

Construction WORLD



**Why renting a concrete
PUMP MAKES SENSE**

**The factors driving
ADMIXTURE DEMAND**

**Why mental
health advocacy in
the workplace is
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ON THE COVER

After a decade of lean times and stringent economising, the outlook for contractors is looking brighter – requiring partners who will support their ramp-up into more and larger projects. According to Amit Dawneerangen, AfriSam Construction Materials Executive: Sales and Product Technical, there are signs that the construction sector could look forward to better times. “Like everyone in the industry, AfriSam has had to adjust to the difficult conditions, but we have maintained our commitment to quality in everything that we do,” he explains.

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There is some good news for the construction industry: in the fourth quarter of 2024 the Afrimat Construction Index improved for the third quarter in succession. This is the first time since before the Covid-pandemic that there have been three quarters of successive improvement.



Various factors have led to this, primary among these is the lowering of the repo rate. Five out of the 10 constituent indicators that make up the index had increases (year-on-year).

Even though there may have been an overall increase, the real value of construction works still remain out in the cold and had a contraction of 3,4% in real terms.

The value of building plans passed by metros and municipalities had an increase by 6,8% year on year, while the value of building materials increased by 6,7% and the value of building plans by 5,4%.

Construction is a labour intensive industry and one of the biggest employers in a country with high unemployment. Employment in this industry rose by 2,8%. The final constituent indicator, wholesale

trade sale of construction materials increased by 2,5%.

The performance of the construction industry was negatively impacted by higher interest rates.

A positive is that inflation is now under control which has led to lower producer prices. This combines with declines in oil prices and a resilient rand (despite the American factor) to bode well for further rate cuts as the year unfolds.

Maybe the best news from the ACI is the fact that the construction sector which employed 1,5 million people at its height in 2018, has now returned to the pre-Covid level and employs 1,35 million people.

In this issue

For this issue with its focus on construction materials, I spoke to Sibusiso Hlatshwayo, Managing

Director of Chryso Southern Africa about how the demand for admixtures has evolved for the different disciplines in the built environment and what the trends are that drive this demand. Read the article on page 16.

On page 22 we publish an article on the positive economic shifts there have been in the South African economy. Despite ongoing challenges in the construction sector, South Africa's economic outlook is showing encouraging signs of improvement. This was one of the key messages at AfriSam's Annual Budget Breakdown event held in Johannesburg in February 2025, where Dr Azar Jammine, Econometrix Director and Chief Economist, highlighted a renewed sense of business confidence.

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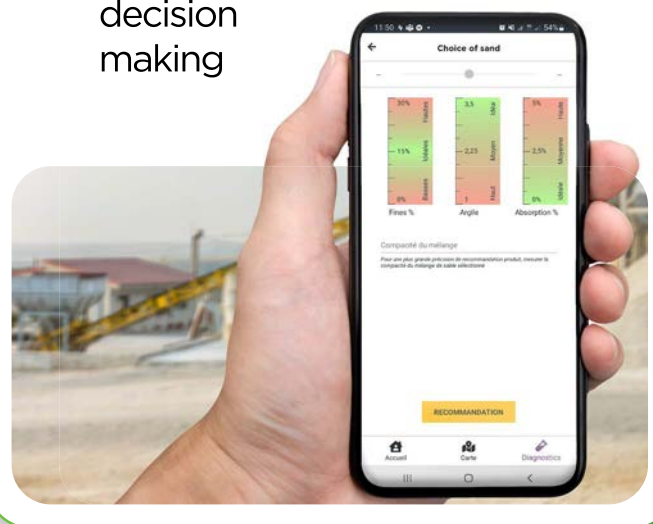
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A BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH

As organisations enter the new year, many are refreshing strategies and refining goals amidst a rapidly changing landscape. About 80% of companies consider change part of their long-term vision and 100% of C-suite executives anticipate workforce transformation – yet only 30% feel confident in their ability to manage change. By Vanisha Balgobind, Talent & Organisation lead for Accenture, Africa

African organisations have faced an increasingly volatile political, economic, and social landscape for the past decade. This environment will become more turbulent, requiring more sophisticated tools to turn the fear of change into growth opportunities for organisations and their people.

Individually we often enter a new year with a new mindset, setting intentions and resolutions for personal growth. The familiar fizzle of these resolutions leads to disappointment and, over time, a defeated return to square one. This cycle repeats until we grasp the importance of concrete, measurable steps to see our plans through and ensure change sticks. The same lesson is true for your business. Accenture's latest report titled "Change Reinvented" provides a blueprint for lasting change with actionable steps and innovative approaches detailed in the Change Capability Quotient (CCQ).

The CCQ enables organisations to embrace change as a core capability, transforming them into agile, resilient entities. By embedding change into their culture and aligning it with purpose and values, leaders can inspire their teams and drive meaningful transformation. It applies a goal-oriented approach to organisational transformation, making change more measurable, actionable, and aligned with outcomes. Most importantly, it's people-centric, informed by the understanding that talent is the backbone of your organisation and a valuable source of insight into its operations. Organisations with a high CCQ consistently outperform their competitors, achieving stronger financial performance, better employee outcomes, and faster, more successful transformations. So how do they do it? They've laid a solid foundation for success across all six capabilities outlined in the CCQ.

Effective change efforts are built on two core pillars, each detailing key capabilities. The first pillar focuses on foundational capabilities that drive success. The second pillar, Innovations, builds on these foundations, offering a comprehensive strategy to guide organisations toward successful transformation.

First, let's tackle the foundations: linking change to purpose, clearly defining value, and creating new experiences. Leading organisations inspire employees by communicating a clear purpose and vision for change, fostering open dialogue with two-way communication, and addressing concerns to build an inclusive culture.

They set clear goals and align them with individual growth aspirations, measuring progress, and prioritising investments in people and technology to drive value. By

embracing modern technologies and fostering continuous learning through upskilling and mentorship, these organisations enhance employee experiences, encourage ownership of change, and create a culture of growth where individuals feel supported and empowered to drive transformation.

The second pillar, Innovations, unpacks how behavioural science and AI, data-driven insights, and growing networks of influencers transform how organisations manage change. Generative AI and advanced analytics enable organisations to measure outcomes like engagement and program effectiveness, fostering psychological safety, resilience, and continuous improvement. By leveraging these tools, leaders can better understand people's motivations, identify barriers, and create personalised strategies that guide individuals toward positive actions. These innovations move beyond collecting data to driving meaningful, outcome-focused transformation. Building networks of trusted influencers – both internal and external – amplifies the impact of change initiatives. Respected employees can function as champions, fostering collaboration and inspiring trust, while external partnerships with stakeholders like customers and suppliers encourage innovation and break down silos.

Foundations and innovations work together to form an ecosystem that fosters growth and positive change in the workforce. Strong leadership is crucial to ensure that this ecosystem thrives. Executives must have a sharp vision for the future and ensure that this shapes their strategy. They must serve as role models, foster the right mindsets, embrace new behaviours, and leverage formal and informal networks to drive cultural alignment. Success lies in building the capabilities and characteristics needed to navigate barriers and articulate an unobstructed vision for the future.

Change is not just about streamlining organisational processes and leveraging innovative technologies to increase profit. Lasting change comes from using real-time data to drive a holistic approach, centring employees in these processes and supporting their individual growth, learning and overall well-being. It means unlocking new ways of creating better employee experiences and integrating these into the fabric of your organisational structure. A new year means embracing the possibility of continuous change. The CCQ takes your organisation from insight to action, equipping your organisation with the tools to successfully navigate a rapidly changing world. ☺

Why mental health advocacy **IN THE WORKPLACE IS VITAL**

In the construction industry, where high-pressure environments are the norm, mental health often takes a backseat to safety and productivity. However, the mental wellbeing of employees is critical to their performance and, ultimately, project success. Recognising these challenges, GVK-Siya Zama has taken proactive measures to equip workers with the tools to not only excel physically, but also maintain their emotional and psychological wellbeing.



In an endeavour to deepen the understanding of mental health issues among employees, equip HR practitioners with essential skills to identify red flags, create a culture of seeking help, and develop proactive strategies to support employee wellbeing, GVK recently conducted a comprehensive HR workshop focused on these issues.

During the workshop facilitated by an experienced industrial psychologist, the HR team meticulously examined common assumptions surrounding mental health and developed a framework for both proactive and reactive interventions tailored to meet the needs of not only the organisation, but also its valued employees.

A key takeaway from the session was the critical emphasis on confidentiality and trust, reinforcing the company's duty of care and pledge to maintain open communication even during challenging times.

"Recognising that workplace culture significantly affects employee wellbeing is paramount," says Amelia Keefer, Group Marketing and HR Executive. "We are committed to creating an environment in which mental health is respected, and employees feel safe to express their concerns and seek support."

Addressing mental health challenges

The South Africa's construction industry faces high rates of mental ill-health, including depression, anxiety and suicide, exceeding the general population. Despite these challenges, mental health remains largely unaddressed, with a primary focus on physical safety.

Professor John Smallwood, from the Department of Construction Management at Nelson Mandela University, has

said that, while the causes are complex, stressors within and outside of the workplace, including organisational culture, work demands, financial insecurity, and personal issues, contribute significantly.

"Addressing these requires a cultural shift and collaborative effort," he says. "Potential solutions include mental health literacy programmes, toolbox talks, employee assistance programmes, wellness days, financial management programmes, and even confidential mental health hotlines. Early identification of stressors and increased awareness are crucial for intervention and support," he added.

Added to this, the alarming statistics from the recent Gallup State of the Global Workplace: 2024 Report conveyed that 20% of employees experience loneliness daily – especially among those under the age of 35 – and that 15% of workers are disengaged, with a significant portion experiencing high stress levels.

In South Africa, findings from the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) Working Life Survey indicated that 52% of employees have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, which highlights a pressing need for more awareness and support within the workplace.

With this in mind, GVK took action to try to address these issues in the workshop. "Given the current mental health crisis in South Africa, it is essential that organisations like ours take proactive steps to support their employees," says Keefer. "Too many individuals are suffering in silence, and we aim to combat this by ensuring that our HR practitioners are well-equipped to identify issues and provide meaningful resources."

Building a supportive workplace culture

Collaboration during the workshop produced practical strategies to better equip team leaders to recognise mental health issues and fulfil their duty of care towards employees. Participants were introduced to a wide array of resources and training to guide them on how to address varied human conditions, ensuring that their teams can respond effectively to the emotional needs of employees.

"By prioritising mental health and wellbeing, we can nurture a more engaged and productive workforce," says Keefer. "Our team is dedicated to ensuring that our employees feel supported, understood and valued."

Going forward, GVK's HR team plans to continue its commitment to mental health advocacy through ongoing training sessions, regular assessment of workplace culture, and the incorporation of mental health policies that reflect and promote the wellbeing of all employees. ☺

GIFA and Baker Baynes **SIGN LANDMARK MOU**

The Gauteng Institute for Architecture (GIFA) and Baker Baynes have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen collaboration in driving digital transformation within the architecture and engineering industries. This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in fostering innovation, knowledge sharing, and technological adoption among professionals in the built environment.

