



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3
ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICA

Pan-African Capital Holdings, iNtatakusa and Bigen Africa merger backed by DBSA

BIGEN AFRICA Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, iNtatakusa Consulting (Pty) Ltd and Pan-African Capital Holdings (Pty) Ltd, have merged to form a new formidable entity in Southern Africa's consulting engineering fraternity in a deal funded by the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The newly merged company, which will trade under the name BIGEN AFRICA, combines considerable skills and expertise in infrastructure development from the three companies which will be invaluable in contributing towards government's infrastructure rollout targets. BIGEN AFRICA Consulting Engineers received the Business Excellence Award from the South African Association of Consulting Engineers (SAACE) for five consecutive years and numerous technical awards. The other merging party, iNtatakusa Consulting, is the 2003 winner of the SAACE Young Company Award. Both companies have previously collaborated on various projects. The third party, Pan-African Capital Holdings (PACH), a black-owned and operated financial services and investment company, is also a formidable entity. PACH holdings, which will have a 30% stake in the merged company, has undertaken assessment studies on the New Partnership for Africa's Development's (NEPAD) role in the African continent and facilitated the establishment of the Tshwane Development Agency and has done an analysis of the role of tourism in the South African economy as well as the drafting of the Gauteng Development Strategy. The company also focuses on investment in resources development, strategic projects like bio-fuel, housing and property development and finance.

PACH's directors include Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairman - PACH; Dr Iraj Abedian, Chief Executive - PACH; Dr Zuko Kubukeli, Director Strategy & Acquisitions - PACH; and Mr J.H. De Villiers Botha, Director Business Development - PACH.

Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu, is the former Economic Advisor to the President of the Republic of South Africa and is the Chairman and Head of the Secretariat for NEPAD. He will also chair the board of Directors of BIGEN AFRICA.

Dr Iraj Abedian, an Economics Professor, is a well-known figure in South Africa with extensive experience in economic research and policy analysis. He was previously a director and Group Economist at Standard Bank.

Back from left to right:
Elton Simelane,
J H De Villiers Botha,
Lewis Masasike
Front from left to right:
Dr Iraj Abedian
and Francois Swart

features

Celebrating 25 years • Infrastructure asset management solutions
• Job shadow day • Project news • IMESA conference

Dr Zuko Kubukeli has experience in fund management, company analysis, business strategy and acquisitions. He was the regional property manager of Atlas Properties and worked at Brait in their Specialised Funds Division.

Mr J.H. De Villiers Botha, former Executive Manager: Strategic Initiatives, at the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), recently joined PACH as Business Development Executive. Before joining the DBSA he spent 13 years in local government as City Engineer. His extensive experience in project finance and project management in the SADC region is expected to be beneficial to BIGEN AFRICA's inroads into Africa.

Comments from the parties involved on the transaction are as follows:

"The DBSA is proud to be associated with this significant BBBEEE transaction in the consulting and engineering sector," says Lewis Musasike, the Executive Manager: Private Sector and International Investments, at the DBSA.

He added that the partnership is viewed in a very strategic light given the potential value it will add, at a time when the DBSA is positioning itself to originate and finance key economic infrastructure projects in the SADC region in support of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGISA) and NEPAD programmes.

"A merger with BIGEN AFRICA is a strategic move for us. We have been involved in joint projects in the past and have found these joint ventures to be successful. They have enabled us to tap into areas where we would not otherwise have been able to tap into," said Elton Simelane, Chairman, iNtatakusa Consulting.

"We were looking for partners that will add real value and align us with our vision for the new South Africa. The new partnership will create new and exciting opportunities for BIGEN AFRICA across the African continent," says Francois Swart, the Chief Executive of BIGEN AFRICA.

Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu also expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership. "We are very excited about this partnership. We are partnering with organisations that are truly professional and uphold high ethical values. We start at a good time since South Africa is currently rolling out a very ambitious infrastructure development plan."

