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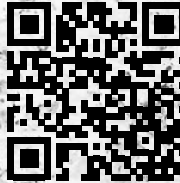
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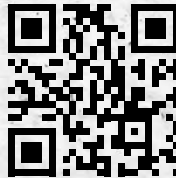
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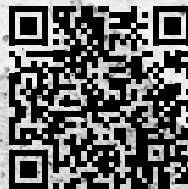


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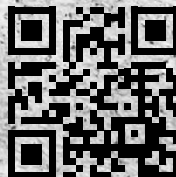
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GROWTH IN THE LOCAL TRANSPORT, FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY



The South African transport, freight and logistics sector is a large and growing sector, buoyed especially by the lack of a functional rail network in the country. Predictions are that the Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) will be around 3,5% over the next five years to 2030. This rate is informed by the economic growth of the region (not dramatic, but also not negative) and the slowly improving manufacturing situation. However, the country's location as a gateway to Sub-Saharan Africa is perhaps the main reason why such growth can be expected. South Africa is a powerhouse in

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the region, with ports and the ability to service the many landlocked countries in Southern Africa.

Expedited by the Covid pandemic, the dramatic increase in e-commerce and the use of technology to improve efficiency are two of the key trends of this industry. Another trend that will increase over the next five years is an increase in cross-border trade efficiency.

Within this is the growing need to increase sustainability by reducing carbon especially. This is the reason for the increase in so-called green logistics where operators are opting for brands that have engines that can minimise the industry's impact on the environment. This now includes the use of electronic vehicles (EV). Due to the country's geography, this may pose challenging over longer distances but it is part of the discourse now, and such vehicles are increasingly used for logistics over shorter distances.

For Daimler Truck Southern Africa, for example, the use of EVs is in line with its ultimate goal of offering 100% CO₂ neutral products by 2050. In 2024 they launched the eCanter which represented its vital first step in building a sustainable

future for transportation.

There are challenges to the growth of this industry. These include infrastructure constraints, skills shortages and increasing security concerns. The latter has been escalating rapidly. According to research by the Transported Asset Protection Association (Tapa) based on information received from the SA Police Service, SA had more than 40 000 crimes that impacted supply chains in 2024.

These incidents ranged from truck high jackings and cash-in-transit robberies to more common robbery of stock.

In this issue we explore the critical risks facing South Africa's transportation and construction sectors and how these can be mitigated. Read the article on page 8. Juanita Pienaar talked to Kobus Visagie, Executive: Business Solutions at Tracker, to explore how this company is redefining fleet management for businesses, from enhanced security to operational efficiency for medium and heavy truck fleets (page 12).

This month's issue also highlights some of the trucks available that operators can choose as the transport, freight and logistics market grows in the region. 🌐

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These changes mean fewer barriers, predictable timelines, a healthier project pipeline, and more stable deals – all translating into stronger incentives and better margins for private infrastructure developers, as well as greater value for public sector clients.



THREE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FORECASTS FOR 2025

Key shifts within the infrastructure development landscape mean positive tailwinds for South Africa's construction industry, with R322,2-billion currently planned for public infrastructure projects in 2025 alone. This will obviously impact the capital equipment market regarding construction and mining equipment.

TALKING POINT



"The benefit of this for communities could be exponential. Not only does it mean expanded service delivery, but the construction industry, as a major employer and economic contributor, will also thrive."

Roelof van den Berg, CEO of the Gap Infrastructure Corporation (GIC).

According to Roelof van den Berg, CEO of the Gap Infrastructure Corporation (GIC), this comes as technological advancements and evolving market dynamics drive important innovations, new streamlined regulations for public-private partnerships (PPP) cut project approval times, and government turns its focus to transforming South Africa into a "construction site".

"These changes mark the start of what former Finance Minister Tito Mboweni



is said to have called the 'infrastructure years' – a period that could reshape the country's built environment more dramatically than any time in the past decade," he says.

"The benefit of this for communities could be exponential. Not only does it mean expanded service delivery, but the construction industry, as a major employer and economic contributor, will also thrive. A rapid influx of new projects supported and driven by public-private partnerships could act as the lever needed to accelerate economic growth."

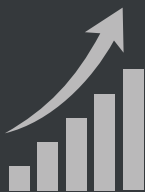
Looking to the year ahead, Van den Berg points to three trends likely to shape and influence the industry:

Increased government investment and regulatory changes

Building on the reported 82 strategic integrated projects (SIPs) valued at R437-billion currently under construction, the industry anticipates substantial increases in public infrastructure spending, with significant implications for job creation



New streamlined regulations for public-private partnerships (PPP) cut project approval times, and government turns its focus to transforming South Africa into a construction site.



Construction pipes, tubes, and fittings surged 13,9% year-on-year, bricks by 7,9%, electrical components by 11,4%, and plants and equipment by 7,7%.



The construction industry will be compelled to move beyond incremental improvements, and embrace new levels of technology-driven efficiency.



As electric vehicles (EVs) enter the mainstream, forward-thinking developers will anticipate the charging needs of future residents.

QUICK TAKE



and socio-economic development.

As outlined within the 2024 National Budget Speech, spending in the 2025/2026 financial year will strategically target specific developmental areas critical to progress. The top three areas of spending will be transport and logistics, with R115,1-billion allocated to strengthening port, rail, and road infrastructure; energy, with R70,5-billion; and water and sanitation infrastructure, with R57,6-billion.

Rises in public spending will be further complemented by the commitment reinforced in the recent Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS), which promised far-reaching regulatory reforms to reduce complex red tape, stimulate infrastructure investments, and expedite project rollouts.

Additionally, the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) will shift from one annual window to continuous evaluation, ensuring a more regular and predictable pipeline.

“These changes mean fewer barriers, predictable timelines, a healthier project

pipeline, and more stable deals – all translating into stronger incentives and better margins for private infrastructure developers, as well as greater value for public sector clients,” notes Van den Berg.

Purpose-built homes for solar, and EV integration

In terms of innovations, the growing affordability of solar systems, and the rising emphasis on environmentally-friendly energy solutions, it’s likely that there will be a strong demand for “green” homes.

“In response, next year will likely see a more pronounced shift toward integrating renewable energy systems directly into the design and construction of new homes,” he states.

“Instead of owners adding solar panels and electric vehicle (EV) chargers after the fact, developers will increasingly integrate these features from the project’s outset. Expect dedicated wiring conduits, pre-installed charging ports in garages, inverters hidden in utility rooms, and roof angles optimised for peak solar capture.”

Additionally, as electric vehicles (EVs) enter the mainstream, forward-thinking developers will anticipate the charging needs of future residents. Integrated EV infrastructure in new builds will accelerate South Africa’s EV market by removing key adoption barriers – if a buyer knows they can charge at home without expensive retrofitting, opting for an EV becomes simpler and more cost-effective, making these homes more attractive to buyers.

Technology-driven efficiencies in construction

Under the weight of global supply chain pressures, rising material costs, and persistent inflation, the construction industry will be compelled to move beyond incremental improvements, and embrace new levels of technology-driven efficiency.

Statistics South Africa’s latest construction input price index (CPII) reveals, for example, that while total costs rose an average of just 3,4% year-on-year in October 2024, a number of essential materials and inputs have seen substantial increases in expense. Construction pipes, tubes, and fittings surged 13,9% year-on-year, bricks by 7,9%, electrical components by 11,4%, and plants and equipment by 7,7%.

“Intense competition within the industry means that companies will have to rely more heavily on advanced tools and AI to streamline processes, optimise procurement, and protect profit margins. This shift will be crucial in delivering projects faster, more affordably, and with greater reliability,” explains Van den Berg.

For instance, firms can integrate digital procurement processes and logistics, automate operations with drones and machine-led fabrication, incorporate prefabricated components, and upskill teams to leverage real-time data analytics. These measures will reduce waste, accelerate delivery, enhance on-site safety, and enable continuous refinement of project strategies, helping South African developers meet intensified market demands more efficiently and cost-effectively than ever before.