The agreement between GIFA, a leading professional organisation representing architects in Gauteng, and Baker Baynes, a trusted technology partner specialising in Autodesk solutions and Specialised Consulting Services, lays the groundwork for collaborative initiatives to empower industry professionals with cutting-edge tools and training insights.

Key objectives of the MOU

- **Promoting Digital Adoption:** Both parties will work together to enhance the adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM) and other digital design methodologies among architects and engineers.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Through workshops, seminars, and training programmes, professionals will gain hands-on experience in utilising advanced design and collaboration software.
- **Industry Engagement and Knowledge Sharing:** The partnership will facilitate networking opportunities and thought leadership discussions to address industry challenges and opportunities.
- **Enhancing Project Efficiencies:** By leveraging digital

workflows, architects and engineers can streamline their design and project execution processes, improving overall efficiency and sustainability.

In addition to the MOU, Baker Baynes is proud to be a Business Affiliate member of GIFA, further strengthening the relationship between the two organisations. As a Business Affiliate, Baker Baynes will enjoy enhanced visibility and engagement opportunities within the architectural community. Richard Smedley-Williams, CEO of Baker Baynes, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership: “We are thrilled to collaborate with GIFA to support their members in advancing their digital transformation and design technology skills. This initiative aligns with our mission to solve our customers’ problems, helping them design and make a better world. We look forward to working closely with GIFA to deliver exceptional value to their membership base.”

Louda van der Merwe, Executive Manager at GIFA, added: “GIFA values business affiliates like Baker Baynes for their expertise and innovation, empowering our members with the tools and knowledge to excel in architecture.” ☺

SA takes over Presidency of the Federation of **AFRICA ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS**

South Africa, represented by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), was officially inaugurated into the presidency of the Federation of African Engineering Organisations (FAEO) from 2025-2026.

The prestigious event was held at Boipuso Hall in Gaborone, Botswana and attended by the government of Botswana including the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Minister of Water and Human Settlement, Assistant Ministers, Presidents and representatives of African engineering regulatory bodies as well as delegates representing the profession from across Africa.

The presidency marks a milestone for the country and engineering fraternity in Africa as it envisions a future where engineering is used to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life in Africa.

The Engineering Council of South Africa will have the ECSA 6th Term Council President Eng. Refilwe Buthelezi Pr. Eng take on the role of the 7th FAEO President. Her appointment solidifies South Africa’s continued leadership within FAEO and reaffirms ECSA’s commitment to fostering excellence in engineering across the continent.

Handing over the reins to Eng. Buthelezi, the outgoing FAEO President Eng. Papias Dedeki, said “Our journey as FAEO has not been without challenges –

policy misalignment, disparities in accreditation, and infrastructure, financing gaps. But through innovation, strategic partnerships and unwavering commitment, we turned these obstacles into stepping stones for progress”.

“A key lesson I leave you with, is this: Africa’s engineering solutions must be homegrown, yet globally competitive. Initiatives such as Multidisciplinary Coalition of Professionals, Collaborative Engineering, Innovation Bandoxes as well as Engineering Accreditation Framework, I believe will shape Africa’s engineering future” added Eng. Dedeki.

To conclude he said, “As I pass the baton to the new President, I do so with confidence and optimism. I have no doubt that under her leadership, FAEO will continue to soar to greater heights.

Reflecting on her appointment, Eng. Buthelezi noted, “Today, I stand before you with immense gratitude, yet a deep awareness of the responsibility entrusted to me as I lead the Federation of African Engineering Organisations into its next chapter.” ☺

Public Works Minister calls **FOR ENGINEERS TO RETURN HOME**

At the heart of this year's Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) Infrastructure Indaba is a powerful call to action: bring South Africa's engineers back home to contribute to our nation's growth.



The CESA Infrastructure Indaba was held at the Indaba Hotel in Fourways, Johannesburg. With the theme, "Engineering the Future We Want: Mobilising for Sustainable Development," the Indaba set the stage for action-oriented discussions aimed at advancing South Africa's infrastructure through collaboration, innovation, and strategic investment.

Highlighting the critical need for skilled professionals in the country, the Honourable Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, made an impassioned plea for engineers working abroad to return and play a role in rebuilding South Africa. "Engineers are the midwives of construction in SA. I want engineers to come back to South Africa and contribute to our projects."

CESA CEO Chris Campbell added, "The Indaba is not just a talk shop; it is a platform for action. We need to ensure that our engineers feel valued, have opportunities for growth, and are empowered to drive meaningful change in South Africa."

Further, Minister Macpherson, speaking on the importance of restoring confidence in the infrastructure sector, remarked: "A key indicator of success would be seeing the stock prices of the Big 5 construction companies returning to their previous levels. We want the construction industry to thrive and become a cornerstone of employment in South Africa. Our goal is to revitalise existing construction companies and foster the emergence of new ones, which will lead to more engineers being employed across the nation."

Minister Macpherson also emphasised that the time for action is now: "The time for talk is over; now is the time for action. We have the plans in place and are implementing the difficult decisions necessary to turn South Africa into a thriving 'construction site'," he declared.

He emphasised the critical role of partnerships between government and the private sector, stating, "We will never achieve our infrastructure goals unless we partner with experts in the private sector - the key to unlocking our economic potential."

CESA President David Leukes concurred: "Collaboration is the backbone of sustainable development. By working together across disciplines and sectors, we can ensure that our infrastructure is not only resilient and future-ready but also inclusive and transformative. This Indaba is about mobilisation and action. It's about moving from plans and policies to implementation, from ideas to impact," Leukes remarked. He urged stakeholders to ensure investments translate into real progress.

Further, Annabel Bishop, Chief Economist at Investec, also provided insights into South Africa's economic outlook, stating: "We expect the first interest rate cut this year, after January's in July, with another possible cut later in the year. A lot depends on what the Reserve Bank anticipates and what happens in international markets."

"The ultimate goal is to accelerate inclusive economic growth and boost the employment rate. Last year, business confidence was not in a good space, but now, with private sector investment accounting for 74% of fixed investment, there is real hope for improvement."

"If we achieve operational improvements and swiftly mobilise private sector investment, we could see GDP growth reach 3,3% by the end of 2025. This would provide a crucial uplift from the baseline. Higher taxes are not the solution for funding problems in South Africa; in fact, they have weakened the economy. Cutting back on non-critical expenditure is key," Bishop added. ☺

INACCURATE QUOTING EATS INTO MEAGRE CONSTRUCTION PROFITS

Poor quoting practices and guesswork are eating into construction contractor profits and potentially leading to inferior construction and negative customer experience.



Graham Alexander, Founder and Director at buildaid.co.za.

This is according to Graham Alexander, Founder and Director at buildaid.co.za, who recently presented a workshop on 'How to Quote' for members of the Master Builders' Association (MBA) North.

Alexander says it is estimated that contractors underquote by between 15 and 17% - often through no fault of their own.

"They may be given a set of complicated drawings and based on those, they have to estimate everything - the bricks, the paint, the nails - and the costs involved. It's a huge task, which in the formal sector is usually carried out by the quantity surveyor. But in the residential market, the homeowner is in charge and they're reluctant to pay a quantity surveying fee," he says. "Low cost residential plans don't include all the information required to quote accurately. This lack of information also stems from the architect or the architectural professional not being employed correctly.

"Homeowners tend to opt for the cheapest architectural service, so they don't receive plans with 3D Building Information Modelling that capture all the resources and quantities that contractors need to know about so they can drive those through price buildups - for example a square metre of brickwork including materials and labour."

Alexander says: "On the average plan in South Africa, 60% of the information you need to quote is not on the plan. Such as what kind of paint, what kind of ceilings, door handles, bathroomware. When the contractor looks at a drawing and starts asking these questions, they realise there's no information there. It's a miracle how they come

back with a quote. Many resort to a flat per square metre rate and quote, so it's guesswork. There is no such thing as a standard building rate per square metre, because every building is different, with different dimensions and finishes. Sometimes contractors make a profit, sometimes they don't.

"The unfortunate thing is that because they're working fairly blindly, they'll get into the project, maybe get the brickwork up, and suddenly realize they're going to lose money. Then they might use substandard materials or leave things out, so it affects quality. Or it can mean that the whole project stops, professionals are not paid, and the builder goes bankrupt. The bank might have to put in more money reluctantly to the home loan. But if they go about it properly, and that's what our training is about, this doesn't have to happen."

Getting it right

BuildAid's highly popular courses on quoting have been presented multiple times, to help contractors get to grips with building costs, stakeholders involved in a building project, information and documents required to quote accurately, understanding cost/price categories, the order/process of construction and common categories, rules when quoting, obtaining quantities, information and prices and preparing and submitting a quotation.

"If you're going to quote properly, it needs to be quick, it needs to be accurate and it needs to be consistent."

Alexander notes: "We give the contractor tools and formulas that they could use to get a pretty accurate estimate together in under two hours, although they will have to wait for quotes from different people like roof and window suppliers. Most major suppliers are happy to provide a full quote for all the materials required or even the complete installed system, if the contractor sends them the plans. So the contractor doesn't even have to worry about measuring the roof - they just send the plans to a trusted and reputable supplier in their network."

Alexander believes proper training is necessary for all stakeholders in the building process - from architects to homeowners. "If you don't go about it the right way, you're just heading for disaster. We offer training to enlighten homeowners, architects, manufacturers and suppliers, as well as building contractors."

BuildAid has also offered a quantity surveying service to builders for 35 years, working on thousands of projects. The organisation also prints books on how to price projects and plans to offer video tutorials for stakeholders.

Amisha Chunderduth, Marketing and Business Development Manager at MBA North says: "We offer courses such as these to help our members operate more efficiently and sustainably, with a view to empowering our sector.

"MBA members attending earlier courses have commented that the courses are very informative, and that they will apply their new knowledge to improve their quoting skills." ©

HYBRID WORK: HOW TO KEEP IT HUMAN

While hybrid work and digital transformation have yielded visible benefits for many companies, it has also brought challenges, especially in respect of effective knowledge-sharing and innovation amongst team members, writes Phyllis Ndlovu, Founder and CEO of Kisima Psychological Services.

One of the benefits of remote work is the ability to save on commute time and minimise the physical and mental strain that comes from travelling on the country's busy roads. Another benefit is being able to focus on work more effectively.

That said, innovation and information-sharing within a team rely on team cohesion, with employees feeling included in the life of the team. In other words, the extent to which employees and teams experience inclusion in the life of the organisation tends to lead to a greater sense of psychological safety.

Psychological safety refers to employees – at individual and team levels – feeling comfortable to share their views and take risks to be innovative without the fear of negative consequences.

When team members don't share the same physical space regularly, inclusivity is compromised. This is because they don't necessarily feel included in team decisions, and the reasons for those decisions. This can ultimately lead to disengagement.

When a hybrid way of working is not regulated properly, some employees may start to feel like they are outsiders in their teams.

The challenge for corporate leaders is to create an inclusive work environment, even when employees are not regularly in the same physical space. So, how do they go about this?

Here, we can look to neuroscience for some answers. Firstly, for a team to be productive, neuroscience suggests they must share a sense of belonging: people need to feel like they are on the same page and that they are doing meaningful work together. When there is a sense of belonging, the brain produces the feel-good hormone, dopamine.

