

COVERING THE WORLD OF CONSTRUCTION

AUGUST 2025

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Construction **WORLD**



COLLECTIVE STRENGTH:
how the BCCEI is building
South Africa's future

**Construction insurance
AND SURETY MARKET OUTLOOK**

**The importance
of developing
women leaders
in construction**

 **Babcock**

**NEW SDLG WHEEL LOADERS
FROM BABCOCK**

BACKHOE LOADER

EASY IN A HARD WORLD



WHY JCB

JCB 80
1945 - 2025

FEATURES

04 Afrimat Construction Index for Q1 2025 weakens

This quarterly index saw a marginal decline.

10 SA is rewiring its future through public-private partnerships (PPPs)

SA's transmission infrastructure is laying the groundwork for simpler PPPs.

12 The smartest public projects begin with community investment

The people it aims to serve are at the heart of every public project.

16 Witberg wind farm to cut emission of 420 000 tons of CO₂

This wind farm will be complete in the first quarter of 2026.

17 SA's wind sector celebrates a decade of social impact

Wind energy is building sustainable and resilient communities.

20 dhk Architects completes implementation of its designs for Longkloof Precinct

This is a 15-year long project.

26 Building a legacy from the ground up

Afri Readymix may be young, but it is swiftly carving out an identity.

30 Elevating industry standards through expertise, innovation, and integrity

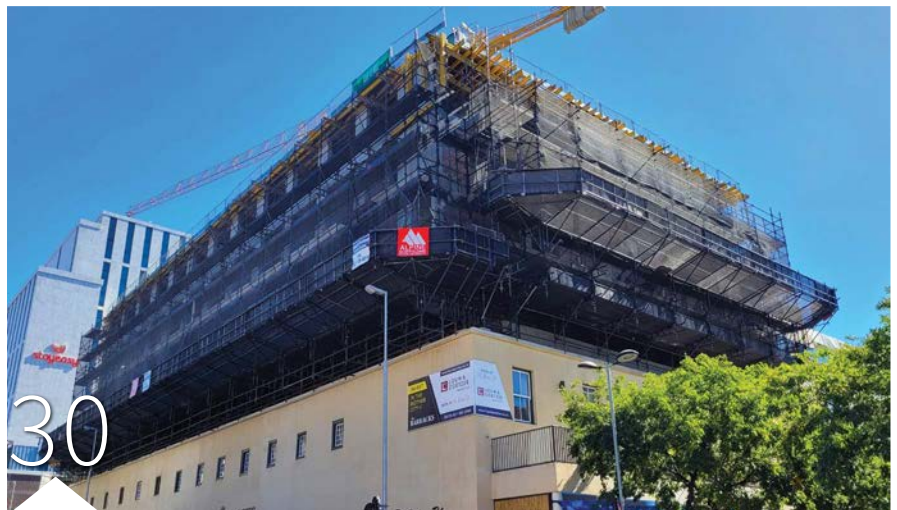
Alpine Scaffolding is the benchmark of excellence in the SA scaffolding sector.



04



16



30

ON THE COVER

Latest from Babcock is the new four-model SDLG H-Series range of wheel loaders. The range follows hard on the heels of the 2024 launch of the four-model line-up of SDLG excavators, highlighting Babcock's commitment to providing a comprehensive range of solutions to the 'value' segment of the equipment market in Southern Africa.

Following last year's launch of the H-Series range of SDLG excavators – comprising the 6-tonne (t), 13-t, 21-t and 34-t class machines – Babcock is further strengthening the SDLG product line-up with the introduction of the new H-Series wheel loaders.

Turn to page 14

REGULARS

04 MARKETPLACE

16 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

18 PROPERTY

26 READYMIX

32 PROJECTS





In South Africa's urban and rural landscapes, the sound of hammers, cranes, and heavy machinery once symbolised growth, ambition, and promise. Today, that soundtrack has grown quieter - but not silent. The construction industry, long a barometer of national economic health, finds itself balancing between stagnation and resurgence in 2025.

After contracting by around 5% in real terms in 2024, the construction sector has yet to fully regain its footing. Confidence levels among contractors remain muted. The FNB/BER Building Confidence Index dropped to 35 in Q2 2025, driven by a sharp slowdown in residential activity and lingering delays in government tenders. In parallel, the Civil Confidence Index is stuck at 41 - an indicator that the majority of civil contractors feel uncertain about future work prospects.

Despite the malaise, signs of life are returning - and sector by sector. Non-residential construction, including warehousing, logistics hubs, and commercial precincts, has seen relatively better performance. Developers like Growthpoint and Attacq are pushing forward with major investments in V&A Waterfront and Waterfall City, tapping into growing demand for mixed-use, live-work-play environments.

A crucial pillar of potential recovery

lies in the public sector's renewed commitment to infrastructure investment. The national government has pledged over R1,1-trillion in infrastructure funding over the next three years, with over 80 Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) already in motion. These projects include nationwide upgrades to rail and freight logistics, massive water treatment initiatives, airport expansions, and digital infrastructure.

In early 2025, the World Bank approved a USD1,5-billion loan to help South Africa tackle structural weaknesses in ports, electricity supply, and logistics. This influx of capital has the potential to catalyse public-private partnerships in energy and infrastructure.

The strongest pulse within the sector comes from renewable energy construction. Wind and solar farms are being built at a record pace. Projects like the 155 MW Seriti Wind Farm in Mpumalanga, the 540 MW Kenhardt Solar Complex in Northern Cape, and the 75 MW Grootspuit Solar Station in the Free State represent a broader shift toward green development. These projects are not just environmentally critical but are job creators and economic multipliers.

Yet, significant headwinds persist. Steel shortages, elevated cement costs, erratic power supply, and rail

inefficiencies make it difficult to keep projects on schedule and on budget. ArcelorMittal South Africa, the country's largest steelmaker, warned of imminent plant closures unless urgent reforms are implemented. These disruptions are felt most by small and mid-sized contractors, already grappling with restricted access to affordable credit and inflation-linked supply chain pressure.

Organised crime is an even greater problem. Construction mafias continue to extort contractors and developers across the country, often halting projects mid-build. This has scared off local and international investors and is undermining trust in the broader development environment. Government reforms, including security task forces and policy tightening, have yet to yield a measurable improvement.

Adding to uncertainty is the implementation of the Expropriation Act of 2024, which allows the state to acquire land with no compensation in certain circumstances.

Despite the dark clouds there is an underlying shift taking place. The construction sector is slowly embracing innovation. Digital tools like drone surveying, AI-driven project management, and Building Information Modelling (BIM) are being adopted more widely - particularly by larger firms.

The construction industry is projected to grow at around 2,9% to 3,5% annually from 2026 to 2028, provided that the infrastructure rollout is executed effectively. The sector's future success will depend on political will, governance reform, improved security, and private sector confidence.

South Africa's construction industry, while bruised, is still breathing.

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Creating Concrete Possibilities





Afrimat Construction Index **FOR Q1 2025 WEAKENS**

Afrimat, a multi-commodity, mid-tier mining company that produces and supplies construction materials, iron ore, anthracite, phosphate, and high-quality industrial minerals, has released the findings of its Afrimat Construction Index (ACI) for the first quarter of 2025. The ACI is a composite index of the level of activity within the building and construction sectors, compiled by economist Dr Roelof Botha.

According to Dr Botha, the marginal declines in the prime overdraft rate since September last year have not been sufficient to exert a meaningful positive impact on the ACI. The seasonality of the construction industry implies that the index values should only be compared with corresponding quarters of previous years. The year-on-year comparison with the first quarter of last year shows a decline of 2,6%.

He believes the reading is an accurate reflection of the Government's lack of willingness to spend on economic assets. "It should be a point of concern for South African policymakers. Following a sharp drop during the pandemic, the ACI recovered swiftly to within a whisker of its pre-COVID level, but the recovery was then stymied by a combination of inadequate fiscal support for infrastructure expansion and the hangover from the state capture era, during which the

effectiveness of several key state-owned enterprises and other public sector agencies was eroded. Over the past two years, these problems have been exacerbated by the South African Reserve Bank's restrictive monetary policy, leading to the highest lending rates in 15 years."

Dr Botha adds that the sector has been hamstrung ever since the high interest rates started to bite into the pockets of prospective home-owners and property developers, as witnessed by the decline in the real value of building plans passed by the metros and larger municipalities. Over the past three years, these have declined for Gauteng, the Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal ("KZN").

"Construction is the most labour-intensive sector in the economy, and the restrictive monetary policy has not only prevented this sector from recovering

from the pandemic but has also contributed to the sector entering a deep recession.”

In addition, parts of the country experienced above-average rainfall in the first quarter of 2025, severely impacting construction activity and production in several provinces. KZN had a noticeable increase over its historical average, consistent with reports of the province experiencing exceptionally heavy rain.

Gauteng also experienced above-average rainfall, particularly in January 2025, while the North West saw

a notable increase in rainfall compared to its historical average. This is supported by the South African Weather Service issuing warnings for heavy rain and potential flooding across Gauteng, KZN, and North West in early January 2025.

The exceptionally high rainfall was a major contributing factor to the decline of some of the indicators comprising the ACI during the first quarter of 2025, with only two indicators showing growth on a year-on-year basis.

% Change in the constituent indicators of the Afrimat Construction Index (quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year) – 1st quarter 2025		
Indicator	% q-o-q	% y-o-y
Employment In Construction	-8,7	2,1
Retail Trade Sales – Hardware	-14,2	0,2
Building Materials Produced (Volume)	-13,4	-1
Building Plans Passed (Value)	-15,9	-1,4
Wholesale Trade Sales – Construction Materials	-14,5	-1,4
Buildings Completed (Value)	-31,6	-1,9
Construction Works (Value)	-5,8	-2,3
Salaries & Wages – Construction	-15,6	-2,5
Construction Value Added	-4,5	-4
Building Materials (Sales)	-13,7	-7
Afrimat Construction Index	-13,8	-2,6
GDP	-3,4	0,8

Note: Ranked by year-on-year % change

According to Dr Botha, the roadmap for higher and sustained economic growth in South Africa that was published recently by the World Bank at the request of the Government, provides ample opportunity for eliminating some of the impediments to a revival of the construction sector, especially in the area of enhancing the competence of decision making in relevant public sector agencies.

“Hopefully, the Government will soon start to implement the recommendations of the World Bank roadmap, which, together with a further significant lowering of interest rates, should pave the way for a revival of construction sector activity.”

Andries van Heerden, CEO of Afrimat, expressed gratitude that Afrimat’s experience in demand and activity countered the Index’s results.

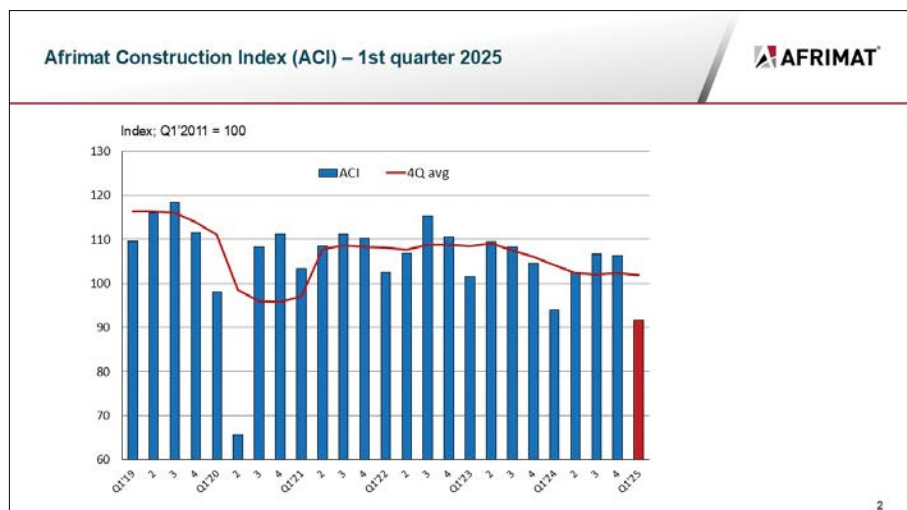
“Both cement kilns are running, and market demand is significantly stronger than originally anticipated. Despite heavy rainfall in the North West, the dryer weather has come at a perfect time, and we have made up some of the heightened demand we experienced for our products.”

He adds that demand for Afrimat’s innovative low-carbon cement product continues to be strong.

“Quarrying and fly ash operations are performing significantly better than the previous year, with the ex-Lafarge quarry volumes increasing,

and in some areas, where large projects are underway, such as in KZN, demand for construction materials has been strong.”

Should the Government roll out its announced infrastructure investment over the next three years, Afrimat stands ready. “This spend will be hugely beneficial to the country in terms of vital job creation as well as ensuring economic activity is heightened. This is especially true in terms of logistics, with mineral and material exports being critical to the fiscus of the country. The renewed focus on rail maintenance is creating a welcome increase in the demand for construction materials such as ballast stone,” says Van Heerden. ☺



CONSTRUCTION INSURANCE AND SURETY MARKET OUTLOOK

Aon's latest 2025 Global Construction Insurance and Surety Market Report found the construction insurance market cautiously optimistic, entering a softening phase with increased insurer capacity and a surge in large-scale projects. Tech-driven efficiencies and improved risk management are driving growth. However, global natural catastrophes, economic volatility, and supply chain disruptions remain significant challenges.

“While the construction insurance market has real strengths and potential for growth, it must also evolve and navigate a variety of challenges if it is to sustain its momentum,” says Philip Cronje, Business Unit Manager for General Specialty at Aon South Africa.

