firms can make a significant impact.

Sustainable from the ground up

Sustainability in construction isn't just about materials and waste - it starts with design. Smart urban planning and eco-conscious architecture can drastically reduce environmental impact. Some of these key strategies include:

- Encouraging green commuting: Providing bicycle storage, cyclist-friendly facilities, and easy access to public transport reduces vehicle emissions.
- Incorporating energy-efficient lighting: Reducing light pollution and optimising energy use helps conserve resources.
- Maximising natural light intake: Thoughtful design lowers energy consumption by decreasing reliance on artificial lighting.

Building a workforce for the green revolution

As green building standards evolve, construction workers need new skills to handle emerging materials and technologies. Additionally, documentation requirements have become more rigorous, with contractors now expected to provide detailed records on material sourcing, lifecycle impacts, and long-term maintenance. While this may seem burdensome, this transparency ensures that buildings remain sustainable well beyond project completion.

Overcoming the challenges on the road to sustainability

Despite the progress, challenges persist. Economic instability, rising costs, and political hurdles can make sustainable construction feel like an uphill battle. Issues such as construction mafias inflate costs and disrupt projects, adding further complexity.

However, the momentum for change is undeniable. Public awareness is growing, regulations are evolving, and financial incentives are making green construction more viable. Tender processes now prioritise environmental considerations from the outset, ensuring that sustainability is embedded in every stage of development.

The growing role of tech-driven innovation

Emerging technologies are revolutionising construction, making sustainability more accessible. AI, robotics, and 3D printing are streamlining processes, reducing material waste, and enhancing efficiency. Smart building technologies optimise energy use in real-time, ensuring better resource management. Meanwhile, automation is transforming material handling, minimising excess, and cutting costs.

However, technology alone isn't enough. Collaboration between architects, developers, contractors, and policymakers is critical to embedding sustainability at every level. Sharing knowledge and best practices will accelerate the adoption of responsible building methods, ensuring a greener future for construction.

Pioneering the green construction movement

While industry-wide change is essential, companies such as GVK-Siya Zama are proving that sustainable construction is not just possible - it's the future. By incorporating innovative building techniques, strategic waste management, and sustainable materials into its projects, GVK-Siya Zama is setting a powerful example.

At their Soshanguve project site, sustainability is embedded in every stage of construction. From spill prevention and waste management to water pollution control, GVK-Siya Zama has demonstrated a clear commitment to minimising its environmental footprint.

This approach goes beyond regulatory compliance, showcasing a deep-rooted ethos of responsibility and environmental stewardship. By prioritising green principles from project inception to completion, they prove that large-scale development and environmental consciousness can coexist.

The future of construction starts now

Sustainable construction is no longer a trend; it is the foundation of the future. The industry has the knowledge, tools, and technology to build environments that benefit both people and the planet. By utilising the six Rs of sustainability - rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse/repurpose, repair, and recycle - construction professionals aren't just meeting regulatory requirements but shaping a legacy for generations to come.

The time for change is now. The question remains: Will the industry rise to the challenge and make sustainability the new standard? ⊙

AFRIMAT CONSTRUCTION INDEX IMPROVES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024

Afrimat, a leading mid-tier mining and materials company providing Bulk Commodities, Construction Materials, Industrial Minerals and Future Materials and Metals, has released the findings of its Afrimat Construction Index (ACI) for the fourth quarter of 2024. The ACI is a composite index of the level of activity within the building and construction sectors and is compiled by economist Dr Roelof Botha on behalf of Afrimat.

The ACI has now improved for three quarters in succession, the first time this has occurred since the pandemic-related lockdowns, re-establishing a familiar trend in the construction sector at large.

According to Dr Botha, the recent lowering of the repo rate, and, by inference, also the prime overdraft rate, has exerted a marginal positive impact on the ACI, with the year-on-year increase of 2,5% outperforming the year-on-year real GDP growth rate of 0,5% by a considerable margin.

However, he pointed out that for quarter-on-quarter growth rates, the ACI only increased by 0,5%, compared to 1,5% for the economy as a whole. “This discrepancy can be explained by withdrawals via the new two-pot retirement system, as well as the two interest rate cuts of 25 basis points each during the end of 2024, which released a measure of pent-up demand for household consumption expenditure,” Dr Botha explained, adding that household consumption expenditure represents almost 65% of GDP, whilst capital formation, which encompasses most construction activity, represents 14,5% of total GDP.

During the fourth quarter of 2024, five of the ten constituent indicators comprising the index had positive readings (year-on-year), with four of the top-five ranked indicators remaining amongst the previous quarter’s top-five performers.

“However, it is a point of concern that the real value of construction works remains in the doldrums, with a year-on-year contraction of 3,4% in the fourth quarter in real terms. The public sector’s contribution to overall capital formation in South Africa has diminished quite dramatically since the onset of state capture and, more recently, the restrictive monetary policy stance, which took interest rates to their highest level in one-and-a-half decades.”

The outstanding performers amongst the ten indicators of the ACI during the fourth quarter were (year-on-year rates of increase in parentheses):

- Value of Building Plans Passed by the metros and larger municipalities (6,8%)
- Value of Building Materials Produced (6,7%)
- Value of Building Material Sales (5,4%)
- Employment in Construction (2,8%)
- Wholesale Trade Sales of Construction Materials (2,5%)

% Change in the constituent indicators of the Afrimat Construction Index (quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year) –4th quarter 2024		
Indicator	**% q-o-q**	**% y-o-y**
Building Plans Passed (Value)	-3	6,8
Building Materials Produced (Volume)	-3	6,7
Building Materials (Sales)	-4,6	5,4
Employment In Construction	-1,6	2,8
Wholesale Trade Sales – Construction Materials	5,2	2,5
Salaries & Wages – Construction	11,7	-0,6
Construction Value Added	3,1	-2
Retail Trade Sales – Hardware	8,9	-2,7
Construction Works (Value)	3,3	-3,4
Buildings Completed (Value) Afrimat Construction Index	-1,6 0,6	-11 2,5
GDP	1,5	0,5

Note: Ranked by year-on-year % change

According to Dr Botha no doubt exists over the negative effects that record high interest rates have exerted on the economy, in general, and the construction industry, in particular. This is confirmed by several key economic indicators, most notably exceptionally high debt-servicing ratios and a persistent decline in the real value of credit extension. The S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for South Africa has been below the neutral 50-mark since the beginning of the year and capital formation declined by 3,7% during 2024 – at a stage when investment in the repair and expansion of the country's infrastructure has become a critical imperative.

On a positive note, inflation is well and truly under control, with the February reading of the CPI remaining at the bottom end of the inflation target range of 3% to 6%. Lower producer prices, combined with declines in the oil price and a resilient Rand exchange rate, should secure further interest rate cuts in the course of 2025.

Other good news is the welcome return to employment creation in the construction sector. Thanks to a splendid performance during the third quarter of 2024, total employment in construction finally managed to return to the pre-Covid level of 1,35 million, although this figure is still well short of the 1,5 million recorded in the third quarter of 2018.

According to Andries van Heerden, the upswing in the ACI bodes well for the construction sector. "Afrimat remains poised for growth and with capacity to supply any improvement in the sector. We have bolstered our long-term growth strategy by expanding a well-chosen asset base in the mining, quarrying, cement, and related industries, with the integration of Lafarge South Africa now complete."

He added that Afrimat, always in support of growth initiatives and job creation in South Africa, now has 3 875 employees, attributable to the Lafarge acquisition and 228 new employees hired in the past six months.

"Together with prospects for Nkomati Anthracite, an expanded Construction Materials business through Lafarge, innovative cement products, and other growth initiatives, this has balanced Afrimat's diversity, placing the Group on a sustainable pathway forward." ⊙

Critical shortage in engineering talent needs TO BE ADDRESSED GROUND UP

To address the critical shortage of engineering professionals in South Africa, Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) is proactively working to assist in tackling the root causes in the country's education system, while providing support at various stages of the education and career development pipeline for engineering practitioners. This includes addressing the challenges the industry is dealing with as a result of the issues being faced by our country's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education system.

For the past 11 years, South Africa has seen a concerning trend in basic education. Out of approximately half a million learners annually, around 250,000 write the matric mathematics exams. Statistics reveal that only about 12% of this number achieve a pass grade of 60% or more. This translates to roughly 30 000 learners.

"Of those 30 000, we conservatively estimate that annually only about 10 000 end up at university to study engineering. Unfortunately a 60% pass rate is often insufficient to succeed in the demanding engineering programmes at university level and of those, only 1 500 may complete their degrees in engineering," states CESA CEO, Chris Campbell.

"If we are to meet the government's ambitious goals to increase the number of students eligible to study maths and science related degrees at university to 450 000 per year, as set out in the National Development Plan, we need to be intensifying our efforts as a whole. Based on the issues with Early Childhood Development (ECD) and our primary and secondary education system, we are lobbying various government departments, including the Department of Employment and Labour, to assist in addressing the root cause of the limited number of learners who are adequately prepared to pursue engineering careers as opposed to simply setting employment equity targets which ignore the limited pipeline of learners eligible for such career choices," says Campbell.

Campbell notes that CESA and its members are actively involved in several initiatives to combat educational challenges. Many young professionals and companies affiliated to CESA offer after-hours and weekend tutoring to assist learners in grades 10 to 12 who are struggling with mathematics. "While this intervention is supplementary, it aims to provide crucial support to learners in their final years of schooling," says Campbell.

At organisational level, CESA is strengthening the engineering profession in South Africa by emphasising mentorship programmes. Through its Young Professionals Forum, CESA encourages member companies to provide mentorship to their young engineering graduates as they develop their careers. “A university degree is only the first step in becoming a competent engineering professional. Engineering, like medicine and law, requires an intensive period of practical application to translate theoretical knowledge into real-world expertise. A graduate may understand the theory behind designing a road or water system, but they need guidance from seasoned practitioners to confidently and independently execute those complex infrastructure designs,” notes Campbell.

In addition, Campbell highlights that CESA actively promotes initiatives like job shadowing programmes, that aim to plant a seed of curiosity and inspire young learners to consider engineering as a future career path.

Through its industry-leading Business of Consulting Engineering Management Development Programme (BCE MDP), CESA’s School of Consulting Engineering (SCE) is addressing the need for leadership and management skills in order to supplement practical experience within the industry.

CESA’s BCE MDP is a customised and purpose-developed management and leadership development programme that focuses on teaching engineering practitioners within the context of the consulting engineering environment the business of consulting engineering.

Taught by experienced industry practitioners, the programme equips engineers with essential management skills, bridging the gap between technical expertise and leadership capabilities by providing practical knowledge in areas such as end-to-end project delivery, contractual and financial management, risk and quality management, as well as critical interpersonal management skills. This programme differs from traditional management programmes offered by universities by focusing on real-world situations. "The BCE MDP allows built environment practitioners to apply their learning directly within their companies, accelerating the development of these essential skills. We recommend that engineering practitioner in a consulting engineering environment, serious about becoming a manager and a leader in the industry consider enrolling in the BCE MDP,” adds Campbell.

This approach ensures that graduates are not only proficient engineers but also effective leaders capable of navigating the complexities of the industry.

"South Africa has a history of infrastructure projects that are either not maintained and neglected or not fit for purpose. Additionally, we try to deliver too many projects in a short period, which then is followed by a period where there is a slowdown in the demand for the delivery of projects.

“By being proactive in balancing the cyclic demand in our delivery plans, we would be better able to meet the demand for such skills. In addition, since it is important to maintain the infrastructure once developed, ongoing maintenance of such infrastructure needs to be planned and managed for the life cycle of such infrastructure, which is generally no less than 20 years, thereby creating an ongoing demand for capacity by the industry locally," Campbell says.

He concludes that CESA remains committed to working with government, educational institutions and industry partners to continually address the challenges facing stem education and engineering workforce development in South Africa. “By focusing on early intervention, job shadowing, practical skills development, mentorship, and leadership skills we strive to cultivate a pipeline of talented and capable engineers who can contribute to the country's growth and development,” he notes.⊙

AECOM drives climate resilience AND BIODIVERSITY

Earth Day 2025 shone a global spotlight on the theme 'Our Power, Our Planet', infrastructure consultancy AECOM has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability, climate resilience and environmental stewardship in South Africa and across the globe.

Nicole Bates, Associate Environmental Scientist at AECOM.

"We harness the power of innovation, engineering and collaboration to develop solutions that protect ecosystems, reduce emissions and enhance climate resilience. Our work in renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation reflects a deep commitment to using our expertise to drive global sustainability," comments Nicole Bates, Associate Environmental Scientist at AECOM.

Sustainable Legacies strategy

At the core of AECOM's approach is its Sustainable Legacies strategy, ensuring climate resilience is embedded across all projects. In South Africa and beyond, AECOM actively supports clients with climate risk assessments, integrating nature-based solutions into infrastructure and advancing decarbonisation strategies to reduce emissions. In addition, it focuses on social equity and resilience, ensuring that infrastructure development benefits communities most vulnerable to climate change.

Leading the clean energy transition

AECOM leads the clean energy transition by integrating solar, wind and other renewable energy solutions into projects worldwide. Its engineers apply cutting-edge design techniques to optimise energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprints. It also works closely with clients on grid modernisation, energy storage and smart city solutions, ensuring infrastructure can support a sustainable, low-carbon future. An example is AECOM's work on a large project in Saudi Arabia, where it has shaped sustainability standards for a futuristic, net-zero city. It has also led coastal resilience projects that protect vulnerable shorelines from rising sea levels and extreme weather. In South Africa, AECOM has worked on infrastructure projects that integrate green building standards and enhance climate resilience through smart urban planning.

Climate resilience risk assessment

"Climate resilience is built into our risk assessments, project planning and engineering designs from the start. We incorporate flood protection, extreme weather adaptation and nature-based solutions into urban infrastructure to ensure long-term sustainability. Our data-driven approach helps cities and businesses anticipate and mitigate climate risks, safeguarding communities and assets against future climate-related disruptions," explains Bates.

ESG advisory practice

AECOM's growing ESG advisory practice now includes specialists in nature-based solutions, ensuring that our projects incorporate sustainable, ecosystem-friendly designs. It goes beyond traditional project planning by embedding biodiversity and nature conservation considerations as fundamental elements rather than afterthoughts in urban development and infrastructure projects.

Now more than ever, social equity, community engagement and social value are at the heart of infrastructure projects, city planning, and urban regeneration. In many cases, they are the driving force behind decision-making. "Resilience and adaptation should be priorities from the outset, not afterthoughts," says Bates.

Local community support

Key priorities such as affordable housing, disaster preparedness, accessible healthcare and education and the preservation of green spaces require a comprehensive approach. By leveraging data, nature-based solutions and strong partnerships between governments and the private sector, AECOM aims to build long-term resilience and community support.

One of the biggest challenges in promoting sustainability is ensuring that projects align with the highest global standards while considering local environmental regulations and expectations. This can be especially complex when working in diverse regions with varying legal frameworks and environmental priorities.