For Francois Swart, the new BIGEN AFRICA entity is a conglomeration of efficient business units, offering cutting-edge engineering, management and project finance solutions to a broad base of clients in both the public and private sectors. "We will continue to focus on helping government meet its ASGISA and NEPAD objectives, as well as its infrastructure needs in view of 2010. We aim to offer solutions for Africa by Africans and we will be looking into expanding throughout Africa with our new partners on board," concludes Swart.



1999 Otto Langenegger and Partners join EVN.

EVN Pretoria office in Meyerspark.

BIGEN AFRICA

The eighties...

The rowdy music... the cults, psychedelia, wide-eyed utopianism, free thinking and the feel-good liberalism of the seventies have given way to a new reality...

A new generation of idealists emerged... propelled by explosive energy and tough pragmatism... Driven by this new spirit, a talented 25 year old engineer, Francois Swart, opened the Pretoria office of Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen in 1981.

The consulting engineering firm was started by Andre Eksteen in Pietersburg, now Polokwane, in 1971. Francois Swart soon showed his true mettle as a skilful engineer, visionary businessman and forward-thinking entrepreneur. From a humble beginning in a small prefab office without air conditioning at Wonderboom Airport, the Pretoria office, with Swart at the helm, played a pivotal role in transforming BIGEN AFRICA, as it is now known, into one of the most respected role-players in the South African and African consulting engineering market.

Eksteen, Van der Walt & Nissen has successfully completed a long list of impressive and challenging projects, including well-known dams such as the Middle-Letaba, Hudson Ntsanwisi, Dinaseng and Molatedi dams, pumps and canal systems at Douglas on the Orange River, the Makatini Irrigation Project, various industrial plants, grain silos, schools, government buildings, roads, bridges, business complexes, as well as one of the most imaginative agricultural projects in South Africa at the time in the Taung region.

Over the last years BIGEN AFRICA has won some of South Africa's most sought-after infrastructure development contracts. One of these flagship projects entrusted to BIGEN AFRICA is the Moretele Water Scheme. This project plays a key role in South Africa's endeavour to reach the millennium goal with regards to the provision of water to all households in the country.

Another flagship project is the Temba Roodeplaat Water Scheme, an imaginative R530 million project designed to provide water to the developing areas in the north of Tshwane. BIGEN AFRICA is also responsible for the R500 million pier construction project at the former Johannesburg International Airport, now OR Tambo International Airport. This project entails, among others, the construction of the new international arrival and departure facilities at Africa's biggest airport. This dedicated effort by BIGEN AFRICA will provide South Africa with the necessary infrastructure to proudly host the 2010 World Cup.

One of many awards...



Board members during the 1990's.



Staff meeting at the head office.



2003 launch of SED policy.

Pretoria - celebrating 25 years

The company grew rapidly from 1981 and in 1989 moved into its own building in Watermeyer Street. This rapid growth and a myriad of new challenges in the company's professional niche made a major restructuring of the group unavoidable.

In 1991 the newly formed EVN group of companies announced that it was fully geared to help build a new South Africa.

Eight years later EVN joined forces with Otto Langenegger and partners, providers of high quality professional water-related engineering and management services to the various communities of South Africa, to form a brand new entity... BIGN AFRICA!

The company started an electrical engineering division, a separate management consulting company and ventured successfully into project financing. In keeping with the political transformation achieved during the 1990's BIGN AFRICA launched its Socio-economic development policy in 2003 which coincided with the sale of a percentage of its issued shares to a consortium of black professionals, led by Mike Mohohlo.

The management of BIGN AFRICA knew that one did not have to be in Disneyland for dreams to come true. Walt Disney, a corporate dreamer on a large scale himself, said: "If you can dream it you can do it!" The fact remains - everything in life begins with a dream - a vision of the future. At BIGN AFRICA, our dream is to offer "Engineering solutions for Africa", through the use of our world-class project management and engineering skills.