Key Industry Trends

- **RIISING NATURAL CATASTROPHES:** Catastrophic losses are pushing rates up and straining capacity in high-risk areas.
- **TWO-TIERED MARKET:** Low-risk projects benefit from favourable terms, while high-risk classes face rising costs and limited coverage.
- **TECH-DRIVEN RISK MANAGEMENT:** Innovations in data and monitoring are improving underwriting and reducing claims.
- **CYBER RISK FOCUS:** Growing digitalisation increases cyber threats, requiring stronger security and underwriting practices.
- **ECONOMIC & GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY:** Inflation, geopolitical tension, and supply chain instability threaten project timelines and costs.

Product line insights

Construction property insurance: The property insurance market remains stable but increasingly shaped by climate risk. While public infrastructure investment and improved safety practices support favourable conditions, extreme weather events are driving caution among insurers.

Professional liability insurance: Rising claim severity and social inflation are key concerns. Capacity is available for lower-risk and well-managed projects, but high-risk developments — such as mega or renewable projects — face tougher placement and underwriting scrutiny. Insurers are paying closer attention to limit aggregation and, in many markets, are pushing for higher retentions instead of premium increases.

Construction casualty insurance: The casualty market is broadly competitive, with strong insurer appetite and adequate capacity. Project-specific and commercial construction policies tend to attract more favourable terms than residential or annual programs. However, a two-tiered market is emerging — risks with poor loss histories or in high-hazard categories face rate pressure and more selective underwriting.

Surety: Surety continues to grow steadily, with annual expansion projected at around 5% and a potential global market size of USD30-billion by 2030. Key growth areas

include infrastructure, renewables, and utilities. Stable rates and capacity prevail, though underwriting remains focused on credit quality and performance.

Risk management strategies

The months ahead hold strong growth potential for construction, especially in complex infrastructure projects. Aon points out that success depends on proactive risk management and strategic insurance placement, and advises the following risk management strategies for construction insurance buyers:

Start early, especially for complex projects

Begin the insurance placement process well in advance — particularly for high-risk or large-scale projects where underwriting can be more time-consuming. Early engagement allows for better market access, stronger negotiation leverage, and adequate time to align coverage with contract obligations.

Evaluate contract structures thoroughly

Contracts should clearly allocate risk and align with insurance coverage. Gaps between contractual obligations and insurable events can lead to uncovered losses. Key areas to review include scope creep, delay and disruption clauses, payment terms, design responsibility, and health and safety provisions.

Implement and clearly document risk controls

Robust site safety, quality control, and risk mitigation measures are critical — not only for project outcomes, but also for insurer confidence. Documenting these controls in detail demonstrates good governance and can significantly improve the quality and cost of coverage, especially for high-risk projects.

Consider alternative risk transfer solutions

Traditional insurance may not fully address all exposures. Tools like parametric insurance can provide rapid, predefined payouts following extreme weather events, markets directly.

Develop a pre-loss and post-loss framework

Claims preparedness should be embedded into the project lifecycle from the outset. This includes identifying loss adjusters early, creating claims protocols, stress testing loss scenarios, and establishing business continuity plans. A proactive approach can minimize disruptions and speed up recovery when losses occur.

“A knowledgeable broker with construction expertise is essential to navigate shifting markets, optimise program design and secure competitive terms. The best brokers combine technical understanding with market intelligence and have strong relationships with underwriters globally. Their guidance is especially valuable in managing complex, cross-border, or high-value projects,” Cronje concludes. ©

Royal Haskoning DHV South Africa becomes Atana

A group of mostly South African engineering professionals who bought a controlling margin of the South African arm of Netherlands-based engineering consultancy Royal HaskoningDHV have rebranded it as Atana, effective from 1 July 2025.

The group – management and employees of the company – now owns 74% of what was Royal HaskoningDHV South Africa, with the Dutch business retaining 26% ownership. The South African operation of Haskoning became an independent company, owned by employees and local management, on 29 February 2024.

This means that Atana is an independent, majority African-owned firm whose autonomy is a significant competitive advantage across the African continent, allowing it to be more responsive to local market demands, says Atana CEO Anke Mastenbroek.

Atana is a level 1 broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) company, a status that gives it a competitive advantage in local and national tenders and partnerships.

“Our rebrand as Atana highlights our strong focus on the pan-African market while building on 103 years of experience,” says Mastenbroek.

The South African company remains Haskoning’s (formerly Royal HaskoningDHV) strategic partner in Africa and some of its practice areas will continue to deliver on global projects, specifically Atana’s data centre, light industry, climate resilience and aviation divisions.

“Atana is filled with talented people committed to doing challenging work that makes a difference to South Africa, Africa and the globe. We want a world that is better, fairer and greener, so that everyone enjoys a more resilient society,” she says.

The company is focused on solving Africa’s most pressing challenges through delivering on global and pan-African projects.

Atana leverages cutting-edge technology, software and a multidisciplinary approach to address urgent challenges related to urbanisation, sustainable infrastructure and climate change, and its expertise spans various sectors, including smart mobility, aviation, data centres, light industry, climate resilience and water technology.

The company that later became Royal HaskoningDHV South Africa was founded in Johannesburg in 1922 as Stewart Scott International. It gained significant international expertise when DHV Group acquired a majority shareholding in 2006.

In 2012, DHV and Royal Haskoning merged and became Royal HaskoningDHV South Africa. “Now, as Atana, we are enthusiastically returning to our African roots,” says Mastenbroek.

The name Atana is inspired by the Shona word *zvakabatana*, which means “closely connected”, and reflects a philosophy of integration, cohesion and success.

Atana’s level 1 B-BBEE status demonstrates its commitment to fostering genuine transformation throughout its operations, says Mastenbroek.

“Transformation at Atana is not a symbol; it’s a shift that’s meaningful, measurable and mission-led. Atana is built on empowerment, inclusion and impactful participation in South Africa’s and Africa’s economic future.”

Atana believes its new ownership structure will help it attract and retain African and South African talent committed to growing and developing the company and its renewed focus on local market opportunities. ☺

COLLECTIVE STRENGTH: HOW THE BCCEI IS BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA’S FUTURE

In an industry where clarity, compliance and continuity are essential, the Bargaining Council for the Civil Engineering Industry (BCCEI) has emerged as an indispensable pillar of strength. As a statutory body tasked with regulating employment standards in civil engineering, the BCCEI provides the structural integrity needed to build both physical infrastructure and economic resilience.

The BCCEI’s work goes far beyond traditional labour relations. “We exist to support the sector’s ability to function effectively and grow sustainably,” says Lindie Fourie, Operations Manager at the BCCEI. “From dispute resolution and compliance to addressing industry challenges and collective bargaining, our mandate touches every part of the value chain.”

Its unique framework of six collective agreements offers clarity on employment terms, fair wages, retirement funding, registration requirements and dispute resolution - all carefully structured to reflect the complex nature of the civil engineering sector. Importantly, these agreements are not static. They evolve with input from the four official parties - the two employer organisations and two trade unions that govern the BCCEI - ensuring that negotiated outcomes are practical, fair and future-

focused. One of the BCCEI’s most active and essential roles is played by its Compliance Department and designated agents. Deployed nationwide, they offer on-the-ground engagement with contractors and employees including those in remote locations. These designated agents don’t just enforce rules - they serve as educators, advisors and liaisons, helping to prevent misunderstandings and promote participation in the BCCEI’s structures.

“This type of dedicated sector-specific support is invaluable,” says Fourie. “It reduces conflict, builds trust and creates a working environment where projects can proceed without unnecessary disruptions.”

The BCCEI also focuses on collaboration with external stakeholders to assist in addressing various industry challenges. ☺

CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXCELLENCE RECOGNISED

The 2025 edition of Big 5 Construct South Africa, co-located with the inaugural South Africa Infrastructure & Water Expo, concluded in Johannesburg, following three days of high-impact networking, CPD learning and industry collaboration. The events brought together 8 858 construction and infrastructure professionals, placing industry excellence and innovation at the centre of discussions and solutions.

The co-located events provided a unified stage, facilitating public-private collaboration aimed at supporting the country's National Infrastructure Plan 2050, improving infrastructure for sustainable water supply and overall construction ambitions.

“With busy aisles and a high level of engagement across all three days, the 2025 edition of Big 5 Construct South Africa and the launch of South Africa Infrastructure & Water Expo reinforced the importance of construction, infrastructure and water development in advancing the country’s agenda,” said Josine Heijmans, Senior Vice President – Construction, dmg events.



Industry solutions in the spotlight

The events featured exhibitors from more than 20 countries, with international pavilions from China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Poland. Highlights included Acero Building Systems, a Dubai-based firm delivering pre-engineered steel structures; Al Ayed Industrial Group from Saudi Arabia, showcasing industrial materials and polymers; Masa, a German company with advanced plant technology; and Tilara Polyplast, an Indian major producer of extruded plastic sheets.

Sustainability was a key theme across the exhibition floor, reflecting South Africa’s ongoing challenges around power, water and climate resilience.

Strategic content: Policy, people and partnerships

South Africa Infrastructure & Water Forum, Big 5 Talks, Infra360 and Water360 attracted 1 284 attendees, generating fascinating and insightful discussions around urban resilience, smart infrastructure, sustainability, water resource management and related topics.

Alongside the events, the 3rd edition of Big 5 South Africa Impact Awards presented 12 awards during a gala ceremony at the Gallagher Convention Centre, spotlighting excellence across South Africa’s construction and infrastructure sectors.

Speaking of the awards, Heijmans said: “Every year, our awards play a critical role in highlighting excellence, validating innovation and strengthening credibility by celebrating standout contributions in South Africa’s construction sector.”

Winners were selected based on merit by an independent panel

of judges comprising industry professionals and sector leaders, ensuring an objective and credible selection process.

This year, the Residential Project of the Year award went to Boogertman + Partners for The One, Stellenbosch, a USD55-million (R1-billion) student accommodation development.

Winners of Big 5 South Africa Impact Awards 2025

Category	Winner	Project/Company
Architecture Firm of the Year	Boogertman + Partners	
Commercial Project of the Year	Boogertman + Partners	MMH - Momentum Metropolitan Holdings
Contractor of the Year	Gap Infrastructure Corporation (GIC)	
Digitalization Project of the Year	Murray & Dickson Construction	The Main Reef Water Tower
Engineering Consultancy Firm of the Year	WSP	
Infrastructure Project of the Year	Layher South Africa	The Rockdale Avenue Pedestrian Bridge
Residential Project of the Year	Boogertman + Partners	The One, Stellenbosch
Retrofit Project of the Year	Boogertman + Partners	The Woods Shopping Centre
Environmental Excellence Award	Boogertman + Partners	Thaba Eco Village & Lifestyle Centre
Excellence in Leadership	Abednico Mkhari	NTGR Engineering
Leading Woman of the Year	Tshidi Mndzebele	AvenirHoldings
Rising Star of the Year	Mandisa Sibiya	Turner & Townsend

“This year’s edition recognised the people, partnerships and public-private progress shaping the future of infrastructure and construction in South Africa,” said Heijmans. “We’re proud to have created a space that reflects the country’s potential and supports the goals of every professional working to build something better.” ©

The importance of developing women

LEADERS – A CIDB PERSPECTIVE

As South Africa faces mounting demands for innovation, sustainability and social progress, the construction sector's future depends on its ability to harness the full spectrum of available talent. Central to this evolution is the advancement of women leaders – not as a matter of compliance or optics, but as a strategic driver of industry excellence. By cidb CEO Bongani Dladla

Developing women leaders requires a multifaceted approach that begins with confronting entrenched biases, especially in traditionally male-dominated industries like construction. It is common to find all-male interview panels whose perceptions of women's capabilities may not reflect reality. Overcoming these biases is essential, as is fostering generational diversity within leadership.

Older generations may hold onto institutionalised ideas about gender roles, while younger women leaders need to be actively encouraged and given the confidence to see themselves as equally capable and ready for leadership. Mentorship, we believe, is the single most powerful lever to unlock this potential.

Mentorship is more than just guidance; it is about creating a culture of confidence, connection and opportunity. In a sector historically dominated by men, women often face unique challenges, including the lack of visible role models.

A key aspect of leadership development is the creation of environments where diversity is not only present but truly

valued. Women must feel empowered to speak up, share ideas and take initiative, rather than waiting to be told what to do. Many women, despite being highly qualified and experienced, may hesitate to put themselves forward for top positions, even when they are more than capable.

Through mentorship, seasoned leaders can encourage emerging talent to step up, voice their ideas, and pursue opportunities and ideas they might otherwise overlook.

Our experience, as well as insights from industry partners, show that impactful mentorship must start early and be intentionally structured.

Leadership qualities, such as the ability to inspire, motivate and connect people—often emerge early. Yet, if not recognised and nurtured, these talents can be lost or redirected into less impactful roles. That's why we advocate for leadership identification and mentorship as soon as possible, even at high school and university levels.

Mentorship thrives when it is part of a structured, industry-wide effort. We have seen the value of collaborative initiatives, such as our Empowerment and Recognition of Women in Construction Awards, that bring together women from all grades and different sectors in the industry. This platform also allows up-and-coming women in construction, such as those that enter the Youth-owned Category of the Year, to be paired with mentors and mentees, often found in our Mentoring Entity of the Year or our Woman Mentor of the Year category. ©



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SA is rewiring its future through public-private **PARTNERSHIPS (PPPs)**

On 4 April 2025, the South Africa Transmission Infrastructure Investment Forum brought together key decision makers, including the Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, alongside industry leaders, financiers, and developers. The forum laid the groundwork for PPPs in energy transmission, driven in part by the Minister's bold and pragmatic outlook.