Codes and standards

AECOM addresses these challenges by integrating sustainability into every part of its process. It has developed codes and standards to ensure that every project, whether local or international, meets rigorous environmental sustainability benchmarks. This includes everything from setting up sustainability monitoring systems on the ground to establishing strong partnerships with clients and stakeholders, ensuring that the right environmental practices are followed at every stage of the project lifecycle.

Preserving biodiversity

By implementing these multifaceted efforts, AECOM is not only preserving biodiversity but is also fostering resilient ecosystems capable of thriving in the face of climate change and ongoing human development. Its approach demonstrates a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable progress. ⊙

THE FUTURE OF QUANTITY SURVEYING

The construction industry is rapidly evolving, with women playing a pivotal role in reshaping traditional roles. With access to the right training and opportunities, more women are advancing in the field, bringing unique skills, specifically in quantity surveying. ***By Nosiyabonga Mongane, Chief Quantity Surveyor.***

In South Africa, the profession has undergone significant changes to align with shifts in the industry and evolving client demands. Economic conditions, technological advancements, and the needs of the construction sector continue to shape its future.

Here are some key trends emerging in the quantity surveying field:

Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development remains a national priority, with the construction industry serving as a key driver of economic growth and job creation. This focus directly benefits quantity surveyors as large-scale projects increase the demand for skilled professionals.

During the State of the Nation Address, the government highlighted ongoing projects that could boost demand for quantity surveyors nationwide. These initiatives include road rehabilitation, upgrades to public buildings and healthcare facilities, water and sanitation improvements, human settlements, renewable energy projects, and enhancements to recreational, heritage, and marine infrastructure.

Additionally, the launch of an R180-million project preparation fund by Infrastructure SA aims to streamline infrastructure projects across various government sectors, further stimulating growth within the construction industry.

Sustainability and green construction

Traditionally, quantity surveyors have focused on financial management, cost control, procurement, and risk mitigation. However, with the increasing emphasis on sustainability, their role is expanding to include environmental considerations.

By Nosiyabonga Mongane, Chief Quantity Surveyor.

As demand for eco-friendly construction practices rises, quantity surveyors must develop expertise in green building methods, carbon footprint analysis, and sustainable material costing. By integrating cost efficiency with sustainability goals, they play a crucial role in ensuring projects are both financially viable and environmentally responsible throughout their life cycle.

Digital transformation

Advancements in technology – such as artificial intelligence (AI) and building information modelling (BIM) – are revolutionizing the quantity surveying profession. These digital tools enhance cost estimation, project planning, and overall project management, enabling more efficient decision-making.

As the industry embraces digital transformation, quantity surveyors must stay up to date with emerging technologies to remain competitive and improve project outcomes.

Opportunities for women in quantity surveying; promoting gender diversity

Despite the profession's potential, women remain underrepresented in quantity surveying. Addressing this imbalance is crucial, particularly as the construction industry faces ongoing skills shortages.

Encouraging more women to enter the field can enhance workforce diversity, bringing a wider range of perspectives, skills, and experiences. A more inclusive profession not only improves industry representation but also strengthens its overall image.

Increasing leadership representation

Gender disparities persist in leadership positions within quantity surveying. Bridging this gap requires targeted initiatives that empower women and support leadership development.

Promoting more women into leadership roles encourages dynamic decision-making, drives innovation, and creates a more inclusive workplace. By equipping women with the skills and opportunities to lead, the industry can enhance productivity and build a more balanced professional environment.

The importance of mentorship

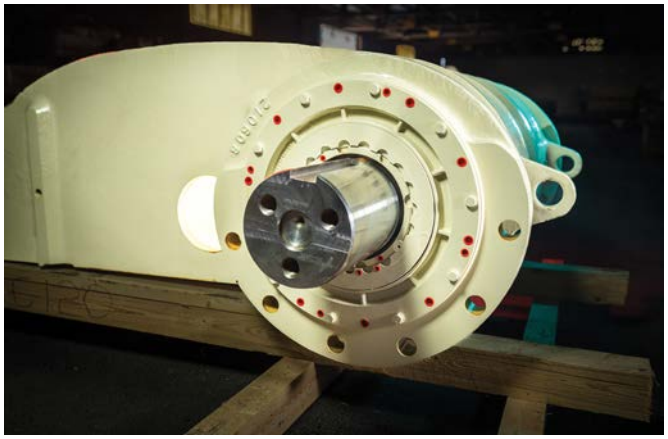
Mentorship plays a vital role in career development, offering young women valuable guidance, career insights, and professional support from experienced mentors.

Connecting female graduates with seasoned professionals can accelerate their career growth and increase their representation in the field. A strong mentorship network provides a supportive space where women can seek advice, refine their skills, and confidently advance their careers in the construction industry. ⊙

FAKE PARTS PUT CRUSHER AND SCREEN OWNERS AND STAFF AT RISK

Genuine parts for crushers and screens are an essential part of the promise that OEMs make to the market – to keep their customers' projects profitable and their businesses sustainable.

Genuine large parts like gears ensure optimal performance, reliability and minimal downtime, keeping crushers operating optimally.



Durability and efficiency are ensured with the OEM pitman which is designed for optimal performance and reduced wear in every crushing operation.

On the other side of the coin, however, are the risks that non-genuine, counterfeit or fake parts place on operations, according to Francois Marais, Sales and Marketing Director at local Metso distributor Pilot Crushtec.

"OEMs like Metso spend decades developing and supporting technologies that provide customers with reliable and high performance solutions for crushing and screening," says Marais. "However, this work is quickly undone when non-OEM parts are installed in our equipment, supposedly to save a few rand in maintenance costs."

He highlights that the performance and reliability of Metso's high-tech equipment is based on its proven design and precision engineering – which includes the various components and wear parts that must be replaced from time to time. Copied parts from other sources do not carry this technical heritage, and simply undermine performance and reliability, he says.

It also erodes the value of the relationship that OEMs work so hard to build with their customers, explains Merja Tyyni, Vice President Aftermarket Distribution Management Metso.

"Our customer relationships focus on the whole process of delivering value to their operations," says Tyyni. "We pay attention to the end-product value, where we can supply not only the appropriate capital equipment, but also the follow-up trouble-shooting, repairs and overall technical advice."

The quality of these solutions and services is based on many years of research, development and testing – as well as continuous investment in the necessary technical infrastructure and capability to respond quickly to customer needs. However, all these efforts are compromised when customers place non-OEM parts into their machines – as the quality chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Karima Dargaud, Head of Aftermarket Europe, Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Metso, points out that OEMs have in-depth knowledge of their equipment that allows customers to achieve results which are both optimal and predictable.

"Our OEM spares are an essential aspect of the support we provide, so that customers can reliably meet their production

Metso crushing and screening plants are built for high performance, reliability and efficiency, ensuring maximum productivity in every operation.

targets and avoid costly penalties," says Dargaud. "Customers build their reputations on this consistent performance, by producing the right results safely, on time and within budget. Using non-OEM spares only puts this reputation at risk, as machines then become unreliable."

Marais also points to the all important safety considerations of not using the specified parts in crushers and screens, emphasising that there are extreme forces and speeds at play – especially in crushing equipment. Metso wear parts have been designed and manufactured with specialised material and hardening techniques, for instance, to ensure both safety and performance.

"Fake parts will compromise worker safety, as there are normally a number of people in close proximity to this equipment who could be affected by a failure," he says. "A business that buys and fits pirate parts runs the risk of sending a negative message to its operators – that saving money is more important than the safety of crews on site." ⊙

ROCLA SUPPLIES STORMWATER PIPES FOR ZIMBABWE PROJECT

Tefoma Construction selected Rocla's Spigot and Socket stormwater pipes for use on the Mbudzi Interchange Project that is currently being constructed south of Harare in Zimbabwe.

Robert Hill, Sales Manager for Infrastructure Specialist Group of companies (ISG) which includes South Africa's iconic Rocla said "Our Spigot and Socket stormwater pipes were selected for this project due to Rocla's reputation for the design and manufacture of high quality and durable stormwater solutions. "We know that Rocla products undergo rigorous Quality Assurance testing in order to comply with industry standards and this makes them a highly recommended source of supply. Both the Harare City Council and the project consultant approved Rocla's Spigot and Socket option. No project is without its challenges and there were a few logistical issues that had to be overcome in the delivery of the pipes, but Rocla's team ensured that they were delivered on time, " said Chris Muzondo, Commercial Manager of Tefoma Construction.

The original Mbudzi Roundabout had become an inefficient and outdated traffic system. As a result, the Zimbabwe Government's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development has embarked on a project to develop a modernised Mbudzi traffic interchange in order alleviate severe congestion and reduce travelling time. The Mbudzi Interchange Project entails the modification of the Mbudzi Roundabout with the development of a flyover and which includes the building of 15 bridges with 13 directly on the interchange itself.

"We supplied 29 x 1 200 mm pipes and 29 x 1 350 mm of 100D Spigot and Socket stormwater piping which in total measured 141 metres, which we believed was the ideal stormwater solution for such a large and complex piece of infrastructure development.

The Spigot and Socket design ensures easy installation with a reliable watertight connection that minimises the risks of leaks making them the perfect choice for such projects," said Hill.

Spigot and Socket Stormwater System

The Spigot and Socket pipes comprise a Rubber Ring Joint Pipe which is a watertight pipe for use in sewer applications where aggressive groundwater is kept out of the system, or aggressive system contents are kept within. The Spigot and Socket type joint is formed with a widening of the wall of the pipe on the one end. ⊙

Urgent role of demolition amidst **JOHANNESBURG'S BRIDGE CRISIS**

Recent assessments have raised significant concerns about the structural integrity of Johannesburg's bridges. According to the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA), about 78% of the city's 902 bridges are in poor or very poor condition, with 20 bridges on the brink of closure. The JRA has indicated that addressing these issues would require an estimated R16-billion to bring the bridges up to acceptable standards.

Jet Demolition Contracts and Project Manager, Kate Bester.

Jet Demolition specialises in fast-track, high-pressure bridge demolition projects.

The deterioration of these structures has been attributed to factors such as ageing infrastructure, increased traffic loads, and damage from recent floods, which have led to the collapse of critical components like stormwater culverts and embankments. Budget constraints have further delayed essential repairs, exacerbating the risk of structural failures.

Fast-track, high-pressure bridge demolition projects, where timeous completion and safety performance is critical, is a specialised area of expertise for Jet Demolition. "Here the increased risk and high-pressure conditions lend themselves to our specific set of expertise," comments Jet Demolition Contracts and Project Manager Kate Bester.

Bridge-demolition projects are typically on a turnkey, rapid-demolition basis. The company's innovative, state-of-the-art and technically advanced methods and machinery allow it to tackle the most demanding and complex bridge demolition projects.

These range from all aspects of road safety – from temporary road closure design and implementation, to extensive communication and consultation with the general public, and liaison with all relevant authorities – to engineering suitable demolition methods, planning for unforeseen circumstances, and final road clearing.

Emergency demolition is often required where bridge stability or safety is compromised by an unforeseen event, such as traffic accidents that have impacted on a bridge structure, or vandalism causing structural stability concerns. Emergency bridge projects invariably impact on the travelling public as these are, by nature, unplanned and unforeseen.

"One of the biggest challenges on an emergency bridge project is to mobilise our plant and personnel to the works. If a bridge is suddenly compromised, all traffic in the immediate area is gridlocked, until such time that alternative routes are made available. Under these circumstances, we rely heavily on the assistance of traffic authorities to provide emergency escorts to the site, fast-tracking the establishment of plant and personnel," explains Bester.

Jet Demolition recently successfully carried out the overnight demolition of the Rockdale Road Bridge in KwaZulu-Natal as part of a larger project to upgrade the N3 highway and the EB Cloete Interchange. The company is preparing for the next overnight project anticipated to be carried out in June.

COVERING THE WORLD OF CONSTRUCTION

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South Africa's BEST CONTRACTORS

IS SA'S CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CHAIN READY FOR MEGA-PROJECTS?

Mega-projects are capable of fuelling a quantum leap for the local economy.

IS SA'S CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CHAIN READY FOR MEGA-PROJECTS?

It is anticipated that renewed investment in South Africa's infrastructure may bring with it some overdue mega-projects – raising expectations about the construction sector's readiness for the unusual demands of such contracts.

Amit Dawneerangen, Construction Materials Executive: Sales and Product Technical at AfriSam, says that the country needs urgent and extensive investment in projects from roads and dams to wastewater treatment plants and energy infrastructure.

"We are very hopeful that this work will include a selection of mega-projects, which are capable of fuelling a quantum leap for the local economy," says Dawneerangen." Such developments are crucial not only for economic growth but also for job creation and the stability of the construction sector."

Projects like these create a ripple effect throughout the economy – providing opportunities not only for larger players in the construction sector, but also for smaller subcontractors. They have the effect of filtering economic relief and skills development throughout the industry.

He notes, however, that a mega-project is characterised by its requirement for a large volume of inputs over a relatively short period of time. Given the long period of depressed conditions in the local construction sector, there are concerns that the capability of supply chains have been compromised.

"Mega construction projects, by their nature, require large scale coordination, high quality materials and reliable suppliers who can deliver on time and within budget," he explains. "This is where the resilience and longevity of companies like AfriSam come to play a strategic role in the recovery and strengthening of the economy."

He highlights that AfriSam has established itself as a leading partner in mega-projects across South Africa over the past nine decades, and has consciously maintained its capabilities and market-leading expertise base through many economic cycles. Underpinning its capabilities are its cement manufacturing facilities alongside a nationwide footprint of quarries, crushing facilities and readymix batching plants.

"This gives us the capacity to supply from multiple plants without compromising quality, to meet the elevated demand of mega-projects," he explains. "We also work closely with contractors in the planning of these large contracts to ensure that work schedules can be adapted to meet peak demand."

Indeed, the earlier that planning discussions can be started between potential stakeholders in these projects, the better. One of the biggest challenges in mega-projects, for instance, is the accurate forecasting of construction material needs.

"The discussion and preparation of extended shifts and ramping up production does not always take place early enough in the planning process," he says. "The result is that, where material volumes are underestimated, this invariably leads to

Left: ***Mega construction projects require high quality materials and reliable suppliers.*** *Right:* ***Large roadworks require a stringent specification of aggregate stone.***

last-minute surges in demand that can disrupt the supply chain and delay projects unnecessarily."

He emphasises that, for mega-projects especially, this early-stage collaboration becomes even more imperative. In his view, it is critical that discussions start at the bidding or pre-bidding stage.

"This is particularly valuable when contracts such as large roadworks require a stringent specification of aggregate stone – where production demands a certain lead time that cannot simply be truncated to suit a revised work programme," he explains.

When changes in project scope are made late in the process, this also create challenges – impacting on construction schedules, material demand and supplier logistics.

"The scale of these mega-projects means that any scope change – however small – has a significant effect on other players in the supply chain," he says. "There is much less margin for error, which is why our detailed planning processes throughout our engagement with customers is a critical aspect of our value-add."