We want to contribute to the creation of the quality lives and societies that not only South Africa, but also Africa as a whole so desperately wants. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Pretoria office. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of the company's leadership and staff, BIGN AFRICA has evolved into a dynamic conglomeration of efficient business units, offering cutting edge engineering, management and project finance solutions to a broad base of clients in both the public and private sectors. In search of our dream, we have achieved many spectacular successes, and these have been recognised by both our clients and competitors alike. The long list of accolades that BIGN AFRICA projects have received over the years is proof of this.

What a difference 25 years have made... In the 1980's we had long hair. Now we long for hair. Then we were trying to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor. Now we are trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

We like to believe, however, that what time has taken away in terms of youthfulness, it has generously given back in wisdom, knowledge, experience and faith... This is very important – as the great statesman Winston Churchill once said: "The empires of the future are the empires of the mind".

Whatever the future may hold, BIGN AFRICA is set to spearhead the engineering industry in the years to come. The strong price of commodities, the Government's successful fiscal policy, the 2010 World Cup projects and the rollout of the Government's infrastructure programme have given us reason to rejoice in our position. The ultramodern new Pretoria office in The Innovation Hub is a symbol of the company's commitment to capitalise on what the future has to offer. We trust that the next 25 years will be an even greater success story and that we will pride ourselves not only in our business achievements, but also in the values that drive us!

Our vision is perhaps best defined by former chairman Nick Serfontein: "As far as achievements are concerned, we have two choices in life: We can achieve an ordinary level of success by targeting objectives that are accessible to us, or, WE CAN SHOOT FOR THE STARS!"

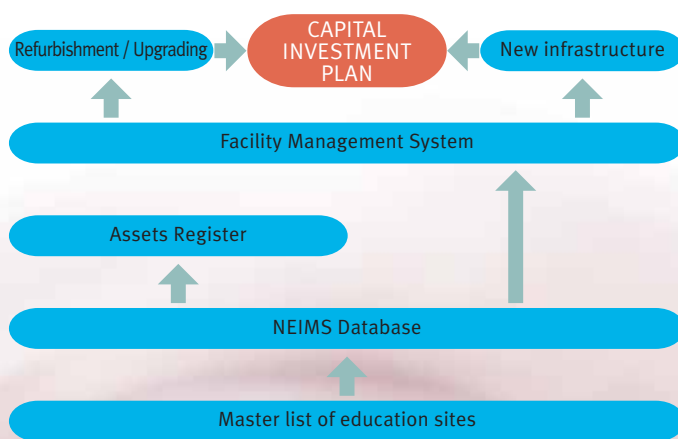
We salute the vision and commitment of our leadership and staff over the past 25 years!

Revolutionary real time infrastructure asset management solutions

BIGEN AFRICA in consortium with Deloitte, has been appointed to assist the National Department of Education with the development of a National Education Infrastructure Management System (NEIMS). The main components of the system are the following:

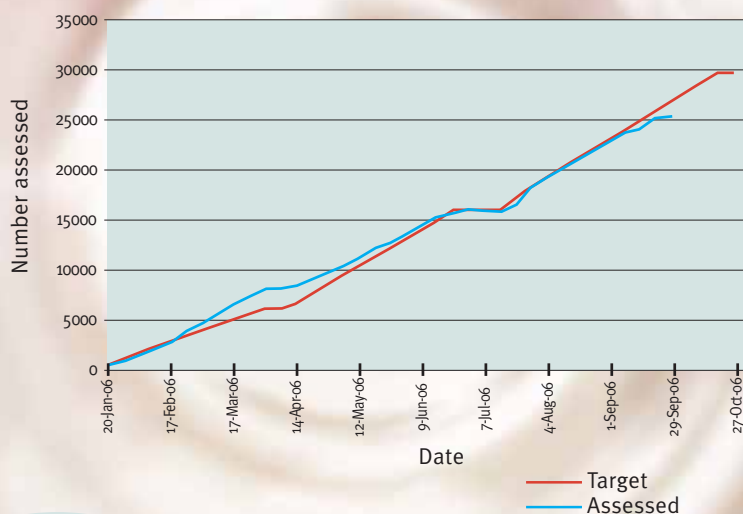
- Unique assessment instrument and methodology
- Web-based database with data capturing and reporting capabilities
- Assets register in line with the National Treasury guidelines
- Asset management system incorporating intelligent query reporting and mapping
- Cost model providing guidance on future maintenance, refurbishment and capital investment budgeting