By Cwayita Kweyi, analyst – Tamela



An urgent case for private capital

With Bid Windows 6 and 7 leaving nearly 6GW of projects stranded due to a lack of grid access, the transmission bottleneck has become the Achilles' heel of South Africa's energy transition. The Transmission Development Plan outlines the need for 14 500 km of new transmission lines by 2034, requiring delivery to scale up to meet the required average of 1 450 km/year from the current average of 300 km/year.

Recognising Eskom's constrained balance sheet and limited implementation capacity, the Department of Electricity and Energy (DoEE) has turned to the private sector to bridge the gap through a new model:

Independent Transmission Projects (ITPs), borrowing from the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme that has unlocked over R300-billion in private investment.

A new chapter in SA's infrastructure investment

The ITP model sets the stage for 1 164 km of privately financed and operated transmission lines in its first phase, unlocking over 3200 MW in the Northern Cape, the North West, and Gauteng. These projects are late stage (environmental and land permits largely acquired), making them bid-ready and ideal for near-term capital deployment.

The DoEE will manage the tender process, while the National Transmission Company of South Africa will be the only buyer.

Enter the Credit Guarantee Vehicle

To make these projects more bankable, the National Treasury is launching the Credit Guarantee Vehicle (CGV), a game-changer for PPPs in the infrastructure space. The CGV will guarantee payment and termination risks, easing concerns over Eskom's past off-take reliability.

The CGV is targeting circa USD500-million in initial capital, backed by blended finance from global DFIs, including the World Bank, IFC, MIGA, and JETP partners. Its AAA target credit rating and independent governance model aim to lower the cost of capital, attract blended finance, and build investor trust, particularly for long-term Build-Own-Operate-Transfer style concessions.

Why the private sector should pay attention

This is not another pipe dream or policy draft. The draft Electricity Transmission Regulations, released on 3 April 2025, formalise a legal framework for transparent procurement, enforceable Transmission Service Agreements, and guaranteed cost recovery. For developers, this provides commercial clarity. For investors, it reduces regulatory fog. For energy contractors and manufacturers, it's the birth of a pipeline with significant forecasted local spend of R390-billion over the next decade.

The roadmap is set, risk tools are in place, and the private sector is officially invited to power South Africa's energy future. ☺

EFFORTS TO CLARIFY CONSTRUCTION SAFETY LAWS STILL TOO VAGUE

The new Draft Construction Regulations, now closed for public comment, which are intended to enhance occupational health and safety in the construction industry, are a step in the right direction but certain areas are still too vague. This is according to Adv. Hendrik Terblanche, Managing Director of Legricon Legal Risk and Compliance Consultants, who regularly works with the Master Builders Association North (MBA North) in an advisory capacity.

The new draft regulations, set to update the 2014 regulations, include revised definitions, a redefined scope of construction work, a new approach to permits and notifications ahead of construction work, and the introduction of a professional construction health and safety manager.

Adv Terblanche says: “Many of the changes in the new draft have been introduced in a bid to clarify questions and grey areas in the 2014 regulations, and to align with other legislative changes. These have been generally welcomed by stakeholders. However, there are a number of contentious issues and grey areas.”

Clarifying competency

One contentious issue is the definition of a ‘competent person’ required to serve as a construction manager or supervisor, a construction health and safety manager or officer, and various other roles in the new draft regulations.

Adv Terblanche says: “The main driving force for this was the current change over from the SETAs, the sector education training authorities to the Quality Council For Trades & Occupations (QCTO). Where the SETAs were originally focused on qualifications, in health and safety, there are a lot of short courses such as first aid, risk assessment training, or safety representative training, where you’re not necessarily going to get a qualification, but the courses are necessary. My main view is that the current definition places a lot of emphasis on the inputs into competency – training and qualifications – whereas competency is an outcome, and may be acquired through decades of experience. Many people have all the necessary qualifications and training, but they’re still not competent, and are not able to deliver the required outcomes.”

He says this also creates a dilemma for SMEs and so-called ‘bakkie builders’ in that strictly speaking, they won’t be compliant if they don’t have a properly qualified construction health and safety manager, supervisor or officer on site, even when undertaking small projects.

In draft Regulation 8 on the Management and Supervision of Construction Work, various legal appointments must be made – starting with the construction manager, the assistant construction manager, construction supervisors, assistant construction supervisors, the professional Construction Health and Safety Agents, and the Construction Health and Safety Officer is there in Regulation 8.

“That has always been a contentious issue as well,” he says.

Another issue relates to the South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Profession (SACPCMP) – the professional registration body for people in the construction industry.

He says: “It’s typically aimed at high-level technical people, people like construction managers, and project managers, but the Department of Labour decided in 2014 that if we want the safety people to also have a professional registration and therefore go through competency verification, then that is the appropriate body to put them under. This has caused a lot of teething problems and frustration over the years.

“One of the changes in the draft relates to three possible health and safety registrations under the SACPCMP. These are the professional construction health and safety agent – the most qualified people from a safety perspective, and the designation qualified to work on projects that require a permit. The second tier is a construction health and safety manager, and then there’s the construction health and safety officer. Construction health and safety managers, and registered health and safety officers cost money. For the average ‘bakkie builder’, appointing a professional safety manager or officer would likely be too expensive.

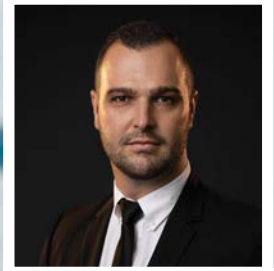
Permits and notifications

Adv. Terblanche says there are also concerns around permits and notifications in the new draft regulations.

He explains: “Certain projects need a construction work permit from the Department of Employment and Labour, and this has always been contentious. The regulations require professional construction health and safety agents to be appointed for projects that require a permit – with certain exemptions. Basically, any project costing above R60-million requires a permit from the Department of Employment and Labour, and therefore also requires a professional construction health and safety agent. The regulations don’t clarify whether this is R60-million inclusive or exclusive of VAT, for example.

Another change is that the Department of Labour must also be notified seven days in advance of any construction work that doesn’t require a permit. In the current regulations there are restrictions on notification requirements.

Failing to notify the Department and wait seven days would constitute non-compliance with legislation, which could result in a contravention notice, a prohibition notice or even criminal prosecution, he says. “It adds a lot of red tape and I don’t see the construction industry getting safer as a result of it.” ☉



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

The smartest public projects begin with **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

*At the heart of every municipal or state-level public project are the people it aims to serve. Public services are fundamentally established to benefit communities, making their involvement essential to a project's success. For their inclusion to be truly beneficial, effective public engagement must begin early, ideally during the planning phase, or as early as the feasibility phase, to avoid the critical delays, disruptions, and even cancellations that have historically resulted from inadequate community consultation. **By Roelof van den Berg, CEO of the Gap Infrastructure Corporation (GIC)***

The benefits of engaging communities go beyond simply mitigating resistance and potential liabilities. By actively involving residents and genuinely understanding their concerns and priorities, project developers can better adapt plans to reflect local realities. Meaningful interactions help establish a strong sense of community ownership and pride in the developments occurring in the area, leading to improved implementation outcomes, fewer disruptions, and better community adoption.

The strategic advantage of early consultation

The timing and method of community engagement chosen by a developer significantly influence community reception and willingness to accept project terms. Ideally, community consultation should begin at the earliest possible stage. Typically, municipalities engage community stakeholders, including environmental protection agencies, even before

the tendering process gets underway.

Once a contractor is assigned, early engagement should continue into the planning phase, providing sufficient detail about the project while remaining flexible enough for community feedback to influence final plans.

Recognising the necessity of public participation is as important as the developer's method of approach. Public consultation is not a quick or straightforward process and requires concerted effort from all parties involved, especially for the developer driving the conversation and motivating others to join in. A combination of public meetings, workshops, information sessions, and digital communication through accessible platforms and social media is key to reaching and engaging a broad community base.

Beyond simply engaging and sharing essential project information, building trust with community stakeholders

takes time and ongoing effort to conduct successfully.

Developers must be consistent, transparent, and responsive from initial discussions through project completion. Regular engagement reassures communities that their contributions remain valuable and relevant throughout the entire project lifecycle.

The legal framework supporting public participation

Communities have a fundamental right to participate in decisions affecting their local environments. This right is enshrined in South Africa's Constitution, reinforcing the necessity for government, often through public-private partnerships (PPPs), to ensure active public involvement. Specifically, Section 152 of the Constitution mandates municipalities actively promote public participation, facilitating sustainable delivery of essential services.

Complementing this, Section 16 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (2000) requires municipalities and their development partners to create and maintain an inclusive environment for community feedback on a variety of projects, including housing and essential utilities such as water and electricity.

Moreover, the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) mandates that projects with potential environmental impacts undertake comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), which must explicitly incorporate public consultation phases lasting at least 30 days. These processes allow residents, environmental groups, businesses, and other relevant stakeholders ample opportunity to voice

their concerns, provide feedback, and suggest alternative solutions effectively.

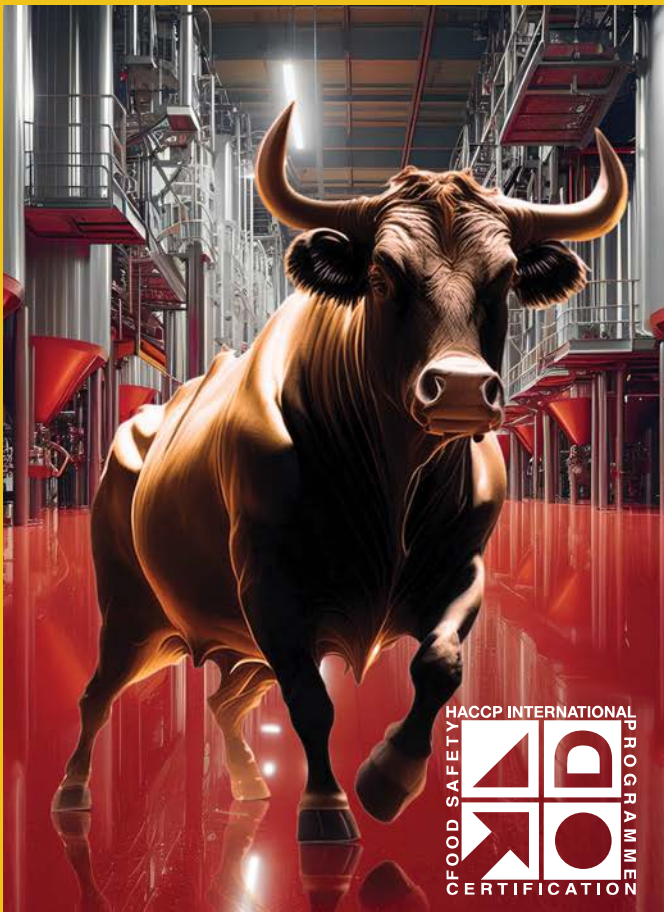
Navigating the complexities of public input

Despite clear advantages, meaningful community consultation presents its own set of challenges. Large and diverse stakeholder groups frequently have competing interests, and achieving consensus necessitates skilful negotiation alongside regular, transparent communication. Managing expectations realistically and clearly defining the extent of community influence within project parameters are critical tasks for developers.

Adhering to well-structured public participation frameworks guided by regulations, such as those outlined by NEMA and municipal laws, helps developers navigate these complexities more effectively and successfully. Leveraging expertise from environmental practitioners and consultation specialists can further ensure consultations remain productive, sensitive, and focused on mutual benefits.

While it's impossible to incorporate every community suggestion, open and clear communication helps stakeholders understand decision-making processes, mitigating tensions and encouraging mutual respect.

Ultimately, comprehensive and strategic community engagement is both a regulatory obligation and a strategic advantage for developers looking to benefit from constructive external input that will help drive project success and minimise opposition, benefiting both communities and developers alike. ©



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NEW SDLG WHEEL LOADERS FROM BABCOCK

Latest from Babcock is the new four-model SDLG H-Series range of wheel loaders. The range follows hard on the heels of the 2024 launch of the four-model line-up of SDLG excavators, highlighting Babcock's commitment to providing a comprehensive range of solutions to the 'value' segment of the equipment market in Southern Africa.

Following last year's launch of the H-Series range of SDLG excavators – comprising the 6-tonne (t), 13-t, 21-t and 34-t class machines – Babcock is further strengthening the SDLG product line-up with the introduction of the new H-Series wheel loaders.

The new range comprises the L918H (1,8 t), the L938H (3,5 t), the L946H (4 t) and the L958H (5,8 t). Mark Senyard, Product Manager – SDLG at Babcock, says the arrival of the new H-Series wheel loaders ushers in a new era for customers across applications, including construction, agriculture and mining.

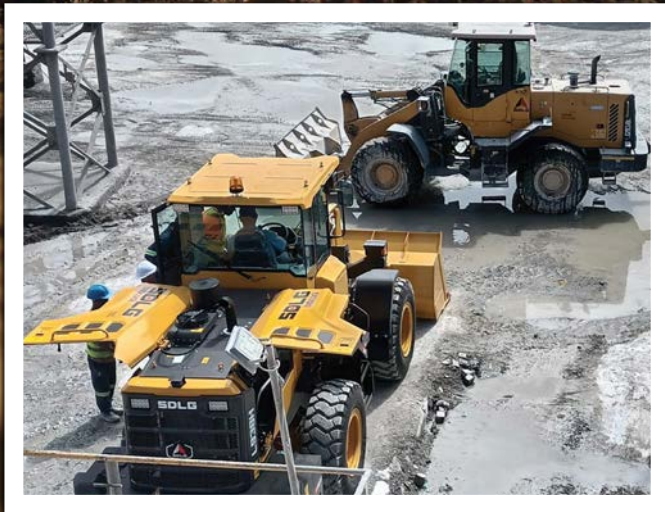
Compact models

Owing to their compact build, the new 1,8-t L918H and its 3,5-t counterpart, the L938H, are well-suited for construction, especially in urban environments or areas with limited space.