Secondly, a sense of belonging provides the opportunity for trust-building and when there is trust, the brain releases oxytocin, colloquially referred to as the trust hormone. When these two hormones are present, they create psychological safety and promote inclusivity. This context correlates favourably with enhanced levels of productivity.

But, how can this sense of belonging and psychological safety be nurtured when a hybrid work model has been adopted by the business?

One of the first steps business leaders need to take is to create agreed upon rules of engagement, starting with establishing a pattern for being at the office.

Often it's a case of "we don't mind on which days you come into the office (i.e. team autonomy), but it must be three times a week (i.e. establishing non-negotiable boundaries)." Importantly, teams need to agree on one day where all employees are physically in the



Phyllis Ndlovu, Founder and CEO of Kisima Psychological Services.

same space together – to be able to brainstorm, collaborate and innovate together.

Another rule of engagement relates to cameras. It is best practice that when team members are not in the office, they should have their cameras on during meetings (at least for the first 15 minutes). The reason for cameras being on is that they help to mimic the reality of being in a shared space. They allow us to pick up on non-verbal cues and respond appropriately. This contributes to higher levels of engagement.

The leader's role in this is crucial. Research has shown that effective leaders have well developed emotional intelligence (EQ), among other attributes. EQ is about adequate self-management and self-regulation while also "reading the proverbial room" in order to respond as his/her best self in various situations.

Leaders' EQ is also about having a healthy balance between task-focus and relationship-focus when they lead their teams towards organisational goals. Leaders with well-developed EQ are more likely to be intentional about creating an inclusive environment.

The rules of engagement combined with an inclusive leadership demeanour will help develop boundaries and certainty for team members. This will, in turn, ensure employees feel more engaged and included in a digitally transforming world, which can otherwise lead to disengagement and a sense of alienation. ☺

The challenge for corporate leaders is to create an inclusive work environment, even when employees are not regularly in the same physical space.

JG Afrika announces NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

JG Afrika, a proudly South African multi-disciplinary engineering and environmental sciences consultancy with over a century of excellence, has appointed Phakamile Ngqumshe as its new Managing Director (MD). Ngqumshe succeeds Paul Olivier, who dedicated 40 years of loyal service to the firm. Having joined JG Afrika as a bursary student in the early 90s, Ngqumshe has also been with the company for over 30 years.



With more than a decade of experience managing JG Afrika's operations across four provinces as Regional Director (Northern Region) and Johannesburg Branch Manager, Ngqumshe is well-positioned to lead the firm into its next phase of growth. The Northern Region market has continued to flourish under his leadership, and he now takes on the broader responsibility of overall company management, overseeing staff well-being from shareholders to support staff.

"I feel both honoured and humbled by this appointment," says Ngqumshe. "This is because I am stepping into the shoes of my predecessors whom I hold in high esteem. I deeply appreciate the trust the JG Afrika Partners have placed in me, and I will uphold the firm's tradition of excellence with a strong sense of responsibility."

A commitment to excellence

Under Ngqumshe's leadership, JG Afrika will continue its ethos of striving to be the best rather than the biggest. He is committed to raising the already high benchmark for quality

engineering and environmental science solutions across the firm's diverse markets.

"Our strength lies in the passion and expertise of our people," he explains. "JG Afrika has always been a place where professionals can upskill and collaborate with seasoned experts. Continuous improvement is at the heart of our culture, and I am confident that our team will continue to push the boundaries of excellence."

Ngqumshe's leadership style is defined by decisiveness and inclusivity. While he acknowledges that not all decisions will be universally popular, he emphasises the importance of strategic alignment. "Once a decision is made, it is vital for everyone to pull in the same direction. In time, even initially unconvinced colleagues often recognise the rationale behind seemingly tough choices," he notes.

Nurturing a strong workplace culture

Recognising the value of JG Afrika's people, Ngqumshe is committed to fostering an environment where employees feel valued and motivated. He believes that when team members take pride in their work and align with the company's vision, they contribute meaningfully to its success.

"As a provider of professional services, it is crucial that every employee understands their role in driving profitability and mitigating risk. A clear sense of purpose enhances efficiency and enables us to meet our targets," he says.

JG Afrika's strong workplace culture, where staff view their colleagues as a 'work family', will continue to be a cornerstone of the company. "Our offices are professional yet positive' spaces where respect, knowledge-sharing, and teamwork thrive. A cohesive team culture is essential for productivity and to foster a culture of innovation."

Driving innovation and sustainability

Innovation has long been a defining feature of JG Afrika's service offering. As Ngqumshe highlights, the firm is deeply invested in developing sustainable solutions that help both public and private sector clients operate efficiently while minimising environmental impact.

Investment in digitalisation is another priority. JG Afrika has significantly upgraded its IT infrastructure to stay ahead in an increasingly technology-driven world. The company is closely monitoring the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI)

and machine learning, recognising their potential to enhance efficiency. However, he is also mindful of the risks posed by automation, particularly in an organisation committed to developing young South African engineers and environmental scientists.

“Our firm has a proud history of nurturing talent. Many of our senior professionals have been with us for over 20 years, rising through the ranks to strategic positions. As we embrace new technologies, we must also ensure that we continue to create opportunities for young professionals to thrive,” he adds.

Expanding horizons: local and global opportunities

While JG Afrika continues to strengthen its presence in South Africa, Ngqumshe sees vast potential for expanding the firm’s footprint beyond Africa. Enhanced digital capabilities have opened new markets, and he plans to leverage these tools, along with the company’s vast technical expertise, to drive international growth.

At the same time, he remains deeply invested in the future of South Africa. “It is easy to be discouraged by the challenges our country faces, but for those with a positive outlook, there are always opportunities. The deteriorating state of water and sanitation infrastructure, failing transport networks, and

backlogs in essential services present immense opportunities for innovation. Greater private sector participation (in collaboration with government institutions) in infrastructure development could be a game-changer, and JG Afrika is positioned to play a critical and supportive role in these developments.”

Retaining and developing SA’s engineering talent

A critical challenge that concerns Ngqumshe is the increasing emigration of skilled professionals. “Young engineers and environmental scientists bring fresh perspectives, energy, and a strong grasp of emerging technologies. However, many are drawn abroad by the promise of stability and personal safety. Competing with international firms on these fronts is difficult, but we must find innovative ways to retain and develop local talent.”

As he takes the helm, Ngqumshe remains committed to ensuring JG Afrika’s continued success while fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and collaboration. “This firm has a remarkable legacy, and I am excited to lead it into a new era of growth. With the dedication of our talented team, we will continue to set the standard for engineering and environmental consulting in South Africa and beyond.” ☺

City of Cape Town and SACPCMP partner to drive **CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALISATION**

The drive to professionalise South Africa’s construction industry stepped up a gear as the City of Cape Town signed a partnership agreement with the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) in the Mother City.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was developed between the two entities to support Cape Town in developing the professionalisation of its Built Environment municipal staff so as to deliver the City of Cape Town’s vision. The initiative marks a concrete step towards strengthening good governance and the improvement of service delivery of construction professionals entrusted with shaping the future of South Africa’s cities.

“We are honoured to join the City of Cape Town in a partnership ensuring a workforce of professionals who are equipped with the highest standards of competency, ethical conduct, and technical expertise,” said SACPCMP Registrar, Butcher Matutle, who signed the MOU with City of Cape Town’s Executive Director, Gareth Morgan; Cape Town’s Deputy Mayor, Alderman Eddie Andrews was also in attendance, witnessing the signing of the MOU.

“This partnership comes at a critical juncture in the Built Environment, where the role of skilled, accredited, and continuously developed professionals cannot be overstated. It sets a precedent for other municipalities and government entities to follow, showcasing how collaboration can lead to improved governance, development, and service excellence. We are confident that this will serve as a model for other public and private institutions, throughout the country, seeking to elevate their built environment professionals and drive sustainable urban development,” he emphasised.

Driving Sustainable Development

Key objectives and benefits of the partnership include the driving of sustainable development and best practices, enhancing professionalisation in South Africa with a view to creating pathways for graduates and candidates to contribute meaningfully to industry, as well as ensuring alignment in policies, standards, and practices between the SACPCMP and the City of Cape Town.

Ensure a ‘Living Document’

“We have pledged, as a regulatory authority, the necessary guidance to empower municipal staff to perform their duties with excellence and efficiency. As we embark on this journey together, we recognise that the success of this MOU is not merely in its signing but in its implementation. We must remain diligent in ensuring that the agreed frameworks, policies, and initiatives are carried out effectively,” said Matutle.

“Let us commit ourselves to making this MOU a living document - one that translates into real and measurable progress for our cities, our built environment professionals, and the communities we serve. Together, we will not only build structures, but also a legacy of excellence, integrity, and innovation in the project and construction management professions,” Matutle concluded. ☺



Amit Dawneerangen, AfriSam Construction Materials Executive: Sales & Product Technical.



AFRISAM IS A READY PARTNER FOR CONSTRUCTION RECOVERY

After a decade of lean times and stringent economising, the outlook for contractors is looking brighter – requiring partners who will support their ramp-up into more and larger projects.

According to Amit Dawneerangen, AfriSam Construction Materials Executive: Sales and Product Technical, there are signs that the construction sector could look forward to better times.

“Like everyone in the industry, AfriSam has had to adjust to the difficult conditions, but we have maintained our commitment to quality in everything that we do,” he explains. “This means that we remain a pillar of construction materials expertise, services and supply, and our quality and capability has become even more important now that there is more hope for growth.”

He points out that the real danger of demand cycles in construction is that in a downturn the sector could lose vital capabilities and skills which, in turn, undermines the prospects for recovery when fixed capital investment finally improves. Despite the difficulties of the past 10 years or more, AfriSam has continued to nurture its ability to deliver, he emphasises, while remaining uncompromising on its quality focus.

“At our recent industry event to assess the sector’s performance and prospects, Econometrix Director and Chief

Economist Dr Azar Jammie highlighted certain promising trends,” he says. “These future-looking insights gave some encouragement to those stakeholders present, although he was clear that the current situation remains very challenging.”

In his presentation, Dr Jammie pointed out that government had ambitious ‘infrastructural intentions’ that included more than R1-trillion in public infrastructure expenditure over the next three years. This included over R400-billion for transport and logistics, almost R220-billion for energy infrastructure and R156-billion for water and sanitation.

Importantly for the civil engineering or road building sector, there was an indication that the South African Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) was to spend R100-million over the medium term. SANRAL would also increase the strengthening and improvement of its network from 200 km in 2024/25 to 400 km in 2026/27.

In terms of contracts to keep roads in active resurfacing, there is an increase planned from 950 km in 2024/25 to 2 000 km in 2025/26. There are also plans for provincial roads departments to reseal over 16 000 lane-kilometres of roads.



Quarries and crushing plants are vital resources for infrastructure development.



Road infrastructure projects, such as the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project in 2008, have the potential to reignite the construction industry.



AfriSam is a leader in cement and concrete technology.

“The projects to do this level of work have the potential of reigniting the construction industry, like we saw back in 2008 with the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project and the build up to the FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa,” he says. “This was a buoyant time for contractors and suppliers, and that is the direction in which we would all like to go in the not-too-distant future.”