Ensuring the quality of construction materials is paramount, particularly as safety and longevity are critical in all projects. Dawneerangen highlights AfriSam's technological advancements in its readymix concrete operations, for instance.

"Our batching plants use computerised batching systems to ensure compliance with mix designs approved by engineers," he says. "The quality process includes batch printouts, which serve as a form of guarantee that materials have been mixed to specification."

Rigorous quality control testing is conducted at AfriSam's operations before dispatch, with thorough testing being conducted on aggregates before they are delivered. Similarly, on-site sampling of concrete is performed to ensure the required strength is achieved. This commitment to quality control minimises risks and ensures that project specifications are met without compromise.

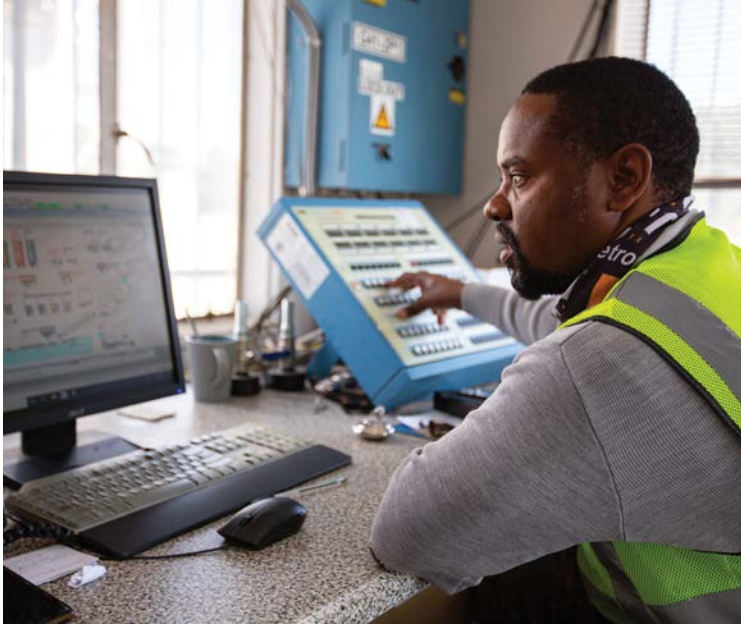
Dawneerangen highlights that environmental responsibility is an increasing focus in construction, and in mega-projects these considerations are heightened. The scale of work means that companies involved will often be listed on stock exchanges with strict reporting standards on environmental performance. There may also be multinational lending agencies involved in the funding of these projects, who bring their own global standards to bear on the contractors.

"AfriSam has long been a pioneer in sustainability, implementing environmentally friendly measures years ahead of regulatory requirements," he says. "We were one of the first companies to 'put our money where our mouth is' in terms of sustainability."

AfriSam has established itself as a leading partner in mega-projects across South Africa.

AfriSam has the capacity to supply from multiple plants without compromising quality.

A key part of this initiative includes recycling materials including the recycling of returned concrete for use as aggregates in new concrete and road construction materials. AfriSam also prioritises the use of recycled water in its readymix plants, minimising the consumption of fresh water and mitigating the risk of any contamination.



Left: ***AfriSam also prioritises the use of recycled water in its readymix plants.*** *Right:* ***AfriSam's batching plants use computerised batching systems to ensure compliance with mix designs.***

"Sustainability is not just an internal goal for AfriSam – it has also become an industry requirement for our customers," he says. " Mega-projects face increasing scrutiny in terms of their environmental impact, making our sustainability practices even more valuable to the contracting fraternity."

There is also a heightened expectation for mega-projects to contribute to local economic development by employing community members and supporting small businesses. AfriSam plays an active role in this, providing technical training to local labourers, for example.

"We assist contractors by offering best practice training in a range of fields related to our services – such as concrete placement, finishing and curing," he explains. "We also train locals to assist in our concrete testing. Experience in these types of work helps them secure future employment once the project is complete and the contractors have moved on."

AfriSam also runs mentorship and training programmes for emerging contractors and engineering graduates, ensuring skills development continues beyond individual projects. These initiatives provide real-world experience that prepares individuals for long-term careers in construction and materials supply.

Dawneerangen points out that supply partners like AfriSam also need the capacity to continue supplying numerous other customers while a mega-project is underway. This requires a depth of experience to draw in resources and ramp up capacity to meet rising demand.

"It is important that, while supplying a large project, we continue to provide our existing customers with uninterrupted service," he explains. "This needs us to be flexible and agile with our footprint of facilities, as well as with our planning ability to allocate resources where they are required."

This balancing act requires sophisticated logistics, he says, based on the company's strategic plant locations, fleet flexibility and human resources.

"Looking at our history, AfriSam has been a key supplier in several high-profile projects over the years," he concludes. "Notable examples include The Leonardo in Sandton, The PwC headquarters in Waterfall and various large scale road upgrades. These projects demonstrate our ability to deliver under high pressure conditions while maintaining quality and efficiency." ⊙

AfriSam runs mentoring and training programmes for engineering graduates.

SOUTH AFRICA'S CIDB LEVEL NINE RATED BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS

Four insights into public project tendering FOR EMERGING ENTREPRENEURS

As South Africa gears up for trillions of rands of promised investments into infrastructure, hundreds of emerging construction companies are missing out on potentially game-changing public contracts, notes ***Roelof van den Berg, CEO of the Gap Infrastructure Corporation.***

"Government's multibillion-rand infrastructure plans could create significant opportunities, but only for businesses that understand how to navigate the complexities of the tendering process," he says. "We're seeing too many capable small contractors fail within their first few years, not because they lack skills or technical expertise, but because they're unprepared for public tender requirements in order to win projects."

Van den Berg offers four insights on how new construction businesses can position themselves for future growth:

Registering with relevant regulatory bodies

Public sector projects require registration with several government departments and agencies before applying for tenders. The first critical registration is with the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), without which no contractor can apply for a public tender. Some exclusions apply, including joint ventures, subcontractors, labour-only contractors, and home builders, which fall under the purview of the National Home Building Council (NHBC).

Many emerging contractors delay their applications or submit incomplete forms, which can lead to weeks of setbacks, placing smaller businesses at a disadvantage.

Furthermore, construction companies must also register with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), obtain a Tax Clearance Certificate from the South African

Revenue Service (SARS), meet B-BBEE requirements, and secure a Letter of Good Standing under the Compensation of Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA). They must also ensure workers are registered with the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP).

Understanding the CIDB grading system and improving your rating

Depending on size and track record, a contractor might be excluded from larger public projects, with top contracts reserved for the highest-rated companies. CIDB Grade 1 has no criteria besides registration, but limits participation to projects below R500 000. Grades 2 through 9 demand that specific financial and performance metrics be met.

Grade 2 companies can tender for projects of up to a million rand, but must show proof of completing a R130 000 project in the past five years. Grade 8 contractors can apply for R200-million projects, while Grade 9 companies have no cap – but both must have completed a multi-million-rand project successfully.

"After decades of diligent work on various contracts of varying sizes, GIC has achieved the highest grade, which means we can tender for any level of public or private project. Smaller firms can reach this level too with time, persistence, and

thorough due diligence at every step," says Van den Berg.

He advises treating each project as a stepping stone. "Carefully and consistently maintain detailed records of timelines, costs, safety compliance, and client feedback. Even tracking missteps can guide you to improve over the long term."

Including social responsibility essentials in tender applications

With growing recognition of the important role of corporate social responsibility in changing lives, government is increasingly seeking contractors who share the aim of improving community well-being. "You're far more likely to secure a tender if you can demonstrate how your involvement will contribute additional value in terms of upliftment or protecting local ecosystems."

He recommends committing to employing and training community members or contributing to development programmes, depending on capacity and budgets. "Even smaller-scale initiatives can make a difference in a real and impactful way on the lives of others."

Mitigating risks by subcontracting

For smaller contractors who lack the capacity for entire projects, van den Berg suggests sub-contracting with established firms. This allows new or lower-graded businesses to handle parts of the work without taking on unmanageable risk while benefitting from the principal contractor's guidance.

"Working under an established brand is one of the best ways to learn the ropes. You can see how they manage timelines, compliance processes, and stakeholder relationships, and apply that knowledge to your own business to help you move up the CIDB ranks."

Ultimately, van den Berg concludes, "South Africa's infrastructure plans are ambitious, with plenty of opportunities for contractors to get in on the ground floor and build upward. With perseverance and strategic planning, emerging contractors can play a crucial role in building South Africa's future." ⊙

CELEBRATING THE BEST CIVIL AND BUILDING CONTRACTORS

One of the objectives of Construction World *is to recognise and celebrate achievement in the South African construction industry. For the past 24 years it has done this by hosting its annual Best Projects awards that recognise excellence and innovation in the execution of projects. From this year, its Best Contractors feature celebrates the excellence of the companies that execute many of South Africa's most noteworthy projects – whether civil engineering or building contractors.*

Understanding the CIDB grading system in South Africa

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) plays a critical role in South Africa's construction sector, particularly when it comes to regulating and promoting the growth of contractors. One of the main tools it uses to do this is the CIDB grading system, which ensures that construction projects are awarded to contractors with the appropriate capacity, expertise, and financial capability.

The CIDB is a national body established by the South African government to oversee and regulate the construction industry. Among its various functions, it maintains a Register of Contractors, which classifies and grades companies involved in public sector construction and infrastructure projects.

How the CIDB grading system works

CIDB grades contractors from Grade 1 to Grade 9. Grade 1 is the entry-level for smaller contractors, and Grade 9 represents large companies with the capacity to handle mega projects worth hundreds of millions of rands.

The grading system is based on two main criteria:

Financial capability

This is measured through annual turnover and available capital.

Works capability

This is based on the largest project the contractor has completed and the relevant experience of the business.

These two factors determine the maximum size of a project a contractor is eligible to bid for in a specific category (e.g. general building, civil engineering, electrical works, etc.).

CIDB classes of work

The CIDB categorises contractors according to the Class of Work they specialise in, such as:

GB (General Building), CE (Civil Engineering), EP (Electrical Engineering – Infrastructure), ME (Mechanical Engineering) and several others. Each contractor is registered under a class and assigned a grade in that category.

Given the focus of *Construction World*, the General Building and Civil Engineer classes are the most relevant.

Benefits of CIDB grading

Access to public tenders

Only contractors with a valid CIDB grading can bid on government projects.

Transparency and fairness

The grading system ensures that only capable contractors take on projects, minimising risk.

Business growth

As contractors complete more projects and grow financially, they can apply for higher grades.

The CIDB grading system ensures that South Africa's construction industry remains professional, competitive, and capable. It provides a clear pathway for small contractors to grow their businesses and take on larger projects, all while giving public entities confidence in the companies they contract with.

Over the next pages we celebrate some of the companies that have attained level 9 grading. Although these

represent only a small portion of the excellent other Grade 9 companies, this overview gives an idea of the level excellence.

Grade maximum tender value

- Up to R200 000
- Up to R650 000
- Up to R2-million
- Up to R4-million
- Up to R6,5-million
- Up to R13-million
- Up to R40-million
- Up to R130-million
- No limit

The South African construction industry, despite many challenges, is in excellent hands and ready for the uptick, when it comes. ⊙

Given the focus of Construction World, *the General Building and Civil Engineer classes are the most relevant.*

Concor builds momentum with strong project PIPELINE AND CLEAR GROWTH PATH

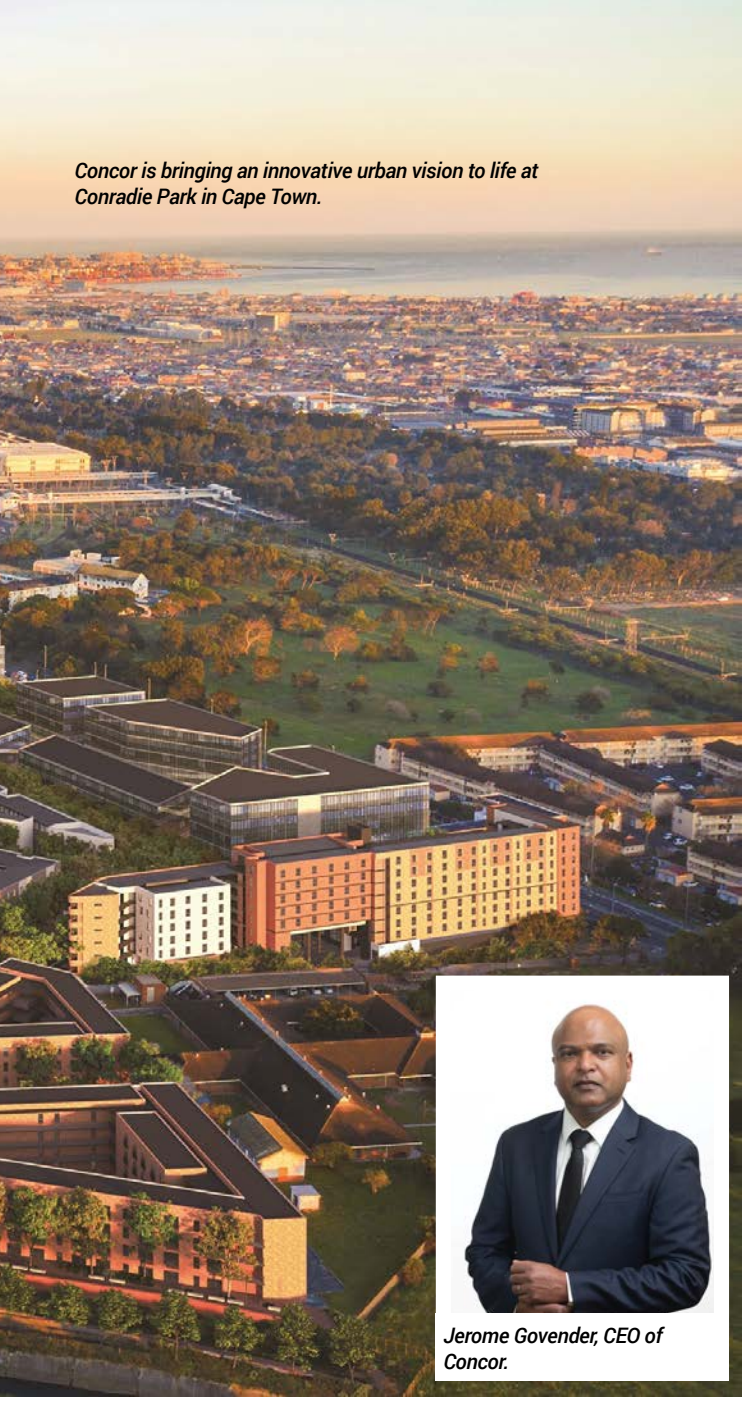
Concor, one of South Africa's leading infrastructure and construction companies, is building positive momentum with renewed strength and a clear trajectory for future growth. Despite ongoing external pressures in the market, the business has made meaningful progress in strengthening its position and creating a stable outlook for the future.