Their smaller size and manoeuvrability make them ideal for tasks such as material handling, loading and clearing debris in confined spaces, while still offering the power and versatility of larger wheel loaders.

With a 6,7-t operating weight, the L918H has a rated 1,8-t payload. To maximise the machine's versatility, Babcock is offering this model in a special configuration, which includes a quick hitch bucket and forks. The quick hitch system, explains Senyard, enables efficient use of multiple attachments with one machine, making it versatile and cost-effective. In addition, it significantly speeds up attachment changes, reducing downtime and improving productivity.

The forklift attachment on the loader maximises its versatility. In construction, the machine can be deployed beyond the normal loading duties. The forks, explains Senyard,



allow it to be used for handling palletised loads and other general material handling tasks where a bucket might not be ideal. They enhance versatility by allowing the loader to perform tasks similar to a forklift, but with the added benefits of a wheel loader.

With an operating weight of 11,5 t, the SDLG L938H offers a rated payload of 3,5 t. “This model is available in two configurations. Firstly, we offer it with a standard, general-purpose 2,1 m³ bucket. Secondly, as with the smaller L918H, the L938H is also available with a special quick hitch bucket system and forks. The machine also comes standard with piping for hydraulic attachments,” explains Senyard.

Larger models

The other two models in the range are the larger L946H and the L958H. With a 13-t operating weight, the L946H is rated at 4-t payload and is ideally suited for municipal operations. Here, says Senyard, it can be deployed to undertake various tasks, including loading, transporting and moving materials such as gravel, sand, dirt, debris and waste. The machine can also find application in site preparation and demolition.

With a 17,6 t operating weight, the L958H offers a rated 5,8-t payload. While this machine can still be deployed on large infrastructure projects, Senyard says it will largely find application in the quarrying / mining sector. The machine casts a special design focus on reliability. For example, the main drive and hub reduction use dual seals with good sealing effect and strong bearing capacity, thus maximising reliability.

Service contracts and finance

To offer customers peace of mind, the new wheel loaders are available with tailored service contracts. Babcock’s service contracts offer numerous benefits, including cost savings through planned maintenance, reduced risk of component failure and increased machine uptime. They also provide access to the latest product updates and OEM-approved parts and oils, ensuring peak machine performance and longevity.

Babcock’s service contracts are designed to increase productivity for customers, while protecting the residual value of owners’ machinery and transferring risks associated with maintenance away from the customer. Often tailored to specific customer needs, these service contracts ensure that equipment is maintained to optimal standards, while reducing the likelihood of unexpected costly repairs.

“By using genuine original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts, we maintain the machines in peak operating condition. Our service contracts ensure that the customer’s assets deliver the required productivity and availability, while optimising performance and efficiency of the equipment. In addition, the benefit of machine longevity cannot be stated enough,” says Senyard. ©

Witberg wind farm to cut emission **OF 420 000 TONS OF CO₂**

This wind farm, scheduled to come online in the first quarter of 2026, will be the largest private facility built to date in the country and will feature 24 V136-4.5 MW turbines.



Sarens has been directly involved in this project on behalf of Kuehne+Nagel, transporting the components of the 24 wind turbines, each weighing over 391 tons, divided into 216 loads.

The Witberg wind farm, located between Touws River and Laingsburg in Western Cape, will represent a significant step forward for this region of South Africa, reducing power cuts and addressing the country's energy shortage. In addition, this wind farm, which will be the largest private facility of its kind built to date in South Africa, will prevent the emission of approximately 420 792 tons of CO₂ per year, supplying renewable energy to more than 122 500 homes in the region.

Sarens, world leader in heavy lifting, engineered transport and crane rental services, has contributed directly to the development of this strategic project for the South African energy sector. On behalf of Kuehne+Nagel, Sarens has worked on the transport of the components of the 24 wind turbines that make up the wind farm, with a combined weight of more than 391 tons divided into 216 loads. To do this, 18 transport combinations were used, as well as 36 private escort vehicles to transport the main components from the Saldanha Laydown Area and the tower sections from the GRI tower factory in Atlantis.

The Sarens engineering team had to deal with a steep incline on entering the site, which considering the weight of the loads, meant using an 8x8 truck to pull the components, as a normal 8x6 truck with ballast was not sufficient. In addition, to facilitate the movement of the blades, each over 66 metres long, it was necessary to use a Gyro Table provided by the component manufacturer.

This new wind farm, which will come into operation in the first quarter of 2026, will have 24 V136-4.5 MW turbines

manufactured by Vestas, a nominal power of 108 MW and a contracted power of 103 MW. Developed by Sibanye-Stillwater and operated by Red Rocket Energy, this facility will have a significant impact on both direct and indirect job creation in the region, as well as on the reliability of its energy grid.

Sarens brings over 25 years of experience in the lifting, transportation and installation of onshore wind turbines across all types of terrain. With a portfolio spanning more than 7 000 wind turbine installations in over 40 countries, Sarens has helped deliver over 25 000 MW of installed wind capacity worldwide. From high-altitude mountain sites to remote desert and coastal locations, Sarens continues to support wind energy developers with reliable heavy lifting solutions. Recent projects include operations in sub-zero temperatures in Belarus, where Sarens installed the tallest Vestas turbines in Asmolovichi, and in Australia, where the tallest wind towers were erected at the Glenn Innes wind farm in New South Wales. ©

ABOUT SARENS

Sarens is the global leader and reference in crane rental, heavy lift and engineered transportation services. With state-of-the-art equipment, value engineering, one of the world's largest inventories of cranes, transporters and special rigging equipment, Sarens offers creative and intelligent solutions to today's heavy lifting and engineering transport challenges.

With more than 100 entities in 65 countries operating without borders, Sarens is an ideal partner for small to large-scale projects. Sarens currently employs 5 000 highly qualified professionals who are ready to serve the needs of any client worldwide and in all market sectors.



SA's wind sector celebrates **A DECADE OF SOCIAL IMPACT**

Recognising the critical role of wind energy in building sustainable and resilient communities, the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) commemorates Global Wind Day by acknowledging a decade of remarkable progress and the limitless potential of wind power to decarbonise South Africa's economy. Wind energy is driving green industrialisation, creating jobs, and promoting inclusive, sustainable growth.

“As an association, we take this opportunity to celebrate our members for their projects that have made tangible, positive contributions to the socio-economic development of the communities they operate in,” says Morongoa Ramaboa, Chief Communications Officer at SAWEA.

The Independent Power Producer (IPP) procurement programme places economic development at its core, making social upliftment an obligation—not an option—for the wind sector. At the heart of this development lies a commitment to improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing of people, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

According to the 2024 South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey a total of 10 279 MW of new wind capacity can be brought online within the next three years. This would make a significant contribution toward the 53 GW of new generation capacity targeted by 2032, of which 39 GW is expected to come from renewables. This means that wind energy alone could deliver a significant portion of the total capacity required – demonstrating the sector's readiness to scale rapidly.

Importantly, 33% of wind project shareholding is black-owned, and 9% is held by local communities - ensuring that the financial returns from these projects flow back into the areas where they operate, supporting local development and empowerment.

Deeply resonating with this year's Global Wind Day theme, “A Day of Community Action,” the sector has committed close to R900 million towards Socio-Economic Development (SED) and Enterprise Development (ED) initiatives within a 50 km radius of operational wind farms – demonstrating that community upliftment is a fundamental part of project development.

A decade of community empowerment – Aurora Wind Farm

The wind industry continues to demonstrate its value beyond the grid through initiatives that empower people and

strengthen communities.

As a testament to the value of long-term community partnerships, SAWEA highlights the Aurora Wind Farm, which celebrates 10 years of collaboration with the community of Vredenburg.

Located on the West Coast, the 94 MW facility - home to 47 turbines generating over 279 GWh annually - has made a significant impact through investments in early childhood development, skills training, local enterprise support, and initiatives promoting health, wellness, and community safety.

“At Aurora Wind Power, we believe that true sustainability is built on the strength of our partnerships. Over the past decade, our collaboration with the Vredenburg community has shown that when we work together - with transparency, respect, and shared purpose - we can create lasting impact. This journey is not just about clean energy; it's about empowering South Africans to shape a resilient, inclusive future for generations to come,” said Luyanda Jonas, the CEO of Aurora Wind Power.

This decade-long relationship reinforces how transparency, meaningful engagement, and sustained investment can create lasting change - empowering communities to become self-sufficient and resilient.

“Long-term renewable energy projects can serve as anchors of economic resilience in rural and underserved areas,” concludes Ramaboa. “Through targeted community engagement, we can build local capacity, deliver long-term impact, and enable communities to actively participate in and shape South Africa's energy future.”

SAWEA is dedicated to fulfilling its purpose as a dynamic force within the wind industry with a primary focus on supporting its members and advancing the integration of wind energy onto the grid. Central to SAWEA's strategic priorities is the active engagement of members on industry matters and the strategic aligning with stakeholders for focused collaboration to foster a just energy transition in South Africa. ©

MSCI SOUTH AFRICA GREEN ANNUAL PROPERTY INDEX 2024

The MSCI South Africa Green Annual Property Index for 2024 continued to reinforce the investment rationale for sustainable, resource-efficient real estate.

Published annually since 2016 in collaboration with the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) and sponsored by Growthpoint Properties (JSE: GRT), the index offers an independent and globally aligned assessment of how green-certified properties compare to their non-certified counterparts in terms of investment performance.

For 2024, the index showed that green certified Prime & A-grade offices produced a total return of 10,1% which was 120bps above that of non-certified office assets of a similar quality during the year. Since the index's launch in 2016, green-certified offices have outperformed non-certified assets by a cumulative 28,2%, delivering superior capital growth and operational resilience.

Timothy Irvine, Head of Asset Management: Offices at Growthpoint, which is at the forefront of green-building certification in South Africa, comments, "The 2024 MSCI South Africa Green Annual Property Index reaffirms the investment edge of green-certified commercial real estate. The long-term outperformance of green certified offices signals growing occupier and investor preference for sustainable, resource-efficient real estate and reinforces the strategic competitiveness of portfolios with a strong green building footprint."

Published in April 2025, the 2024 index covered a sample of 242 prime and A-grade office properties with a combined value of R54,7-billion, including 122 green-certified buildings. Reflecting the growing momentum of green certification beyond the office sector, the index also captured the performance of 33 green-certified retail properties.

"The index has shown over several years that green-certified offices typically have better investment returns than non-certified offices. This year's expansion to include the retail sector is exciting for us and reflects our commitment to supporting the drive for green across all building typologies. Through this expansion, we're looking forward to tracking these results, and bringing new insights to market," says Georgina Smit, Head of Technical, GBCSA

2024 was another year of outperformance for green certified property

This outperformance of green-certified Prime and A-grade offices was driven by a higher capital growth on the back of a 34% higher gross income per square meter, a significantly lower operating cost to income ratio (39% vs 46%) and a 30bp lower capitalisation rate.

For green certified retail property, the outperformance was similar in 2024. Green certified retail property delivered a total return of 13,2%, 130bps higher than that of non-certified retail with the outperformance driven by an 80bp lower capitalisation rate and a 18% higher net operating income per square meter.



Timothy Irvine, Head of Asset Management: Offices at Growthpoint.

Similar to the green office sample, certified retail properties also boasted a lower cost to income ratio of 41% compared to the 44% of its non-certified peers.

Green certified offices also had a lower discount rate, driven in part by a lower vacancy rate (11,1% vs 14,8% for non- Green certified prime and A-grade offices) – reinforcing the premium placed on green office accommodation by occupiers and valuers alike.

Long-term outperformance

Since the index's inception in 2016, prime and A-grade green-certified offices have consistently delivered stronger capital growth than non-certified office properties each year, underscoring the resilience and value proposition of sustainable

buildings. Green-certified office assets have outperformed their non-certified counterparts by a cumulative 28,2%.

While the office sector has led the way in the adoption of green certification, the performance advantage is becoming increasingly evident in the retail segment as well—where a similar return differential emerged in 2024, signalling broader market recognition of the investment benefits of sustainable real estate,

"After nine years of consistent outperformance both on valuations and income, there can be no doubt about the fact that certified properties deliver higher returns to investors. The next step in this journey is to show that certified properties better mitigate Climate Risk and MSCI is well equipped to do that," says Eileen Andrew from MSCI.

Lisa Reynolds, GBCSA CEO, adds, "Our longstanding partnerships around this index are a deep and a solid real investment into providing the property sector with the data and confidence required to build the investment case for green buildings. For some, the question was "Why should I invest in making my property portfolio green?," now it becomes, "Why would I NOT invest in green?"

As a leader in sustainable commercial property, Growthpoint holds one of South Africa's largest and most varied portfolios of green-certified buildings. These assets not only lower the company's carbon footprint but also support long-term climate resilience central to its ESG strategy. With a clear goal to reach carbon neutrality across its portfolio by 2050, Growthpoint continues to lead in sustainable real estate.

Chief Operating Officer Engelbert Binedell says data from MSCI and the GBCSA is key to shaping Growthpoint's approach. "We use this data to benchmark performance, refine energy and net-zero targets, and realise the full financial and environmental value of green certification. This data-driven strategy ensures steady progress while meeting the expectations of investors, tenants and society for a low-carbon future." ©

TUHF APPOINTS AIDAN-JOHN ROTHMAN AS CEO

TUHF Holdings has appointed Aidan-John (AJ) Rothman as Chief Executive Officer of the TUHF Group of Companies, effective 1 October 2025. AJ will succeed founding CEO Paul Jackson, who will formally step down at the end of December this year following more than 22-years at the helm.