The following diagram illustrates the various components of the process:



This exciting project involves the technical assessment of approximately 30 000 educational sites across the entire country. Of these, the fieldwork for more than 25 000 assessments has been completed, of which more than 20 000 have already been captured in the database. The implemented model will have a major positive impact on future educational requirements and will alleviate existing infrastructure deficiencies.

Progress to date: Assessment of schools



NEIMS is being developed and will provide the infrastructure / asset managers of the Department of Education and executives with a custom-built integrated infrastructure management tool. The GIS-based viewer includes information on infrastructure, building, and general education as well as financial modules and has the following features:

- In general, it serves to display the results of high-level investigations and planning studies for infrastructure and assets in an organised fashion.
- Provides a summary of pertinent information related to infrastructure in tables, graphs and maps (e.g. schools coloured in accordance with learner numbers, level of service - water and sanitation, condition status, other management parameters, photos, drawings, etc.).
- Allows queries in reports or maps (GIS) combining selected parameters related to various norms and standards (e.g. number of schools with learner/classroom ratio > 40, number of schools with inadequate security, desk shortages, etc.). These reports can be generated from a national level, down to local municipal level and even municipal ward level.
- Provides standard reports, including graphics, for presentation to senior management, the public, etc.
- Provides direct access to individual school's information, allowing for quick access to information on infrastructure, assets and related issues.

The NEIMS will empower the Department of Education to effectively plan their asset management, with appropriate staffing structures, reporting lines and up-to-date management information. It will enable the infrastructure and asset managers of the Department to compare the current status of infrastructure at schools against specific norms and standards to determine compliance. This will enable decision-makers to initiate strategic programmes aimed at improving of public schools.

IMESA conference

Such queries, for example, include the identification of the following:

- Schools with insufficient classrooms to serve the number of learners at the school
- Schools with insufficient ablution facilities
- Schools where the infrastructure is in need of refurbishment

For more information contact Harold Lombard on 012 844 0703 or harold.lombard@bigenafrica.com

PMR research results

PMR Research has conducted its second annual survey assessing consulting engineers to the public sector in South Africa as rated by central and provincial government, municipalities, SOEs and parastatals. 281 ratings were sourced from 91 respondents.

The survey was split into 3 categories:

- Transportation and roads
- Water and sanitation
- Public structures

In the categories “water and sanitation” as well as “public structures” BIGEN AFRICA received the bronze award.



Moses Maliba, President of IMESA and Bongani Mabizela from BIGEN AFRICA at BIGEN AFRICA's exhibition stand.

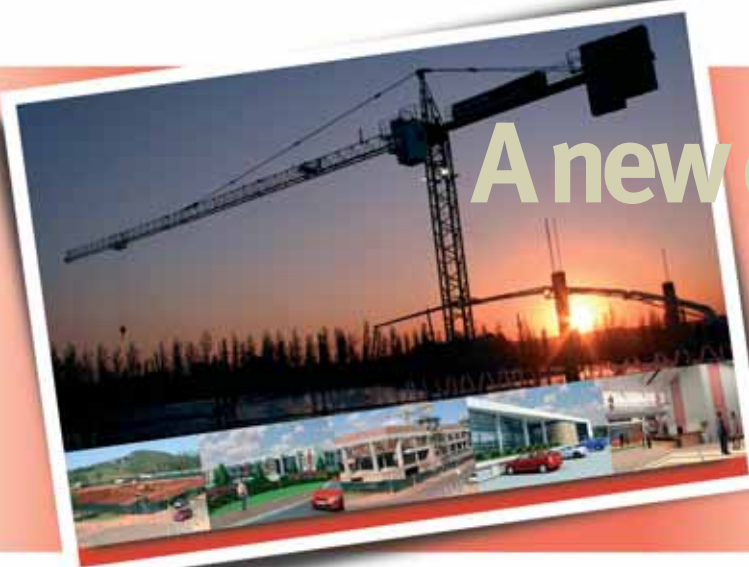
The 70th IMESA conference was held in Soweto from 10 to 13 October 2006. BIGEN AFRICA, a regular exhibitor at the event, was also involved in the presentation of two papers during the conference.