Concor CEO, Jerome Govender, confirms that Concor's project teams have secured several new contracts, strengthening the company's order book for the next two to three years. These include two significant renewable energy projects, both EPC contracts that encompass the delivery of the civil and electrical balance of plant works. The De Aar 2 Wind Farm project is scheduled for completion in October 2026, while the Karreebosch Wind Farm project is due for completion in February 2027.

The South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) has also awarded two contracts to Concor for road improvements: the enhancement of National Road R101 Section 8 from Bela Bela to Modimolle and the improvement of National Route N11 Section 9 between Hendrina Power Station and the N4 Interchange. These projects have durations of 30 months and 33 months respectively.

In the built environment sector, Concor has secured the contract for the construction of an office block at 3 Parks Boulevard. The project includes a three-storey West wing, a four-storey East wing and four basement levels, with completion scheduled for the first quarter of 2026.

Another exciting development for the company is the award of



Concor is bringing an innovative urban vision to life at Conradie Park in Cape Town.

Jerome Govender, CEO of Concor.

the Newmarket Mixed-Use Housing Development Phase 1 contract in the Western Cape. This project includes the development and construction of 375 social housing units, 575 open market housing units and approximately 500 m² of retail space.

"These new project awards reflect the market's confidence in Concor's ability to deliver quality projects on time, within budget and safely. I am pleased that they also provide a platform for Concor to contribute meaningfully to job creation and local supplier development," Govender says.

He adds that Concor is actively pursuing additional medium-term opportunities, with strategies in place to manage any remaining challenges. The company remains cautiously optimistic about the road ahead.

Govender credits the progress made to the support of Concor's shareholders, the Board, senior management and employees across the business. "Our collective efforts over recent months have provided a stable platform for us to move forward"

"With this solid foundation in place, we are well-positioned to deliver on our current commitments and explore new opportunities with confidence," he concludes. ⊙

Concor has built a strong reputation for delivering high quality projects in the renewable energy sector, including the successful completion of multiple wind farm developments.

Concor has successfully completed numerous buildings within the Oxford Parks precinct, contributing to the development of this premier mixed-use urban space.

Concor's construction of the Msikaba Bridge in the Eastern Cape is well advanced, showcasing the company's technical expertise on one of South Africa's most iconic infrastructure projects.

M&D SHOWCASES THE BEST WAY TO BUILD COMPLEX MINING INFRASTRUCTURE

M&D Construction Group continues to demonstrate that it can be relied upon to execute technically complex mining infrastructure projects according to scope, time and specification. This is facilitated by the Group's ability to always "Find the Best Way", a M&D core value that promotes continuous improvement; innovation; and problem-solving to eliminate inefficiencies and bolster productivity.

A sound example of "Find the Best Way" in practice is the Gamsberg Concentrator Project, for which M&D has provided world-class civil-engineering construction services. The company helped to fast-track the civils component of the first phase of the project, encompassing the flotation plant, as well as infrastructure in the milling zone and thickener area. Based on this strong performance, Vedanta Zinc International (VZI) entrusted M&D with the civil-engineering construction scope of the subsequent phase.

Located in Aggeneys, Gamsberg is the largest zinc project in the Northern Cape. Together with the mature Deeps and Swartberg mines, it is part of VZI's Black Mountain Complex. Gamsberg Phase II Concentrator Project aims to double mining capacity from 4-million tonnes to 8-million tonnes annually and increase zinc-in-concentrate output from 300 kt to 500 kt per year. It is an extensive undertaking that has also entailed constructing complicated reinforced concrete structures. These are for the gyratory crusher; flotation plant; filter press; and thickener, in addition to the stockpile tunnel and milling infrastructure.

Furthermore, as per VZI's request, they were built in monolithic pours to satisfy the design. This while also ensuring robust final structures that will be able to withstand the harsh mining applications and environmental conditions in which they operate. These include, among others, dynamic loading; fluctuating temperatures; and corrosive substances.

M&D achieved the first major 1 090 m^3 concrete pour only eight weeks after contract award. Successfully navigating VZI's onboarding requirements on a project site that is located 1 000 km from M&D's headquarters in Johannesburg took extensive preplanning.

Gawie van der Merwe, the M&D Contracts Manager, says that built to the highest possible quality standards, these structures will continue to add value for many years and bear testament to the depth of the group's concrete construction skills and expertise. "For example, the pedestals of the semi-autogenous grinding and ball mill required various levels of formwork to a 13 m maximum height. Furthermore, large items were cast into these structures to very high tolerances. A case in point is the 46 mm diameter bolts that were suspended in the air and held in place during the concrete pours, the largest of which was 750 m^3," Van der Merwe says.

M&D Divisional Head, Niekie Wagener, says the flagship structure, which will house the gyratory crusher, stands 30 m high and consists of six intermediate heavily reinforced decks. "Its internal and external walls between deck levels and the decks were cast in single lifts. Due to the size of each deck, back propping was required from ground to top level. All cast-in items were positioned to the highest tolerances to ensure that the mechanical equipment fits per design," Wagener says.

An M&D batching plant was mainly used to produce the large quantities of concrete required for the construction of the structures. When required for the construction of the very large structures, additional concrete was supplied by a ready-

mix company within the vicinity. Material for concrete production was sourced locally.

About 40 000 m^3 of concrete was placed to construct the structures, with extensive use made of a 40 MPa pump mix, which was developed by Concrete Proficiency.

High productivity was maintained despite extreme weather conditions in the area that vary between -2°C to 48°C. “Working in these conditions required careful planning especially considering the large quantities of concrete that we were placing. We poured and cast concrete in the late afternoon and evening when it was cooler and used the daylight hours to undertake finishings. This ensured optimal curing and prevented issues such as cracking and reduced strength,” Van der Merwe says.

The concrete was transported from the batching plants via six concrete mixer trucks, each with a capacity of 6 m^3, and poured with a 42 m and 36 m concrete pump. They are part of the large fleet of equipment that M&D procured specifically for this project. This large investment made into critical plant and equipment has played an immense role in the impressive performance on this project thus far. M&D Plant has again provided robust technical support to ensure high equipment availability and fuel-efficient operation.

As another example of how M&D strives always to “Find The Best Way”, only material that complied with the group’s own ethical and sustainability practices was sourced for concrete production.

The more than 50 000 t of aggregate for concrete production was sourced from SPH Kundalila. This is considering the open-cast mining, as well as crushing and screening experts’ focus on reducing its carbon footprint by primarily using solar energy to power its quarrying operations.

Furthermore, SPH Kundalila is a licensed aggregate and sand producer, signalling to M&D that all materials sourced from this supply-chain partner have been mined legally. To be awarded aggregate and sand mining rights by the mining authorities, operators need to abide by strict environmental, as well as health and safety regulations

Cement was sourced from AfriSam, which is also committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its operations. This is by using recycled materials and energy-efficient processes in cement production. A significant portion of concrete’s embodied carbon is derived from cement production, including clinkering, which accounts for a large percentage of global CO_2 emissions.

With the structures now practically complete according to schedule, the follow-on contractors have started to undertake the electrical, mechanical and structural mechanical piping installations. M&D worked closely with the client to accommodate its access and budget programme. As a flexible contractor, M&D was also willing and able to adjust its programme whenever required for follow-on contractors to start their preparatory work earlier. This also helped to nurture good team dynamics between the various project stakeholders.

M&D has since commenced constructing the plant road network. It consists of gravel access roads to the operation;

paved roads within the plant for operations and maintenance; and heavy-vehicle haul roads with South African Roads Agency Limited-specification continuously reinforced concrete pavements. This is in addition to the vast drainage network, a complex system that separates stormwater and plant product for recovery, as well various secondary structures, including the electrical sub-stations.

These components of the project will be completed by mid-December 2025, bringing the 25-month civil-engineering construction contract to a close. Just under 400 people were employed to work on the project when it peaked. To optimise work and travel time on this remote construction site, they agreed to work seven consecutive weeks and followed by a week's leave satisfying Department of Mineral and Resources and Energy's (DMRE) oversight.

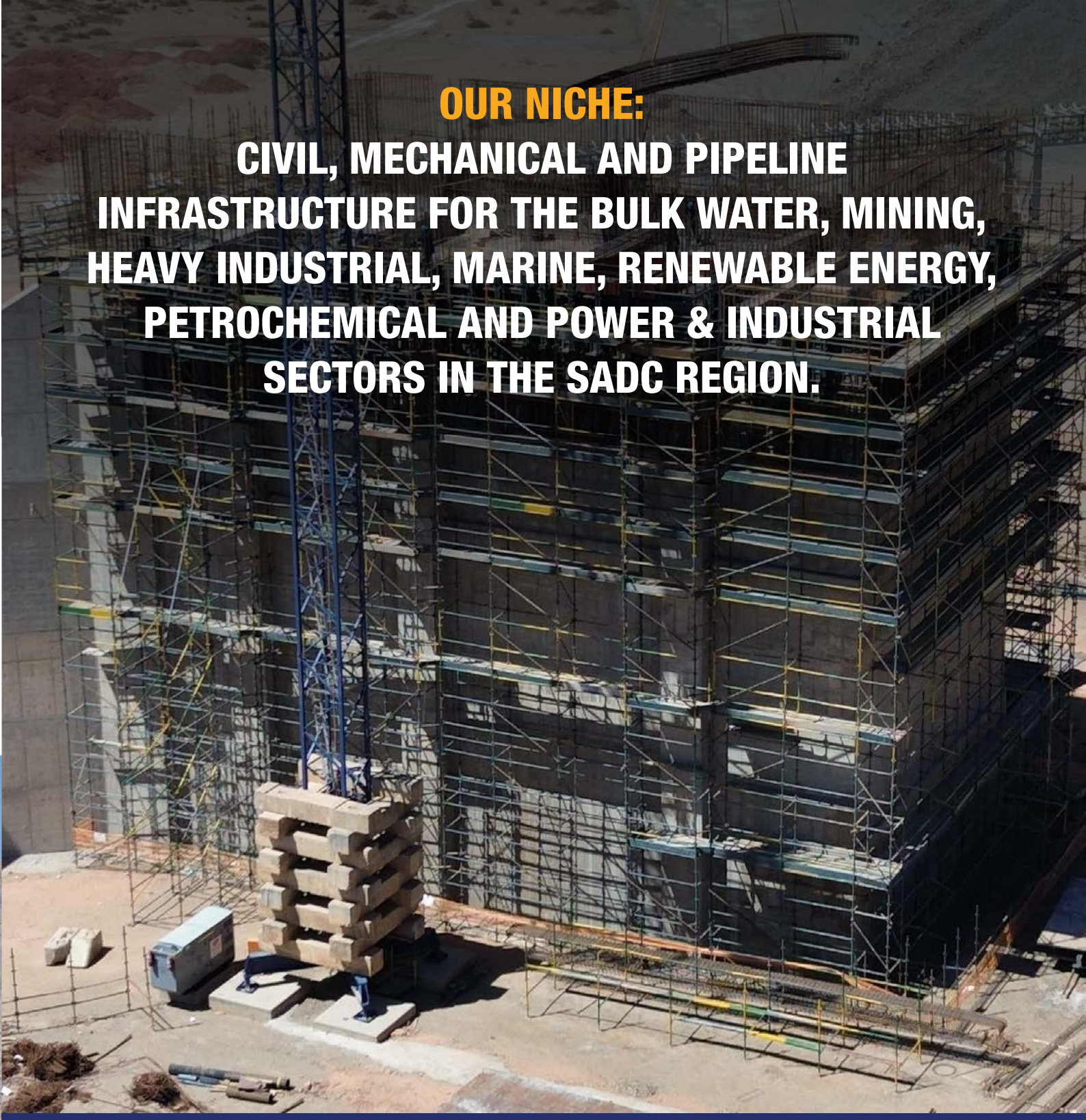
They have all made an invaluable contribution to the success of the project thus far. This includes undertaking their respective roles in a healthy and safe manner, in line with M&D's first unwritten-ground rule (UGR), "Around here, Safety begins with Me". Supported by M&D's Safety Behavioural-Based system, this UGR makes all employees responsible for creating a safe working environment. They identify risks and safe practices which are documented, evaluated and then shared with all team members to constantly improve site health and safety practices.

This approach has once again been a resounding success. On 29 January 2025 at 10am, the M&D team achieved 1-million lost-time injury-free manhours on the Gamsberg Phase II Concentrator Project. By mid-April 2025, the team was only two weeks away from achieving 731 LTI-free days.

VZI achieved 824 LTI-free days, of which the M&D team contributed 655 LTI-free days, on 31 January 2025. This major milestone was celebrated at an event on the day that was also attended by DMRE acting Principal Inspector of the Northern Cape, Sifiso Gumede; VZI's Chief Operating Officer, Jacques van Tonder; Rukesh Raghubir, Chief-Executive Officer of M&D; and Wagener. Van Tonder lauded the entire M&D team for its commitment to health and safety, with the following employees receiving accolades for their contribution to upholding the highest possible health and safety standards on the construction site:

- Van der Merwe for outstanding safety performance
- Rooksaar Singh for experiencing the most growth our of all the individuals working on the project
- Roxane Vece for being the best Contractor Safety Officer
- George Radebe for his top performance as Supervisor
- Eddie Makgeledise for his outstanding role as a SHE Representative
- Onele Pentene, a M&D Safety, Health and Environment Representative, for her responsible reporting of a Mine Health & Safety Act Section 23 and ordering work to stop at the crusher due to excessive dust.

"Our people are behind our success. They bring skills, experience and, just as importantly, the motivation needed to drive productivity and efficiency and ensure quality and safety. As a tight team, we have always been able to 'Find the Best way'. And when we grow and prosper, our employees succeed in the true spirit of *Khula Nathi*!" Raghubir says. ⊙



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WBHO Construction: BUILDING WITH PURPOSE, LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

From city skylines to remote infrastructure, WBHO Construction has left an indelible mark on the built environment across Southern Africa and the United Kingdom. As a multidisciplinary, internationally recognised construction company, WBHO continues to set industry benchmarks through its unwavering commitment to excellence, safety, and innovation.

The company's guiding motto, "Rely On Our Ability," is not just a slogan - it's a promise. It speaks to its culture of accountability, quality, and professionalism. Whether executing large-scale developments or intricate specialist projects, WBHO Construction brings the same focus and precision to every site, delivering results that stand the test of time.

Foundation and vision

WBHO's strength lies in its people and the principles that guide them. At the heart of the business is a team of dedicated professionals whose expertise has been forged through decades of work on major construction projects. Its leadership continues to shape a business that is known for being responsive, hands-on, and deeply client-focused.

WBHO Construction envisions a future where its legacy is built not only in concrete and steel but in relationships and reliability. The company's aim is to be recognised as the leading construction company in every region in which it operates - valued not only for what it builds but for how it builds it.

A legacy of growth

Founded in 1970 by John Wilson and Brian Holmes as Wilson-Holmes (Pty) Ltd, the company evolved through strategic mergers and milestones to become Wilson Bayly Holmes and eventually WBHO Construction in 1996.