The announcement marks the culmination of a structured and transparent succession process, first communicated to stakeholders in July last year, when Jackson confirmed his intention to retire. Over the past 12-months, the TUHF Board, led by Chairperson Cas Coovadia and the Remuneration and Nominations Committee (Remco) under Samson Moraba, has worked closely with two executive search firms; Macdonald & Company and SPI to identify and appoint a new leader who aligns with TUHF's long-term growth strategy and impact mandate.

"We are delighted to welcome AJ Rothman as TUHF's next CEO," says Coovadia. "His unique blend of Investment Banking, Structured Finance and Securitisation and Affordable housing experience makes him exceptionally well-suited to lead TUHF into its next chapter. The Board has full confidence in his ability to deepen our market relevance, expand regional impact, and unlock new avenues of value for our stakeholders."

AJ is no stranger to TUHF. Since 2019, he has served as a Capital Markets and Treasury consultant, helping design and implement TUHF's funding architecture. His work has included securing a R1 billion bank-funded warehouse facility, establishing a R125 million township rental housing fund, and leading the securitisation of R1,65 billion of TUHF's loan book through Urban Ubomi, the first social bond listed on the JSE Sustainable Bond Segment, which went on to win GFC Media's Local Currency Bank/FI Bond Deal of the Year (2022).

AJ holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering as well as an MBA from the University of the Witwatersrand and brings over two decades of leadership experience spanning AECI, Standard Bank, RBA Housing, and multiple entrepreneurial ventures in housing finance, structured products, and fintech.

As Head of Securitisation at Standard Bank, AJ was



Aidan-John (AJ) Rothman has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the TUHF Group of Companies.

instrumental in developing South Africa's securitisation market, pioneering the country's first public RMBS for SA Home Loans in 2001, and launching a series of market-first transactions including the Blue Titanium conduit and Africa's first global award-winning mortgage conduit. "I am deeply honoured and excited by the opportunity to lead TUHF in this next phase of its journey. Paul has built a company that proves the model of access to finance that is both commercially sound and socially transformative. I look forward to working with the executive team to scale TUHF's impact in South Africa and across the region, and to help support the next generation of property entrepreneurs," says AJ.

In line with the succession strategy announced in 2024, AJ and Jackson have already begun a phased handover process. Rothman will assume full operational leadership from 1 October, with Jackson remaining in an executive advisory capacity

until 31 December to ensure continuity.

"There is a strong sense of stewardship in handing the baton to AJ. He understands our business, our people, and our purpose. TUHF's momentum is real, and I am confident that, under his leadership, the company will continue to thrive as a catalyst for inclusive urban regeneration and sustainable growth," says Jackson.

Since its founding in 2003, TUHF has financed more than R8,3-billion in affordable rental housing projects, funding over 50 000 affordable rental units across eleven South African metros. Its dual-purpose model combines competitive returns for investors with measurable impact in communities, a model that continues to draw strong interest from local and international development finance institutions.

"We are entering an exciting new era. The market opportunity from township housing to regional expansion is immense. We look forward to what AJ and the team will achieve," concludes Moraba. ©



dhk Architects completes implementation OF ITS DESIGNS FOR LONGKLOOF PRECINCT

dhk Architects, a leading multidisciplinary architectural studio, has successfully completed the implementation of its designs for the redevelopment of Longkloof Precinct in Gardens, Cape Town, for Growthpoint Properties. The 15-year long project comprises the restoration, refurbishment and additions to five historic buildings, and the construction of a new hotel for a leading global hotel operator, along with the creation of a new publicly accessible urban square.

Client brief and vision

Growthpoint Properties envisioned Longkloof Precinct as one of the most important creative hubs within the city; an attractive address for innovative businesses within a vibrant mixed-use precinct. The site comprises six separate erven, acquired by Growthpoint, with an accumulated site area of 16 500 m². The overarching vision was to create an interconnected landscaped public realm managed by a single owner, with new street frontage and a new secured yet publicly accessible external space at the heart of the precinct.

dhk responded with an adaptive reuse design to revitalise the existing heritage buildings with restorations, refurbishments and contemporary additions and add new-build components to fully activate the site, within a redesigned public realm.

Context and heritage considerations

The Longkloof Precinct is located at the south-western fringe of the Cape Town CBD, bounded by Kloof Street to the east, Park Street to the south and New Church Street to the west. Jameson Street extends through the precinct.

The five original historic buildings of various scales are all subject to heritage protections:

- Two original UTC Factory Buildings (1904-1907): now

known as Threshers and Darters, these have an industrial character and feature distinctive red and white brick façades

- West Cliff School (1914): designed by Sir Herbert Baker's studio, the building features arches cut into robust sandstone walls at the ground floor, plastered walls above and a cloistered courtyard
- MLT House (1918): this was a former school administration building facing Jamieson Lane and Park Street
- 32 on Kloof (1919-1921): an administrative block built to support the tobacco factory, facing Kloof Street

The precinct falls within the Upper Table Valley Urban Conservation Area, highlighting the importance of preserving the historic fabric. The surrounding heritage overlay zone context includes medium- to low-rise retail units and restaurants along Kloof Street and Park Road, alongside commercial, hospitality and educational uses.

Site challenges

The multi-erven site lacked spatial cohesion, integration and connectivity to the surrounding area. As Kloof Street grew in popularity, the area became more constrained due to insufficient parking. The precinct was landlocked with minimal frontages onto the street, and public access to commercial

buildings was controlled and restricted, compounding the disconnection from the immediate context. Previously, the largest erf on the precinct was used for surface car parking.

With several significant precinct heritage indicators in place, new development on site required Heritage Western Cape approval and compliance with regulations relating to land use management systems, building plans and heritage protection overlay zoning. New buildings needed to respect and not detract from the historic structures. Height restrictions were informed by the roof heights of the adjacent Darters and Threshers Building.

Urban design and the public square

dhk's involvement in the precinct was incremental, starting in 2009 with an initial briefing for the design of an office proposal on the larger Park Street site at MLT House with surface parking behind. The brief later expanded to integrate the other buildings in the precinct: the Spar and Kloof annex building with parking was incorporated in 2011; 32 on Kloof in 2013; Darter and Threshers (known as Longkloof Studios) in 2014; The Refinery (the former West Cliff school) in 2017 and finally No.2 Park Street (formerly Rick's American Café) in 2024.

During this process, it became apparent that there was a need, and an opportunity, to fully integrate all the erven into one precinct. This would strengthen their connection to the surrounding context, improving the design, commercial viability and market appeal.

Refurbishment of the existing buildings

The historical buildings were refurbished and upgraded to meet contemporary uses, including co-working and office spaces.

- 32 on Kloof: Design commenced in 2013 to significantly alter and add to the first building, known as 32 on Kloof. A contemporary two-storey orthogonal glazed form was added above the existing double-storey structure. Internal walls were demolished to provide premium open-plan office layouts.
- Darters and Threshers buildings: In the early 1990s, Darters and Threshers buildings were refurbished and renamed Longkloof Studios, hosting media production and design studios. These interventions were minimal with no attention to the public realm or connectivity extending into the site.
- The Refinery (former West Cliff School): In this building, internal dividing walls between former classrooms were demolished to maximise interior spaces for an open-plan office and retail spaces, and the roof and services were refurbished. New steel-framed glazed doors were installed into the external arched window openings on the ground



floor, creating greater visibility of the new public square.

- MLT House: Due to limited heritage importance, only the eastern façade of this building, facing Jamieson Lane, was retained. The rest of the building was demolished to accommodate a new hotel on the adjacent surface parking.
- 2 Park Street: Previously the popular Rick's American Café, this Victorian heritage building was sensitively refurbished and incorporated into the precinct, creating a new frontage onto the new Summit Lane retail alley. The more recent unsightly back extension was partially demolished and a sunken courtyard created adjacent to the retail alley, which creates a transition between floor levels.

Construction of the new buildings

Heritage assessments at MLT House considered that it had only marginal architectural importance. The eastern wall lane, entrance foyer and staircase facing Jamieson Street were retained and incorporated into a new building. After a long statutory approvals process, the design was approved for two standalone office buildings above a single parking basement.

The new hotel sits alongside the historical buildings on a site characterised by extremely irregular, complex geometry unusual for a hotel. The design was developed with extensive consultation with the heritage authorities at both City of Cape Town and Western Cape Government, drawing on the design indicators provided during the heritage impact consultations..

The new buildings introduce contemporary design elements that reference the adjacent historical structures and to avoid mimicking them as a pastiche. Robust detailing to the steelwork and the roof references the industrial nature of the existing former tobacco factory buildings on site.

Materials and sustainability

Materials include textures that complement the landmark red brick and white plaster of existing buildings. The landscape is characterised with grey paving from reclaimed granite cobbles, weathered steel elements and rows of deciduous trees. The square features indigenous planting and integrated wooden seating with generous stairways addressing level changes.

The development prioritises sustainability through the adaptive reuse of existing buildings, preserving embodied energy. High-performance glazing reduces solar gain while energy-saving lighting and high-efficiency systems in the refurbished buildings enhance performance. Water conservation is achieved through indigenous landscaping and efficient fixtures. The urban design significantly adds to and enhances the public realm and reduces vehicle impact. The hotel site investment catalyses social and economic returns for the area, supporting social and economic sustainability. ☉



Better buildings start with better partnerships

Any building project comes with its own set of challenges, but this is particularly true of large-scale or institutional developments, like schools, universities, libraries, hospitals and multi-use precincts. With multiple stakeholders involved, there's a need for collaboration and a shared vision to be able to deliver on project outcomes.



According to Gerhard Theron, Director of Project Development at BPAS Architects, this is where solid partnerships between architects, clients and the project team can have the biggest impact, from cost and time savings to better buildings.

He says there are certain things architectural and development companies can do to improve their partnerships.

Aligning vision and expertise from the start

Successful developments rely on clear partnerships and coordinated project leadership. While developers often expect architects to take on the role of Principal Agent, this responsibility isn't automatic - it requires formal agreement. Without clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and communication channels, project outcomes can easily diverge from expectations.

That's why, before the first line is drawn, all stakeholders need to understand and agree on what they're trying to achieve, and where specific responsibilities lie, says Theron. "Our role isn't only to design a beautiful building; it's to help define whether a project is feasible, suitable for the site, and appropriate for the community."

He explains that architects can add significant value early in the process by assisting clients and developers with due diligence; researching zoning and environmental restrictions, analysing the urban context, and identifying competing services in the area. This early involvement helps determine a project's feasibility from the outset, enabling developers to make informed adjustments and avoid costly mistakes down the line. BPAS's approach goes further by assessing the broader ecosystem, considering infrastructure, transport, safety, and future growth plans, to ensure the development is positioned to thrive long after handover.

Prioritise collaboration and long-term partnerships

On projects where development and design teams have built a track record of working together, the benefits are tangible. "Teams who've collaborated before tend to understand each other's processes. They communicate better. There's less frustration, which means smoother workflow and better outcomes," notes Theron.

That's because alignment improves more than just timelines. It can lead to more realistic budgeting, fewer design revisions, better community buy-in, and spaces that are adaptable to future needs. This starts with recognising the unique skills each stakeholder brings. Too often, these are undervalued, but early collaboration during the project brief helps ensure all contributions are aligned and impactful.

Build trust

"It starts with communication," says Theron. "Understanding the intent behind the project allows each professional to bring their expertise to the table in a way that enhances, rather than, detracts from the vision."

Beyond clear briefs and scopes of work, this may involve creating feedback mechanisms during the feasibility stages, mapping timelines that account for approvals and design evolution, or inviting architects to weigh in on land acquisition based on the community's long-term needs.

Institutional buildings aren't simply property investments. They have the potential to be community assets that will stand the test of time.

Architects and developers who approach these projects as co-creators, are far more likely to deliver outcomes that resonate. ☺

Boogertman + Partners five awards wins at the **2025 BIG 5 SOUTH AFRICA IMPACT AWARD**

Boogertman + Partners was recognised with five major accolades – including the coveted Architecture Firm of the Year – at the 2025 Big 5 South Africa Impact Awards. The awards were announced at a gala dinner on 20 June at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Johannesburg, concluding this year’s Big 5 Construct South Africa, the country’s largest construction exhibition, held from 18–20 June.

Celebrating excellence and innovation across the built environment, the Big 5 South Africa Impact Awards honour the people, projects and practices shaping the future of the industry. Judged by an independent panel of leading experts from across the sector, the awards recognise the highest standards in architecture, engineering, sustainability and development.

Boogertman + Partners was named a finalist in seven of the 12 categories and emerged as a winner in five:

- **Architecture Firm of the Year**
- **Commercial Project of the Year** – Momentum Metropolitan Holdings, Centurion
- **Residential Project of the Year** – The One Stellenbosch
- **Retrofit Project of the Year** – The Woods Shopping Centre
- **Environmental Excellence Award** – Thaba Eco Village & Lifestyle Centre

This achievement adds to the firm’s growing portfolio of more than 100 local and international awards over the past decade – a testament to the dedication of its team and the strength of its partnerships with clients, collaborators and consultants.

“We are deeply honoured by this recognition from Big 5 South Africa,” says Bob van Bebber, director at Boogertman + Partners. “Congratulations to all the nominees and winners whose work continues to elevate our industry. We share these awards with our clients, who trust us with their vision, and with our teams who deliver award-winning projects with creativity, rigour

and purpose. These awards reinforce our commitment to designing inclusive, responsible and world-class spaces that respond to the real needs of people and place.”