The first paper, *Adapt or die! New life for two old water treatment works*, proved how innovative re-engineering turned two old, neglected and underperforming plants into valuable assets. Both the 12 Ml/day Bospoort Plant and the 30 Ml/day Vaalkop Plant have already and will in future make a significant contribution to address the water quality and quantity issues experienced by Rustenburg over the past few years. Most important of all it demonstrates the responsible use of local financial resources as well as water resources.

For more information contact Corrie Marx on 012 842 8786 or corrie.marx@bigenafrica.com

The second paper being presented, *Sustainable integrated housing development*, gave an overview of the Olievenhoutbosch ministerial housing project as an example of integrated housing developments.

For more information contact Dougal Westely on 012 842 8702 or dougal.westley@bigenafrica.com



A new dawn in 2007

The construction of the new BIGEN AFRICA head office at the Innovation Hub in Pretoria is progressing well. Our BIG move is scheduled for March 2007.

Project News Gauteng

Alternative implementation mechanism for Department of Housing

BIGEN AFRICA's long standing RPT (Regional Professional Team) contract with the Gauteng Department of Housing came to an end on 30 June 2006, when the Department decided not to extend the contract in its current form. The Department is under extreme pressure to keep up with the construction of houses, and the RPT, which focused only on essential services, created a backlog. The focus on the construction of houses and the immediate discontinuation of only toilet construction is spearheaded by the MEC for housing, Nomvula Paula Mokonyane, who made it clear that she is the MEC of housing and not of toilets!

The Department has, in line with the revised strategy, put out to tender an alternative implementation mechanism termed: Professional Resource Teams (PRTs). The PRTs will now cover all of the Department's requirements in terms of housing. BIGEN AFRICA, together with WIPHOLD, Lulu Gwagwa Development Consultants and Ceaser Molebatsi have been appointed as one of the PRTs to implement this programme to achieve the Department's housing objectives.



Leeuwpoot development in EMM

The Ekuhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) signed a Land Development Agreement (LDA) with the Leeuwpoot Development Consortium (a consortium between Absa Bank, the Infrastructure Finance Corporation, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Urban Dynamics and BIGEN AFRICA) and the S&L/Welfare Consortium (a consortium between S&L Projects and Welfare Projects). In terms of the LDA negotiated with EMM, the 2 consortiums agreed to establish a private company (Leeuwpoot Developments (Pty) Ltd) to fulfil the role of developer of the project.

The Leeuwpoot project consists of land owned by EMM and comprises approximately 1 300 Ha. The project is located south of Boksburg and consists of 8 land parcels with a scope of approximately 11 000 stands (1 500 subsidised, 2 500 institutional and 7 000 bonded). The development will further include ancillary land uses (commercial, etc.) and bulk infrastructure.

BIGEN AFRICA, which holds a 44% interest in Leeuwpoot Developments, will in addition be appointed to do all the professional services related to programme and project management, engineering services and labour management. The LDA further states that a maximum of 20% of the net profit of the development will be used to provide a higher level of service for the subsidised and social housing components and further to provide for the development of community facilities within the development.

The first step in the development process is for Leeuwpoot Developments to conduct a detailed bankability study. This 6 month study which will be completed by February 2007 is intended to determine and prove the bankability of the project after which preliminary and detail designs will be done.