Today, WBHO is one of the largest construction firms in Southern Africa and is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

The company's expansion into the United Kingdom began in 2017 with the acquisition of a stake in the Byrne Group, a respected construction company in London. This was followed in 2018 by a majority shareholding in Manchester-based Russell Construction, now operating as Russell-WBHO. These acquisitions marked the beginning of WBHO's successful integration into the UK market.

WBHO operates through three core divisions:

Building Construction

At WBHO, building is a passion. Its construction teams are market leaders known for their reliability, technical strength, and ability to deliver complex developments on time and within budget. Its portfolio spans a wide array of sectors, including retail, commercial, residential, healthcare, hospitality, industrial, and data centres.

Civil Engineering and Infrastructure

From water treatment plants to power facilities, WBHO civil engineering division delivers high-performance infrastructure throughout Africa and the UK. It is trusted for its ability to manage complexity, minimise risk, and maintain quality under demanding conditions. It operates in sectors such as mining, energy, industrial works, and water infrastructure.

Roads and Earthworks

With extensive experience in Africa's unique terrain, WBHO's Roads and Earthworks division delivers

excellence across sectors including transportation, mining, and energy. Its success lies in its logistical efficiency, fleet capabilities, and adaptability to local conditions. Services cover bulk earthworks, road and bridge construction, pipelines, dams, and rail infrastructure.

Innovation through projects and materials

WBHO's Projects division enables it to diversify beyond traditional construction, focusing on public-private partnerships, turnkey projects, and long-term concession arrangements. Here, it combines in-house expertise with strategic global partnerships to unlock value while reducing risk for clients. Key areas include airports, toll roads, renewable energy installations, and accommodation facilities.

Supporting its core operations is WBHO's construction materials division, which ensures quality at every step through the supply and installation of long-steel products. This arm plays a vital role in maintaining its reputation for consistency and performance.

WBHO brings a culture of professionalism and mutual respect to every project, backed by a senior leadership team that is both experienced and accessible. It takes a responsible, measured approach to risk, ensuring projects are delivered safely and to the highest standards. Its ability to operate seamlessly across diverse geographies and sectors, combined with its technical depth and proven track record, means WBHO can consistently deliver successful outcomes - no matter the size or complexity of the project.

A global footprint, a local focus

With regional offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth - and international offices in Gaborone, Accra, Maputo, London, and Manchester - WBHO is positioned to meet the demands of a dynamic construction landscape. Despite its global reach, the company remains committed to the communities it serves, always operating with a local mindset. ⊙

QUALITY CONSTRUCTION, EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Specialising in commercial, institutional, and residential construction across South Africa, Raubex Building is a subsidiary of the wider Raubex Group. Barend Badenhorst, Managing Director, discusses how the company is built on collaboration and social responsibility whilst outlining recent projects.

Proudly delivering design, development, renovation, and construction services for both commercial and residential projects for more than a decade, Raubex Building stands out as a leading contributor to South African infrastructure.

The company's housing division specialises in the development of subsidy and social housing, rental units, bonded properties, and various student accommodations. Its commercial construction division, meanwhile, undertakes a range of commercial and public-private developments.

In the commercial sector, it currently has a definitive focus on healthcare facilities, whilst we are expanding into the data centre space elsewhere across the country.

As part of the Raubex Group, one of the leading Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) -listed infrastructure development and construction groups in South Africa , the company enjoys a distinct advantage.

The Raubex Group comprises four divisions Materials Handling and Mining, Construction Materials, Roads and Earthworks, and Infrastructure, with Raubex Building forming an integral part of the latter.

A versatile, multi-purpose design and development housing project led by Raubex Building and the Similan Group, the Newinbosch Neighbourhood Estate, which is still under construction, has already achieved a 6-star sustainability rating from the Green Star South Africa rating system.

The project provides a strong and predictable order book for the company and enhanced profits through its blend of building and development profit shares.

Raubex Building has recently been appointed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to undertake the execution of the fire remedial works, restoration and compliance works at the new assembly building within the parliament precinct, Cape Town.

Whilst it is currently focused on its projects in SA, Raubex Building has successfully expanded into Central Africa having completed the construction of a hotel and regional mall in Cameroon.

Powerful partnerships

Setting it apart from the competition, Raubex Building prides itself on cultivating close working relationships with all those with whom it conducts business.

In addition, Raubex Building's partners and suppliers are key to ensuring a smooth and efficient supply chain. As such, the company executes its partnership approach with an emphasis on close collaboration.

Going forward, Raubex Building hopes to continue to grow organically through its partnerships whilst expanding its footprint in the Western Cape's commercial and retail and infrastructure sectors.

Socially responsible

In addition to its building and construction services, Raubex

Building has definitive policies and initiatives in place to prioritise social development.

The company is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the communities it serves.

Thus, Raubex Building is dedicated to making a positive impact on socioeconomic development through its policies and initiatives.

Raubex Building accreditations

- **Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE)** The company today is proudly majority black-owned with a Level 1 B-BBEE certificate.
- **Central Supplier Database (CSD)** The CSD lists organisations, individuals, and institutions that can supply goods and services to customers.
- **National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC)** Registered with the NHBRC, the company adheres to all requirements set out by the organisation to ensure quality workmanship and the relevant guarantees on each of its projects.
- **Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB)** Raubex Building has a 9GB rating with the CIDB, an organisation devoted to transforming the construction industry through inclusivity and the promotion of high ethical standards.
- **MBA North Master Builders Association (MBA North)** The company is proudly registered with MBA North, an organisation representing the construction industry in SA. Raubex Building currently has three sites that have a 5 Star Safety rating. ⊙

RIVERSTONE MALL: A SUSTAINABLE RETAIL LANDMARK DELIVERED BY TRI-STAR CONSTRUCTION FOR ALLEYROADS

In response to the growing retail demand in Gauteng's southern corridor, the newly completed Riverstone Mall in Meyerton stands as a landmark development for the Midvaal region. Commissioned by the forward-thinking property developer AlleyRoads and constructed by Tri-Star Construction, this 18 000 m² regional shopping centre is the first formal retail hub in Meyerton. The mall sets new benchmarks in sustainable design, construction efficiency, and regional impact.

Strategic collaboration and project scope

As the principal contractor, Tri-Star Construction was responsible for a wide range of tasks, including bulk earthworks, construction of the retail centre, and the development of external works such as roads, parking facilities, landscaping, stormwater management systems, and pedestrian pathways. Tri-Star's expertise in large-scale construction projects in rural areas ensured the project met the needs of the community by employing, mentoring and training numerous locals.

The mall features a mix of well-known national chains and locally-rooted businesses, reflecting a commitment to supporting the Midvaal community while meeting the region's growing retail demands.

Sustainable design and energy efficiency

A standout feature of Riverstone Mall is its sustainable energy infrastructure. The hybrid solar and battery energy

system exemplifies Tri-Star Construction's dedication to green building practices. The system includes a 6 MWp solar photovoltaic array with 3 600 rooftop panels and a 256 MWh battery storage system. This integration allows the mall to operate nearly off-grid, reducing its reliance on the national power grid by over 40%, benefitting both the environment and the long-term cost savings for tenants.

The system incorporates 16 inverters and 10 power control systems, ensuring optimal energy distribution and load management. This sophisticated design reflects Tri-Star's ability to handle the technical challenges associated with modern alternative power generation.

Construction challenges and innovations

Construction of Riverstone Mall, which began on 1 November 2023, faced several challenges due to the sensitive wetland environment surrounding the site. Tri-Star Construction navigated these environmental considerations while ensuring the project stayed on schedule. To mitigate disruptions, Tri-Star employed modular and prefabricated building components, enabling faster assembly and minimizing on-site construction time. This approach also helped reduce the project's ecological impact and preserve the surrounding landscape.

In collaboration with the environmental and civil engineering consultants, Tri-Star implemented advanced water management systems to address flood risks and ensure sustainable water usage. These systems effectively manage stormwater, reducing local flooding risks and ensuring compliance with strict environmental regulations. Despite these challenges, the project was completed on 8 April 2025, with the mall officially opening on 10 April 2025.

Stakeholder engagement and project management

Effective stakeholder management was key to the success of Riverstone Mall. Tri-Star Construction worked closely with AlleyRoads and other key stakeholders to ensure community participation with clear communication and alignment throughout the project. Early planning focused on refining construction sequencing, which facilitated faster delivery and smoother integration of systems.

A phased handover approach enabled the fit-out process to begin while other construction activities were still underway. This allowed national retailers such as Checkers and Woolworths to set up ahead of schedule, ensuring timely occupancy and on-time mall opening. The coordination was crucial in overcoming logistical challenges and maintaining the project's momentum.

Economic and community impact

Riverstone Mall has made a significant positive impact on the local community. More than 400 construction jobs were created, many filled by local workers, providing valuable

skills training, mentorship and employment opportunities. Upon completion, the mall is expected to create an additional 400 permanent retail jobs, contributing to the region's economic development.

As the first formal shopping centre in Meyerton, Riverstone Mall fills a major retail gap in the Midvaal region. It not only offers local residents access to a wide range of retail options but also acts as a catalyst for further commercial and residential development. The mall's success is expected to attract additional investments and infrastructure improvements, driving long-term growth and sustainability in the area.

Health, safety, and quality assurance

Throughout the 17-month construction period, Tri-Star maintained an exemplary safety record, with zero major incidents. Rigorous safety protocols, including regular site inspections, comprehensive safety training, and clear public interaction zones, ensured the safety of both workers and the surrounding community.

Regarding quality assurance, Tri-Star adhered to the highest standards, ensuring every aspect of the mall's construction met or exceeded industry expectations. From foundational work to retail space fit-outs, every element was meticulously inspected to ensure the highest level of quality. This commitment to excellence resulted in a final product that meets the functional needs of tenants and offers a visually striking, sustainable environment for visitors.

Conclusion

Riverstone Mall is a prime example of successful collaboration between the professional team, Tri-Star Construction and AlleyRoads. Combining innovative design, advanced construction techniques, and a commitment to sustainability, the project sets a new standard for developments in the Midvaal region.

This development not only meets immediate retail needs but also serves as a model for sustainable retail development in South Africa. Its strategic location, energy-efficient features, and positive impact on the local economy make it a valuable asset to the Midvaal community. As the first formal shopping centre in Meyerton, Riverstone Mall is poised to become a cornerstone of regional growth and development, paving the way for further commercial and residential projects in the area. Tri -Star Construction is proud to have been part of the success. ⊙

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QUALITY, ON TIME, SAFELY

Afriline Civils is more than just a construction company. It is the builder of dreams, architect of progress and committed champion of quality, safety and innovation.

Afriline Civils, established in 2008, is a proudly South African civil engineering construction company that stands as a symbol of excellence and commitment in the construction industry. With a rich history, it has continuously excelled in contracting and project management services, becoming a trusted partner in the South African civil engineering construction industry. Its dedicated management team, boasting extensive experience and knowledge, ensures the effective execution of all projects. The company takes pride in its ability to provide a friendly, personalised service and fostering strong client relationships. Over the years it has proudly completed more than 100 successful projects.

With a history marked by excellence, Afriline Civils'

objective is to continue to help mould the landscape of the construction industry in South Africa, ensuring the delivery of quality, innovation, and success in every project it embarks upon.

Why choose Afriline Civils?

Proven track record

Afriline Civils boasts a rich history spanning 17 years, during which it has successfully completed over 100 projects. This track record demonstrates its reliability and capability in delivering successful outcomes.

Commitment to quality, punctuality, and safety

Afriline Civils' motto, "quality, on time, safely", highlights its unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality work, adhering to project timelines and maintaining rigorous safety standards.

Clientele

Afriline Civils has worked with major clients such as Anglo American, Vedanta Zinc International, the City of Cape Town, various District Municipalities, Garden Cities and Atlantica Sustainable Infrastructure.

These partnerships with reputable organisations indicate a high level of trust and satisfaction between the parties.

Partnerships

Afriline Civils has proficiency in carrying out EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) and EPCM (engineering, procurement, construction management)

contracts. Previous collaborations with both Zutari and BVI in the form of EPC contracts demonstrate significant success in this regard.

In-house resources

Afriline Civils has the ability to tackle projects of varying complexities which is enhanced by having multi-skilled employees and a substantial fleet of construction equipment and plant. This leads to self-sufficiency, which contributes to streamlined project management and efficient execution of projects.

Where innovation meets construction

Afriline Civils provides civil services for the public, mining and private sector.

It specialises in serving the public sector, offering tailored solutions to meet the unique needs of each client. With a proven track record of excellence and a deep commitment to quality, it is dedicated to delivering results that benefit both client and community and drives progress in the public sector.

In addition, it also serves the mining sector with its specialised expertise and the strong focus on upgrading of existing mining infrastructure, new mining infrastructure, dewatering systems and other critical components.

The company serves the private sector by providing customised solutions to address the unique needs of each client. With a demonstrated history of excellence, and a strong commitment to quality and safety, it is devoted to delivering results that benefit both client and communities and helps foster progress in the development sector.

Building skills and expertise

The company understands that its success is closely tied to the skills and expertise of its teams. As a forward-thinking company, it is committed to continuous skills development and nurturing talent within the organisation. It is therefore dedicated to fostering leadership within the organisation. Its leadership development initiatives aim to identify and nurture emerging leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to drive Afriline Civils' future growth and success.

Safety, health and environmental responsibilities

Safety, health and environmental responsibilities are integrated in the way Afriline Civils carries out its day-to-day business. The company commits to continuous improvement in its performance, efficient use of natural resources and aspires to a no harm commitment to people and the environment.

Afriline Civils prioritises Safety, Health, and the Environment, striving for excellence, resource efficiency, and commitment zero harm.

In conclusion, it is dedicated to protecting the environment in all its operations, promoting sustainability in its practices and community projects.

AFRILINE

quality, on time, safely

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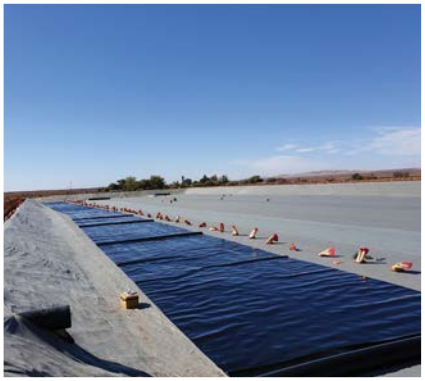

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We stand ready to meet your unique construction and engineering needs. Whether it's bulk services, township infrastructure, structural concrete, mining infrastructure, or telecommunications projects, we bring our expertise to every endeavour.

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TIBER CONSTRUCTION'S BUILDINGS REFLECT WHO THEY ARE

The Tiber Construction group was established in 1951, and its business continues to thrive to this day. Tiber Construction has evolved into a highly reputable and respected leader in the South African construction sector.

It is a private, management owned company with a culture of loyalty and service, which is ensured by a highly skilled, experienced management team and workforce. The company prides itself in its proactive, hands-on approach in providing solutions which ensure sustainable and quality outcomes.