The firm’s success at the 2025 Big 5 South Africa Impact Awards underscores its leadership in delivering innovative, human-centred design across a diverse and balanced portfolio, while addressing the complex economic, social and environmental challenges of the built environment. ☺

ABOUT BOOGERTMAN + PARTNERS

Boogertman + Partners is a locally and internationally acclaimed studio for architecture, interior design, urban design and graphic design. Established in 1982, Boogertman + Partners has grown to become one of Africa’s largest architecture firms with offices in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Durban and Kenya, and projects throughout Africa and the Middle East. Boogertman + Partners is led by a dynamic team of directors who share a vision for innovative and contextually responsible design. They work closely with in-house urban designers, landscape architects, interior designers, architects and technicians in a collaborative creative process that seeks to find holistic solutions to each individual brief. As gold founder members of the Green Building Council of South Africa, Boogertman + Partners fully support environmentally sustainable transformation of the built environment.

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JET DEMOLITION IS AT THE LEADING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SAFETY

Leading specialist Jet Demolition is an early adopter of the latest technology in the industry, resulting in it prioritising safety in all its operations. “Technological advances play an extremely important role in risk mitigation, not only in high-hazard environments, but also in our day-to-day operations,” comments Marthinus Botha, SHE Manager.



For example, the OilQuick system adopted by Jet Demolition allows it to change attachment types rapidly, without the need for personnel to remove and reinstall pins. Remote-controlled applications, for instance, allow high-risk structures to be toppled without human intervention at the demolition face. “This is a major advancement in the interest of safety that cannot be paralleled via any other conventional demolition applications,” says Botha.

The company regards it as a business imperative to put safety at the forefront of its operations. This means mechanising wherever practically possible, and further supplementing mechanisation efforts with modern, advanced technological tools. “We are early adopters of these systems in South Africa, which not only greatly improves the safety profile of the works, but also vastly improves efficiency.”

Within the demolition and broader construction industry, safety is the driving force of change, as it continually evolves and adapts in the pursuit of safer practices. “It is both the cornerstone of our operations, as well as the ultimate objective – we are tasked with finding ways and

approaches to improve safety,” stresses Botha.

A project cannot truly commence until a fundamental understanding of the work results in the most appropriate approach. This method and approach must withstand analysis and be robust enough to provide a significant degree of certainty in respect of safety during execution. Project planning is vital in not only ensuring the safety of Jet Demolition’s own teams, but also of the public, the client, or with interface with project stakeholders.

However, Botha adds it would be irresponsible to assess safety from the perspective of protocol alone. “Safety is ingrained within ways of working and can only really be achieved with the right attitude, relevant experience, and respect for rules and processes designed to keep you and your team safe.”

Therefore, Jet Demolition develops and maintains strict protocols based on experience, industry standards, best practices, and lessons learnt, but more importantly, it subscribes to an underlying emphasis on ensuring that safety is at the core of all its operations.

“We are fortunate that we have good working relationships with our clients and industry peers, many of which are multinational organisations that share common safety goals and principles. We are thus often challenged to improve our systems, processes, and procedures to align with evolving best practices. On a more granular level, we invite our team members to actively participate in safety matters in the workplace, ensuring that the processes we put in place are practical, relevant, and achievable,” notes Botha.

While team members undergo regular refresher training, true appreciation for safety is gained on-site. Experience is hard earned, and sensitisation to demolition risks is more important than formal training. Every Jet Demolition site is also supplemented with full-time on-site production and safety-management personnel, who help ensure that all possible risks are identified, suitably mitigated, and understood by all.

“Our team members have a deep understanding and appreciation for demolition and are involved with on-site continuous risk management. In unforeseen circumstances, our teams understand that the best approach is oftentimes to stop and reassess. Although projects oftentimes present with unforeseen challenges, it is discipline and responsibility which ensures that risks are appropriately reassessed and fully mitigated,” adds Botha.

Safety is a matter of not only compliance, but personal responsibility. It is thus the ‘human factor’ that is the most challenging aspect of safety within any workplace. “I believe that cultivating and fostering a sense of responsibility and respect for safety practices is the single biggest challenge to be overcome, and can only be achieved via leading by example, discipline, and challenging the norm,” concludes Botha. ☺



ABOUT JET DEMOLITION

Jet Demolition has been undertaking industrial demolition works since 1994, and is the leading, largest, and most technically advanced demolition company in Africa. It offers in-house, full-range demolition services, including advanced mechanical solutions and controlled implosions. It actively pursues ongoing development of skills and equipment suited to the changing needs of the industry.

Jet Demolition is a technically based company, with various staff members holding MSc, BSc, and BTech Degrees, as well as National Diplomas, in various engineering fields. This expertise gives it the technical foundation to successfully engineer solutions for large and complex demolition projects, and furthermore fuels its drive to deliver quality projects safely. Jet Demolition strives to offer its clients innovative and technical solutions to demanding demolition challenges.

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BUILDING A LEGACY FROM THE GROUND UP

In a construction sector often defined by tight margins, competitive pricing, and logistical complexity, few companies manage to carve out a distinct identity as swiftly and effectively as Afri Ready Mix. Established in 2021 in Rustenburg, this dynamic enterprise has evolved into a fully integrated supplier serving both the mining and general construction industries. With a business philosophy rooted in quality, service excellence, and community upliftment, Afri Ready Mix is reshaping the narrative of what a modern construction materials supplier can be.

At the helm is Gerhard Maree, founder and managing director, whose two-decade tenure at industry heavyweight AfriSam culminated in retrenchment during the economic upheaval of 2020. Rather than stepping back, Maree seized the moment, negotiating the acquisition of the mothballed AfriSam ready mix plant in Rustenburg- a facility he had previously managed for 15 years. This bold entrepreneurial move marked the genesis of Afri Ready Mix in March 2021.

From that initial plant, the business expanded rapidly. A second facility was established in Boshhoek in 2022, strategically situated near Sun City. The company's footprint widened further in 2024 with the launch of a third plant in Northam, Limpopo, as well as the opening of Afri Hardware, a retail outlet designed to complement the company's core concrete offering. The hardware division provides a full range of building materials - from bricks and aggregates to roofing and electrical supplies - allowing the company to position itself as a one-

stop shop for the construction industry. This expansion was accompanied by a brand refresh under the slogan "From Concrete to Hardware," reflecting its evolution from a product-specific supplier to a full-spectrum construction solutions partner.

Today, Afri Ready Mix operates under the Afri Holdings umbrella, with Maree serving as both CEO and Managing Director. He is supported by fellow shareholders Werner Weiss and Christie van der Mescht, and leads a core team of 40 permanent employees, bolstered by approximately 20 contract workers. With a fleet of 18 company-owned trucks and a further eight operated by subcontractors, the company is well equipped to meet regional demand efficiently and reliably.

Afri Ready Mix's client base is impressively diversified. Around 60% of its business serves the mining sector, with major clients including Sibanye Stillwater and Glencore - the latter having entered into a comprehensive supply agreement



Gerhard Maree, founder and Managing Director of Afri Readymix.

with the company. The remaining portion is drawn from the cash-on-delivery market, encompassing small contractors, independent builders, and homeowners. This balanced portfolio has enabled the company to build resilience against market fluctuations and cyclical downturns.

Product innovation lies at the heart of Afri Readymix's value proposition. The company offers more than 300 tailored concrete mix designs, developed in collaboration with Go Consult, a Pretoria-based engineering consultancy. These include high-performance durability mixes for infrastructure projects, self-levelling and high-strength concrete, and fibre-reinforced solutions for underground mining applications. One standout project is the Bakwena N4 upgrade, for which Afri Readymix supplies specialised W-mixes through main contractor Raubex.

Quality control is rigorously maintained through in-house laboratories at each plant, where daily testing ensures the consistency and integrity of every mix. These internal protocols are further validated through monthly audits conducted by Go Consult, ensuring continuous compliance with technical and safety standards.

A key driver of the company's competitive edge is its embrace of technology. Afri Readymix utilises the Command CE batching system, a sophisticated software platform that enables real-time monitoring, optimised mix design, and precise quality control. These digital systems have brought greater automation and consistency to production, improving both operational efficiency and final product quality. In addition, the company partners with Chryso Southern Africa to incorporate cutting-edge chemical admixtures into its concrete, enhancing strength and durability while reducing environmental impact and production costs.

The company's operations extend beyond fixed-site production. Its fleet includes mobile batching units capable of servicing large-scale infrastructure developments such as



solar farms and remote road projects. These mobile plants improve turnaround times and help minimise environmental degradation by reducing transport distances and associated emissions.

Afri Readymix’s unique positioning as an end-to-end materials supplier is exemplified in projects such as its partnership with Rauco Construction, which is currently building 120 RDP housing units in the region. The company supplies every component of these builds, from concrete and bricks to roof trusses and hardware fittings. “That’s our value proposition - complete convenience without compromising on quality.”

Beyond its commercial achievements, Afri Readymix is deeply committed to social development and community enrichment. The company maintains a long-standing relationship with Mōrester Children’s Home, which it has supported since Maree’s tenure at AfriSam. In 2023 alone, the company raised R400 000 for the home through its annual charity golf day. It also sponsors youth sports programmes at local schools including Rustenburg High and Frikkie Meyer High, reflecting a broader commitment to fostering local pride and development.

Strategic sourcing further underpins the company’s sustainability and cost-efficiency goals. By procuring aggregate from Sibanye and Glencore’s rehabilitation stockpiles, Afri Readymix contributes to mine restoration initiatives while reducing its own raw material costs. Its partnership with Sephaku Cement has also proven mutually beneficial, yielding consistent supply and competitive pricing.

Despite the company’s impressive growth trajectory, its leadership remains grounded in caution and pragmatism. Planned expansions into Potchefstroom and Marikana have been placed on hold due to ongoing economic and political uncertainty. “Our focus now is on consolidating operations and sustaining service excellence.”

Afri Readymix’s rise from a single decommissioned plant to a regional powerhouse is a story of resilience, innovation, and strategic vision. In a sector where success is often measured by

volume and margins, the company has instead distinguished itself through its commitment to quality, customer service, and social impact. As it continues to evolve, Afri Readymix is not merely supplying materials - it is helping to build communities, relationships, and a lasting legacy. ☺





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ELEVATING INDUSTRY STANDARDS THROUGH EXPERTISE, INNOVATION, AND INTEGRITY

In an industry where safety, precision, and compliance are non-negotiable, Alpine Scaffolding has established itself as a benchmark for excellence in South Africa's scaffolding sector. Operating predominantly in the Western Cape, but with a capacity to service projects nationwide, the company has consistently demonstrated that technical expertise and ethical practices can and must go hand in hand. Construction World spoke to David Poole, joint Managing Director of the company about this non-negotiable focus on people, training and safety and the company's quest to revolutionise the local scaffolding industry.

David Poole and his partners, who founded Alpine, have a long history in the scaffolding industry. Before starting Alpine Scaffolding in March 2021, they were all partners in a successful Cape Town-based scaffolding company, started in the 1980s.

Founded with a clear mission to bring professionalism and safety to a fragmented industry, Alpine Scaffolding's leadership - spearheaded by Poole and co-founder, Peter Harper - has remained resolute in its commitment to best practices, even when faced with market pressures to do otherwise.

"There is sometimes a misconception that we are an expensive scaffold provider," Poole notes. "However, when one considers the full scope of the client requirements over the project against what we deliver - trained personnel, compliant systems, documented safety checks, immediate response times, and an unmatched safety record - we are not only competitive but believe that we provide far greater value."

Compliance beyond the minimum

A significant portion of Alpine Scaffolding's market differentiation lies in its adherence to compliance and regulatory standards, particularly its full compliance with the

Building Industry Bargaining Council (BIBC).

While BIBC regulations apply only within the Western Cape, Poole emphasises that these standards represent the ethical and professional foundation of the business.

"We pay our waged employees above the minimum wage, and ensure that they are registered and compliant. This provides them with income security and benefits such as holiday pay," Poole explains. "Unfortunately, many operators in the industry do not fulfil these requirements - some do not register with BIBC or are habitually non-compliant. Many register a small portion of their staff and employ the remainder informally, often without proper documentation or fair compensation."

This discrepancy not only creates a pricing imbalance in the market but, more critically, compromises the employees, staff and public safety, and undermines the credibility of the scaffolding profession.

Uncompromising safety and technical expertise

Alpine Scaffolding's approach to safety is neither superficial nor reactive. The company has embedded a rigorous safety culture



at every level of its operation. All scaffolds are designed and erected in accordance with the SANS 10085 scaffolding code and the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA). Alpine Scaffolding ensures that every crew member is appropriately competent and trained, holding up-to-date certifications for their particular positions, be that working at height and scaffold erection, or more specialised roles such as scaffolding inspection and first aider.

“It’s not enough just to pass a scaffold training course,” Poole asserts. “Experience matters. Many of our team members have between 15 and 20 years or more, of hands-on scaffolding experience. That level of expertise allows us to deliver superior service and mitigate risk in ways that newer or less formalised teams simply cannot.”

The company has won multiple safety accolades from the Master Builders Association and continues to offer comprehensive compliance documentation, including scaffold handover certificates, inspection registers, and site-specific risk assessments.

Strategic investment in system innovation

In a move that underscores Alpine Scaffolding’s progressive outlook, the company was the first in the region to introduce Layher, a high-spec modular scaffolding system engineered in Germany, into the Western Cape’s access scaffolding market. Alpine remains the only access scaffolding company in the Western Cape that offers clients access to the Layher system on a medium to large scale.

Poole explains that Alpine Scaffolding uses the Layher rosette scaffold system as it is widely regarded as the best in the world. This reputation is due to its exceptional manufacturing quality, safety, full galvanization, and it’s incredible versatility for any access requirement. Before partnering with Layher, Poole and Harper visited the company’s factories in Germany to see the operations firsthand. Over the past year and a half, Alpine has made a significant investment into Layher scaffolding and has adopted this system across all projects that can benefit from its use.