While Dr Jammine cautioned that many previous infrastructure plans appeared not to have been implemented, he said the establishment of a Government of National Unity (GNU) had raised hopes that there would be more success achieved in coming years.

“We have already seen some exciting road projects underway – on the N3 and N2 highways in KwaZulu-Natal, for instance – where we are pleased to be involved,” says Dawneerangen. “What these projects show, however, is that the large scale infrastructure that the country needs now will require rapid and streamlined roll-out.”

This will, in turn, demand that contractors find reliable partners who can supply not only the requisite volumes of specialised construction materials, but who can ensure unfaltering compliance to customer specifications. To keep transporting costs affordable and carbon emissions low, materials like aggregate and sand also need to be as close as possible to the project site. On the N3 corridor, for example, AfriSam has been supplying roadwork projects from two of its nearby quarries.

“Quarries and crushing plants are vital resources for infrastructure development, but mining rights take time to secure and the necessary equipment demands substantial

investment and maintenance,” says Dawneerangen. “Over the years, AfriSam has been careful to establish a strategic footprint to support customers around the country – and these will be invaluable in responding to the wave of investment for which we hope.”

He notes that even when depressed demand made it unviable to run certain of its quarries and readymix plants, these resources were placed on care-and-maintenance rather than simply being closed or sold. These facilities were carefully nurtured by experienced professionals, for the day that they could be returned to the service of customers and the country, he says.

“As AfriSam has demonstrated in its 90 years of business we apply detailed planning and commitment to retain expertise and capability,” he says. “Wise management has allowed us to maintain the necessary balance sheet from which to leverage our services and products, as every successful economy is built upon quality concrete structures.”

Dawneerangen points to the role that AfriSam plays in augmenting the skills of its customer base, especially as contractors often lose valuable experience in their efforts to stay in business.

“There is a challenge created by many years of contraction and right-sizing in the construction industry – where margins have been trimmed so heavily that companies no longer have the breadth of skills they once had,” he says. “As leaders in cement and concrete technology, AfriSam steps in wherever our customers need us – from the designing and preparing of specialised readymix concrete mixes right through to scheduling advice and assistance.”

As contractors have slimmed down, they have often had to stretch their on-site capabilities too, he says. AfriSam takes a proactive role in engaging with customers on day-to-day matters such as planning and delivery schedules. This assists site staff by adjusting constantly to the work plan so that every delivery is closely monitored and executed.

“Today’s highly competitive environment will become even more intense as work volumes improve, and this means that any mistakes can potentially cost a contractor their profit margin on a project,” he says. “We understand how pressurised a working site can be and we partner closely with customers to ease that burden.”

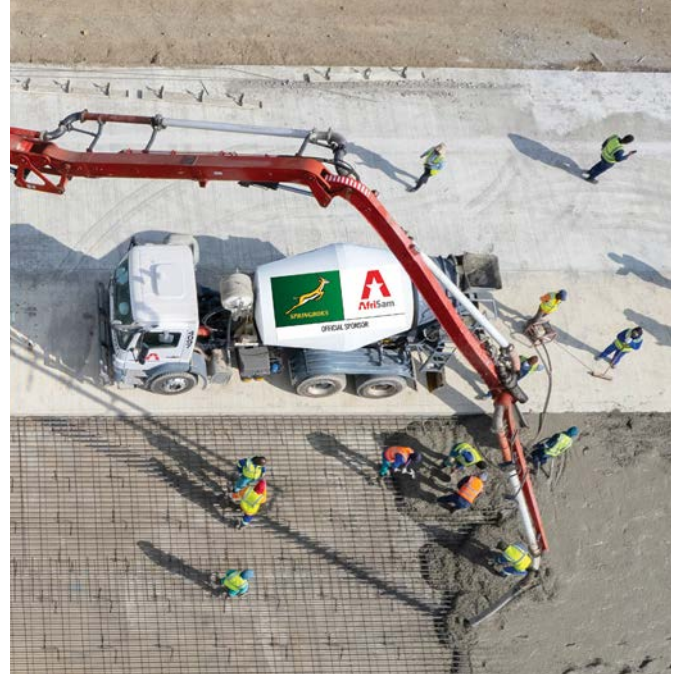
This is achieved through applying sophisticated control and testing systems that ensure quality across all aspects of the customer relationship. This makes for a consistent product that underpins smooth project roll-out, aiming to avoid costly rework, project delays or resulting penalties.

“As AfriSam, we believe that the best value for money is achieved by the end-client when the lifecycle cost of the infrastructure is considered,” says Dawneerangen. “High quality cement, aggregate and other construction materials are at the heart of long-lasting structures.”

He argues that this is the only way to revitalise South Africa’s construction sector, which is also being called on to develop projects in remote regions of the country – far from existing suppliers of construction materials. A number of wind farms – which require large volumes of concrete – have been built many hundreds of kilometres from main centres.

“A key aspect of our future strategy is to secure opportunities in areas where there are no established batch plants, for example,” he says. “Where customers are developing

projects like mines and wind farms in remote areas, we are there to provide a solution. In some instances, a project may warrant dedicated on-site batch plants due to its size and complexity. This is where AfriSam is able to partner with our customers and provide effective solutions.” ©



High quality cement, aggregate and construction materials are at the heart of long-lasting structures.



AfriSam has remained a pillar of construction materials expertise, committed to quality.



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THE FACTORS DRIVING ADMIXTURE DEMAND

Construction World recently spoke to Sibusiso Hlatshwayo, Managing Director of Chryso Southern Africa about how the demand for admixtures has evolved for the different disciplines in the built environment and what the trends are that drive this demand. According to Hlatshwayo, the quest for the built industry to be sustainable is one of the biggest drivers for Chryso which now, after its recent rebranding, has an even stronger sustainability focus than before.

Hlatshwayo says Chryso has seen an increase in the demand for admixtures that differ from market to market while this demand is also at different rates as it is in keeping with the conditions in the market and the demands that clients have for construction.

He says there are three factors influencing the increased need for admixtures: cost, an increased focus on sustainability and changing building needs.

“The industry has been battling and customers have increasingly needed mechanisms that can help them save costs to remain viable. The use of admixtures in concrete mixes

enables the user to manipulate the properties of the mix and this leads to the use of less cement and water,” he says.

The increased need to be viable is now superseded by the need for the built environment to be sustainable. “This shift is coming from our customers who have a requirement for supplementary cementitious materials such as fly ash, slag and LC3 (limestone calcined clay cement) to create green concrete. Chryso’s technology can assist customers in this quest,” says Hlatshwayo.

The change in building methods is a third trend that drives the need for admixtures. “Increasingly, projects use precast



Chryso® Quad harnesses local sand for superior concrete quality amidst complex aggregates.

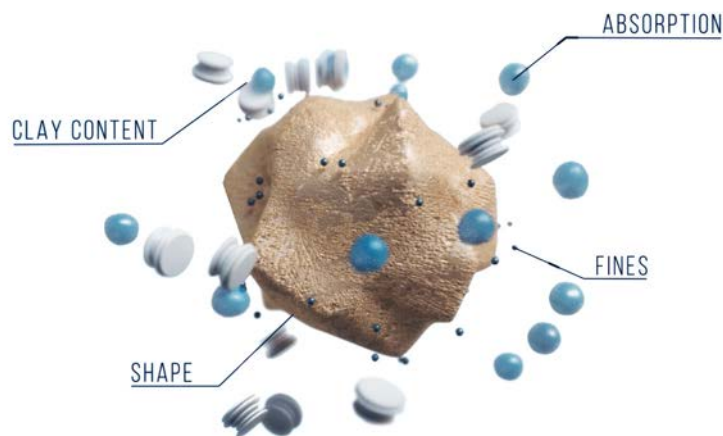
elements such as tilt-up solutions. Casting is not done in situ but at factories and this puts pressure on these facilities and admixtures are required to speed up the process,” he says.

The Chryso chain of process

Hlatshwayo explains that Chryso adapts its admixture solutions to meet the specific needs of different construction and climatic environments. “This speaks to our core business and is why we exist. Structures on the coast, for example, are different from structures being built inland as they are exposed to more chloride attacks from salt and other elements. Our chain of process is to find a solution for a customer. It involves listening to the customers’ needs and understanding the challenges and problems. We collect samples from sites and test these at our R&D laboratory. These are characterised before we test them in application through our applications laboratory,” says Hlatshwayo.

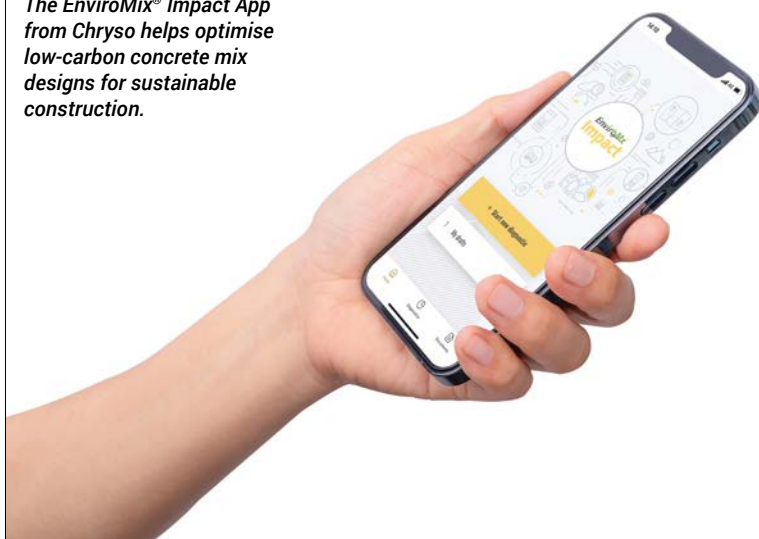
Different options and chemistries are tested for use on the raw materials. “We pre-select three options for pre-trials that will be tested at the location where they will be used,” he says.

“We adapt our offering to the market via this value adding chain that we have built which may also include having one key account for customers who have various sites that require multiple products,” says Hlatshwayo.



Chryso® Quad overcomes the complexities of challenging sands such as clay content, absorption fines and shape to deliver superior concrete quality.

The EnviroMix® Impact App from Chryso helps optimise low-carbon concrete mix designs for sustainable construction.