“Ultimately, the general outlook for 2025 is optimistic and we expect enormous opportunities for the industry. Some risks remain, but if construction businesses and infrastructure developers remain agile and innovation-focused, we may see a new boom in the industry with enormous benefits for the country as a whole,” he concludes. 🌍



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INSURANCE INSIGHTS: MITIGATING RISKS IN TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION

Juanita Pienaar spoke to *Russell Davis*, Property Manager – Aon Broking Centre, along with *Sphamandla Stemela* and *Tshepo Mofubetsoana* from Aon's Construction and Engineering Division, to unpack the critical risks facing South Africa's transportation and construction sectors. They also explored the tailored solutions Aon offers to address these challenges.



"Infrastructure supporting trucking and logistics is rapidly deteriorating in many places."

Russell Davis, Property Manager – Aon Broking Centre.

The rising tide of risks in transportation and logistics

The transportation and logistics industries are grappling with an evolving risk landscape. Cyber-attacks, economic slowdowns, and supply chain failures rank as top concerns. According to Russell Davis, the heightened risk environment stems from various global crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts. "Infrastructure supporting trucking and logistics is rapidly deteriorating in many places,"



In transportation, the adoption of technology-driven solutions, such as advanced tracking systems, will be critical.



Comprehensive risk assessments, real-time monitoring systems, and robust BCM plans are key strategies.



Defects in design can result in costly legal liabilities and severely damage the reputation of construction companies.



There seems to be a misinterpretation of how liability is triggered, leading to scenarios where contractors operate without adequate coverage.

TAKE

QUICK

Davis notes, highlighting the pressing challenges of business interruption and supply chain failures exacerbated by South Africa's struggling ports, railways, and roads.

Adding to these issues is the prevalence of cargo theft, which is at a 10-year high. Social media and advanced technologies enable bad actors to target high-value goods such as electronics and consumables. "Social media has made it easier for criminals to identify opportunities, making cargo theft a major risk factor," Davis warns. He emphasises the importance of tailored marine insurance solutions in safeguarding valuable cargo and assets against such risks.

Construction: A sector under siege

In South Africa's construction industry, risks such as underinsurance, contractual disputes, and the so-called "construction mafia" are creating significant challenges. Sphamandla Stemela highlights an alarming trend where cost pressures lead subcontractors to secure minimal insurance coverage. "There seems to be a misinterpretation of how liability is triggered, leading to scenarios where contractors operate without adequate coverage," he explains. This exposes companies to legal battles and financial losses.

Defects in design also pose a severe threat, with significant implications for safety and reputation. Tshepo Mofubetsoana points out the necessity of professional indemnity cover for engineering professionals, stating, "Defects in design can result in costly legal liabilities and severely damage the reputation of construction companies."

Another growing concern is cash flow or liquidity risk. The construction sector is infamous for its long payment cycles, creating a knock-on effect that disrupts subcontractors and suppliers. As Mofubetsoana explains, "Slow payments increase the risk of defaults and disputes, often leading to costly legal battles."

Aon's tailored insurance and risk management solutions

Aon offers a comprehensive suite of solutions to help businesses in transportation and construction manage their unique risks effectively:

Customised insurance policies

Aon designs bespoke insurance policies tailored to meet the specific needs of its clients. For the transportation sector, marine insurance plays a pivotal role. "Understanding the nature of the cargo

TALKING POINT



"There seems to be a misinterpretation of how liability is triggered, leading to scenarios where contractors operate without adequate coverage."

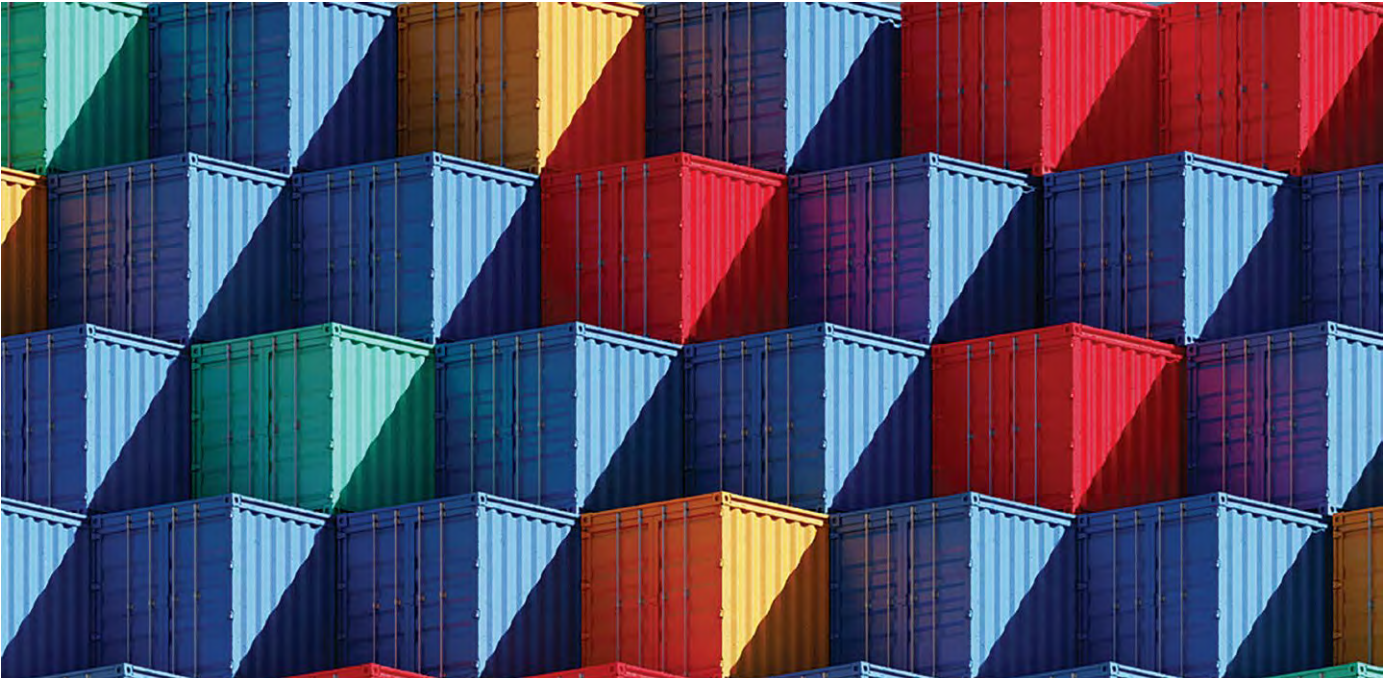
Sphamandla Stemela, Aon Construction and Engineering Division.

TALKING POINT



"The right broker can offer insights into current trends, ensuring that businesses remain resilient amidst evolving challenges."

Tshepo Mofubetsoana, Aon Construction and Engineering Division.



being transported and its value is critical," says Davis. Aon ensures policies account for all points in the supply chain, covering potential risks such as theft, damage, and business interruption.

Contractual liability and risk transfer

For the construction sector, Aon provides expert guidance on contractual risk transfer. Mofubetsoana explains, "By structuring contracts to assign risks to the parties best equipped to manage them, businesses can reduce disputes and protect their interests." Aon also educates clients on the importance of including clauses that address emerging risks like civil unrest and defects in design.

Business continuity planning

Both sectors benefit from Aon's expertise in business continuity management (BCM). These plans help businesses prepare for and respond to disruptions caused by adverse events, from natural disasters to cyber-attacks. Davis highlights that "real-time tracking and monitoring systems can further fortify businesses against external threats."

Risk engineering and analysis

Aon employs advanced risk engineering techniques to identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities. From assessing supply chain solvency to evaluating cyber risks, Aon's data-driven insights provide clients with a robust foundation for decision-making.



By structuring contracts to assign risks to the parties best equipped to manage them, businesses can reduce disputes and protect their interests.

Comprehensive coverage for specialised needs

Stemela stresses the importance of ensuring coverage for specialised equipment, such as yellow metal machinery, in the construction industry. "Each piece of equipment must have specific, bespoke coverage, accounting for its replacement value and operational context," he advises.

Cybersecurity measures

Recognising the increasing threat of cyber-attacks, Aon provides cyber insurance solutions alongside actionable analytics. These help companies bolster their defences against vulnerabilities created by digital transformation.

The future of risk management

Looking ahead, businesses must adopt proactive measures to navigate an increasingly complex risk landscape. Comprehensive risk assessments, real-time monitoring systems, and robust BCM plans are key strategies. Mofubetsoana advises industry leaders

to foster partnerships with experienced brokers to ensure their policies are tailored to their unique risks. "The right broker can offer insights into current trends, ensuring that businesses remain resilient amidst evolving challenges," he concludes.