Aerial view of the Pennyville site.

Pennyville Extension 1

Pennyville Extension 1 is a turnkey development in Soweto for low income families and will consist of 2, 800 units. The 2, 800 units are made up of 1,117 residential 1 stands and 1, 693 residential 3 stands. The layout also makes provision for 1 school site, 3 crèche sites, 1 garage site and 5 public open space sites.

BIGEN AFRICA has been appointed by PZR (Pty) Ltd for the design and construction supervision of all civil engineering infrastructures. The project will be executed in four phases and construction of internal water and sewer reticulations for phase 1 and 2 commenced on 31 July 2006. The estimated total project value is R60 million over a 15 month period.

Ensuring international airport excellence

BIGEN AFRICA as part of the iNtatakusa Africa joint venture has been doing the civil and structural consulting work on the international pier building project at OR Tambo International Airport formerly Johannesburg International Airport since 2004. Construction work is at an advanced stage and the first phase of this challenging and highly demanding project will be completed early in 2007.

Passengers will depart from and arrive at the pier building by means of air bridges linking the building directly to the aeroplanes. The apron level of the building will house the utility buildings and will make provision for service vehicle parking and future utility and office buildings. The first level will house the arrivals and the second level the departures section.

The total building length is approximately 300 m, with the pier building serving nine aeroplane docking stations. Three of the docking stations will cater for the new A380 Airbus aircraft, which can carry up to 555 passengers.

The total construction time for the first phase of this R 500 million project is estimated at 16 months.

The concrete framed structure is founded on augered piles with average lengths of 18 m and diameters varying between 600 and 1500 mm.

The structural floors and beams systems are mostly post-tensioned. Typical concrete strengths of 21 MPa are reached at 4 days when the horizontal structural elements are stressed.

The roof structure consists of a truss and girder system. Light masts for apron lighting will be placed on top of the roofs.



Paving the way in Tembisa

BIGEN AFRICA has been appointed by the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Council for the upgrading of pedestrian and cycle paths in Tembisa as well as the improvement of public transport routes in view of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. A training facility for the World Cup will be located in Tembisa.

BIGEN AFRICA has successfully upgraded the walkways and pedestrian paths in Soweto and our excellent track record has stood us in good stead in receiving this appointment, which is a spin-off from the 2010 soccer bid. This R17 million appointment will have a 36 month duration and the design process is well underway.

ews

Project News **Limpopo**

Road works ahead

The Roads Agency Limpopo appointed BIGEN AFICA for the repairing, resealing and fog spraying of the road between Malamulele and Gandlanani in the Limpopo Province. The project value for this 5.25km road amounts to is R 5million.

Project News Eastern Cape

Ocean Terrace office park building

BIGEN AFRICA was appointed for the structural design of buildings C & D of the Ocean Terrace office park in East London. The project value is estimated at between R12 million and R14 million.

The 3-storey buildings are positioned and linked together in an L-shape and are approximately 1400 square meters per floor.

The columns will be founded on good quality sandstone at depths between 1.5m and 2.5m below ground floor level. The structural system will be concrete columns with flat slabs. The project will be designed and documented by our East London structural team.

Electrical projects for private developers

BIGEN Cape's electrical division has recently completed the Gonubie Green development of 32 stands, with new appointments for Loerie Country Estate, Amalinda Glen and The Beacon.

The Loerie Country Estate development will be developed in three phases. Phase 1 will be the infrastructure and services to 56 upmarket housing units and the bulk infrastructure for a 30 unit conference facility and a 30 bedroom hotel. The conference facility and hotel will form part of phases 2 and 3. The development is situated in the Beacon Bay area overlooking the popular Quenera area.

The Amalinda Glen development is in Amalinda and comprises 56 middle- to high-income housing units.

The Beacon Development is in the Beacon Bay area, East London and comprises 228 medium to high-cost housing units. The appointment also includes the civil and structural design work.