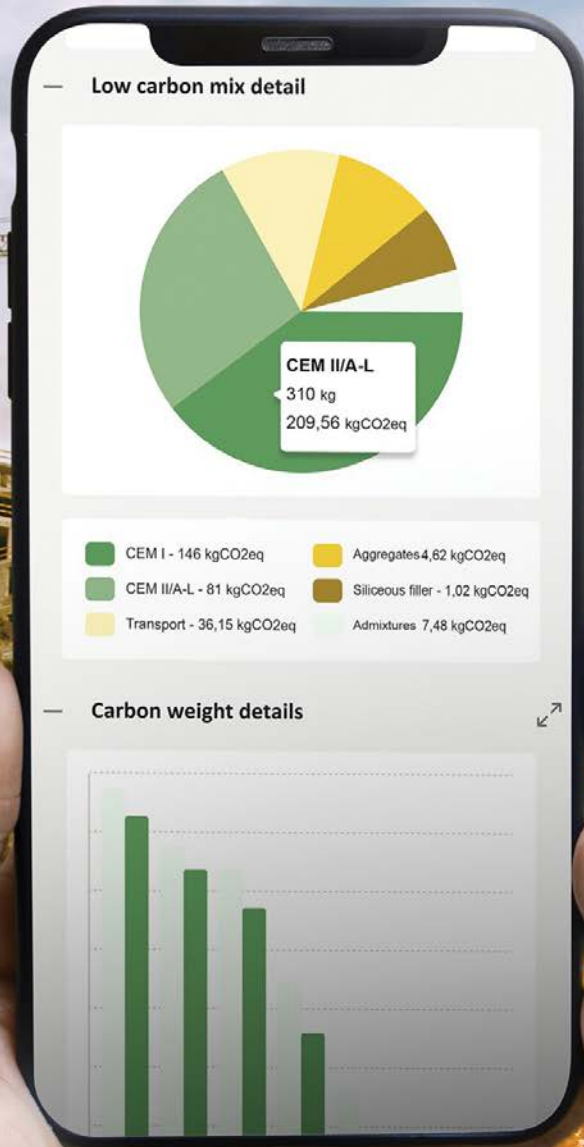
South Africa’s challenges

Hlatshwayo says the diminishing skills base is the biggest challenge faced by construction and civil engineering when using concrete. “There is an increasing shortage of concrete technologists – people that have the skills and experience to understand how to work with concrete. Linked to this is the shortage of young people that enter the industry who can be taught how concrete should be managed,” he says. This means that, even if the best solutions for concrete are created, a lack of knowledge in its application will cause challenges to arise.

Chryso addresses the skills problem with the support of continuous study for employees. “It is part of our strategic imperative to invest in education in terms of concrete technology. We also participate in public programmes such as the YES (Youth Employment Service) initiative where we take in 20 students annually at the Chryso Academy. We have young people in R&D and in our application laboratories who are learning our craft of building materials engineering.”

Hlatshwayo says access to raw supplementary cementitious materials has, in various cases, become difficult. Because of the problems at our power utility, there is an erratic supply of fly ash which has led to an imbalance in the supply and demand for the correct quality of fly ash. “Our customers have been forced to use difficult fly ash in terms of quality and consistency and this may have implications down the line. Power stations are not located at the same coal deposits which means that the qualities of fly ash are not the same. There are also issues around the availability of slag which also has implications down the line,” says Hlatshwayo.

“Without being prompted, we have launched studies of the various fly ash available in the country to enable



us to proactively identify problems. We have done a full characterisation and identified the deficiencies of the available fly ash and which of our technologies can be used to overcome these. This database can assist customers who are forced to use unusual fly ash,” Hlatshwayo explains.

Because aggregate is increasingly mined further away from sites, customers are forced to use difficult aggregates which also poses a challenge.

“When it comes to access to aggregates, we have a solution aimed at this. The Chryso® Quad range is a unique solution for extending the use of complex aggregates while maintaining superior concrete quality. This range has enhanced technology for difficult aggregates (excess fines or the lack of fines). It was specifically designed for aggregates that have deficiencies or pathologies, while this technology can also be used in recycling and can assist with circularity, which is a sustainability objective for Chryso,” says Hlatshwayo.

Admixtures for greener construction

Admixtures increasingly contribute to greener construction as they reduce carbon footprints, enhance durability and enable the use of alternative materials. “Sustainability in the built

environment is the biggest driver for Chryso. Cement is one of the biggest emitters of CO₂ gases and globally there is a drive to reduce the amount of cement that is used. Our admixtures enhance the ability of the customer to reduce water and therefore reduce the use of cement. At the same time, the aim of admixtures is to enhance the properties of the concrete – whether it be flowability, ease of placement, strength development or aesthetics.”

The transition to a low-carbon concrete mix-design is one of the main levers to meet the challenges of sustainable construction. “Towards the end of 2024, Chryso introduced EnviroMix®, a global offer of admixtures and services to optimise the concrete formulation and implementation strategy, while maintaining and enhancing performance,” he says. Both the Chryso® Quad and EnviroMix® ranges are supported with digital tools to help the customer take advantage of the benefits that it offers.

Hlatshwayo says that admixtures themselves also have to transform. “There is some carbon impact with admixtures as it is not natural. We will soon have products that utilise biomaterials to create these solutions. We call them bio-admixtures and these will be green admixtures to help the



The EnviroMix® Impact App empowers users to design sustainable low-carbon concrete mixes for greener construction.



Sibusiso Hlatshwayo, Managing Director of Chryso Southern Africa.



Chryso South Africa tests concrete mix designs in the Concrete Microlab to find the perfect solution for customer requirements.

customer make concrete green. We are not just assisting our customers in their sustainability quest, but also transforming our solutions,” he adds. Chryso has a responsibility as an admixture supplier and is therefore making use of solar energy, sophisticated systems for water harvesting, and its Zero Discharge project whereby no effluent is sent into the environment with an aim of attaining a closed circuit. “We want to walk the talk when it comes to our green admixtures,” Hlatshwayo says.

Looking ahead

Hlatshwayo says that admixtures are going to be the mainstay in the future as the focus on sustainability intensifies. “We are ahead of the curve and have already launched projects, have proof of concepts and are already testing some of these new technologies,” he says.

In keeping with the increased focus on sustainability, new cements will be developed. “In 1985, South Africa only had three cement types. With the global push towards sustainability, new cement types are being added, one of these is LC3 cement. These will require a different approach in terms of activation while new binary technologies are necessary as

cement will make use of more supplementary cementitious materials. We are gearing ourselves to be able to support these developments and want to be at the forefront,” he states.

The rapid rate of urbanisation will increasingly necessitate a change in building methods, the support of off-site manufacturing and 3D printing. “For each one of these new developments we are positioning ourselves to be able to provide solutions, whether it be 3D printing, urbanisation or off-site manufacturing,” he concludes. ☉

PROTECTING CEMENT AND STEEL AGAINST CHEMICAL CORROSION

Caucid is a newly established company located in Sasolburg that supplies specialised acid and caustic resistant monolithic materials as part of the Actsil range to industrial plants. Actsil protects normal civil cement, concrete or steel construction against chemical corrosion. This is especially helpful in storage areas that are bunded.



Paul Burger was given the license to sell the Actsil range to various industries in the whole of Africa. He therefore established Caucid in 2022. “The original product called DR11 was developed by the late Dr Hancock for the English market and sold under license in 1997. He then later adapted it for the South African market due to the climate differences between England and South Africa. When it was first developed, the Actsil range was available mainly in the refractory industry and did not receive any civil exposure. It is the aim of Caucid to change that,” explains Burger.

Actsil is a cement free castable which has all the physical characteristics of concrete. But that is where it ends. “Actsil is a fast-setting material that can reach mechanical hardness within a couple of hours. The main selling point is its chemical resistance. One of many examples is that the Actsil DRS (acid resistant) is resistant to sulphuric acid from 2% up to 90% and Actsil CR (alkaline resistant) is resistant to Sodium Hydroxide between 10% and 50%, to name a few. “Actsil can be cast over existing civil cement or concrete where needed. Due to the ease of installation, it reduces downtime as it doesn’t need any specialised installation methods,” says Burger.

The Actsil factory is located in Sasolburg in the Free State. Here Actsil is weighed out and made by hand to ensure a consistently high-quality product.

“Generally ceramic tiles, acid brick or fibreglass are used to protect areas against chemical attack. These methods are time consuming and needs to be installed by qualified artisans to

ensure a secure barrier, whereas Actsil is mixed and applied by normal contractors along with few easy-to-follow instructions which will offer the same, if not better, level of protection due to the fact there are no joints that can be compromised,” Burger says.

Ease of application

Actsil is an easy to install and offers an effective way to protect a chemical plant or road against chemical attack. “It eliminates mechanical vulnerability of tiles and fiberglass and dramatically reduces installation time and cost compared to tiles and acid bricks. Due to being a flowing product, it will form a tight seal against odd shaped structures, greatly reducing chemical attack and corrosion,” says Burger.

How it works

Actsil is a monolithic castable that contains little or no cement, depending on the product you choose. DRS comes in a bag and bottle set making a 25 kg mix, whereas CR is mixed with a specific percentage water to create the mixture. In DRS, due to the absence of reactive materials normally found in cement such as lime and calcium, the acid has nothing to attack and it therefore protects the integrity of the lining and structure below.

“A contractor will use the same tools used on civil concrete projects such as cement mixer, formwork and poker vibrator. Because it's something new to contractor, we offer an introduction course at our premises where we show the installer just how easy it is to apply. We also give them a few tips to make it easier for them,” Burger concludes. ☺

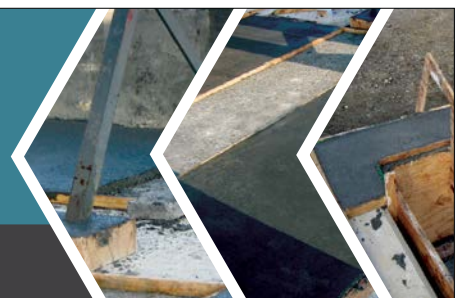
THERE ARE THREE PRODUCTS IN THE ACTSIL RANGE

- Actsil DRS is a ‘concrete-like’ material which is resistant to chemicals with a pH level lower than 7.
- Actsil DR6 is a finer plaster or ‘mortar-like’ material which offers the same chemical resistance but is offered to clients who still prefer bricks or when you need to fix smaller areas and patching areas.
- Actsil CR is a ‘concrete-like’ material which is resistant to basic chemicals with a pH level higher than 7 and as the name suggests, is caustic resistant or alkaline resistant.



Chemical Resistant
Concrete

www.caucid.co.za



PPC's strategic turnaround plan delivers **EARLIER THAN EXPECTED RESULTS**

The leading Southern African supplier of cement and related products, PPC Ltd (PPC), has provided an operating update for the 10 months to end January 2025.



PPC Chief Executive Officer, Matias Cardarelli.

PPC Chief Executive Officer, Matias Cardarelli, commented, "It is very pleasing to see the results of our Awaken the Giant turnaround plan starting to take effect with good, solid, early, signals of success while the operational improvements slowly gain traction. All our business units are improving their operating results, leading to 3.2p.p. EBITDA margin expansion and a 20% increase of group EBITDA, when our overall sales revenues for the 10 months were 3% lower in comparison to the same period last year.

Group EBITDA margins improved to 16,6% in the current period from 13,4% in the comparable period.

The turnaround plan, necessary to ensure sustainable profitability and long-term growth, has been developed to execute numerous opportunities identified to improve the performance of the group while scoping strategic opportunities. The plan was implemented following the appointment of Matias Cardarelli as CEO and changes to the executive leadership team just over a year ago.

Cardarelli continued, "As we advance our plan execution, we are starting to see early improvements in the key areas of commercial, operations and supply chain, such as plant sourcing optimisation, sales product mix enhancement, better thermal energy costs and logistics management. These have all contributed to significant EBITDA margin and cashflow generation increases".