In transportation, the adoption of technology-driven solutions, such as advanced tracking systems, will be critical. "Organisations must integrate actionable analytics into their decision-making processes," Davis notes. This, combined with cyber security best practices, will fortify businesses against emerging threats.

The transportation and construction industries play pivotal roles in South Africa's economy. By addressing their unique risks with comprehensive insurance and risk management strategies, companies can safeguard their operations and ensure long-term sustainability. Aon's expertise in tailoring solutions to these sectors provides a valuable resource for navigating the challenges ahead. 🌐

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HOW TRACKER EMPOWERS FLEET MANAGEMENT

Capital Equipment News spoke to Kobus Visagie, Executive: Business Solutions at Tracker, to explore how the company is redefining fleet management for businesses. From enhanced security to operational efficiency, Tracker offers tailored solutions for medium and heavy truck fleets. By *Juanita Pienaar*



"Tracker is more than just a tracking company," states Visagie. "We provide a holistic solution that enhances safety, efficiency, and profitability for businesses."

Kobus Visagie, Executive: Business Solutions at Tracker.

TALKING POINT

Tracker's transformation into business solutions

Tracker, a name synonymous with personal vehicle tracking, has expanded its offerings to address the complex needs of businesses managing fleets. The company's innovative solutions are transforming how fleets of medium and heavy trucks operate, offering a range of benefits that go beyond stolen vehicle recovery.

"Modern vehicle tracking systems offer far more benefits than just stolen vehicle recovery," says Kobus Visagie. "They enable route planning, improved fuel efficiency, enhanced driver

safety, and provide data for predictive maintenance and incident management."

This comprehensive approach to fleet management has made Tracker indispensable for businesses of all sizes. Small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular, benefit significantly by adopting fleet tracking systems, improving operational efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing driver and asset safety.

Enhancing fleet protection

Fleet vehicles, especially heavy and medium trucks, face a higher risk of theft and hijacking than personal vehicles. Tracker addresses these threats through cutting-edge technology and proactive strategies.

The company's FleetLogic platform provides real-time tracking and operational insights. "Businesses can monitor their vehicles, motorbikes, or trailers seamlessly, ensuring their assets are always safe," explains Visagie. Features like zone management notify fleet managers if a vehicle enters a high-risk area, while early notifications alert them to battery



“This helps businesses identify trends, reduce downtime, and improve overall efficiency.”

For example, predictive maintenance features notify fleet managers of upcoming service needs, helping to prevent costly breakdowns. Meanwhile, the fuel dashboard overlays telematics and transactional data, enabling companies to manage fuel usage and transition to more efficient vehicle models over time.

Addressing regional crime trends

Tracker’s solutions are also informed by regional crime trends. Certain routes, such as the N12 and R21 corridors in Gauteng, are notorious for hijackings. Businesses can use Tracker’s data-driven insights to adopt proactive measures, such as adjusting routes and increasing vigilance in high-risk areas.

“Businesses must remain vigilant and partner with trusted service providers to address the challenges of fleet crime,” advises Visagie.

Sustainability in fleet management

As businesses strive to align with greener logistics practices, Tracker’s offerings also cater to sustainability goals. By helping companies manage fuel usage more efficiently, Tracker supports efforts to reduce carbon footprints while maintaining cost efficiency.

“The fuel dashboard helps clients identify the most fuel-efficient vehicle models, promoting a gradual transition to greener fleets,” says Visagie.

A holistic approach to fleet management

Tracker’s value-added services further enhance its appeal to businesses. From real-time reporting and operational notifications to outsourced fleet management, the company offers end-to-end support tailored to business needs.

“Tracker is more than just a tracking company,” states Visagie. “We provide a holistic solution that enhances safety, efficiency, and profitability for businesses.”

The future of fleet management

As crime tactics evolve, Tracker continues to innovate. By working closely with law enforcement and adopting advanced technologies, the company ensures its solutions remain ahead of emerging threats.

For businesses managing medium and heavy trucks, Tracker offers more than protection - it provides a partnership built on safety, efficiency, and growth. With its comprehensive suite of services, Tracker is shaping the future of fleet management, making operations smarter, safer, and more sustainable. 🌍

QUICK TAKE



Modern vehicle tracking systems offer far more benefits than just stolen vehicle recovery. They enable route planning, improved fuel efficiency, enhanced driver safety, and provide data for predictive maintenance and incident management.



Tracker collaborates with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and private security companies to ensure swift vehicle recovery in the event of theft.



Tracker’s solutions are designed to streamline operations and reduce costs.



By working closely with law enforcement and adopting advanced technologies, the company ensures its solutions remain ahead of emerging threats.

disconnections or border crossings.

Tracker also collaborates with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and private security companies to ensure swift vehicle recovery in the event of theft. “Our extensive partnerships and technology enable us to mitigate risks effectively and recover assets quickly,” adds Visagie.

Safety at the forefront

Driver safety is another critical focus for Tracker. The company uses advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) dashcams and telematics, to protect drivers and improve their behaviour.

“AI dashcams monitor driver attentiveness through facial recognition and provide real-time alerts for drowsiness, distraction, or mobile phone usage,” says Visagie. These features not only enhance driver safety but

also prevent incidents that could jeopardise cargo and vehicles.

Additional safety tools include in-cab assist buttons, impact detection, and emergency service dispatch. Tracker’s CareGuard for Business provides mobile armed response and medical assistance at the push of a button, offering drivers peace of mind on the road.

Operational efficiency through technology

Tracker’s solutions are designed to streamline operations and reduce costs. The FleetLogic platform delivers actionable insights, allowing businesses to optimise routes, schedule predictive maintenance, and manage fuel consumption.

“The FleetLogic dashboard provides a high-level overview of risk, performance, and driver behaviour,” explains Visagie.



DTSA'S TRIUMPHS AT THE NAAMSA ACCELERATOR AWARDS

Daimler Truck Southern Africa (DTSA) illuminated the stage at the recent NAAMSA SA Auto Week's Accelerator Awards Evening, clinching four prestigious awards and reaffirming its leadership in the automotive sector. *Capital Equipment News'* Juanita Pienaar spoke with Maretha Gerber, President and Group CEO for DTSA, about these remarkable achievements, the company's transformative journey, and its vision for the future.

A night to remember

The NAAMSA Accelerator Awards, held on 18 October 2024, celebrated excellence across the automotive industry. Among the event's most notable winners, DTSA walked away with four accolades, solidifying its position as a leader in innovation, transformation, and sustainability.

Foremost among these was the Extra-Heavy Commercial Vehicle of the Year award, bestowed upon the Mercedes-Benz Actros for the second consecutive year. This recognition underscores the Actros' status as a game-changer in the extra-heavy commercial vehicle category. DTSA also earned the WesBank Transformation Performance Award for achieving a B-BBEE Level 1 score, another for having the most improved B-BBEE scorecard, and a final accolade recognising its contributions to local community development.

Reflecting on the awards, Gerber said,



"Our goal is clear: to achieve CO₂-neutral products by 2050. While this is a long-term objective, our customers can look forward to many more technological advancements in the years ahead."

Maretha Gerber, President and Group CEO for DTSA.

TALKING POINT

"This recognition is incredibly humbling and serves as a powerful motivation for our team. It inspires us to continue our work with passion, ensuring that our customers can carry on with theirs."

The Mercedes-Benz Actros: A champion of innovation

The Actros has firmly established itself as a benchmark in the trucking industry,

combining innovative technology, exceptional safety features, and unmatched efficiency. Gerber elaborated on what sets the Actros apart: "It's not just the best-looking truck on the road, but it also offers quality, reliability, and unparalleled safety features like Stability Control Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, Attention Assist, and Active Brake Assist." Fuel efficiency is another defining



feature of the Actros, making it a cost-effective choice for operators. "It's one of the most fuel-efficient trucks on the road," Gerber explained. "This ensures our customers achieve maximum uptime and the most competitive Total Cost

of Ownership." Beyond its impressive technical capabilities, the Actros is supported by DTSA's comprehensive suite of value-added services. These include the Telematics Dashboard, which allows fleet managers to monitor and optimise

operations in real time, and the DTSA Parts Portal, which simplifies parts procurement and delivery. "We don't just sell trucks at Mercedes-Benz Trucks," Gerber emphasised. "We offer a full bouquet of services throughout the lifecycle of the truck, ensuring maximum uptime, increased efficiencies, and lower costs of ownership in the long run."

