

Steinmüller Kendal Team recognised for Transformative Community Investment

Steinmüller Africa's Kendal Power Station team has been recognised at the Eskom Managers Awards 2025 as a key player in Corporate Social Investment (CSI), earning praise for a community-focused approach that prioritises listening to local schools and responding with practical, high-impact support.

Eskom's recognition of Steinmüller's Kendal team celebrates a partnership-driven model that has seen the team step away from daily operations to visit neighbouring schools, identify critical needs, and deliver resources ranging from printers and textbooks to food parcels for disadvantaged learners.

From school visits to meaningful action

"It is an honour to partner with Eskom

to explore ways we can support local communities," said Nsovo Maswanganyi, Site Manager at Steinmüller Africa Kendal Power Station. "Our team takes the initiative to visit nearby schools and understand their needs firsthand. We often find that schools lack essential resources, such as textbooks, forcing educators to print pages for learners. Schools ask us for printers, learning materials and food parcels, and we turn those needs



Steinmüller Africa Kendal Site Manager, Nsovo Maswanganyi, and Senior Safety Officer, Given Thockey, receive the CSI recognition award as a key player in Corporate Social Investment (CSI).

into meaningful CSI initiatives that make a tangible difference."

Handover days that inspire

For Maswanganyi and the Kendal team, the most memorable moments come on handover day. "Schools arrange events

with children performing, warm interactions with educators, and opportunities for us to speak directly to learners. We witness their determination and spirit despite the lack of resources. Seeing how well they're doing under challenging circumstances is truly inspiring. The gratitude expressed by the schools touches us deeply and reminds us why our CSI efforts matter. These are moments that stay with us."

Why CSI matters in power generation communities

The Kendal team operates in an environment where industrial activity directly affects surrounding communities, many of whom live on farms near the power station and face limited economic mobility.

"You will find hardly any local people in managerial positions at power stations; most are doing the hard labour," Maswanganyi explained. "Many communities are also affected by emissions. That is why it is important to give back, to support and empower them so they can go to universities, return in managerial roles, and improve these local communities."

Teamwork in action

The success of the programme depends on

the collective effort of site employees, who routinely volunteer to help distribute food parcels, often including 100 bags of maize, each weighing 50 kilograms.

"It's hard work that needs good teamwork," said Maswanganyi. "What I really admire is how site employees work together. They lift, carry, and organise everything with care and cooperation."

Their support for each other makes the job easier and shows how strong their sense of community is. It's inspiring to see how united and willing they are to lend a hand."

The collaboration with Eskom Kendal has been instrumental in scaling the team's CSI efforts from ad hoc initiatives into a coordinated, sustainable programme.

"Working together with Eskom Kendal has helped us turn community support from Steinmüller Africa's separate efforts into a well-planned and powerful programme," Maswanganyi noted. "This partnership makes a real difference for local people and brings value to the company. It highlights a strong relationship built on mutual trust, shared purpose, and a deep commitment to uplifting communities together, a relationship that goes beyond day-to-day operations."

Bus shelters for farm children

Looking ahead, the Kendal team is working on a bus shelter project to protect children who walk long distances from farms to catch the school bus, particularly during the rainy season.

"We are waiting for the municipality to grant us permission to install bus shelters in identified areas," said Maswanganyi. "These kids often walk long distances to reach the road, and it's especially hard during the rainy season. The shelters will help protect them from bad weather and make their journey a little easier."

Recognition by Eskom reinforces Steinmüller Africa's commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen, supporting education, empowering future generations and contributing to national development goals through measurable, community-led action.

"This achievement goes beyond simply receiving an award," Maswanganyi concluded. "It represents the true spirit of Steinmüller Africa. It honours the dedication, care and collaboration that define the Steinmüller Africa Kendal team and our drive to make a meaningful impact beyond our daily work."

<https://www.bilfinger.com/en/za>

Steinmüller earns innovation award for Kriel Unit 6 outage reduction

Steinmüller Africa's crane-free rigging solution shortened the Kriel Unit 6 outage by 60 days, earning the company's site team the 2025 Eskom Kriel Managers Award for Innovation.

Following a fire incident in 2024 at Unit 6 of the Kriel Power Station, both the turbine hall roof and the overhead crane cables required repair. The roof work demanded a full-height scaffold assembly from floor level to 31 m, which physically obstructed crane access.

A rigging solution eliminated a critical bottleneck during the unit's post-incident recovery. When 31 m scaffolding for roof repairs blocked access to the damaged overhead crane, itself essential for turbine work, the team designed and installed a temporary rigging structure that allowed all three work fronts to proceed in parallel.

The conventional sequence of roof repair, scaffold removal, crane restoration and turbine work would have added an estimated two months to the outage.

"The scaffolding prevented overhead crane repairs that were necessary to support Eskom Rotek Industries' turbine maintenance on the unit," said Lonas Makhubele, Kriel Project Manager at Steinmüller Africa.

"The Steinmüller Africa team, together with the client, devised a rigging plan without the use of the crane for Rotek activities. We built a rigging structure that our team used to assist Rotek, saving over 60 days on the turnaround. The unit was returned to service notably earlier because of this innovation."

The purpose-built temporary rigging system decoupled the turbine work from crane availability, enabling concurrent execution across all critical paths and compressing the overall project schedule by more than two months.

Performance across the fleet

The Kriel award reflects broader operational performance across Steinmüller Africa's Eskom portfolio in 2024-2025.

On safety, the company's site teams at both Kriel and Majuba each surpassed 1 000 000 recordable-case-rate-free hours. The Kriel milestone ran from 11 August 2024 to 30 April 2025, covering



Steinmüller Africa's onsite team and the Kriel Power Stations celebrate their award of the 2025 Eskom Kriel Managers Award for Innovation.

the high-intensity Unit 6 recovery and concurrent outage work.

On quality and productivity, Steinmüller Africa completed more than 51 000 pressure-boundary butt welds to radiographic acceptance standards across Kendal, Kriel, Hendrina and Kusile in 2025, deploying up to 350 coded welders at peak capacity.

The Kriel Innovation Award adds to Steinmüller Africa's consistent record of client recognition, including being named Eskom Kendal Contractor of the Year in 2024 and securing six awards at the 2024 Eskom Welding Awards.

Industry context

The Eskom Kriel Managers Awards recognise measurable contributions to station performance across safety, reliability, innovation and operational excellence. The 2025 Innovation Award criteria prioritised solutions that demonstrably improved unit availability or reduced outage duration.

"This solution succeeded because of close collaboration, rigorous planning and disciplined execution," Makhubele said. "It's a model for how contractors and clients can work together to compress critical paths and improve project outcomes."

<https://www.bilfinger.com/en/za>

YASKAWA

MOTOMAN AR2010: Combining Precision, Performance and Functionality

Ideal for welding agricultural equipment, automotive frames or construction machinery, the new AR2010 robot offers fast and powerful performance for arc welding applications. While the streamlined arm design gives easy access to parts in confined places, the slim robot profile permits close robot placement for high-density weld cells. Improved axis composite speed and expanded wrist range optimize robot functionality, and a symmetric wrist provides equal access to both sides of a part. A 50 mm thru-hole reduces cable interference and wear, and an enhanced feeder mounting area on the arm reduces equipment obstruction.

Sales Enquiries: jan.thart@yaskawa-sa.co.za
Telephone: +27 11 608 3182