Tiber Construction's partnering approach, which extends through the entire value chain from client to subcontractors and suppliers, further enhances its offering.

In addition to this, Tiber Construction has strategic alliances for specific contracts on a joint venture basis.

The company's extensive experience in the construction and property industries underpins its ability to provide a collaborative range of comprehensive construction solutions, including:

- Traditional building contracts
- Special projects
- Full turnkey solutions
- Client partnering
- Property development and management
- Modular construction

Tiber Construction's sustainability has been reinforced by its ability to adapt to an ever-changing environment, through research and development in alternative construction methods and constant evolution of construction solutions.

The Tiber brand continues to grow from strength to strength with the ability to navigate and survive difficult periods and thrive in good times.

Its vision is clearly defined, and the company looks to the future with confidence as it continues to contribute to the growth and prosperity of South Africa.

Corporate social investment

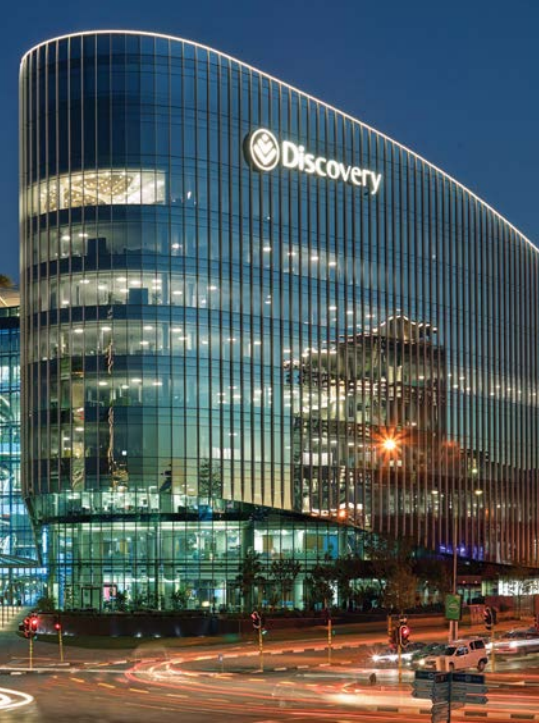
Tiber Construction supports the development and education of the youth in South Africa, as it believes that the country's future success is hugely dependent on this.

Furthermore, Tiber is committed to Socio Economic Development Programmes that create sustainable access to the economy for its beneficiaries. It does this by supporting organisations and programmes that impart transferable skills and enable access to the workplace.

Currently a Level 3 BEE rated enterprise, it believes that empowerment through the growth and promotion of previously disadvantaged people within the organisation is vital. For this reason, it still retains a large core of directly employed people, and the company continually upgrades the status and position of employees through continuous training and subsequent promotion.

Plant & equipment

Tiber Construction owns, operates and maintains a substantial amount of major plant and equipment,



enhancing its ability to service all types of contracts in an effective and cost-efficient manner. It's plant and equipment yard in Village Deep Johannesburg, is an award-winning world-class facility. It boasts an area of 15 000 m² under cover and is equipped with overhead cranes which ensure efficient storage and moving of equipment to and from sites. An online stock control system ensures that the company always has a live record of the whereabouts of plant and equipment, making planning more precise and accurate.

The facility also hosts a 600 m² office building which is used as a training facility to support Enterprise Development in the Construction industry. ⊙

Tiber Construction's values

- Tiber Construction is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance.It believes in transparency and accountability in conducting its business and maintaining a culture of good governance throughout the organisation.
- As professionals, the Tiber Team is committed to delivering excellence in service to clients, and superior quality in what it does, every day.
- Tiber Construction is proudly confident and boldly ethical.
- It treats everyone with dignity and respect.

MORE THAN JUST BRICKS

In the dynamic landscape of South African construction, where ambitious visions take tangible form, the name GVK-Siya Zama stands tall, signifying unwavering quality and the capacity to deliver on the grandest scales. The company's milestone achievement of a Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) grading of 9 GB for Civil Engineering and General Building is not just a number; it's a powerful testament to over six decades of dedication, expertise, and an enduring commitment to building a better South Africa.

Redevelopment of the landmark Cape Station into a mixed-use residential and retail space created for students at tertiary institutions around the Mother City.

GVK's Grade 9 GB rating places it in the top tier of construction companies capable of undertaking projects exceeding R200-million. GVK also distinguishes itself through a blend of modern innovation and a rich South African heritage. The group's extensive experience informs every project it undertakes, as evidenced by its impressive portfolio, including the recently completed Cape Station redevelopment and The Ridge project at the V&A Waterfront.

GVK's current Grade 9 project pipeline showcases the company's diverse expertise across the nation. It is also involved in critical infrastructure projects such as Burgersdorp Prison and essential healthcare facilities such as Madwaleni and Zithulele Hospitals in the rural Eastern Cape, as well as the long-awaited Oncology unit at Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital in Mthatha.

The group's capabilities extend to complex urban developments, for example, 85 Anderson Street and academic institutions like Wits Academic in Gauteng. Furthermore, its participation in specialised projects, for example the Maritime School of Excellence in KwaZulu-Natal, as well as technically demanding data centres and global distribution hubs highlight the company's extraordinary versatility.

GVK's consistent high-level delivery is rooted in a combination of deeply ingrained values. The company employs a team of highly skilled construction professionals committed to global standards, including ISO certification. Robust Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) practices are fundamental to its operations, ensuring the wellbeing of its teams and communities.

With its proactive adoption of green building and environmentally sustainable practices, GVK demonstrates its commitment to a sustainable future. Experienced managers, adept at problem-solving and risk mitigation, meticulously plan and execute complex projects, ensuring on-time and within-budget delivery.

Achieving Grade 9 status reflects the group's ongoing dedication to skills development, continuous training,

BUILDING **STRENGTH**

GVK-SIYA ZAMA
CONSTRUCTION

innovation, diversity, and overall company health. The recently completed redevelopment of Cape Station exemplifies these capabilities.

Transforming a vital transport hub into a vibrant mixed-use residential and retail space, despite challenging weather conditions, showcases GVK's resilience and commitment. This 77 000 m² development, featuring student accommodation, retail space and a public square, mirrors successful urban regeneration initiatives in Europe.

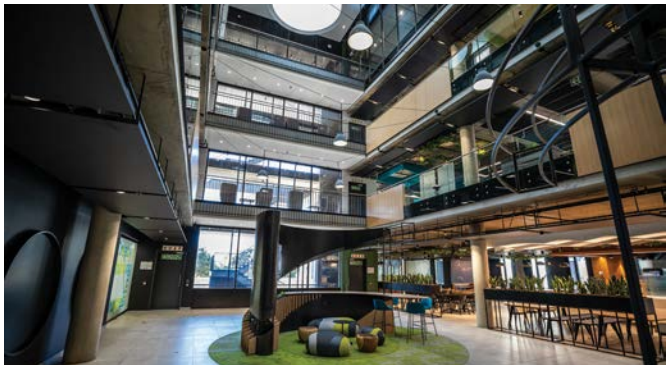
Chris Maughan, Managing Director of GVK-Siya Zama's Cape business unit, emphasised the project's dual purpose: providing student accommodation and revitalising an underutilised urban space. He highlighted the logistical complexities, including material hoisting, and balancing cost with aesthetics, which were overcome through ingenuity and meticulous planning.

The focus on student wellbeing, with study hubs and recreational facilities, underscores the group's commitment to creating purposeful spaces. Maughan also emphasised the company's dedication to attracting top talent and creating a supportive work environment.

From its origins as a painting and restoration company, GVK-Siya Zama has grown into one of South Africa's largest privately-owned construction firms. Its Grade 9 CIDB grading represents not just an achievement, but a promise to continue building a stronger, more vibrant South Africa through impactful projects. ⊙

Rehabilitation of a heritage building and construction of a new office block.

Construction of the Transnet Maritime School of Excellence in the eThekwini CBD.



The Ridge, a 6 star green star building in the V&A precinct.

Upgrade to the remotely located Zithulele District Hospital in the heart of the Eastern Cape Wild Coast. The hospital serves some 14 local clinics and two community health centres.

AFRISAM RAPID HARD CEMENT ACCELERATES CONSTRUCTION WITH UNMATCHED STRENGTH

AfriSam's Rapid Hard Cement is a product that transformed the construction industry with its unique characteristics and unparalleled benefits. Designed for projects requiring high early strength, AfriSam Rapid Hard Cement is engineered to significantly accelerate product manufacturing timelines.

The locally produced cement boasts superior early strength, making it ideal for projects that demand a quick turnaround especially where fast track precast construction projects are concerned. This cement is favoured for specialist precast products and particularly those requiring quicker demoulding times.

The fineness of the cement provides a larger surface area to react with water, increasing the rate of hydration which aids higher early-strength development. The rapid hydration rate also makes it ideal for use in cold weather.

The benefits of AfriSam Rapid Hard Cement extend beyond just speed and strength. Builders and contractors will appreciate the quick removal of formwork, enabling faster progress on site and reducing downtime and labour costs.

The consistent quality ensures fewer disruptions, allowing project timelines to be met with greater confidence. Furthermore, its strength contributes to the long-term integrity of structures, minimising the need for repairs and maintenance.

AfriSam Rapid Hard Cement is a game-changer in the construction industry, offering a blend of speed and versatility. ⊙

Colossal Concrete Products management and guests in the recently reopened De Aar precast concrete manufacturing plant.

COLOSSAL CONCRETE PRODUCTS: 'INNOVATION STATION' FOR RAIL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS

National Transport Minister Barbara Creecy has again outlined the need to revitalise rail, revealing government's target to move 250 million tonnes of freight on the Transnet network by 2030 - a substantial increase from 150 million tonnes in 2023/24.

Poised to provide rail clients with their six decades-plus wealth of experience is Colossal Concrete, Southern Africa's largest manufacturer of precast concrete railway products. The company also has a robust portfolio of other infrastructure products.

Colossal transition

Technical and strategic consultant to Colossal, Kobus Burger - who received the Concrete Achiever of the Year award in 2009 from The Concrete Society of South Africa for his work on the pivotal Gautrain project, and what is now known as the universal sleeper - says Colossal has worked closely with Transnet and other clients to develop various products.

This began with replacing costly, scarce and (at times) poor quality wooden sleepers with modern concrete alternatives.

The first success was replacing wooden sleepers on turnout switches with the universal sleeper. This, together with the Infrabolt, was first installed successfully in 2005. Since then, Colossal has replaced approximately 480 378 meters of timber sleepers - which equates to an estimated 3 431 turnout switches.

Burger explains: "Traditionally, turnout switches were laid out dimensionally correctly on timber sleepers and then drilled and fastened onto the timber with coach screws. Each coach screw would be in a specific and unique position. With the more modern turnout switches, concrete sleepers are used with the fastenings in exact positions - millimetre-correct - so assembly can be done much like a Meccano set."

Burger describes the Universal sleeper as a pre-stressed concrete plank: "We pull out the timber, insert a pre-stressed concrete sleeper and then drill through the concrete (without drilling through the pre-stress wire) and attach the sleeper to the steel work using the Infrabolt. We were awarded the prestigious Fulton Award in 2007 for creating the Universal sleeper and the Infrabolt."

The next product developed to replace timber sleepers was the low profile sleeper after a need to find a sleeper that could replace timber sleepers at platforms - as well as in tunnels - was identified. "It is interesting to note that most tunnels in South Africa were designed to accommodate steam locomotives.

Another technical challenge identified by Colossal was

the transition between the resilient track on the ballast beneath the conventional track, and the solid track on the concrete inside tunnels: "We developed a transition beam that is pre-stressed and post-tensioned to ensure that the transition from the resilient to the solid track is a gradual one. This was a major achievement, as some of the tunnel portals were on a curve and we had to measure the radius and produce the transition beam accordingly.

Innovation further down the track

Colossal can also add the Gautrain commuter rail project to its list of noteworthy successes. At 1 435 mm, this was the first standard gauge track in South Africa. When it came to supplying sleepers, Colossal competed with European competitors.

"We supplied the LVT (low-vibration track) for the Gautrain's tunnels. This is the same system used in the longest rail tunnel in the world - which is the Gotthard Base tunnel in Switzerland - with a route length of 57 km and a track length of 114 km. In addition to this, we developed three types of sleepers and six types of turnout sleeper sets. All these product track solutions for the Gautrain have performed exceptionally well over the past 15 years."

Innovation station

Colossal's innovation mind-set has extended further into rail sector-related products such as rail electrification poles, masts, level-crossing systems, cattle grids, railway culverts, heavy-duty retaining wall beams and drain channels.

Durasafe protective shelters - a lockable concrete enclosure to protect rail signalling boxes - prevent trains from being illegally forced to a standstill and then looted. Burger says this opens up opportunities for further products that will protect other infrastructure installations from vandalism in the future.

As the producer of South Africa's largest diameter concrete pipes - Colossal also provides product for much-needed storm water and sewage reticulation projects. Additionally, its large-diameter concrete pipes (2 250 mm-plus) are used at new power stations for the disposal of waste – and Colossal's concrete poles have been used extensively for the roll-out of fibre optic cables.

"Different sectors use different rail and infrastructure products, according to different requirements. We are proud to provide each client with the specific products and solutions which are best for them.

Finally, we are also considering extending our product portfolio to new market segments," Burger concludes. ⊙

Kobus Burger - Technical and Strategic Consultant, Colossal Concrete.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony at Colossal Concrete Products De Aar manufacturing plant: From left: Waheed Arai – CFO, Gwen Mahuma-Madida – CEO/Chair, Executive Mayor of De Aar, Gladwell Nkumbi, District Municipal Manager, Isak Visser, Chris Klagsbrun – Sales Director and Mmapitso Kiewiet – COO.

WACKER NEUSON'S SOLUTIONS FOR SA'S ROAD RECOVERY

South Africa's road and infrastructure sectors are navigating a period of immense pressure. Ageing networks, project disruptions, and increasing input costs are all contributing to slower delivery timelines and mounting maintenance needs.

While these challenges are complex, they also present an opportunity to rethink how we build – and rebuild – with greater speed, efficiency, and sustainability. Wacker Neuson, a leading manufacturer of light and compact equipment, supports this evolution with a range of high-performance machines, advanced technologies, and customer-centric finance and support services – all designed to meet the demands of today's roadworks and tomorrow's infrastructure.

Equipment built for roadwork realities

From compaction and excavation to material handling and site preparation, Wacker Neuson offers versatile, high-performance equipment for every stage of road and bridge construction. The local product line includes walk-behind rollers, trench rollers, compact excavators, rammers, dumpers, zero-emission equipment, and more – designed to maximise productivity and minimise downtime.

Machines like the RD7Hf walk-behind roller offer outstanding results in confined areas, with dual-frequency vibration settings, low hand-arm vibration, and easy transportability. For trenching, drainage, or site preparation, compact excavators like the EZ28, ET66, and ET75 deliver powerful performance and smart efficiency. The EZ17e – a fully electric, zero-emission model – is especially suited to urban construction zones and environmentally sensitive projects, helping contractors meet sustainability targets without compromising on output.