A commitment to transformation
DTSA's recognition at the NAAMSA Accelerator Awards extended beyond the Actros. The company's outstanding B-BBEE achievements were another highlight of the evening. Earning a Level 1 score – a significant milestone in South Africa's transformation landscape – was a result of sustained effort and strategic focus.

"Our Level 1 B-BBEE status didn't happen overnight," Gerber acknowledged. "It reflects years of learning and dedication to making a true, lasting impact." Initiatives such as the Youth Employment Service (YES) Programme have played a pivotal role in this journey, providing young South Africans with valuable work experience and enhancing their employment prospects.

Gerber candidly discussed the challenges DTSA faced in achieving this milestone. "The B-BBEE codes encompass multiple elements that can be complex and time-consuming. We experienced our own learning curve, but by optimising our internal structures, we were able to dedicate the necessary focus and support to achieve compliance."

QUICK TAKE



Awards underscore the Actros' status as a game-changer in the extra-heavy commercial vehicle category.



Fuel efficiency is a defining feature of the Actros, making it a cost-effective choice for operators. It is one of the most fuel-efficient trucks on the road.



The accolades garnered at the NAAMSA Accelerator Awards underscore DTSA's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and social responsibility.



DTSA's customers are at the heart of everything it does. Their trust and support make it possible for the company to achieve its goals.

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Driving sustainability and innovation

Sustainability lies at the heart of DTSA's long-term strategy. The company's goal to achieve CO₂-neutral products and facilities by 2050 reflects a deep commitment to environmental responsibility. At the NAAMSA event, DTSA showcased its innovative eActros 300, a fully battery-electric truck that represents the future of transportation.

"The eActros 300 is more than just a truck; it's a symbol of our commitment to driving sustainable transportation," Gerber noted. She also welcomed President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement of potential new incentives for electric vehicles (EVs), which could play a crucial role in overcoming the high upfront costs associated with EV adoption. "These incentives have the potential to make EVs more accessible, bolstering sales and supporting South Africa's transition towards greener, more efficient transport

solutions," she added.

Fuel efficiency and sustainability are also integral to the design of the Actros. Since its introduction in 1998, the truck has evolved significantly, with five generations launched in South Africa. "Each generation has brought pioneering innovations designed to add value to our customers' businesses," Gerber explained.

Celebrating heritage and embracing the future

Aligned with the centenary theme of the NAAMSA SA Auto Week, DTSA celebrated its rich history while looking toward a sustainable future. The company's display featured the legacy Mercedes-Benz 1418 truck alongside the cutting-edge eActros 300, illustrating six decades of progress and innovation.

"This juxtaposition underscores our journey from the past to the present and highlights our commitment to driving the industry forward," Gerber remarked. The event also provided a platform for crucial discussions on the future of transportation, with DTSA actively contributing to dialogues about industry transformation, competitiveness, and sustainability.

Looking ahead

As DTSA moves forward, its focus remains steadfast on innovation, transformation, and sustainability. "Our goal is clear: to achieve CO₂-neutral products by 2050," Gerber stated. "While this is a long-term objective, our customers can look forward to many more technological advancements in the years ahead."

Gerber credited the company's success to its dedicated team, valued customers, and reliable strategic partners. "Our customers are at the heart of everything we do. Their trust and support make it possible for us to achieve our goals," she emphasised. "Our achievements reflect the hard work and commitment of everyone involved. We look forward to engaging with our stakeholders again in 2025 as we continue to drive progress and excellence in the automotive industry."

A bright future

The accolades garnered at the NAAMSA Accelerator Awards underscore DTSA's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and social responsibility. With our customers' needs and aspirations guiding our journey, DTSA remains at the forefront of an evolving automotive industry, setting benchmarks and paving the way for a brighter, greener, and more inclusive future. 🌱



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VOLVO TRUCKS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING ROAD SAFETY ACROSS SA

The number of trucks on South African roads has increased over the past few years due to a decline in freight rail volumes. On the N3 Toll Route, for instance, heavy vehicles make up more than 30% of traffic.

Accidents involving heavy trucks often result in severe consequences. While the causes of these incidents are complex and multifaceted, a driver's behaviour on the road can play a crucial role in preventing tragedy. Equally


important is the conduct of other road users around trucks, as their actions can significantly influence the likelihood of an accident occurring.

Understanding the causes of accidents is crucial to preventing them. Since 1969, Volvo Trucks' Accident Research Team has

analysed accident data and investigated over 1 700 truck-related incidents. Volvo Trucks' safety research highlights that reducing road accidents requires a combination of enhanced truck safety systems, improved road infrastructure, and increased risk awareness among all road users.

"The human factor, which applies to all road users, is a key element," said Waldemar Christensen, Managing Director of Volvo Trucks South Africa. "How a driver anticipates and responds to situations - particularly on busy roads - can significantly impact the risk of accidents involving trucks. To this day, the driver is still the number one safety system in the truck. An attentive driver who understands the risks makes all the difference."

Advances in vehicle technology, such as seatbelts, automated transmissions



"How a driver anticipates and responds to situations - particularly on busy roads - can significantly impact the risk of accidents involving trucks."

Waldemar Christensen, Managing Director of Volvo Trucks South Africa.

TALKING POINT



and, more recently, automated emergency braking, lane-keeping support, collision avoidance systems, and blind spot cameras, are helping to create safer driving conditions. "The insights gained from this ongoing research are vital in Volvo Trucks' efforts to build even safer trucks. We share our findings with the broader community to help make our roads safer," explained Christensen.

There are six common truck accident types that involve three kinds of road users: truck drivers, car drivers (and passengers) and vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, etc.).

Collision with oncoming car

This is the most common truck accident that leads to severe injury or fatality for car occupants. They typically occur as a result of too high speed, driver inattention, or a misjudged/incorrect overtaking. In the majority of cases, the car enters the lane of the truck. These accidents often have a severe outcome for the car occupant due to the high relative speed and the big difference in weight between the truck and the car.

Intersection accident with a car

These are accidents in which a truck and a car collide at an intersection. It can



either be the truck front that impacts the car side or vice versa. These types of accidents are often caused by a failure to give way. Excessive speed or limited visibility can also have an impact on the risk of accident.

Crossing pedestrians

These collisions usually affect pedestrians, but motorcycle riders and cyclists are also at risk. Crossing accidents occur when the pedestrian crosses in front of a truck travelling at moderate to high speed. They usually occur in urban areas, and there can be several causes for this type of accident: for example, truck driver inattention or limited visibility. Pedestrian inattention or misjudgment of the speed of the truck are other causes.

Lane departure accidents

Lane departure accidents are those where the truck leaves its lane, and even the road itself. It often involves the truck rolling over or colliding with an object. Main causes of this type of accident include driver inattention or fatigue, as well as swerving to avoid obstacles. They

are also common in rainy conditions while driving when the roads are slippery, or the edge of the road is not clearly visible.

Colliding with the rear of another truck

Collision with a truck that is standing still or travelling at lower speed in the same lane is a common accident type in which truck occupants are severely or even fatally injured. The most common causes are driver inattention or driving too close to the vehicle in front. Limited visibility or slippery roads can, of course, contribute as well. This usually results in the main impact on the passenger's side.

"Our safety vision is about safety for everyone. Because for us, developing safer trucks has always been about more than protection. We create smart safety systems that are designed to monitor truck behaviour and surrounding traffic – not just to protect, but to predict safety hazards and react," stated Christensen. "The systems may be out of sight, but they are engineered to activate and to support the driver in a wide variety of conceivable situations. For the safety of the driver, as well as all other road users." 🌱



DAF TRUCKS: DRIVING INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY IN SOUTH AFRICA

DAF Trucks has established itself as a leader in the global trucking industry, and its expansion into the South African market marks a significant milestone. Juanita Pienaar spoke with Marius Barnard, Managing Director of Transport Solutions at Babcock International Group, to gain insights into DAF's presence in South Africa, its market success, and the advantages it offers local fleet operators.

TALKING POINT



"DAF Trucks has always been at the forefront of innovation, from early diesel engine technology to today's advanced Euro 6 and electric trucks,"

Marius Barnard, Managing Director of Transport Solutions at Babcock International Group.