As the stringent focus on costs, operational performance and working capital take effect, the

South Africa & Botswana group's free cashflow, being net cash inflow before financing activities excluding dividends from Zimbabwe, increased by a substantial 90% to R692-million. PPC Zimbabwe also increased its free cashflow generation leading to an increase in total dividends declared and paid of USD13-million year-to-date compared to the USD11-million in the comparable period.

In the South Africa & Botswana cement segment, EBITDA increased 32% resulting in significant EBITDA margin expansion to 14,8% from 11,4% in the comparable period. While most of the operational improvements are yet to materialise, the margin increase reflects the impact of the early delivery of a reduction in general and administrative expenses and a cement contribution margin increase.

In Zimbabwe, volumes declined 9% in the current period, consistent with the 9% decline at the half-year. This trend has started improving in January 2025. Despite lower revenue, EBITDA grew by 6% relative to the comparable period and EBITDA margin grew by 4,4 percentage points from 21,6% to 26,0% due to the turnaround plan.

Cardarelli concluded, "We remain firmly focused on the continued implementation of our Awaken the Giant turnaround plan. While the significant operational improvements are still getting traction, the improvement of the results in the current period already reflect early delivery of the turnaround plan ahead of the previously advised timeline".

In parallel, we are seeking final board approval for the construction of the new state-of-the-art cement plant in the Western Cape, which we announced last month.

The new plant, which will secure PPC's cost competitiveness and low carbon cement leadership, will be built on a turnkey engineer, procure and construct contract, which will significantly de-risk any capital overruns. The material reduction in variable costs due to technology and fixed costs due to only operating on one site makes the plant value accretive, compared to continuing with our existing plants in the Western Cape, without relying on market growth. ©

The turnaround plan, necessary to ensure sustainable profitability and long-term growth, has been developed to execute numerous opportunities.

Positive economic shifts highlighted at AfriSam ANNUAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN EVENT

Despite ongoing challenges in the construction sector, South Africa's economic outlook is showing encouraging signs of improvement. This was one of the key messages at AfriSam's Annual Budget Breakdown event held in Johannesburg in February 2025, where Dr Azar Jammine, Econometrix Director and Chief Economist, highlighted a renewed sense of business confidence.



From left: Pictured at AfriSam's Annual Budget Breakdown event in February 2025, political and economic analyst and strategist Frans Cronje, leading economist Dr Azar Jammine and AfriSam Executive Chairman Eric Diack.

As a leading supplier of construction materials, AfriSam has long been at the forefront of industry developments, supporting infrastructure growth and economic progress. Speaking at the event, Dr Jammine noted that indicators such as the Bureau for Economic Research's Business Confidence Index and Absa's Purchasing Managers' Index reflected a marked improvement in sentiment over the past six months.

"The latest data shows increased optimism with businesses expecting better conditions ahead," he said. "Key factors include reduced load shedding and a government more open to private sector collaboration."

Dr Jammine attributed part of this shift to Eskom's recent leadership changes which have prioritised skills and expertise as well as the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) which is fostering greater oversight and reducing corruption. He also pointed to stronger cooperation between government and business as an essential step in revitalising economic growth.

However, significant challenges remain particularly in the construction sector. Structural constraints, such as inefficiencies in logistics and the continued decline in investment, continue to weigh on economic growth. Gross fixed capital formation – a key driver of demand for cement and other construction materials – remains well below international benchmarks. This has had a direct impact on infrastructure projects and commercial developments.

Despite these concerns, AfriSam remains committed to supporting the industry. AfriSam Executive Chairman Eric Diack said that AfriSam has strategically positioned itself to weather industry fluctuations while safeguarding its expertise

and operational capacity. "We understand that maintaining a strong foundation of skills, experience and technical proficiency is critical to ensuring long term sustainability," he said. "By continuing to invest in our people, processes and infrastructure, AfriSam has remained resilient, ready to support the industry's growth as market conditions improve."

This steadfast approach has allowed AfriSam to reinforce its role as a trusted partner in the construction sector, ensuring customers continue to receive high quality materials and reliable service. Diack added that AfriSam's commitment extends beyond its own operational stability, as the company also plays a proactive role in driving industry-wide progress.

"We recognise the importance of collaboration in revitalising the sector and we continue to engage with stakeholders across the value chain to find solutions that benefit everyone," he said.

Political and economic analyst and strategist Frans Cronje also addressed the event, reinforcing the theme of resilience and collaboration. He highlighted strong public support for pragmatic governance, noting that the GNU aligns with the economic aspirations of South Africans across demographics.

"The majority of South Africans want policies that foster stability, growth and job creation," said Cronje. "This reflects a positive long term trajectory for the country."

AfriSam's Annual Budget Breakdown remains a key platform for industry insights reinforcing the company's role as a leader in South Africa's construction sector. With renewed optimism in the economic environment and a commitment to sustainable growth, AfriSam continues to support the development of vital infrastructure, helping to shape the country's future. ©



*Olebogeng Manhe, Chairman
of the Gap Infrastructure
Corporation (GIC).*

R20-billion black business **FUND SHOULD TARGET CONSTRUCTION SMMES**

*The recent State of the Nation Address (SoNA) announced a R20-billion-per-year fund to support black-owned and small enterprises, and while this initiative holds great promise for a number of sectors, few would benefit as much as the construction industry. It's therefore imperative that government directs a sizeable portion of this fund to construction in 2025. **By Olebogeng Manhe, Chairman of the Gap Infrastructure Corporation (GIC)***

Construction already employs thousands of people in disadvantaged communities across the country, and is an ideal sector for entrepreneurs from previously disadvantaged backgrounds to start and build their own business. Having access to additional support through this fund could help these entrepreneurs and new construction firms stabilise early, protect themselves against common small-business risks, and ultimately thrive in a competitive field.

At present, smaller contractors in South Africa face a number of significant challenges, such as difficulty securing financing, managing tight budgets without proper support, and struggling to win rewarding government contracts due to inexperience. They also lack the same resources as larger, more established competitors during difficult times. But with this new fund, there is an opportunity to address many of these problems.

Supporting black entrepreneurs and stimulating small business growth

Greater government support for local municipalities that struggle to keep infrastructure in good condition opens the door for emerging local, black-owned contractors. This, in turn, could expand local contractors' capacity, help to form lasting partnerships with local government, and further reinforce the growth of robust Black-owned businesses.

Similarly, as a key private partner in many public infrastructure projects, the Gap Infrastructure Corporation (GIC) regularly hires from local labour pools. We have seen how bringing local workers onboard helps to expedite projects by adding an important perspective in how to best address specific community needs. The artisans these types of corporate initiatives develop often go on to establish their own

small construction enterprises, thereby strengthening the local economy, creating jobs, and eventually allowing them to pay it forward when they become successful themselves.

If smaller businesses can access the kind of support that the R20-billion fund could provide, they will be better positioned to pass on similar opportunities to other workers and small business owners. Furthermore, they can hire and provide training for young people in carpentry, bricklaying, or even administrative tasks essential to running a construction firm.

Developing women in construction

Moreover, SoNA highlighted the importance of training women entrepreneurs to compete for government contracts. Construction has long been a male-dominated industry, and it's time this is changed. Women have repeatedly shown their resilience and proven their expertise in this sector, demonstrating that they can thrive in construction and run influential, competitive companies that drive the industry forward. Involving more women in management and

leadership positions will create a stronger, more balanced industry for the benefit of the entire country.

It's also important for established players such as GIC to do our part by mentoring smaller or newer firms, and sharing critical knowledge about safety standards, budgeting, and time management. This is especially critical if we want to encourage more youth and women to run their own construction companies. Providing funding without the necessary know-how won't help them navigate the complexities of tender processes or comply with building regulations.

Finally, to make this transformation fund truly effective, we must set clear rules and ensure the money is well monitored. If there is too much red tape, small businesses might not be able to apply for this funding. If the rules are unclear, entrepreneurs may not understand how to best benefit from it and lose out on critical financial support. As such, government must publish simple, transparent guidelines that explain who can apply, how much funding is available, and what the requirements are for reporting back. ☺

BASF and Sika revolutionise epoxy coatings WITH SUSTAINABLE HARDENER

BASF and Sika have introduced Baxxodur® EC 151, a groundbreaking amine-based curing agent for epoxy resins, now available under BASF's Baxxodur® brand. Designed for high-performance flooring applications, it is ideal for production plants, storage and assembly halls, and parking decks.

Baxxodur® EC 151 enhances epoxy flooring solutions by improving viscosity and flow properties, ensuring easy application and a smooth, even finish. Unlike conventional hardeners, it requires significantly less thinner, cutting volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by up to 90%. This allows for the development of ultra-low VOC formulations, making it a game-changer for environmentally conscious construction projects.

The hardener also enables the greater use of mineral fillers, reducing overall costs while enhancing sustainability.

Baxxodur® EC 151 ensures quick and thorough curing across a broad temperature range, making it particularly effective in colder conditions. Unlike standard hardeners, which struggle at 5-10°C, this innovative solution cures rapidly, cutting drying time by up to two-thirds. As a result, floors can be walked on soon after application, increasing efficiency on construction sites.

Epoxy coatings formulated with Baxxodur® EC 151 offer a glossy, color-stable finish without the clouding or hazing ("blushing") commonly seen with conventional hardeners. The result is a long-lasting, visually appealing surface that withstands mechanical and chemical stresses while minimizing maintenance costs.

This breakthrough is the result of a strong collaboration between Sika and BASF. Sika developed the amine building block to optimize epoxy formulations, while BASF engineered

and scaled up the manufacturing process.

"Baxxodur® EC 151 demonstrates our commitment to supporting customers in their green transformation," says Vasilios Galanos, Senior Vice President, Intermediates Europe, BASF. "Our collaboration with Sika combines expertise in chemistry and scalable, cost-efficient processes to deliver sustainable innovations.

"This development is a major step toward resource-saving construction," adds Urs Burckhardt, Head of Research at Sika. "By working closely with BASF, we have created a solution that helps our customers meet their efficiency and sustainability goals more effectively."

BASF's Baxxodur® portfolio provides high-performance curing agents for epoxy and polyurea applications across industries including wind energy, electrical, composites, adhesives, and flooring. With the addition of Baxxodur® EC 151, BASF strengthens its offering, delivering high-performance, low-emission solutions tailored to modern construction demands. Baxxodur® is a registered trademark of BASF SE. ☺



WHY RENTING A CONCRETE PUMP MAKES SENSE

Foxcrete Concrete Pumping was established in 2007 and currently has branches located in Kempton Park (Gauteng) and Mbombela (Mpumalanga) from where it provides concrete pumping services to surrounding areas. The company started with a single 28 m Schwing concrete boom pump and quickly expanded to now having one of the biggest fleets for concrete pumping in the country.



The company specialises in the pumping of concrete with concrete boom pumps, static concrete pumps and placing booms.

Boom pumps are truck mounted concrete pumps with booms of various lengths, varying from 36 to 43 metres. These boom pumps can pump concrete directly from ready-mixed concrete mixers to where concrete is needed. They contain powerful hydraulic pumps that lift and position lengthy pipes through which concrete is pumped and poured.

Its static concrete pumps are static pumps to which a long pipeline can be attached to pump concrete over great distances or to difficult places where a concrete boom pump won't reach.

Placing booms have long articulated arms (booms) that are mounted on a stationary platform and connected to a concrete pump to place concrete.