Wacker Neuson's latest 4-stroke rammers as well as battery-powered rammers and vibratory plates are another example of how innovative technology is helping increase productivity while reducing fuel consumption, emissions, and running costs – key advantages in the current operating climate.

"Our customers are looking for machines that can do more with less – less fuel, less downtime, less complexity," says Glenn Theron, Sales Manager at Wacker Neuson South Africa. "We're focused on delivering compact solutions that are powerful, efficient, and built to last in real-world conditions."

Finance that moves projects forward

Understanding the cashflow pressures many contractors face, Wacker Neuson Sub-Saharan Africa has introduced a new flexible finance program in 2025.

Eligible customers can finance machines like the EZ17, EZ28, ET66, ET75, and RD7Hf, all adapted in pricing to align with the program. This initiative makes it easier for businesses to acquire the equipment they need, with preferential rates, deposit contributions, and flexible terms available. It's a practical solution designed to support progress – without waiting for budget cycles or delaying essential work.

Finance is offered through WesBank, a division of FirstRand Bank Limited and an authorised Financial Services and Registered Credit Provider. NCRCP20. Finance offers are subject to terms and conditions and approval criteria. Available in South Africa only.

Full aftersales, nationwide support

To keep machines running reliably, Wacker Neuson provides full aftersales support through its South- and Sub-Saharan Africa dealer network. This includes routine servicing, spare parts, repairs, and technical support – all delivered by trained experts who understand the local terrain and working conditions.

This extensive dealer footprint ensures that whether you're operating on national routes or remote rural roads, help is always within reach. From on-site advice to machine demos and expert maintenance, contractors are supported every step of the way.

Building forward with Wacker Neuson

"As infrastructure development gains momentum across Africa, there's growing recognition that lasting roads start with the right equipment," says Theron. "Our compact and light equipment range is engineered for performance and durability, supported by local expertise and global innovation. We're here to help customers work more efficiently – with reliable, future-ready solutions that deliver real results on site, layer by layer." ⊙

Rates as low as

0%*

INTEREST

FINANCE SPECIAL OFFER

OR 15% deposit contribution*

on RD7Hf Walk-behind rollers and selected excavators

*Credit is subject to qualifying criteria and approval. A once-off initiation fee and monthly service fee apply. Offers cannot be combined. Terms and conditions apply. Finance available through WesBank. Exclusive to South Africa.Finance is available for the **RD7Hf roller and selected excavators,** with the following options

- Option 1: 0% interest over 36 months, with a 15% deposit required.
- Option 2: A 15% deposit contribution, reducing your upfront payment, with a 36-month term and interest rate determined upon approval.

WesBank

WACKER NEUSON *all it takes!*

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An Authorised Financial Services and Registered Credit Provider. NCRCP20.

www.wackerneuson.co.za info.johannesburg@wackerneuson.com +27 (0)11 672 0847

FUEL EFFICIENCY IS CRITICAL IN EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

According to the Develon SA team, the cost of fuel is one of the largest operational expenses associated with earthmoving equipment. For this reason, fuel efficiency is a critical consideration in the selection, operation and management of earthmoving equipment.

"As industries - such as construction, mining and agriculture - face growing pressure to reduce costs, improve sustainability and meet stringent regulatory requirements, the focus on optimising fuel usage has become increasingly important," explains Johann Viljoen, National Sales Manager at Develon South Africa. "Earthmoving equipment contributes to global carbon emissions, primarily through the combustion of diesel fuel. Enhancing fuel efficiency reduces the volume of fuel consumed and consequently, the amount of carbon dioxide and other pollutants released into the atmosphere

"We believe equipment owners who prioritise fuel efficiency, achieve substantial cost savings over the lifecycle of their equipment, particularly in large-scale operations, where marginal gains in efficiency translate into significant financial benefits. Even greater cost savings are achieved with the introduction of a proper maintenance and operating training programme.

"We are seeing a greater trend where equipment manufacturers and equipment owners are implementing strategies to enhance fuel efficiency, recognising its significant impact on operational efficiencies, costs and environmental performance.

"Our customers rely on easy access to quality branded machines that not only meet specific performance and safety requirements, but which also adhere to the need for greater fuel efficiency, extended service life and minimal maintenance requirements.

"The ongoing launch of new robust Develon machines into the local market reflects Develon's commitment to ensuring the Southern African market keeps abreast with the latest equipment and advanced global trends for fuel economy in materials handling and earthmoving.

"Our diverse range of Develon equipment—including compact excavators for tight spaces, robust excavators, and wheel loaders for heavy-duty tasks—provides cost-efficient solutions for various applications in many industries.

"What's also critical for our customers is the support of technical services, quality replacement parts and a dependable repair and maintenance facility."

Viljoen highlights that all Develon machines are designed with advanced features tailored to the tough conditions of Africa's construction and mining sectors. Each model is engineered to ensure high performance, fuel efficiency, greater safety and minimal maintenance, allowing users to maximise output while minimising costs.

Develon's technological advancements for fuel economy comprise the latest engine designs and telematics solutions that also optimise performance. Engine improvements, including high-pressure fuel injection and turbocharging, maximise the energy extracted from fuel, further improving efficiency.

Telematics systems are another valuable tool for enhancing fuel efficiency. These systems enable real-time monitoring of equipment performance, providing operators and equipment owners with critical data-driven information regarding fuel consumption patterns, engine load and operational inefficiencies. This data enables equipment owners to implement targeted measures to improve efficiency - including training operators on best practices, optimising job site layouts and scheduling preventive maintenance to avoid mechanical issues that increase fuel usage.

Proper operator training ensures that equipment is correctly used to minimise unnecessary fuel consumption. For example, excessive idling should be avoided and abrupt starts and stops must be reduced, while maintaining consistent engine loads. Additionally, careful planning and execution of tasks, including efficient route mapping and load optimisation, contribute to more effective fuel use.

Develon specialists note that maintenance practices are another critical factor in achieving optimal fuel efficiency. Regular servicing of earthmoving equipment - including timely oil changes, air filter replacements and tyre pressure checks - ensures that machines operate at peak efficiency. Poor maintenance can result in increased fuel consumption, due to factors like clogged filters, worn components, or improper engine tuning.

In a nutshell, fuel efficiency in earthmoving equipment is a cornerstone of modern operational and environmental strategies. By adopting advanced technologies, implementing effective training and maintenance programmes and optimising operational practices, operators can achieve significant cost savings, extend the service life of machine, reduce their environmental impact and enhance overall performance. ⊙

Robust pivot pin components prevent lug wear

BMG's Nord-Lock bolting solutions include Expander System pivot pin components that comprise advanced pivot pin technology, to offer dependable solutions that combat the challenges of lug wear in diverse applications, including earthmoving equipment.

"Pivots, which are critical in any rotational movement, often experience lug wear, which occurs due to the clearance between the bore and the conventional pin. This is commonly repaired with line boring – a technique associated with high costs and protracted downtime," explains Maryna Werner, BMG's Fasteners Sales Manager. "Through Nord-Lock's advanced Expander System - which consists of a comprehensive range of robust components - BMG specialists are able to supply the correct pivot to prevent the problems that lug wear causes excavators, mobile cranes and dump trucks, in order to maximise uptime, enhance safety on site and minimise maintenance costs.

"Safety and productivity are critical on any construction site, where the continuous operation of equipment and machines makes lug wear prevalent. The Expander System has been designed to extend the service life of pivot joints in articulated haulers, excavators, dump trucks, backhoes, wheel loaders, cranes and bulldozers.

"This dependable system is also designed for efficient use in manufacturing and processing. For example, in cutters, sludge filters, centre rollers and jack-screws in paper mills, and balers, intake and trimmers used in saw mills. In energy plants, these pivot pins are used in roasters, stoker feeders and grapples and in steel mills, in cooling beds, tensioning arms, oscillator and segment machines, side roller guides and side tensioner frames."

"This system has also been designed to improve safety on site. By replacing a traditional straight pin with an Expander System pivot pin of the same diameter, the risk of axle breakage is reduced and the strength of the machine is enhanced through the system's double sided axial locking design.

Other benefits include a permanent solution to lug wear, quick and easy installation and removal, increased service life of bushings, bearings and seals and greater safety.

There is no need for additional fastening holes, threads or welding of locking rings on the machine and no need for fine machining in the lugs, as this system makes it possible to use wide tolerances.

BMG's customised Expander System pivot pins are specifically adapted to suit exact requirements, through the use of specific materials, hardening treatments, surface coatings and the correct tolerance for each application.

Nord-Lock Expander pivot pins are suitable for use in many industries, including construction, steel, railway, bridge building, mining and quarrying, forestry and agriculture, manufacturing and processing, shipbuilding, marine energy and power generation, oil and gas, transportation and machine building. BMG specialists work closely with customers in all sectors, to offer a complete service solution, where the team's technical expertise supports quality structural fasteners and fastening components. ⊙

PRECAST CONCRETE REVOLUTIONISES WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

Innovation is key to solving the water challenges with which the country grapples. This includes revolutionising construction practices to deliver critical municipal water infrastructure quicker and more cost-effectively. At the same time, these new builds need to be robust so that they continue to add value for many years with minimal maintenance and repairs.

Precast concrete meets all these requirements and more, including the ability to execute projects in a safer manner by restricting work at height and by placing concrete in a setting that can be controlled more easily than on a worksite. Then there is the smaller carbon footprint of industrious precast-concrete operations. To remain competitive, enterprising fabricators use energy, water and materials judiciously. This is in addition to the innovative deployment of admixtures and materials to produce concrete mixes with lower cement content. These ultra-strength mixes, together with the sophisticated curing processes deployed in a controlled factory environment, also facilitate the manufacture of high quality prefabricated concrete elements that are less susceptible to corrosion. This, in turn, reduces carbon emissions from maintenance and repair operations over the lifecycle of the structure.

This method of construction has proven itself time and again when building reservoirs and, more recently, two water towers, among the latest innovation in precast concrete from a recognised leader in the field, Corestruc. These are the first water towers to be constructed using this modular method that is based on a uniquely South African design.

Together with site clearing, earthworks and foundation construction, one of these structures was completed in just between 10 and 12 months. It would have taken between two and three years to complete similar sized structures of the same quality using traditional cast-in-place concrete construction methods. As more municipalities and their engineers specify this method of water tower construction in jurisdictions, Corestruc will have an opportunity to optimise its processes even further to construct these structures much faster.

The 18 m-diameter prefabricated tanks, each with a 2,5 Mℓ of water-storage capacity, are supported 34 m above ground level by an innovative precast concrete structure, consisting of columns, beams and hollow-core slabs.

A standout feature of both towers is the spiral beam that provides critical support to the columns. However, it fulfils an even more important role than its striking aesthetic value by providing lateral support to the columns. It was cast in U-shaped segments to complete a 30o rotation for each beam. They were made continuous by installing site-placed rebar inside and then filling them to the brim with cast-in-place concrete.

The columns were cast to individual lengths to fit between the spiral beam levels. They were made continuous via cast-in threaded sockets in which dowels were installed and then filled with non-shrink grout.

Supporting the centre of the tank and housing the stairs and pipes, the central shaft consists of individual precast-concrete rings, each about 1,6 m in height. These rings are connected via bespoke cast-in mechanical connectors, which also served as a line-up and levelling mechanism during construction.

Its diameter was dictated by the allowable maximum transport width. A challenge was installing the 600 mm and 500 mm diameter inlet and outlet pipes, respectively, in addition to the access stairs, inside.

Tapered precast-concrete beams on top of the columns connect to the shaft at tank floor level where hollow-core slabs were used as a permanent shutter to cast the 350 mm-thick in-situ tank floor.

The tank floor beams were designed to support the weight of the precast-concrete slabs with that of the wet concrete while still in the virgin prefabricated state and as a composite with the cast-in-place floor to withstand service loads.

The tank is a based on a tried-and-tested reservoir system design, although a significantly smaller water structure than the company's 50 Mℓ and larger reservoirs.

It consists of 170 mm-thick precast-concrete wall panels with a 150 mm-thick hollow-core slab roof. Suspended precast-concrete beams are connected to the dowels that protrude from the precast-concrete columns.

For temporary stability, the wall was provisionally braced back to the roof structure, until all panels were positioned to form a complete circle.

Once all the panels were placed, unbonded cables were pushed through their horizontal polyvinyl sleeves, cast into the vertically prestressed prefabricated elements at designed positions.

Hereafter, a grout was poured continuously in between the wall panels and horizontal cable sleeves. It is a high strength and flow type with an extended pot life so that it does not segregate and set to early. These characteristics are achieved by manipulating the 0:37 water-to-cement ratio with the use of admixtures.

The cables were stressed to 75% when the grout reached 80 MPa. Prestressing was undertaken via two precast concrete buttress panels that were spaced across from each other. The wall was then pinned by casting a 200 mm to 250 mm-high reinforced kicker on the 350 mm thick floor on both sides of each panel.

Corestruc uses a “slide-and-pinned” system. Post-tensioning is undertaken when the wall is not yet fixed to the base and it is, therefore, allowed to slide on a steel bearing or locating plates. The coated post-tensioned cables are not bonded to the grout with the reservoir designed to maintain a residual compression of a minimum of 1 MPa in all directions.

Again, the project benefited from extensive upfront planning between all stakeholders. This is considering that there is very little scope for variations in precast concrete projects once the system has been manufactured strictly to specification. City of Ekurhuleni Water and Sanitation Department, the client; Tango’s Consultants, the consulting engineer; Infinite Consulting Engineers, the precast-concrete consultant; and RSMM Construction, the principal contractor, all assisted Corestruc with pre-construction planning.

The manufacture of the 12 columns and spiral beam elements for each of the three sections; the 15 prefabricated elements that make up the shaft; and the 12 tapered beams started during the earthworks and site terracing. By undertaking casting at ground level and in a controlled environment, concrete elements of an exceptionally high quality are manufactured. For example, the necessary modifications can be made to maintain the optimum water-to-cement ratio by accurately calculating the moisture content of aggregates and considering water from admixtures.

Furthermore, admixtures are used to modify fresh or hardened concrete to increase their durability and abrasion resistance. Once they arrived on site, the elements were thoroughly inspected again to ensure that they were not damaged during transport. Even the smallest cracks will allow contaminants to enter the concrete matrix and initiate corrosion once the passive layer around the rebar is breached. If maintained correctly, these precast-concrete structures have a lifespan of well over 100 years, reducing operating costs for municipalities.

However, precision manufacture, which includes the accurate placement of the many cast-in-components, also facilitates efficient construction once the elements arrive on site.

Corestruc uses a robotic total station, which provides unmatched precision and safety, as well as enhanced efficiency and time savings. It rotates and angles itself with pinpoint accuracy, reducing human error.

A 150 t hydraulic crawler provided the capacity to lift the heavy precast-concrete elements and reach to efficiently place them.