A legacy of innovation

Founded in 1928 in Eindhoven, Netherlands, DAF initially focused on trailer manufacturing before shifting to truck production in 1949. Over the decades, the company pioneered several industry-firsts, including cab-over-engine (COE) designs that improved manoeuvrability and space efficiency. Through its acquisition of Leyland Trucks in 1987 and its integration into PACCAR in 1996, DAF expanded its reach and technological capabilities.

"DAF Trucks has always been at the forefront of innovation, from early diesel engine technology to today's advanced Euro 6 and electric trucks," says Barnard. "Our legacy is built on sustainability,

efficiency, and reliability, making us a trusted brand across various industries."

A strategic entry into South Africa

DAF entered the South African market to meet the growing demand for high-performance, fuel-efficient trucks in industries such as mining, agriculture, and logistics. The country's extensive infrastructure development and increasing need for long-haul transportation created a strong business case for DAF's expansion.

"Our entry into South Africa aligns with the country's growing commercial vehicle market of approximately 15 000 units per annum," explains Barnard. "Operators appreciate our competitive total cost of

ownership (TCO), which is crucial for fleet management."

Local support and service network

DAF's success in South Africa is underpinned by its strong local support network, managed by Babcock International Group.

"We offer a comprehensive service network, with key locations including our main office in Benoni," says Barnard. "Our dealerships provide sales, parts, and maintenance services, ensuring that operators have access to genuine DAF parts and skilled technicians."

The company also offers 24/7 roadside assistance through the DAF on Call Centre, minimizing downtime and enhancing operational efficiency. "Fleet operators can rest assured knowing that our support network is always within reach," Barnard adds.

Fuel efficiency and cost savings

A key advantage of DAF Trucks is their exceptional fuel efficiency, driven by PACCAR engines and aerodynamic designs. This is particularly valuable for South African businesses that rely on long-haul transportation.

"Fuel efficiency is a major cost factor

for fleet operators, and our trucks are engineered to deliver optimal consumption without compromising performance,” explains Barnard. “From advanced cruise control systems to lightweight components, every feature is designed to reduce operating costs.”

Technological advancements and driver comfort

Beyond fuel efficiency, DAF prioritises driver comfort and safety. “Our ergonomic cab designs reduce driver fatigue, which is critical for long-distance hauls,” Barnard says. “We also incorporate features like Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Departure Warning, and Electronic Stability Control to enhance safety.”

For industries that require off-road capabilities, DAF’s rugged construction and advanced suspension systems ensure reliability in challenging terrains.

Aftersales support and maintenance

To further enhance its value proposition, DAF offers tailored service and maintenance contracts. “Our predictive maintenance solutions and telematics systems help fleet managers monitor truck performance, schedule servicing proactively, and avoid unexpected downtime,” Barnard explains.

The availability of genuine DAF parts through centralised warehouses ensures quick turnaround times for repairs and maintenance. “We focus on keeping our customers’ trucks on the road and operating efficiently,” he adds.

Financing solutions for fleet expansion

Understanding that capital investment in fleet expansion can be challenging, Babcock Financial Services provides tailored financing solutions.

“We offer flexible financing and maintenance packages to suit different business needs,” says Barnard. “This makes DAF Trucks more accessible to local operators, ensuring they can benefit from our advanced technology and efficiency without significant upfront costs.”

Commitment to sustainability

As global trucking regulations become more stringent, DAF is actively addressing sustainability challenges.

“We are launching Euro 6 truck tests in South Africa in 2025, reinforcing our commitment to reducing emissions,” reveals Barnard. “We’re also exploring alternative fuel options such as hybrid and electric trucks to support greener transportation solutions.”

Future growth and expansion

DAF has ambitious plans to expand its



footprint in South Africa, including increasing its dealer and service network.

“We’re strategically placing new dealerships in industrial hubs to ensure operators have convenient access to our products and services,” says Barnard. “We’re also considering local assembly options to enhance supply chain efficiency and create job opportunities.”

Furthermore, DAF is enhancing its digital services, with advancements in telematics through the DAF Connect platform. “This technology provides fleet managers with real-time insights into vehicle performance, optimising operations and reducing costs,” Barnard notes.

Why South African operators choose DAF

South African fleet operators have been quick to recognise the advantages of DAF Trucks, particularly in terms of reliability, efficiency, and total cost of ownership.

“Compared to competitors, our trucks offer superior fuel efficiency, driver comfort, and a lower TCO,” says Barnard. “That’s why more companies are adding DAF Trucks to their fleets.”

With its strong local support network, commitment to sustainability, and advanced vehicle technology, DAF is poised for continued success in the South African market. As the demand for reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally conscious transportation grows, DAF Trucks is well-positioned to meet these needs, ensuring its customers achieve long-term operational success. 🌱



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DRIVING GROWTH: FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT SECTOR

Capital Equipment News' Juanita Pienaar explored the innovative financing options available in the heavy equipment sector by speaking to representatives from leading companies. Their insights reveal how tailored financial solutions are empowering businesses to thrive despite economic challenges.

TALKING POINT



"By using VFS or Swedish finance, the customer's line of credit with their normal bank remains untouched, allowing them to purchase other equipment types."

Tim Ward, Financial Director of Equipment at Babcock International Group.

Bridging the gap: Innovative financial tools for trucks

The trucking industry is a cornerstone of commerce, and financial flexibility is critical for businesses navigating fluctuating costs. Hino Financial Services (HFS), Isuzu Finance, and John Deere Financial are leading the way with tailored financing solutions.

HFS's Guaranteed Future Value (GFV) programme stands out as a versatile solution for Hino 700 models. Gert Agenbag, SM Sales EHCV & Fleet,



elaborated: “Customers can opt to retain, return, or replace their truck at the end of the term. GFV ensures flexibility and helps customers manage cash flow effectively.” Moreover, HFS’ bundled solutions, which integrate value-added services like maintenance plans, simplify fleet management for businesses.

Isuzu Finance, as explained by Mpho Nkhumeleni, Department Executive: CV Sales, takes a relationship-driven approach. “We’ve revolutionised financing through our digital platform, which streamlines credit assessments and document signing. This reduces turnaround times and offers greater transparency,” Nkhumeleni explained. Their Vehicle Ecosystem includes services like insurance, maintenance plans, and licence renewals, providing holistic support. John Deere Financial also offers unique solutions for construction & mine equipment financing. Pieter Pienaar, John Deere Financial Credit Sales & Marketing, highlighted: “We understand



TALKING POINT

“Our dedicated personnel focus solely on construction and mining machinery finance, ensuring personalised structures that meet customer needs.”

Pieter Pienaar, John Deere Financial Credit Sales & Marketing.



TALKING POINT

“We’ve revolutionised financing through our digital platform, which streamlines credit assessments and document signing. This reduces turnaround times and offers greater transparency.”

Mpho Nkhumeleni, Department Executive: CV Sales (Isuzu Finance).



the complexities of the construction and mining industries and provide flexible instalment loans and deferred payment options to support businesses during project initiation phases.”

Supporting mining ventures: Flexible financing for capital-intensive investments

Mining equipment requires significant capital investment, and companies like John Deere Financial and Babcock are easing this burden with tailored solutions. Pieter Pienaar, John Deere Financial Credit Sales & Marketing, pointed out

their specialised services: “Our dedicated personnel focus solely on construction and mining machinery finance, ensuring personalised structures that meet customer needs.”

John Deere’s Rental for Purchase Program (RPO) allows businesses to rent equipment initially, building cash flow while financing the unit at a reduced price later. “This programme is designed to support cash flow during new projects and offers peace of mind with deferred payment options,” said Pienaar. Babcock, another industry leader, offers financing structures that align with



the unpredictable nature of commodity markets. Their solutions cater to both SMEs and large enterprises, providing flexibility to meet the unique demands of mining operations.

The company harnesses Volvo Financial Services (VFS) to complement this landscape with leasing and instalment sale options, typically over 36 or 48 months, at competitive interest rates. Their access to Swedish financial packages—denominated in Rands and ranging from a few million to hundreds of millions—offers significant flexibility.

“By using VFS or Swedish finance, the customer’s line of credit with their normal bank remains untouched, allowing them to purchase other equipment types,” Tim Ward, Financial Director of Equipment at Babcock International Group, explained. Additionally, VFS packages feature reduced paperwork and support short-term working capital challenges, offering an edge over traditional bank loans.