Gonubie Shopping Centre

The Cape business unit of BIGEN AFRICA has been appointed by Edrei Investments 12 Limited, a Cape Town based developer, as the professional service provider for all the civil engineering services for yet another shopping complex in Gonubie, East London. The size of the property to be developed is 4.8ha with the total rentable area of the mall at 15 352m². The services to be rendered will include the design and construction supervision of the bulk earthworks and bulk services, i.e. parking areas, road widening, water, sewer and storm water reticulation and storm water detention facility. The current estimated construction amount for the civil works is more than R13 million.

Construction has commenced in October 2006 with the project completion date for the entire project scheduled for November 2007.



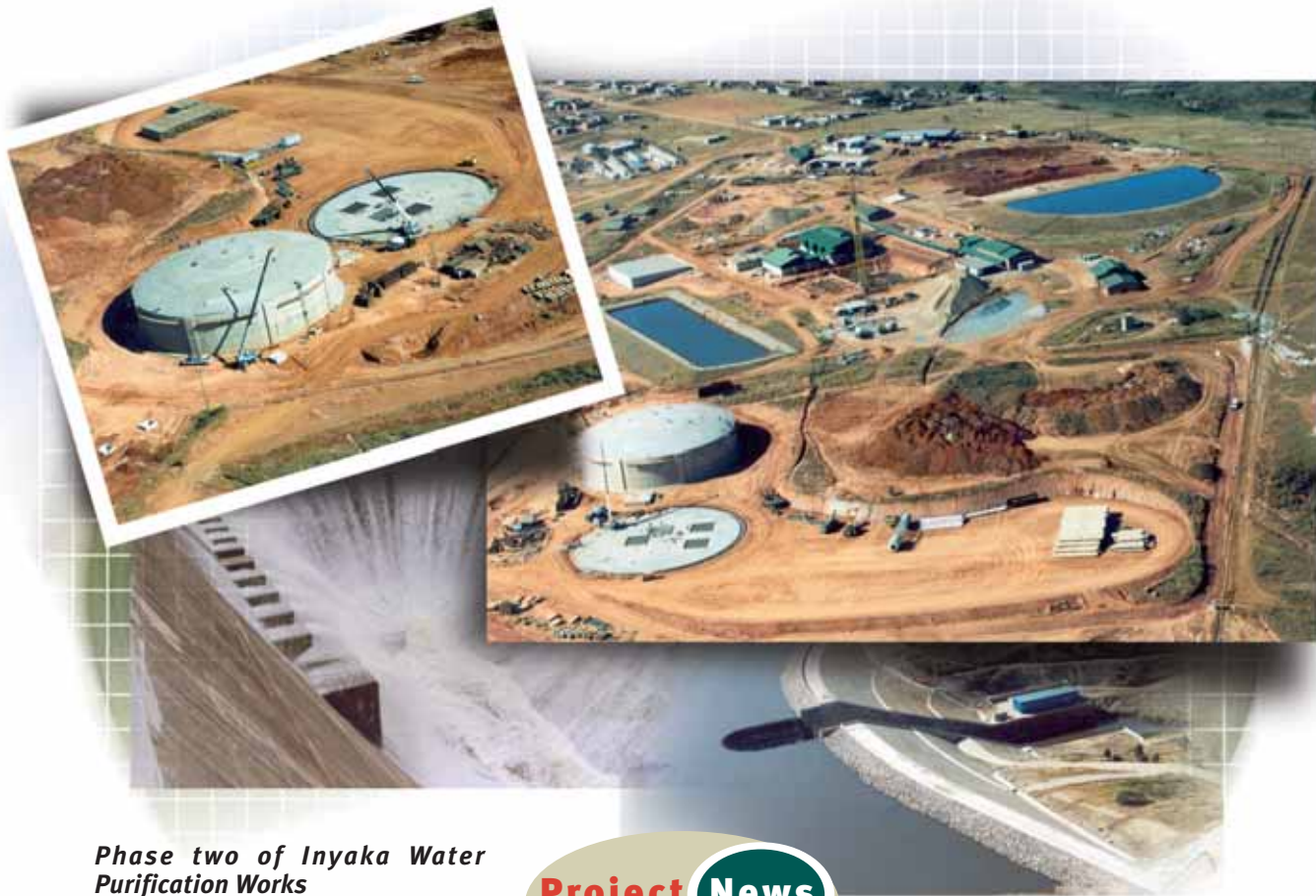
Project News Mpumalanga

Planning of civil engineering infrastructure for the Mataffin Precinct

The Mbombela Stadium will serve as one of the venues for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. The stadium will be built on a portion of the Mataffin Precinct. The Mataffin Precinct, approximately 968 hectares in extent, will be developed on farmland located 4 km west of the central business district of Nelspruit.

BIGEN AFRICA has been commissioned by Mbombela Local Municipality to investigate the status quo with regard to the availability of bulk civil engineering infrastructure, to identify external and internal civil engineering infrastructure required to serve the precinct and to prepare a preliminary cost estimate of infrastructure to be installed. BIGEN AFRICA's report was tabled in August 2006.

The precinct plan provides for the stadium, business, commercial, tourism, educational and community facilities, offices, housing which will include low-density, medium-density and social housing and housing grants, formalisation and the in-situ upgrading of the existing Mataffin Village, areas reserved for conservation, agricultural areas and mixed-land use areas.



Phase two of Inyaka Water Purification Works

In November 2005 construction on phase 2 of the 25 MI/day Inyaka Water Purification Works (30 km north of Hazyview, Mpumalanga) commenced. BIGEN AFRICA was appointed for this contract, having successfully completed phases 1A and 1B (25 MI/day), the first designs dating as far back as 1997.