Foxcrete Concrete Pumping offers quality concrete pumping services. Its fleet is continually upgraded to provide customers with the best concrete pumping equipment to minimise breakdowns and site delays during pumping operations.

Staff is rigorously trained in concrete pumping, safe work procedures, working at heights, and general workplace safety to ensure health and safety compliance, competency and professionalism on site.

Over the last 18 years the company has had a variety of customers that include private customers, ready-mix concrete suppliers, construction companies, and mines.

Why do contractors outsource concrete pumping?

Concrete pumping is a specialised operation as it uses complicated machines. It requires a skilled concrete pump operator who understands the complexities of a concrete pump, the job, managing the flow, pressure, and placement of concrete. An incompetent operator that may damage one of the hydraulic pumps on a concrete pump can cause huge financial damage and negatively affect the production schedule.

Concrete pump operations can be dangerous if not done properly. There is an array of concrete pump safe work procedures that needs to be followed to safely complete a



concrete pump job. By outsourcing, contractors can rely on professionals with the correct experience who will ensure the job is done safely and efficiently, without having to manage this themselves.

Concrete pumps are expensive equipment to purchase and to maintain. Outsourcing allows contractors to use the necessary equipment without having to invest in it themselves.

Because thousands of cubes of concrete with aggregates and stones are pushed through a concrete pump system, the maintenance of concrete pump equipment is ongoing and costly. Wear parts, pipes, hydraulic hoses and others must be replaced often while running costs also add to the expenses. When it comes to maintaining a concrete pump, hiring a pump for most projects is less expensive, less time consuming and requires less resources.

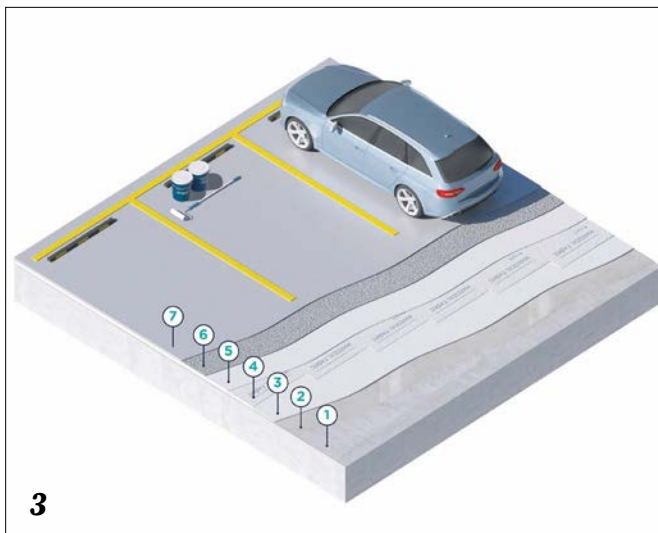
It might not always be possible to keep a concrete pump busy on a project. While the pump is standing and waiting for its next pour, there are still financial commitments attached to owning a concrete pump.

Another consideration is the availability of space to keep, maintain and clean a concrete pump. As they are large machines that need a special kind of attention, they require a space that can address these challenges.

Furthermore, not all concrete pumps are suitable for all jobs. Sometimes jobs have space restrictions and a smaller concrete pump or a static concrete pump must do the job, while others may require a concrete pump with a longer reach. Hiring a concrete pump will ensure that the correct concrete pump for the job is sent to site. ©

Discover the ultimate waterproofing **SOLUTIONS WITH MARIS POLYMERS**

When it comes to waterproofing, durability, reliability, and performance are key. Maris Polymers, a leading global manufacturer of polyurethane waterproofing materials, offers advanced solutions tailored for both new construction and renovation projects. As a division of the Saint-Gobain Group, Maris Polymers has been at the forefront of waterproofing innovation for over 30 years, providing expert solutions to industries worldwide.



Unlike traditional torch-on methods, polyurethane (PU) waterproofing systems significantly reduce labor time and costs while offering greater versatility. These high-performance systems are now available in South Africa through a.b.e. Saint-Gobain, expanding the portfolio of liquid-applied, torch, and cold-applied membrane solutions.

Innovative PU waterproofing for various applications

Maris Polymers provides state-of-the-art waterproofing systems designed to cater to a variety of applications. Whether for green roofs, balconies, terraces, or high-traffic areas like car parks, Maris' solutions deliver long-lasting protection and exceptional ease of application.

1. Sustainable waterproofing for green roofs

Green roofs offer significant environmental benefits, including enhanced insulation and stormwater management. Maris Polymers provides highly durable and sustainable waterproofing systems for such applications, featuring:

Mariseal® 710 – A transparent, rigid, deep-penetrating, quick-drying polyurethane primer that ensures a strong bond to substrates.

Mariseal® 250 – A premium, liquid-applied polyurethane membrane that forms a seamless, elastic waterproof layer with long-lasting protection.

Mariseal® Fabric – A non-woven geotextile reinforcement fabric that enhances durability and

resistance to mechanical stress.

2. Transparent waterproofing for balconies and terraces

Balconies and terraces are continuously exposed to weather conditions that can lead to structural damage. Maris Polymers offers an advanced transparent waterproofing system to ensure aesthetic appeal and long-term durability:

Maritrans® Tile Primer – A specialized adhesion promoter designed for glass and glazed surfaces.

Maritrans® – A transparent, liquid-applied polyurethane waterproofing membrane that provides a durable and seamless layer of protection.

Maritrans® Finish – A polyurethane finishing coat with an optional satin matte finish for enhanced aesthetics and UV stability.

3. Complete waterproofing system for car parks

High-traffic areas such as car parks require exceptionally resilient waterproofing solutions. Maris Polymers' PU-based system offers superior UV and weather stability, making it ideal for pedestrian and vehicular areas:

Mariseal® 710 – A transparent, deep-penetrating primer that ensures optimal surface preparation.

Mariseal® 250 – A highly durable liquid-applied PU membrane for comprehensive waterproofing.

Mariseal® Fabric – A reinforcing fabric that enhances durability and crack-bridging properties.

Mariseal® 420 – A UV-stable topcoat designed to withstand heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic

4. Waterproofing for foundations and retaining walls

Structural integrity is crucial for foundations and retaining walls, which require protection against water infiltration. Maris Polymers offers an advanced liquid-applied polyurethane bitumen-extended waterproofing membrane that ensures long-lasting performance:

Mariseal® 670 – A flexible, highly elastic waterproofing membrane designed for superior crack-bridging capabilities and resistance to water penetration.

Sustainability and environmental responsibility

Maris Polymers is committed to sustainability, with many of its PU systems offering Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) verification. This ensures that applicators and developers have access to environmentally responsible solutions without compromising on performance.

Conclusion

Maris Polymers continues to lead the industry with its innovative, high-performance polyurethane waterproofing solutions. Whether for green roofs, balconies, car parks, or foundational structures, these advanced systems provide unmatched durability, flexibility, and ease of application. By choosing Maris, contractors and developers can ensure reliable, long-term protection against water damage while also benefiting from sustainable, cost-effective solutions. ☺

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Coega mill confident SA can be **CONTINENT'S GREEN-STEEL HUB**

South Africa's steel production output last year reflects the significant contribution being made by secondary-steel producers to the economy and efforts to curb carbon emissions.

While producers using traditional coal-fired blast furnaces produced 2,59-million tonnes of steel in 2024, the so-called mini mills, where steel is made from scrap metal, yielded approximately 2,11-million in the same 12-month period.

While the respective outputs are relatively on par, the biggest differentiator is that mini mills emit roughly four to five times less carbon than primary steel producers.

Amit Saini, one of the directors of Eastern Cape-based mini mill Coega Steels Pty Ltd, explained that the manufacture of so-called "green steel" had gained greater prominence as industries embraced sustainable practices to mitigate environmental impacts.

"This shift is driven by increasing regulatory pressures, consumer demand for eco-friendly products and international commitments to reduce carbon emissions under pacts such as the legally-binding Paris Agreement on climate change," Saini said.

"Steelmaking through scrap recycling is the leading and

foremost method of green steel production. Recycling scrap metal significantly cuts carbon emissions compared to traditional methods."

India has already established itself as a global leader in the green-steel sector.

In terms of new guidelines released by the South Asian nation, steel with a carbon footprint of less than 16 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per tonne of finished steel (tfs) is defined as five-star green steel.

That with emissions of 1,6 to 2 tonnes is rated four-star while 2 to 2,2 is three-star.

Saini said this landmark policy underscored the importance of setting clear guidelines to promote green steel. The United States and many European countries have also implemented stringent green-steel standards.

"These developments highlight the competitive advantage of green steel, which is sold at a premium in international markets due to its lower environmental impact," Saini said.

Aside from the scrap recycling aspect, the significantly-lower carbon footprint is also attributable to the type of furnace being used – whether electric arc (EAFs) or induction, the latter of which is operational at Coega Steels.

The Gqeberha mini mill’s furnaces, which are only able to process ferrous material containing iron, melt metals by way of electromagnetic induction.

Blast furnaces, on the other hand, produce steel from iron ore, coke and limestone.

Saini said it was increasingly clear that South Africa was perfectly placed to lead the “green-steel revolution” in Africa, given its strategic position in regional and global markets.

“We have the biggest base of mineral resources compared to other African countries. These carry an estimated value of USD2,5-trillion (R44-trillion).

“While coal is widely used domestically (nearly 75% of its mined volume is used for, among others, electricity, chemical and liquid fuel production) and the balance exported, the story is different for iron ore.”

He said more than 90% of iron ore mined in SA was being exported due to limited domestic beneficiation (enhancing the economic value of raw materials) and constraints in the primary steel sector’s manufacturing capacity.

Accordingly, Saini said, SA should expand domestic beneficiation policies to include iron ore and coal, thereby enhancing their local value addition and reducing the reliance on exports.

To maximise the country’s potential as a continental leader, it is imperative to revitalise the primary steel

sector’s manufacturing capacity.

“This should be done through targeted investments and policy incentives to develop mechanisms that will ensure cost-effective procurement of raw materials for domestic steel producers, therefore enhancing competitiveness.

“By using iron ore to produce Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), we can alleviate potential scrap metal shortages in the domestic market in the future,” Saini explained.

“It is a viable substitute for scrap and aligns well with the future of steel production in the country, particularly given the increasing adoption of EAFs over the next few years.”

DRI-based steel production offers various benefits.

For one, it is less harmful to the environment. For another, DRI can ensure sustainable growth in steel production should SA reach a saturation point in scrap availability.

Saini said while the country currently lacked a merchant/trading DRI plant, affordable raw materials would become accessible to existing producers, thereby encouraging new production capacity, should iron ore and coal beneficiation policies be promulgated.

He added since South Africa had received more than USD4-billion (R73-billion) in funding from bilateral and multilateral sources to help reduce carbon emissions, there was an obligation to implement actionable plans that aligned with global climate goals.

“Promoting green-steel production is a practical and impactful way to meet these commitments.” ☺

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The Pilot Modular Feed Hopper MFH25 is used to control the feed to the cone crusher and an MPM910 magnet to remove tramp metal before the cone crusher.