The sector’s demand for competitive interest rates, flexibility, and quick turnarounds remains constant, according to Babcock. Their service and maintenance contracts, combined with financing for in-house rebuilds, further extend the equipment’s lifespan and operational efficiency.

HFS also provides competitive financing options for mining equipment. Agenbag explained: “Our solutions include payment holidays and tailored financing for SMEs and larger enterprises, addressing the significant capital outlays associated with mining projects.”

Building the future: Construction equipment financing

In the construction sector, financing options must account for project variability and seasonal cash flow challenges. John Deere Financial’s offerings, such as their seasonal payment plans, address these issues directly. “We personalise financing structures for each customer, aligning payments with their peak and off-peak seasons,” Pienaar explained.

HFS’ GFV programme offers similar flexibility for SMEs and larger enterprises. “The programme’s three end-of-term options - retain, return, or replace - help customers manage their fleets effectively,” said Agenbag. This adaptability is crucial for businesses dealing with fluctuating project timelines.

Sustainability is also driving demand for eco-friendly equipment financing. Hino’s introduction of the Hino 300 Hybrid Truck pilot project exemplifies this shift. “These units will be financed through our Hino Kinto platform, offering a risk-free solution for customers transitioning to new energy vehicles,” Agenbag added.

Additionally, Isuzu Finance is preparing for the industry’s transition to greener technologies. Nkhumeleni noted: “We are already funding new energy vehicles, including hybrids and fully electric options, ensuring our customers remain competitive in a sustainable future.”

Adapting to changing economic landscapes

Economic pressures, from rising interest rates to volatile fuel prices,

have significantly impacted the heavy equipment sector. However, financing companies are stepping up to mitigate these challenges.

According to Isuzu’s Nkhumeleni, the trucking sector has shown resilience despite economic strains: “Growth in e-commerce has driven demand for medium commercial vehicles, while drops in interest rates and inflation are expected to boost financing requests.”

John Deere Financial’s Pienaar highlighted the importance of adaptable financing: “We provide customers with pre-approval options to ensure quick access to capital, allowing them to seize project opportunities without delay.”

Unique features for diverse needs

The companies profiled offer distinctive solutions tailored to their customer bases. For instance, Hino’s maintenance and service plans provide fixed costs throughout the contract, ensuring predictability. “Customers benefit from fixed service costs across all Hino dealerships in South Africa, eliminating unexpected expenses,” said Agenbag.

John Deere’s financing extends beyond equipment to include warranties and service agreements, ensuring long-term support for businesses. “Our approach ensures that customers not only acquire the equipment they need but also maintain it effectively over time,” Pienaar added.

Isuzu’s commitment to SMEs stands out, offering expedited credit assessments and tailored solutions. “We understand the unique challenges faced by SMEs and aim to support them with low down payments and flexible repayment terms,” Nkhumeleni emphasised.

A bright future for heavy equipment financing

With customer-centric financing options, companies like Babcock, Hino, Isuzu, and John Deere are empowering businesses to overcome financial barriers and seize growth opportunities. Their innovative approaches are setting new standards in the heavy equipment sector, ensuring businesses have the tools they need to build, mine, and transport effectively.

By addressing the diverse needs of SMEs and large enterprises, embracing sustainability, and adapting to economic shifts, these companies are driving the sector forward. As Nkhumeleni aptly summarised, “Our goal is to enable businesses to focus on growth while we handle their financing needs, ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for the industry.” 🌱



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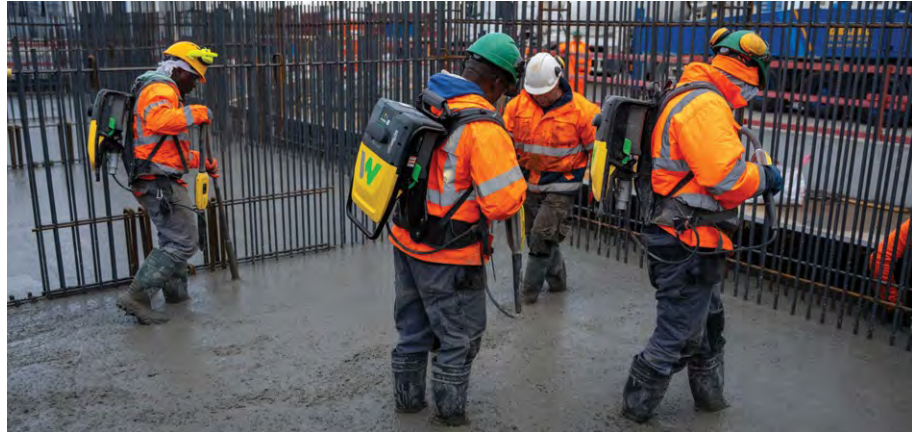
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Wacker Neuson supports construction of first energy island

Since the start of 2024, the world's first energy island has been under construction in the Princess Elisabeth zone, 45 kilometres from the Belgian coast. The six-hectare 'Princess Elisabeth Island' will serve as an energy hub from about 2030 and will provide a significant contribution to the sustainable energy supply in Europe.

Wacker Neuson supports this construction site with its long-term expertise in the field of concrete consolidation. More than 120 powerful high-frequency internal vibrators IRFU are in use, ensuring consistently high and reliable consolidation during the days of work. Each caisson is poured 24 hours a day over seven to eight days. During this period, it is necessary to continuously consolidate the concrete. We can completely rely on the high quality of advice from Wacker Neuson and the reliability of the products used in



this project. Wacker Neuson has found very good solutions for all our technical challenges," explains Matthias Liefoghe, Technical Superintendent Heavy Equipment, Jan de Nul/TM Edison.

Wacker Neuson internal vibrators with an exchangeable battery as a backpack system are also used on this site. The battery-converter backpack ACBe makes it possible to work without a power cable, which means

greater freedom of movement for the operator and a high level of operating comfort. The Battery One battery drives the ACBe: a powerful lithium-ion battery, which can be quickly and easily exchanged between the backpacks and further equipment. 🌱

Next generation Cat® D8 dozer's next-level technology

Caterpillar Inc. announced the new Cat® D8 dozer with advanced technology designed to provide faster more accurate results. The next generation design makes it easier for operators to transition to different machine sizes. The bulldozer's elevated sprocket offers better ride and balance than low-drive undercarriages, and its long undercarriage delivers the D8's renowned performance of high penetration forces and superior dozing performance.

The D8 dozer's next generation cab offers more space than the previous design complete with a wide air suspension seat with multiple adjustment options.

The 254-mm touchscreen main display has built-in key features assistance to give operators an overview of the machine, technologies and helpful tips.

Assist technology features minimised

operator input, boosting productivity for less experienced operators and decreasing effort and fatigue for everyone, while delivering quicker and more precise outcomes.

Featuring an external connector for efficient dealer installation of a plug-and-play, roof-mounted remote-control unit, the new D8 dozer ships from the factory remote control ready.

The next generation D8 dozer design enables a wider range of machine connectivity than prior models. Streamlining service efficiency, Remote Troubleshoot saves time and money by allowing the Cat dealer to perform dozer diagnostic testing remotely.

Customisable dashboards streamline fleet management efficiency by providing critical machine operating information like dozer hours, miles, location with mapping, idle time, CO₂ emissions, asset status and operation, and fuel utilisation.

The next generation Cat D8 Waste Handler is designed and built from the frame up to withstand challenging landfill operating environments. 🌱

Wirtgen Group rolls out a world premiere at World of Concrete 2025

Innovative and market-driven solutions for precise and cost-efficient concrete paving were the focal point of the joint Wirtgen Group and John Deere booth in Las Vegas in January.

Versatile, maneuverable, and efficient – the outstanding features of the slipform paver SP 33. Wirtgen presented the SP 33 concrete paver in two configurations which, thanks to the fully modular construction concept, enable the paving of monolithic concrete profiles such as curbs and berms, rectangular profiles, concrete safety barriers up to a height of 1,3 m, and drainage and gutter profiles. The Crosspave version can pave slabs up to a width of 3 m transversely to the direction of travel of the machine. Both solutions can be controlled by the innovative operating concept with an event-driven graphic display.