While the Kwik-Stage system remains an industry standard and forms the backbone of most construction projects, Layher offers unique advantages in terms of strength, aesthetics, versatility, and ease of assembly - particularly in complex or

high-spec environments.

“Despite Layher being more expensive to procure than Kwik-Stage, we have maintained price parity for our clients,” says Poole. “We believe in offering the best possible solution without imposing unnecessary costs. Once clients experience the performance and safety of Layher, they rarely want to use anything else.”

Alpine Scaffolding now owns over 1 000 tons of Layher material and has deployed it on sites ranging from petrochemical and industrial maintenance projects to small to large redec projects.

National capability, local focus

While Alpine Scaffolding maintains its operational headquarters in Cape Town, the company has successfully delivered

projects across South Africa including as far afield as George, Pretoria, and along the West Coast.

However, Poole acknowledges the logistical and economic challenges of operating outside the province, particularly when local competitors can undercut pricing due to proximity and relaxed compliance.

“It is challenging to remain competitive when factoring in transport, accommodation, and the cost of relocating trained supervisors,” he admits. “Nevertheless, for the right contract, we are fully prepared and equipped to deliver anywhere in the country.”

The cornerstone of success

For all its systems, innovations, and compliance procedures, Alpine Scaffolding attributes its long-term success to one key element: its people. The company employs 18 salaried staff, over 200 waged workers.

“We were fortunate to start the business with a team we knew well – managers, supervisors, foremen, and scaffolders we had worked with for years,” says Poole. “That institutional knowledge and loyalty are invaluable. Today, we continue to invest in our people and foster a culture of accountability, pride, and mutual respect.”

A call for industry accountability

Perhaps most notably, Alpine Scaffolding has emerged as a vocal advocate for improving industry standards. Poole urges clients, construction companies, and contractors to prioritise compliance and ethical employment practices - not only for legal or reputational reasons but for the integrity of the industry at large.

“There is an urgent need for main contractors to demand compliance from their subcontractors,” he argues. “When corners are cut on labour or safety, it puts lives at risk. It’s time for the market to move beyond price alone and start valuing the principles that ensure long-term sustainability and professional credibility.”

Alpine Scaffolding continues to set the standard for what a responsible, innovative, and people-first scaffolding company can achieve. Through strategic investment, rigorous compliance, and a deep respect for its workforce, the company not only supports structures - but upholds the very framework of industry integrity. ©

Concor progresses on **KARREEBOSCH WIND FARM**

Concor has become an important construction partner in South Africa's wind energy landscape, and recently started work on the Cennergi Holdings and G7 Renewable Energies 140 MW Karreebosch Wind Farm.



Early project works undertaken by Concor include establishing access roads, site offices and an on-site batching plant, in preparation for the large volumes of concrete needed for the turbine foundations.

Located between the towns of Matjiesfontein and Sutherland, Karreebosch Wind Farm is sited predominantly in the Northern Cape, and will generate energy for a private off-taker. At the heart of the project will be 25 turbines at a height of 100 m with blades over 84 m long. Interestingly, the site of this project is adjacent to the Roggeveld Wind Farm which Concor completed about five years ago.

According to Stephan Venter, Contracts Director at Concor, the early work included establishing the necessary infrastructure on site, given the remote and rugged terrain. This will include access roads, site offices and a batching plant for the large volumes of concrete required for each turbine's foundation.

Concor has begun constructing about 45 km of internal access roads, allowing the transportation of components and equipment to each turbine site. Roughly 200 000 m³ of blasting is likely to be required for the roads, foundations and other work. The G5 and G7 material for layer works will be produced on site, using jaw and cone crushers feeding a screen.

"The roads need to support the long heavy trucks used to transport turbine components," says Venter. "For instance, the long turbine blades require the road design to provide sufficient turning radii as well as the right K-values to avoid trucks striking their undercarriage on uneven surfaces."

In the early phases, Concor conducted detailed ground-line surveys and geotechnical investigations to understand the terrain. This helps in planning cut and fill operations, where material is removed from some areas and used to build up others – creating level roads that can support heavy loads. Geotechnical work was critical to the integrity of the turbine foundations, and a specialised drilling company extracted 25 m cores at each turbine position. This established the founding conditions, allowing the foundation design to include the optimal bolt length for securing the turbine tower.

"The bolt length provides the key element around which we

can finalise the design of the steel and concrete aspects of each foundation," he says. "This is vital preparation as the early stage designs can only rely on conventional geotechnical maps which provide high level data rather than a detailed insight."

He points out that the foundation design must also align with the loading documents that are specific to each turbine supplier. The planned lifespan of these critical foundations tends to be longer than the 20 year off-take agreement, allowing for contract extensions that could see the turbines operating for up to 25 years.

The concrete foundations for each turbine measure over 20 m in diameter and are between 4 to 5 m deep, requiring about 600 m³ of concrete per foundation. The whole project will consume in the region of 25 000 m³ of concrete and 2 200 tons of reinforcing steel.

"We do our own concrete mix designs and will produce the readymix ourselves using aggregate from our Tweedside tillite quarry 70 km from site," he explains. "Material will be transported to our own batch plant on site, allowing us to cover most of the concrete value chain ourselves."

The concrete turbine foundations will be poured continuously to ensure even curing, followed by thermal management to prevent cracking from temperature changes. Water for the batching plant will come from two carefully managed boreholes, which feed a 1,5 million litre water storage facilities on site.

Among the environmental factors that the construction work will have to accommodate is the site's proximity to the world famous astronomical observatory at Sutherland. This requires any night-time work to be conducted without creating light pollution that would affect visibility at the observatory.

"The concrete pouring cycle on each foundation lasts about 24 hours, which means that some tasks need to be done when it is dark," he says. "We will take precautions by using special bulbs, for instance, and ensure that we only shine light downwards onto our work and not directly into the sky." ☺



A close-up view captures the excavation of a wind turbine base underway at Karreebosch Wind Farm, where Concor is preparing the foundation to exact specifications based on detailed geotechnical investigations.

BOLD REVAMP OF GROBLERSDAL MALL

Groblersdal Mall in Limpopo is undergoing a transformative redevelopment that will firmly establish it as a modern, welcoming and shopper-oriented destination that is growing and evolving together with its community.

The project, led by Twin City in partnership with Patricio & Sons, will see the refurbishment of the 37 000 m² mall completed in November 2025 with a host of new features, including a completely reimagined food court, enhanced tenant mix and a brand identity that celebrates the area's agricultural heritage.

The redevelopment represents a major investment in the region and will create new permanent jobs, adding to the more than 1 000 already supported by the centre. The major update project began in February 2025.

"Our investment builds on the excellent foundation of an extremely popular and successful centre. Our vision is to ensure it evolves with the needs of the people it serves and retail trends, to genuinely serve the retail needs of Groblersdal and its surrounds, while also offering a real sense of place," says Ryno de Leeuw, CEO of Twin City.

"We are excited to add to the strong major national tenant base at the mall, invest in high-quality contemporary design and continue to provide the community with a space that resonates with their lives and values – one they can always feel proud of."

Modern retail meets local identity

The redevelopment is being led by Design Partnership, whose design is inspired by Groblersdal's agricultural landscape. The architectural approach articulates inviting, tactile spaces that promote a sense of belonging.

The use of greenery, natural textures and warm tones throughout the centre reflects a deep connection to the land, while also creating spaces where visitors feel encouraged to linger and connect.

Design Partnership also led the mall's rebranding, logo and brand direction. The refreshed identity – "Rooted in Groblersdal, Growing Together" – combines modern aesthetics with a grounded, friendly and energising feel that resonates with local shoppers.

Anchors and amenities

A major highlight of the relaunch is the upgraded anchor tenant mix. Checkers will join the mall as a major grocery anchor, while Woolworths has expanded its footprint to include a Woolworths Food offering. With existing anchor Spar, these two top-notch additions mean that Groblersdal shoppers will enjoy an excellent range of grocery offerings. Dis-Chem is also expanding its presence to meet the expectations of shoppers.

The food court area is being reimagined as a central hospitality zone, complete with a family-focused design, an amazing

play area, pause areas and ground-level water features. New standalone food retailers will enhance the offering, making the centre a viable third space for residents, beyond home and work, where families can meet, relax and enjoy quality time.

Other upgraded amenities include modernised public restrooms and integrated landscaping, continuing the centre's commitment to creating an enjoyable, well-managed and amenity-rich shopping experience, such as its longstanding provision of free WiFi for customers and its use of green energy from solar panels which support a reliable shopping experience for visitors.

For the convenience of customers, all retailers will remain open throughout the project, with special care being taken to keep disruption to a minimum.

Nurturing Futures

Adjacent to the mall sits Little Warriors, a preschool run by the Twin City Foundation. Since opening in 2019, it has grown from strength to strength. Today, the school supports more than 200 children aged six months to six years, across eight classrooms, and employs 13 teachers and assistants.

The school reflects Twin City's belief that real community development lies not only in how people shop, but in how the next generation is nurtured and educated.

A space to gather

"More than a shopping destination, the redeveloped Groblersdal Mall is enhancing a vibrant community hub where people can connect, unwind and enjoy a high-quality retail experience in a setting that reflects their values and way of life," adds De Leeuw.

With a dynamic mix of local relevance and national retail strength, the new Groblersdal Mall is poised to delight both loyal shoppers and new visitors alike even more as its revamp comes to life and is completed in November 2025. ☉



Fire safety regulations in modern developments **AS URBAN DENSIFICATION INCREASES**



Michael van Niekerk,
CEO of ASP Fire.

As South Africa's urban landscapes continue to densify, with a marked increase in multi-storey apartment blocks, townhouse complexes, and mixed-use developments, fire and life safety compliance has become a growing concern. According to ASP Fire, a leading fire risk management consultancy, the risks associated with higher residential density demand far greater attention from developers, architects, body corporates, and managing agents alike.



“Urban densification results in more people living and working in confined areas, which significantly elevates fire risk,” says Michael van Niekerk, CEO of ASP Fire. “Densified environments require a robust, proactive approach to fire and life safety, particularly in residential complexes where occupants may not be aware of emergency procedures or even basic safety infrastructure.”

While new developments are governed by national fire safety standards such as SANS 10400-T and SANS 10139, existing townhouse complexes and sectional title schemes often fall short in maintaining critical systems due to a lack of awareness, budget constraints, or mismanagement. Body corporates have a legal duty to ensure ongoing compliance, yet many underestimate the scope of their responsibilities, notes Van Niekerk. Common fire and life safety challenges in residential complexes include:

- Blocked or inadequate fire escape routes
- Non-functional or poorly maintained fire hose reels, extinguishers, and alarm systems
- Lack of smoke detection and early warning systems
- Insufficient fire separation between units
- Inaccessible firefighting infrastructure for emergency services
- Absence of evacuation procedures and occupant education

“In townhouse complexes, for instance, shared driveways and narrow access points can severely hinder firefighting efforts if not properly planned or maintained,” explains van Niekerk. “Body corporates need to ensure that fire safety systems are not only installed but regularly inspected and maintained in line with statutory requirements.”

The growing trend of converting single residential stands into multi-dwelling clusters, often with limited oversight, also poses a regulatory challenge. “We are seeing a rise in informal densification that skirts proper fire safety design, especially in fast-growing urban areas,” warns van Niekerk.

ASP Fire works with developers and managing agents from the design phase through to occupancy, conducting fire risk assessments, advising on fire protection strategies, and helping ensure legal compliance with both national building regulations and municipal bylaws.

“Fire safety should never be an afterthought,” highlights van Niekerk. “Whether it is a high-rise office block or a compact townhouse complex, the safety of occupants depends on planning, accountability, and regular maintenance. We urge body corporates and developers to treat fire safety as a non-negotiable element of responsible urban development.” ©

AFRISAM SAYS WHAT GOES INTO IT MATTERS

In a country building towards a better future, what we put into our infrastructure today determines its value tomorrow. From homes and schools to highways and water systems, South Africa's development depends on strong lasting foundations and that means choosing quality construction materials from the start.



AfriSam's Sales and Marketing Executive, Richard Tomes, says that quality cement is one of the most unappreciated yet critical components in our built environment.

"It is central to the way we create our modern world and facilitate development, providing a cost effective path to a better future," Tomes says. This cement, often hidden from sight beneath roads or inside walls, is the glue that binds the country's progress together.

What sets AfriSam apart is not just the volume of cement it produces but the quality behind every bag. Each product is designed for longevity because early repairs or rebuilds are simply not an option for developing countries. Good cement choices made decades ago are still saving money today by reducing the need for maintenance and freeing up resources for other priorities.

AfriSam's All Purpose Cement is a standout in its class - engineered to remove confusion in the market and deliver consistent high performance results across structural and residential applications. For the manufacturing sector, AfriSam's Rapid Hard Cement gives precast and paving producers the speed they need to stay productive, offering high early strength and faster turnaround times. On South Africa's roads, the company's RoadStab Cement, a

specialty formulated cement for stabilising the layers beneath the surface, helping prevent the scourge of potholes.

Large infrastructure demands even more specialised solutions. On projects like the Lesotho Highlands Water scheme and the construction of wind turbine bases, AfriSam's low-heat cement helped mitigate cracking by carefully managing the heat of hydration during curing. "It is not just about performance - it is about precision," Tomes says.

That same attention to detail extends to AfriSam's environmental approach. By incorporating extenders such as fly ash and slag -

byproducts from coal and steel production - the company significantly reduces the carbon footprint of its cements. In fact, its average carbon content per kilogram of cement is below the global average. And with low-water-demand options now available, customers can help preserve one of South Africa's scarcest resources.