An articulated boom lift was placed on top of the superstructure to assist with the installation, as well as the grouting of the 34 tank wall panels. This is in addition to the two buttress panels for post-tensioning.

“The challenges that beset municipalities demand smarter ways of constructing infrastructure. With massive backlogs in service delivery systems, municipalities are under pressure to not only complete projects quicker, but to build quality infrastructure in an affordable, safe and sustainable manner. Our precast concrete solutions respond to these demands,” Willie de Jager, Managing Director of Corestruc, concludes. ⊙

BEST PROJECTS 2025

TWENTY - FOURTH

Construction World's Best Projects showcases excellence in the South African building, civil engineering, supply and project management sectors. In its 24th year, the aim of ***Construction World's*** Best Projects is to recognise projects across the entire construction industry: from civil and building projects to professional services to specialist suppliers and contractors.

There are **SEVEN** categories in which to enter. Projects may be entered in several categories, provided they meet the prerequisites for entering each one, and meet the criteria.

This competition is by submission only – it is judged solely by what you submit – so it is essential to take careful note of the entry requirements.

JUDGING

A panel of independent judges from the construction industry has been appointed. These are Uwe Putlitz - a retired architect and construction project manager, Petra Devereaux, the executive director of the MBAWC, Hanlie Turner, a retired business development manager and Musa Shanagasa, former president of the MBSA.

Each criterion set out for the various categories will be scored out of 10 – with 10 being the highest score and one being the lowest. It is therefore VERY IMPORTANT that the entry address the criteria for the particular category it is entering.

If a criterion is not answered, it will be awarded a medium of five points.

In each category a 'Winner' is announced as well as a 'Highly Commended Award'. A 'Special Mention Award' may be given.

SPECIAL ISSUE

The December issue of Construction World is dedicated to the various winners and entries and is an overview of activity in the entire built industry during the past year.

Contact Erna Oosthuizen, the advertising manager, if you wish to advertise in this issue. Advertising here will associate your brand with excellence.

How to submit entries

- Each entry must to accompanied by the **completed entry form**, available from www.constructionworldmagazine.co.za or by requesting it from constr@crown.co.za.
- The maximum length for submissions is **2 000 words.**
- Each submission must clearly state which **category** is entered.
- **IMPORTANT** It is to the entrant's own advantage to address **ALL THE CRITERIA** as set out in the category being entered. If the criterion falls outside the scope of the contract, please state this. It is advantageous to use the criterion as subheader and then to address this directly.
- The written submission must be accompanied by up to **six high resolution** photographs with applicable captions.
- The photographs and copy must be submitted separately. The photographs must be .jpgs and the copy in Word (not PDF format).
- The submission must also contain a **summary of important project information** such as the client, main contract etc. – i.e. the professional team involved in the project.
- **Electronic submissions only.**

Prerequisites for entry

All the categories have the same prerequisites (unless otherwise stated). These are:

- Only South African civil and building projects that are executed by locally based companies.
- When a project was executed elsewhere in Africa, but executed by a South African based company, it is eligible to enter.
- Projects are eligible during the execution of the project and up to 18 months thereafter (within reason).
- Projects must be at least 50% complete at the time of entry.

Awards evening

Information about the format/venue and date of the awards evening will be available in July when there is more clarity with the situation around COVID-19.

Entry form available on
www.constructionworldmagazine.co.za
or by requesting it from constr@crown.co.za

Contact: For more information contact the editor, Wilhelm du Plessis, on 011 622 4770 or constr@crown.co.za

1 Category
Civil Engineering Contractors

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

2 Category
Building Contractors

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

3 Category
Civil Engineering and Building Contractors (outside South Africa)

- In addition to the common prerequisites, projects outside South Africa must be executed by a **South African** contractor.

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

4 Category
Specialist Contractors or Suppliers

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

5 Category
Consulting Engineers

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

6 Category
Architects

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

7 Category
The AfriSam Innovation Award for Sustainable Construction

Please address the following criteria:

- Construction innovation technology
- Corporate Social Investment
- Design innovation
- Environmental Impact Consideration
- Health & Safety
- Quantifiable time, cost and quality
- Risk management
- Motivation facts about the project

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Entry Deadline
Friday, 8 August 2025

Concor expertly assists with ensuring FOURWAYS MALL'S SUSTAINABILITY

Construction World *recently visited Fourways Mall where Concor is on track to complete the Fourways Main Roof Works Project by June. This fast track upgrade project started in October and forms part of the Fourways Mall Repositioning initiative and involves covering 50 000 m² of the roof parking on level 7 with a roof, while 10 200 m² of this will be fitted with solar photovoltaic (PV) structures. In addition, Concor was responsible for the rehabilitation of the access ring road. Martin Muller, Concor's Contract Manager and Luke Matthews, the Site Agent, explain how this challenging project will future-proof Africa's largest shopping mall.*

Fourways Mall has a Gross Lettable Area of 178 000 m², making it the biggest mall in Africa. It is currently repositioning itself with upgrades in functionality to ensure not only the structure's sustainability, but its role as a regional mall. The Fourways Main Roof Works Project is one of these repositioning measures.

What makes the Fourways Main Roof Works project so significant is it size and the various logistical and technical challenges that Concor had to overcome. "The project spans 50 000 m² and because we are working in a live retail environment, there are restrictions in terms of noise while the fact that the site is on the roof, places weight restrictions on the project," says Muller. This fast track project is on track for its scheduled completion in June and reflects Concor's ability to successfully perform projects in live retail environments.

This fast track upgrade project started in October and forms part of the Fourways Mall Repositioning initiative and involves covering 50 000 m² of the roof parking on level 7 with a roof.

The scope

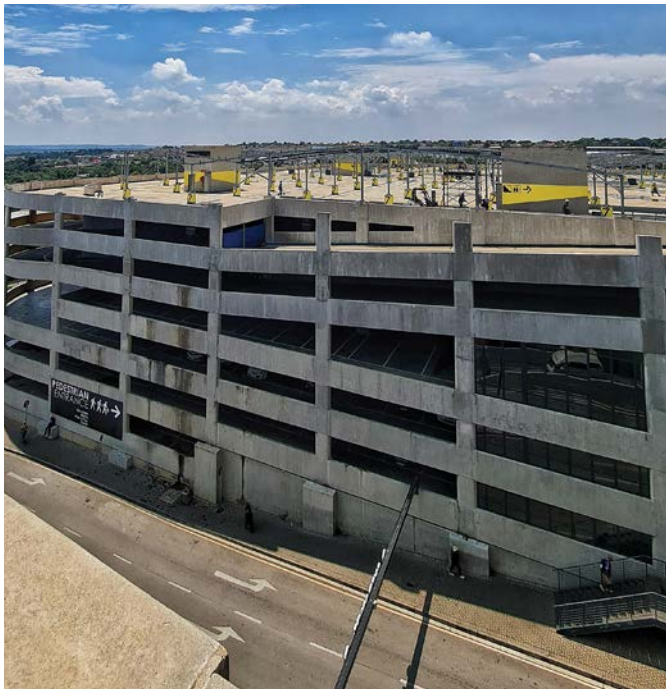
"The project consists of the construction of concrete columns that support a steel roof over the existing rooftop parking on level seven. "This will provide covered parking to patrons while it will enable the future installation of a PV system," Matthews explains. The roof will also mitigate previous water issues that the mall has been experiencing.

The scope includes a steel structure of 10 200 m² that is being erected on the northeastern rooftop parking area. "Concor is providing the steel structure to support a PV installation that will assist with the mall's sustainability and energy aspirations," says Matthews.

Concor was also responsible for the rehabilitation of the mall's access ring road. "This road could not be closed for an extended period as it provides access to a major retailer. It was therefore split into two portions. The first of this was reopened within two weeks to give access to this retailer. Concor had to remove old kerbs and road components, address construction and bridge joints, upgrade drainage, apply waterproofing and lay a final asphalt layer," Matthews explains. Speed humps and road markings are being installed to ensure a good experience for mall visitors.

The rehabilitation of this 8 000 m² access ring road is key to the successful functioning of the mall by ensuring access of visitors to the mall. "The completed

Left: The initial plan was for the roof to have a physical curved structure which would have increased cost and weight, but the roof structure makes use of straight trusses and it is adjusted to allow a sloped finish. Right: Lightweight Hebel bricks are being used to build walls around the lift lobbies and will be used for signage to ensure that visitors can orientate themselves when parking on the roof.



Left: The scope includes a steel structure of 10 200 m² that is being erected on the northeastern rooftop parking area. Right: Luke Matthews (left) - Site Agent and Martin Muller - Concor's Contract Manager.

ramp from Witkoppen Road to Fourways Boulevard has already been opened to the public," says Matthews.

Showing experience and expertise

Concor has a core of skilled and competent site managers, site agents and foremen that have acquired the skillset to work on and deliver complicated, fast track projects. "It is these expertise and experience that is brought to the project, as well as lessons learned on previous projects that enable us to offer cost savings to clients," says Muller. "We are cognisant of the fact that the industry is under pressure currently, and there is a need to reduce cost wherever possible. This is taken into account during the project estimating portion, so that we can work in partnership with our clients to deliver a successful project," he adds.

"Detailed construction management plans have been implemented to guide traffic and to ensure the safety of visitors," says Muller.

On this project there are noise, weight and time restriction challenges that are mitigated because of Concor's previous experience in the retail environment. "These are all overcome with a combination of innovation, expertise and experience," says Muller.

The roof that will cover the parking area required the installation of 550 concrete columns, which range from 2,1 metre to 4,8 metre in height. "These columns will support a structural steel roof with sheeting while rainwater drainage systems are also being installed as part of the roof design," says

Matthews. The existing concrete surfaces had to be prepared before drilling and dowelling could start for the new columns. “Because existing columns from the original contractor had to be broken out, the noise factor and the need to stay on schedule with the casting of the columns, necessitated the need for a nightshift to be added,” he explains.

Using the mall’s current column structure means that the load of the new columns and roof structure are transferred safely through existing columns and beams down to the foundations.

“The initial plan was for the roof to have a physical curved structure which would have increased cost and weight. The roof structure, however, now makes use of straight trusses and it is adjusted to allow a sloped finish. When the sheeting is fitted, the roof will still maintain the planned curvature,” says Matthews.

The fact that this project is on the rooftop necessitated weight restrictions for both the final structure and during the construction phase. Muller explains that lightweight construction methods are being employed with the use of spider cranes and dumpers that are suitable for these restrictions.

“Structural steel and readymix are delivered at street level and transported to the site via dumpers and trailers, which, while being cognisant of the weight restrictions, also minimise disruption to mall operations. The trailer that we use to transport structural steel from street level was specifically built for the project,” he says.

Lightweight Hebel bricks are being used to build walls around the lift lobbies. “These walls will interface with the structural steel and will be used for signage to ensure that visitors can orientate themselves when parking on the roof,” says Mathews.

The project has two on-site safety officers. “There are currently 105 people on site which includes those from Concor and the subcontractors. The subcontractors on this project are part of our daily toolbox meetings as daily planning and safety meetings are needed to prioritise health and safety on site as Concor is responsible for the overall safety of the site,” says Abiot Letshwene, the Construction Supervisor.

“This project displays Concor’s ability to execute large-scale and demanding projects in an active environment while balancing efficiency and safety with a quality result.

At the same time, close partnership with the Fourways Mall team is ensuring the success of this project,” Muller concludes. ⊙

The trailer uses to transport structural steel from street level was specifically built for the project.

Left: Lightweight construction methods are being employed with the use of spider cranes and dumpers that are suitable for the project's weight restrictions. Right: The rehabilitation of the 8 000 m² access ring road is key to the successful functioning of the mall by ensuring access of visitors to the mall.

Concor is providing the steel structure to support the installation of a PV installation that will assist with the mall's sustainability and energy aspirations.

Board approval given for PPC to construct **BEST-IN-CLASS INTEGRATED CEMENT PLANT**

The board of directors (board) of PPC, the leading Southern African supplier of cement and related products, has approved capital expenditure of R3billion for the build of the new plant.

"This capital expenditure creates a step change for PPC: in competitiveness, technology and the markets we can serve. The plant ensures compliance with the latest environmental regulations and uses alternative fuels, promoting a more sustainable approach," said Matias Cardarelli, PPC Chief Executive.

This decision was made after the board considered PPC's capital allocation criteria and its current two times net debt to EBITDA covenant. The plant, with a capacity of 1,5 million tons of cement per annum, will replace and increase existing capacity and will be constructed at an existing PPC site in the Western Cape. PPC's existing plants in the Western Cape will continue to operate during the construction and commissioning of the new plant.

Following this board approval, PPC entered into an engineer, procure and construct (EPC) contract with Sinoma Overseas Development Company Ltd, the leading cement equipment and engineering company in the world, for the construction of the plant. Construction will commence in the second quarter of 2025 and the plant will be commissioned by the end of FY27. Cardarelli concluded, "The new plant cost, capabilities and cost efficiency will support PPC's growth for many years to come. We remain focused on our discipline to deliver returns to our shareholders, and all other stakeholders." ⊙

REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINEN

Saint-Gobain Africa is proud to announce its renewed commitment to the African continent through a new unifying program – Make it in Africa to Build Africa (MABA).

This regional commitment is an extension of the Group's purpose – Making the World a Better Home and underscores its dedication to empowering the continent by prioritizing local production, nurturing local talent, and encouraging economic growth within the industry.

"Make it in Africa to Build Africa is our drive and the lens through which we view everything we do. It's about partnering with all construction market stakeholders to build a sustainable Africa from within, where local solutions meet local needs, reinforcing our belief in the potential of African markets and communities," says CEO Othman Benjelloun-Touimi.

The Group is committed to innovation with products and solutions that maximise its contribution to people's health and well-being while minimising its impact on the planet.

In line with this commitment, Saint-Gobain Africa is excited to introduce The FutuRE range; a new selection of sustainable construction solutions designed to enhance efficiency and minimise environmental impact, while maintaining the same cost. This range currently includes RhinoBoard® 9 mm, RhinoBoard® 12.5 mm, RhinoBoard® FireStop® (12,5 & 15 mm), Isover Cavitylite®, and Weber WB11®, each with a third-party verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) and a positive contribution to at least one strategic sustainability criteria such as a minimum of 10% reduction in CO_2.

By investing in local manufacturing and expanding production lines, Saint-Gobain Africa aims at reducing dependency on imports, creating jobs, and driving economic growth.

In line with this commitment, the opening of its new South African fiber cement plant in the third quarter of 2025 marks a major milestone. This facility will not only create more than 60 permanent jobs in its first phase and empower local communities but will also ensure access to high-quality, durable building solutions at the right cost.

Saint-Gobain Africa is dedicated to empowering local talents through initiatives like its Graduate program, which nurtures future African manufacturing leaders. Saint-Gobain Africa also supports community development projects, provides contractors and applicators training and offers education opportunities throughout the continent.

Saint-Gobain Africa is committed to understanding its customers across the value chain and partnering with them to better meet their needs. ⊙

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