With its concrete paving train orchestration, Wirtgen also offers completely coordinated machine technologies and practice-oriented equipment variants. They help users to fulfill quality requirements, in particular regarding outstanding evenness of the paved concrete surface.

Conventional concrete paving methods rely on a physical stringline for controlling the paving process. As an alternative to this, Wirtgen offers its field-proven AutoPilot 2.0 control system, which is available for all offset pavers and placer/spreaders. The need for a physical stringline is eliminated, which results in considerable savings in terms of time and effort and increases the safety of the paving crew. 🌱

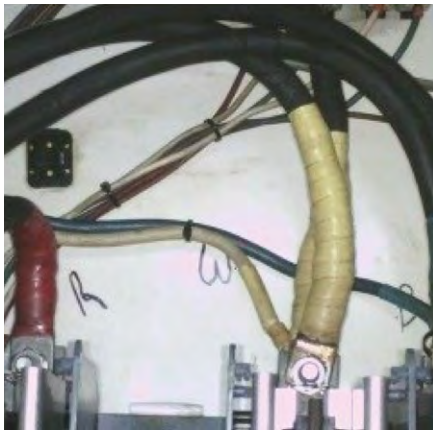


WearCheck launches advanced thermography course

Condition monitoring specialist company, WearCheck, recently launched a new training course - InfraFocus - to upskill users of thermographic cameras.

The company's ARC (asset reliability care) technicians developed the two-day course for customers, highlighting the best ways to capture thermographic imagery for use in a condition monitoring programme.

Operations manager for the ARC team,



Annemie Willer, discusses the merits of the course, which is also mandatory for all WearCheck's ARC technicians.

"Our aim is to help clients get the most benefit from thermography with improved accuracy. In thermography, a thermal camera captures and creates an image (thermogram) of an object by using infrared radiation emitted from the object – this is an example of infrared imaging science. The amount of radiation emitted by an object increases with temperature, therefore, thermography allows variations in temperature to be seen. When viewed through a thermal imaging camera, warm objects stand out well against cooler backgrounds.

"Thermography highlights machinery components that are outside of the 'normal' operating temperature, indicating a potential problem with the machine.

"Why did WearCheck develop this course? Traditional thermography courses, while comprehensive, often lack sufficient practical training in these critical areas. Many of these courses are designed for individuals with advanced technical backgrounds, leaving a gap for artisans and technicians who may not have the same level of formal education or familiarity with technical terminology." 🌟



Bobcat R-Series waste expert telehandlers show their mettle

Bobcat Waste Expert telehandlers are more than proving their worth, providing outstanding materials handling performance for the most demanding applications in the waste and recycling industries.

Complementing the company's successful construction and agricultural products, Bobcat offers four Waste Expert machines, based on the TL35.70, TL34.65HF, TL38.70HF and TL43.80HF models from the company's latest R-Series range of telehandlers. All are powered by Bobcat 74 or 101 kW (99 or 135 HP) engines and offer lifting capacities from 3,4 to 4,3 tonne and lifting heights from 6,3 to 7,5 m.

Bobcat telehandlers are already well known as sturdy, efficient and particularly easy-to-operate machines and these are essential features for working in the intensive industrial applications found in the waste management and materials recycling industries.

Recycling and waste management sites are tough working environments so the equipment they use needs to be up to the challenge. As a result, Waste Expert machines are even more robust, with heavy-duty Dana Spicer axles and additional reinforced protection, making them the toughest on the market.

They also incorporate an extra large boom head, a high tensile steel boom, boom cushioning and protected hydraulic rams under and inside the boom. Like all Bobcat telehandlers, the Waste Expert machines have a box welded frame to meet heavy duty cycles and offer a high ground clearance, with a bottom plate along the entire length to protect vital parts. 🌟

BULL gains traction under Babcock's stewardship

Just over a year after assuming the exclusive dealership of BULL skid steers and backhoe loaders, Babcock reports that the range has gained significant traction in a competitive South African market. The quick growth is a culmination of concerted efforts by both the dealer and the principal to offer a rugged product that is backed by a solid aftermarket regime.

Despite the competitive nature of the market, with over 24 suppliers contending for market share, backhoe and skid steer loaders remain the 'picks and shovels' of the yellow metal equipment market in Southern Africa. To provide context, available industry figures show that the backhoe loader market ranges between 1 600 and 1 700 units per annum, with skid steer loaders in the region of 300-350 units per year, based on CONMESA figures for the past 12 months.

Having taken over the exclusive distributorship of the BULL backhoe loaders and skid steers in July 2023,

Babcock has already sold more than 100 backhoe loaders, propelling the company to the top five bracket in a such a cutthroat marketplace. Mark Senyard, Product Manager – BULL at Babcock, credits the quick growth to a combination of a good product that has proven its mettle and the commitment by both Babcock and BULL to create a conducive environment for market share growth.

Under Babcock, BULL customers have experienced new levels of aftermarket support. Working closely with its customers, Babcock has a proud history of sales and servicing of construction equipment that spans more than six decades.



First crusher for Sandvik-S&R partnership

In a promising start to S&R Enterprises' mandate as a Sandvik Rock Processing distributor, its first Sandvik mobile jaw crusher has been delivered to a mining contractor on a coal operation in South Africa's Mpumalanga coal fields.

According to S&R Enterprises' Managing Member, Stephen Smith, the sale highlights not only the demand for Sandvik's high quality equipment, but signals a new era in aftermarket support for the Sandvik range of mobile crushers across the country. The machine is a Sandvik QJ341 mobile jaw crusher with production capacity of 400 tonnes per hour, boasting several differentiators and meeting the customer's demanding targets.

He highlights that the Sandvik QJ341 brings the customer the powerful com-

ination of a large chamber jaw crusher with the lower running costs of a medium sized machine.

In close collaboration with Sandvik Rock Processing, S&R Enterprises is also raising its inventory levels in anticipation of the growing demand. Smith says that his business is well known for its agility and quick response times – getting the necessary parts and wear items out to customers when they need them.

In a coal mining operation, it is also vital to control the generation of fine material, and contractors are usually required to meet certain laid down specifications.

For instance, the correct delay timers and other settings can be specified according to the mine or quarry's particular requirements and procedures. He emphasises that the electronic functionality of the Sandvik machine makes it easier for a contractor to keep up with progress in their sectors. 🌟



Leap forward in belt tracking technology

To help bulk material handling operations address conveyor belt misalignments, a common issue in quarrying and mining, Tru-Trac Rollers has introduced its Apex Taper Trough Tracker, the next leap forward in belt tracking technology.

That conveyor belt mistracking is one of the most common causes of unscheduled downtime in conveyor systems is no overstatement. Belt misalignment causes spillage, belt edge damage, damage to the structure, increased power consumption and increased labour costs. Misaligned belts will ultimately result in lost production, increased operating costs and safety hazards.

To help mining and materials handling operations prevent this from happening, Tru-Trac Rollers has brought to market

its innovative Apex Taper Trough Tracker, the ultimate misalignment solution for conveyor belt systems. Available in four types – Standard, HD, XHD and EXHD – the range ushers in a new era with an array of innovative features.

With its compact design, the Apex Taper Trough Tracker can be installed effortlessly in tight spaces, such as under hoods or on tripper cars.

The improved custom-compounded GRIP-TRAC™ rubber lagging and patented tread pattern on wing rolls offer enhanced traction and tracking performance and extended working life of the replaceable wing rolls, further reducing total cost of ownership.

Increased responsiveness is yet another key benefit of the new Apex Taper Trough Tracker. The optimised centre of gravity and weight distribution offers improved stability, control and balance. 🌟



Selecting the perfect dewatering pump is essential

Selecting the right pump for the right application is critical for effective water management in quarries and open pit mines. Dredging and pump specialist, IPR (Integrated Pump Rental), advises that the selection process should consider a number of key factors, and chief among them are brand reputation, supplier's expertise, site parameters and the customer's financial situation.

According to Lee Vine MD of IPR, site-specific conditions, such as volume of water to be pumped and the rate at which it accumulates, will inform parameters such as head (the height at which a pump can raise the fluid up) and flow (the amount of water the pump can move at a given time) which, in turn, determine the size and type of pump or pumps required.