LARGEST PILOT MODULAR AGGREGATE PLANT COMMISSIONED IN THE DRC

In a milestone project, Pilot Crushtec International has commissioned its largest ever Pilot Modular plant. Supplied to produce five aggregate sizes for an existing customer in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the plant is designed to produce 350 tonnes per hour (tph), with a peak design capacity of 440 tph to account for peaks and troughs in day-to-day production.

Having operated a Pilot Modular plant for a long time, a major aggregates producer in the DRC looked no further than Pilot Crushtec when it was time to invest in another greenfields plant to meet the rising demand for aggregates in the DRC. This comes on the back of ongoing private mine expansion projects, coupled with government infrastructure development projects aimed at closing the infrastructure gap in the country.

From the onset, says Wayne Warren, Sales Manager Africa at Pilot Crushtec, the customer was well aware of the benefits of the Pilot Modular solution, ranging from lower capital and operational costs compared with bespoke plants to quick lead times and flexibility to operational changes. Pilot Modular systems are readily available modules that can be deployed to site rapidly and operational within a short space of time.

“To provide context, this particular plant was delivered within about four-and-a-half months of its order, while the erection, assembly and commissioning took a further three months, highlighting the short lead times for which the Pilot Modular concept is renowned,” says Warren.

For this plant, says Warren, Pilot Crushtec did not ‘reinvent the wheel’; the company largely used standard proven off-

the-shelf products from its Pilot Modular range. The primary crusher is a Metso C120 jaw crusher, which takes a maximum feed size of 700 mm. From the jaw, material goes into the TKG 16 modular scalping screen. Incorporating the TKG 16 modular scalping screen allows for maximising the efficiency of the secondary crusher’s capacity by taking out fines just after the jaw crusher, especially considering that the environment is notorious for having a lot of fine material in the feed.

Oversize material (plus 90 mm) from the TKG 16 modular scalping screen is sent directly to the secondary cone crusher, a Metso HP300, a high capacity machine known for not only its ability to take large feed sizes but also its large throw which provides for a decent material shape at the secondary stage of crushing.

“Making use of Metso HP cone crushers and correct reduction ratios ensures that the end product has the best possible shape without having to deploy a vertical shaft impact (VSI) crusher,” says Warren.

From the HP300, material is sent to a twin surge hopper comprising two Pilot Modular MFH25 feed hoppers. From here, material is fed onto two separate screens, the Pilot Modular Metso CVB2060-3M units, where fines are further removed.



Left: The recently commissioned greenfields aggregate plant for Pilot Crushtec's customer in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Right: The Pilot Modular Nordberg HP300 cone crusher module.

Any oversize material is recirculated to two Metso HP200 cone crushers via two MFH25 surge hoppers located on either side of the two screens. From the HP200 crushers, material is conveyed back to the two screens for final screening, where four product sizes – 0-6 mm, 6-10 mm, 10-15 mm and 15-25 mm – are stockpiled.

While both delivery and commissioning were on time, the logistical process of transporting such a large plant to the DRC was not without its challenges. “The biggest hurdle was that the plant constituted a lot of equipment – it is the biggest we have ever done. We therefore had to split the delivery into three shipments comprising between 10 to 12 trucks per shipment to free up space in our workshop,” explains Warren.

In addition, transporting the plant to site came with its fair share of challenges, especially the border-related delays. Making use of two transporters with knowledge of this challenging logistical environment was helpful. “Cross-border shipments to the DRC are also not new to Pilot Crushtec. We have experienced personnel to manage this, while the

customer helped with pre-clearance and all the other necessary paperwork in the DRC. Close collaboration between Pilot Crushtec, the customer and the transporters was key to smooth delivery in the face of several challenges,” he says.

In such an environment where logistics can be a nightmare, the customer keeps a sizeable inventory of most critical wear and spare parts on site to avoid possible production disruptions. With most of the equipment on the new plant very similar to what is on the customer’s existing plant, parts commonality increases operational flexibility and reduces procurement and logistical costs for the customer.

“This project is testimony that the Pilot Modular concept works well for the African environment where large infrastructure projects are on the go and suppliers need their crushing and screening solutions as a matter of urgency. The Pilot Modular solution is quick to deploy and set up, while it does not need a whole lot of civil works and extensive infrastructure to set up,” concludes Francois Marais, Sales and Marketing Director at Pilot Crushtec. ©



The 350 tonnes per hour (tph) production plant is the largest ever Pilot Modular aggregate production plant installation to date.



REDUCING THE COST OF QUARRIES AND INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY

Leading global equipment manufacturer Astec Industries is shaping the future of quarrying with equipment that combines strength and durability with the latest technology and innovation.

Once regarded as low-tech, the quarrying industry today is embracing new technologies and pioneering methods to drive efficiency, safety and sustainability. Quarries are demanding more features, benefits and flexibility than ever from their equipment, and just tough is no longer enough, according to Philip Saunders, product sales manager for Astec Industries' Materials and Infrastructure Solutions divisions. Equipment like the Astec GT205S mobile screen, GT125 mobile jaw crusher and FT200DF track cone crusher fit the bill and are chosen by quarries aiming to reduce costs and increase productivity, he states.

The Astec GT205S is a powerful, adaptable screening solution designed for high-output applications.

High production capacity

Saunders notes that the Astec GT205S's key benefits are its high production capacity, customisation and support, and minimal downtime. "The GT205S is designed to process large volumes of abrasive, hard rock and sand efficiently. With the ability to handle up to 600 tph (or 726 metric tonnes per hour, with modifications), it is ideal for operations aiming to maximise material output.

"The Astec mobile screens team works closely with our customers, to modify equipment to meet specific production needs. Whether increasing throughput or adjusting design features, the GT205S can be tailored for optimal performance.

"With a robust design and reliable support, the GT205S experiences minimal downtime. It is estimated at under 10%, which is for standard maintenance. Quick access to parts and responsive service ensure maximum operational efficiency."

This screening plant offers ideal hydraulic angle adjustment. This feature improves screening efficiency, especially for wet or sticky materials.

It efficiently screens materials up to 102 mm in size, meeting stringent specifications for road construction and other applications. The GT205S's large screen box enables the production of high volumes of material when producing straightforward products such as G7.

The Astec GT205S is renowned for its durability in harsh conditions. Built to withstand abrasive materials, it features strong hydraulic systems and durable components, reducing maintenance

needs and extending machine life.

Mobile jaw is equally effective for aggregate and recycling applications

Astec's GT125 mobile jaw crusher is another exceptional machine that is making its mark at quarries around the world, especially in the United States, where its applications include producing and recycling aggregate. Saunders says that it is equally effective in both these operations.

"The GT125's large, dynamically balanced, heavy-duty flywheels produce up to 33% more inertia than competitive models, leading to a reduced cost per ton over the lifetime of the machine. This crusher's large, 32 mm stroke processes more material than competitive models, increasing production and reducing operating costs."

Reduce operational expenses by up to 50%

Quarries choosing the Astec FT200DF track cone crusher can reduce their operational expenses by up to 50%, Saunders states. He explains that this is made possible by the machine's unique roller bearing design, which generates higher efficiencies. The unit also boasts a patented tramp iron relief system that protects the crusher from costly failures, he notes.

"A further benefit for Astec Industries customers is the reliable support and parts availability that they can be assured of. Strong OEM and factory support are essential for maintaining uptime. The availability of parts and quick response times help keep operations running smoothly, minimising disruptions," he concludes. ©





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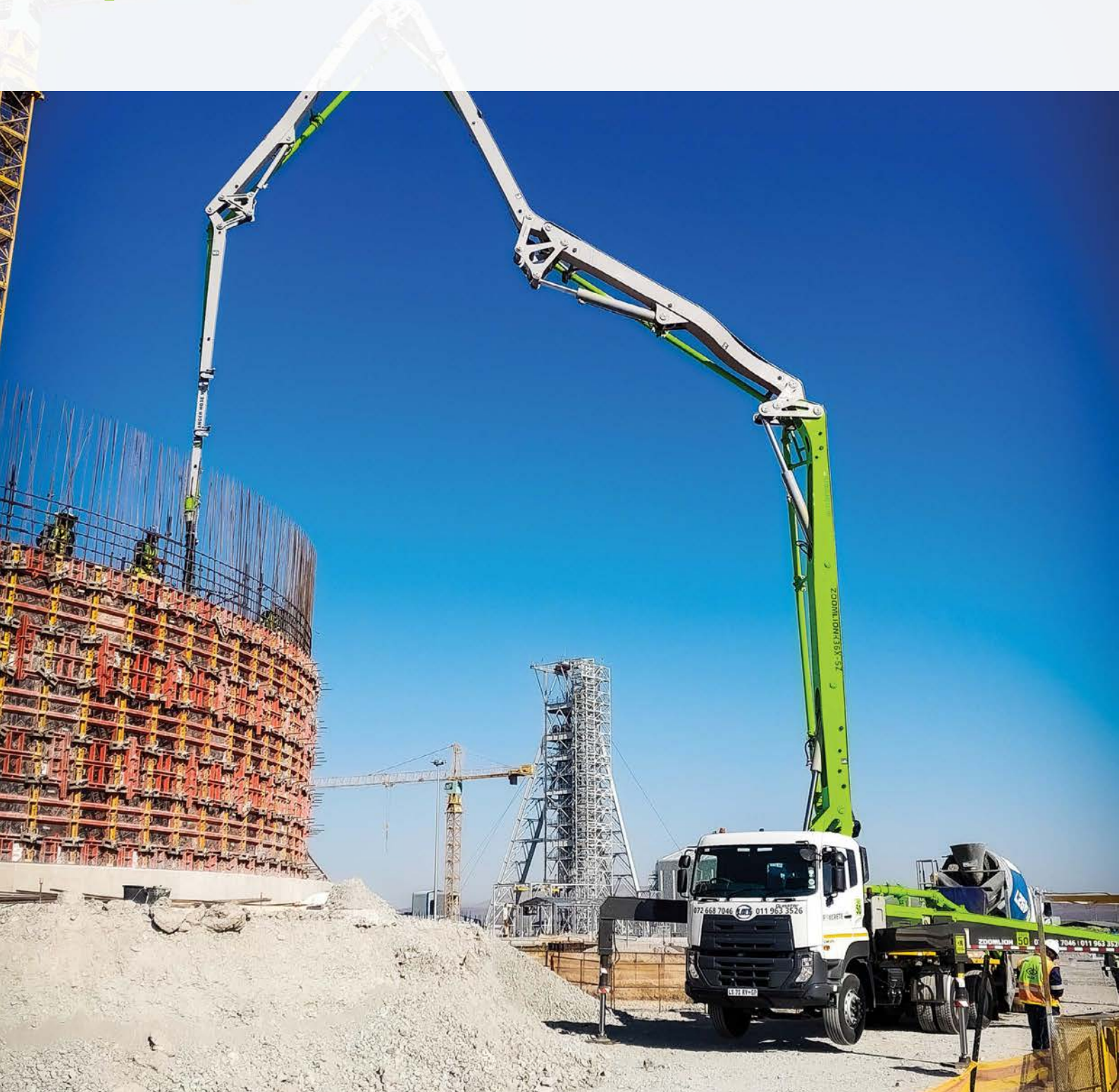
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