But perhaps what matters most is how AfriSam ensures its quality promise reaches customers. Through its bi-annual Voice of Customer survey the company gains real-time insights across the full customer journey, from product selection to final payment. "Just like checking out of a hotel, the final experience can shape the entire perception," says Tomes. "Our goal is to deliver not only a great product, but a great relationship through remarkable service."

"In the end, it is simple," he says. "If you want infrastructure that lasts, start with materials that are built to. What goes into it matters because the future depends on it." ☺

Cement, often hidden from sight beneath roads or inside walls, is the glue that binds the country's progress together.



FLEXIBILITY BY DESIGN: RESPONDING TO CHANGING REQUIREMENTS IN AFRICAN DATA CENTRES

*The data centre landscape in Africa is changing. What was once considered a peripheral market is now attracting global attention, with projections showing the industry is on track to nearly double in value, reaching USD6,81-billion by 2030. This growth is being fuelled by accelerated digitisation, expanding artificial intelligence (AI) use cases, and a rising demand for cloud infrastructure across both the public and private sectors. **By Craig Blankers, Regional Director for WSP in Africa***

This rapid expansion is forcing a rethink of how infrastructure is designed and delivered. It is putting new focus on the importance of flexibility not as a nice-to-have, but as a baseline requirement. In markets where energy constraints, regulatory evolution, and uneven growth persist, clients require facilities that can respond not only to immediate pressures but to long-term uncertainties with built-in resilience.

We see flexibility as a strategic design decision – one that starts long before construction. It means understanding how user needs are shifting, how regulations are tightening, and how to build spaces that can evolve with minimal to no disruption. Modularity plays a role, but true flexibility is about foresight.

A market defined by pace and pressure

Data consumption across Africa is accelerating. From fintech and e-commerce to streaming, healthcare and government services, digital platforms and the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are creating unprecedented demand for local data hosting.

According to Statista, Africa's data centre revenue is expected to maintain double-digit growth through 2028. This means new builds are rising across major cities like Johannesburg, Nairobi, Lagos, and Accra. However, across the region, the sector still faces constraints around power, water, permitting, and skills.

It is in this context that design flexibility becomes essential. Whether navigating policy updates, water scarcity or power cuts and load-shedding risks, infrastructure must be built to adapt. This includes anticipating future IT load increases, planning for efficient retrofits, and accommodating evolving sustainability regulations. According to the Africa Data Centre Association's 2023 report, operators are under growing pressure to align with Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) goals and localise more of their procurement and operations. Design must allow for this progression.

Engineering responsiveness into every layer

In our experience, flexibility by design touches nearly every aspect of a data centre - from site selection and energy



Craig Blankers, Regional Director for WSP in Africa.

modelling to mechanical systems, resilience protocols, and long-term maintenance. With the rapid advent of AI, capacity requirements to enable future scalability are much more intensive than they were less than a year ago. By adopting an integrated approach that considers scaling for AI from the outset, each layer of the data centre can be designed to evolve with business needs.

Rapid shifts in technologies and client expectations are challenging conventional engineering timelines. Clients increasingly want plug-and-play, scalable facilities that allow for delayed capital expenditure while futureproofing long-term growth.

This has seen our teams implement modular UPS and cooling systems, flexible floor plans, phased buildouts, and digital twins that monitor performance in real-time. To enable resilient data centres that are AI capable – which are well known for being resource intensive – we also continue to push for lower energy usage effectiveness (PUE), greater integration of renewables, local sourcing and improved water-use efficiency, all of which require smart, adaptive engineering.

Local context, global execution

Our Centre of Excellence in South Africa plays a key role in delivering world-class outcomes within Africa's unique constraints. We support both hyperscale and colocation providers, helping them design and deliver data centres that meet international benchmarks while accounting for local conditions, be it soil constraints, grid unreliability, or local labour mandates.

This model allows us to deploy best practices while continuously learning from Africa's operating environments. We integrate global digital workflows, extensive data governance, and detailed risk modelling into every engagement. We invest in local talent and source from local supply chains, support knowledge transfer, and ensure that every project reflects the lived realities of African environments.

Flexibility as a strategic imperative

Data centres are resource- and capital-intensive, but they are also long-term assets. The ones that will remain competitive in Africa's fast-evolving markets are those designed for resilience whether it is regarding their power profiles and cooling demands or their ability to adapt to regulatory shifts and client mix.

We approach flexibility not as a feature, but as a design requirement. Our teams work across disciplines (engineering, architecture, and sustainability) to build facilities that consider the capacity impacts of technologies like AI from the outset, allowing them to scale and respond to change without downtime. That might mean planning for phased expansion, ensuring compatibility with on-site renewables, or navigating region-specific compliance issues like data sovereignty.

We also understand that engineering expertise alone is not enough. Building the right facilities for African contexts requires local insight, practical experience, and the ability to transfer skills and knowledge on the ground. What sets successful, resilient facilities apart is not just how they perform today, but how well they are prepared for what comes next.

Infrastructure for long-term relevance

Africa's growing digital economy must be matched by infrastructure decisions that are equally forward-looking. Data centre capacity alone is not the full picture. How facilities are designed, powered, scaled, and maintained will determine their long-term relevance.

This is especially true in markets where energy costs are high, power stability is variable, and new regulations are emerging around sustainability and data sovereignty. We are helping clients plan not just for go-live, but for the full lifecycle of adaptation and optimisation. ☺

BUILT TO WORK SMART AND HARDER - LOAD AFTER LOAD

From rugged farmlands and remote forest landscapes to demanding construction and mining sites, success in today's industries requires machines that are faster, smarter, and more versatile. In environments where efficiency and productivity are key to business sustainability, Wacker Neuson's range of wheel loaders rises to the challenge.

Designed to adapt, perform and deliver in diverse conditions, wheel loaders offered by Wacker Neuson feature standout innovations – such as All Wheel Steering (AWS) and a broad range of attachments – that redefine manoeuvrability, stability, and on-site productivity.

“When efficiency, performance and long-term value matter, these machines rise to the occasion,” says Stefan le Roux, Wacker Neuson Managing Director – Sub-Saharan Africa. “They’re more than just loaders. With high-flow hydraulics and a quick hitch system, our wheel loaders become true multi-tool carriers.” This adaptability enables operators to seamlessly transition between tasks by effortlessly changing attachments to efficiently tackle a variety of tasks such as materials handling, loading and logistics, and site clean-up - maximising on-site productivity. Attachments include brooms, standard and screening buckets, mulchers, mixing buckets, branch cutters, front wood grabs, pallet forks and dozer blades – transforming each unit into a productivity powerhouse. This value-driven versatility also contributes to lowering the total cost of ownership.

Wacker Neuson's wheel loader range comprises seven models. The compact 5035 model starts with a tipping load of 1 140 kg, a bucket capacity of 0,35 m³, and an 18,5 kW power unit. At the top end of the range, the robust 8155L offers a tipping load of 5 600 kg, bucket capacities ranging from 1 m³ up to 2,5 m³ depending on the specific gravity of the material being moved.

The All-Wheel Drive (AWD) feature on all loader models provides excellent traction and pushing power across all terrain. Exceptional stability and high payload capacity, even on uneven surfaces, are achieved through a robust one-piece chassis or rigid frame with rear axle oscillation, combined with All-Wheel Steering (AWS). This offers enhanced agility and a significantly smaller turning radius.

The rigid frame design of these wheel loaders maintains the machine's centre of gravity, even during sharp turns. This ensures even weight distribution and a balanced, secure ride across slopes and rough terrain. Combined with premium components and a rugged frame, the loaders are built to withstand tough working environments – maximising uptime and machine longevity.

Efficiency, both in fuel consumption and environmental impact, is essential for operators striving to meet their economic and sustainability goals. Wacker Neuson's wheel loaders feature fuel-efficient power units designed to optimise fuel use, achieving the perfect balance between performance and cost-effectiveness.

Operator comfort, safety, and productivity are closely linked – and Wacker Neuson's wheel loaders are designed with this in mind. The ergonomic cab features intuitive controls and thoughtful amenities that reduce fatigue and enhance safety – supporting extended, more productive shifts. Features include improved visibility, low vibration and noise levels, and large glass surfaces with narrow cab pillars for all-round visibility.

From the compact and powerful 5035 to the high-capacity 8155L and 8145T, Wacker Neuson's wheel loaders are purpose-built to meet the evolving needs of the construction, agriculture, mining and forestry sectors. With an optimal balance of productivity, manoeuvrability, fuel efficiency and operator comfort – alongside their compatibility with a wide range of attachments – these machines are true multi-tool carriers, ready to perform in any environment. ☉



BACKHOE LOADERS BUILT FOR PERFORMANCE

Juanita Pienaar spoke to Mark Webster, General Manager - Regional Dealer Network, Southern Africa, about the versatility, performance, and value that Manitou's backhoe loaders bring to the construction, agriculture, and municipal sectors.

Built for tough jobs across industries

Manitou's backhoe loaders have steadily carved out a reputation for versatility and dependability across Southern Africa's demanding industries. "Manitou backhoe loaders are highly versatile machines, ideal for a wide array of industries and environments," says Mark Webster. "They are particularly well-suited for the construction sector and are also very effective in agriculture, offering multi-functional capabilities with various attachments to significantly enhance productivity."

Whether operating in confined urban spaces or expansive rural projects, these machines are designed to perform. "They excel in the construction sector, handling tasks such as excavation, trenching, backfilling, and material handling on building sites, road construction projects, and infrastructure development," Webster explains. "Their agility makes them suitable for both urban environments with limited space and larger, more open construction zones."

Beyond construction, the backhoe loaders find solid footing

in agriculture, where they support tasks such as land clearing, ditch digging, and bulk material handling. "Furthermore, Manitou backhoe loaders are well-suited for landscaping projects, municipal work, and utility installations, where their ability to perform multiple functions with various attachments significantly boosts productivity," Webster adds.

Under the hood: power meets precision

Manitou's latest backhoe loader models are built for robust performance. "The machines are powered by a Perkins 1104D 44T Turbo Charged Water Cooled Tier-III engine with 94 horsepower and a maximum torque of 395 Nm," Webster details. Weighing in at an unladen 7 620 kg, these machines offer a maximum digging depth of 4 741 mm and an operating height of 4 230 mm, providing ample reach for demanding applications.

In terms of hydraulic performance, the backhoe loaders deliver a flow rate of 142 l/min and a main relief pressure of 225 bar, ensuring smooth, reliable



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operation even under heavy workloads.

Operator-focused design

Manitou has clearly prioritised operator comfort and efficiency in its cabin design. “We’ve introduced easy-to-use, smooth lever movements and a redesigned control panel inside the cab,” Webster notes. “The ergonomic cluster and easily identifiable controls and dashboard elements give the driver 10% better visibility across the cabin.” The additional space and intuitive layout help reduce operator fatigue and promote safer, more efficient working conditions.

Manitou backhoe loaders stand out for their durability and safety features. “Our machines offer best-in-class dump height at 2 780 mm and a superior shovel dump angle of 51 degrees, which translates directly to enhanced performance and productivity,” Webster says.

Robustness is a clear hallmark. “The bonnet is virtually unbreakable, and the machine features a hardnose design,” he adds. “We also use steel casting at the boom and dipper with additional reinforcements, ensuring long-term reliability.”

Manitou has embraced smart technology to help fleet managers and operators optimise their assets. “Our backhoe loaders are equipped with advanced Easy Manager telematics and smart monitoring systems,” Webster explains. “These systems provide real-time data on machine location, operational status, fuel consumption, and performance metrics.”

The benefits are clear: “With this information, owners and fleet managers can proactively schedule maintenance, detect potential issues early, and optimise machine utilisation,” he says. “This reduces downtime, enhances security, and lowers operating costs, which contributes to a better return on investment over the machine’s lifecycle.”

Webster confirms that the brand is committed to supporting data-driven decision-making through these intelligent systems. “It’s about enabling our customers to get the most out of their equipment,” he adds.

Versatility through attachments

The ability to switch quickly between attachments is another major advantage. “Manitou backhoe loaders come standard with a quick-coupling system on both the H-frame and rear dipper,” says Webster. This feature allows operators to transition seamlessly between tasks, saving valuable time on site.

The range of available attachments further extends the machine’s versatility. “We offer an extended dipper that provides an additional reach of one metre,” Webster says. “This allows operators to dig longer, flat-bottom trenches without repositioning the machine, significantly improving productivity.” Other common attachments include a 1,2 m³ multi-purpose bucket with pallet forks, a standard bucket with forks, a grapple bucket, and rock breakers for tough ground-clearing jobs.

Backed by strong aftersales support

Manitou’s investment doesn’t end at the point of sale. “We offer comprehensive aftersales support across South Africa and the broader African region,” says Webster. “We’ve built a strong dealer presence with readily available parts, which are

strategically stocked to meet regional demands efficiently.”

This robust network is essential for minimising downtime. “Our aim is to provide customers with prompt and reliable support for their backhoe loaders and other equipment,” he explains.

Responding to market trends

Demand for backhoe loaders in Southern Africa continues to evolve. “We’ve seen a steady shift driven by dynamic changes in the construction and agriculture sectors,” Webster observes. “In construction, there’s a growing need for versatile and efficient machinery that can handle multiple tasks, especially in infrastructure development and urban projects.”

Manitou’s backhoe loaders appear well-placed to meet these evolving expectations with their combination of performance, intelligence, and support. As Webster concludes, “Our focus is always on delivering smart, sustainable, and productive equipment solutions that meet our customers’ needs both now and in the future.” ☺





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