Dealing with a supplier that can offer a wide range of choices means that operations can get all their dewatering pump needs from one place. For example, IPR offers both diesel-driven and submersible dewatering pumps. Designed to be fully submerged in water during operation, submersible pumps are ideal for operations where continuous dewatering is required. IPR's self-priming diesel driven pump sets are suitable for dewatering applications where power is not readily available.

In addition, says Vine, rental costs can be classified as operational expenses and this is especially important where dewatering is a critical necessity, yet there is no capex available. In a scenario where the project is long-term and capital is available, outright purchase makes sense. 🌟

DOPPIATRAC DR400

The DoppiaTrac DR400 is a track-mounted self-driven, feeding, crushing and stockpiling machine, that is purpose-engineered to tackle medium to hard bituminous coal applications. This innovative crushing solution, manufactured by Pilot Crushtec, features a custom-designed 3636 double drum roll and has been making its mark on coal operations where it has established a reputation for superior performance and efficiency.

Capable of processing feed sizes up to 180 mm, the DoppiaTrac DR400 guarantees precise product sizing in a single pass, delivering material as small as 35 mm without the need for additional screening.

This fully mobile crusher is designed for ease of transport and quick setup, making it a highly flexible solution for site operations. It can operate independently when loaded by front-end loaders or can be integrated seamlessly into a crushing train, allowing communication between upstream and downstream equipment for optimal performance.

The DoppiaTrac DR400 features a heavy-duty belt feed hopper with a capacity of approximately 6 m³. It is equipped with a low-level drop-down rear feed flap

and can be fed from the side by a front-end loader or from the rear by a primary mobile crusher.

One of the standout features of the DoppiaTrac DR400 is its tailored double-roll crushing action, designed to minimise fines. Unlike impact crushers that produce excess fines through high-energy impact, the double-roll crusher maintains a constant gap, using only the necessary energy to break material down to the desired size.

The machine is equipped with a 1,2 m wide conveyor belt, designed for hydraulic folding during transport and offering a stockpile height of up to 3,7 m, providing ample capacity for coal stockpiling. 🌟



Custom chutes show their mettle with abrasive ore



With most of its 5 000-strong global footprint of transfer chutes being installed in Southern Africa, Johannesburg-based Weba Chute Systems has built a reputation in demanding mining conditions.

The region is a leading producer of platinum and manganese, for instance, which are both highly abrasive ores, points out Dewald Tintinger, Technical Manager at Weba Chute Systems. The company's innovative approach and customised designs control material flow and resist wear, matching specific site conditions.

He highlights that Weba Chute Systems takes a systematic approach to assessing each customer's requirements, starting with the general arrangement of the area around transfer points. The depth of experience accumulated over 40 years in business allows the company's experts to suggest improvements to the layout – where these are possible and where they affect the chute performance.

The design is built on scientific calculations using the anticipated trajectories, impacts and pressures on the structure. The main conceptual options are the Weba's Cascade Chute with dead boxes, the Weba Superflow chute with liners or a combination of both.

"A key element of our popular Cascade Chute is the use of dead boxes and lips on the inside of the structure, which traps material and allows other material to flow over it," says Tintinger.

As material enters the chute and flows through, it lands mainly on other material which absorbs the impact more effectively, protecting the underlying wear plates and structure from undue damage. This also reduces dust creation, he notes, which is an ongoing health and safety concern on mines.

"Controlling material flow through the right chute design also protects costly equipment like conveyor belts," he says. 🌟

SafeGauge solutions from Booyco Electronics enhance safety for heavy equipment operators

The strategic partnership between Booyco Electronics, a leader in proximity detection systems and safety solutions, and SafeGauge offers owners and operators of large mining, construction, forestry, agriculture and earthmoving equipment access to advanced wireless diagnostic tools designed to enhance safety and operational efficiency.

SafeGauge technology is renowned for enabling remote monitoring and testing of critical systems on heavy machinery without exposing workers to the dangerous conditions typically associated with live testing and equipment maintenance. Louis Venter, Area Sales Manager at Booyco Electronics, says that by allowing artisans to conduct tests and gather real-time data remotely, SafeGauge eliminates the need for workers to be in close proximity (line of fire) to large machines during potentially hazardous procedures. This innovation significantly reduces the risk of injury,

creating a safer work environment across operations.

The SafeGauge range of equipment includes various specialised tools designed for different measurement needs. The PT (Pressure Transducer) Series is used to measure pressures in hydraulic and pneumatic systems, while the DI (Dial Indicator) Series is designed for measuring clearance, tolerance and wear on machine components. The TM (Tacho Meter) Series measures fan speeds and other rotating components, the LD (Laser Displacement) Series tracks wear on moving parts and the PR (Push Rod) Series is used to measure displacement between two fixed points.

Venter says that one of the most prominent benefits of SafeGauge equipment is the enhancement of artisan safety.

"For businesses in mining, construction, forestry, agriculture and earthmoving, where operational continuity is crucial, SafeGauge's ability to deliver timely diagnostics and maintenance insights is invaluable. It allows maintenance teams to perform their duties more effectively, ensuring equipment remains in optimal condition," Venter says. 🌟

ALCO-SAFE EXPANDS BREATHALYSER OFFERINGS WITH LION 900 FROM LION LABORATORIES

ALCO-Safe, a leading provider of alcohol testing solutions, is pleased to announce the addition of the LION 900 breathalyser to its product line. Developed by LION Laboratories, the LION 900 is a cutting-edge handheld device designed for fast, accurate, and on-the-spot determination of a subject's breath alcohol concentration level.

Unmatched accuracy and stability

The LION 900 features a revolutionary electrochemical fuel cell sensor that delivers exceptional accuracy and stability in delivering reliable breath alcohol readings. This translates to consistent readings and confident decision-making in safety-critical situations, which ensures legal defensibility in court through adherence to strict standards and reduces long-term costs by minimising calibration needs and extending sensor lifespan.

"The LION 900 represents a significant leap forward in breathalyser technology. Its exceptional accuracy, advanced connectivity features, cloud-based app integration with industry-leading compliance certifications, and future-proof design make it an invaluable tool for a wide range of applications," notes Rhys Evans, Managing Director of ALCO-Safe.

Enhanced functionality with seamless connectivity and cloud integration

The LION 900 goes beyond basic breath alcohol testing. Bluetooth connectivity allows for effortless connection to various devices like printers, PCs, or mobile phones. GPS technology provides pinpoint location data for each test, ensuring transparency and detailed record-keeping. Test data can be uploaded to a secure, cloud-based app, enabling:

- **Centralised data management:** Access and manage all test results from a single location.
- **Customisable reporting:** Generate reports tailored to your specific needs.
- **Actionable insights:** Gain valuable insights into testing trends and identify potential areas of concern.

White-label cloud app for increased customisation

ALCO-Safe takes data management a step further with a unique white-labelling opportunity. The cloud-based app can be customised to a company's branding, allowing companies to develop specific features and functionalities to meet their needs, depending on the use case.



Industry-leading compliance for evidentiary reliability

The LION 900 is certified to EN 15964, the European standard for evidential breathalysers. This rigorous certification ensures the device meets the strictest requirements for accuracy, reliability, and tamper-proof operation. Additionally, the LION 900 boasts an IP54 rating, signifying its resistance to dust and water ingress. These certifications solidify the LION 900's role in legal proceedings, and in the event of a dismissal hearing due to alleged alcohol use, the integrity of a breath test conducted with the LION 900 will be tough to dispute.

Future-proof design

The LION 900 is built for the future. Its powerful processor paves the way for ongoing software updates, introducing new features and functionalities over time. This ensures the breathalyser remains at the forefront of technological advancements, ensuring the longevity and relevance of the device long after purchase.

Immense benefits across multiple industries

The LION 900 caters to various industries

with its unique features:

- **Transportation:** Companies with mobile workforces can leverage the app to track testing completion, location data, and generate reports for improved safety compliance.
- **Manufacturing:** Multi-site operations can monitor testing frequency, identify areas requiring additional focus, and generate custom reports for informed decision-making. The white-label functionality can further enhance internal processes.
- **Law Enforcement:** Improved roadside testing efficiency with location verification, and streamlined data management via the cloud app, which has the potential to reduce corruption and the possibility of accepting bribes at roadblocks.

"We are particularly excited about the potential of the LION 900 to empower businesses with the data and insights they need to make informed decisions about workplace safety. The cloud-based app and customisable reporting features are game-changers in this regard," concludes Evans. 🌟



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