The current construction work is done departmentally by DWA and all bulk earthworks comprising engineering mattresses up to 6m deep have been completed. Construction is on target with the first concrete walls being cast for the new sedimentation tanks, filters and the 20 MI command reservoir.

The raw water balancing dam capacity will be extended by 37.5 MI to a total capacity of 50 MI. This will have a 12 hours storage/balancing capacity for the ultimate works of 100 MI/day which receives raw water from the Inyaka raw water pump station at the dam.

Phase 2 has an estimated contract value of approximately R40 million and should be completed by May 2008.

Project News Africa

News from Nigeria

The ASA Water Purification Works project is nearing completion. It was officially visited by the Nigerian President on 11 July 2006 and he was most impressed by the activities and the quality of the work on the site. BIGEN AFRICA is supervising the contract to upgrade and refurbish an existing 55 MI/day water treatment plant to treat 65 MI/day. Biwater Nigeria is the contractor. This project is funded by the Kwara State. Biwater was also appointed by the Federal Ministry of Water to build a new 55 MI/day plant on the same site. This is being supervised by a Nigerian consultant, Ciwat Engineering.

BIGEN AFRICA is also involved in the Rural Water Programme for Kwara State where we oversee the implementation of small water schemes throughout the state. These are mostly based on boreholes.



Nigeria's President Obasanjo opening the ASA Water Purification Works.



We ring out 2006 with a BIGEN picture that welcomes our new partners on board, celebrates our 25th anniversary, introduces our new integrated business and project management system, AGRESSO, and gives an overview of recent projects.

BIGEN AFRICA realises that the company's success can not only be built on the professional skills of its staff. We have a company culture based on the four "F"s:

*having fun;
being flexible;
being fast; and
being friendly.*

In this spirit, BIGEN AFRICA always recognises and appreciates the loyalty and single-minded devotion of its staff and leaves no stone unturned in its efforts to bond its staff into one big happy family.

I am extremely proud to be associated with the best engineering company in South Africa for such a long time. The past 25 years have seen many successes, few disappointments, happy moments, a great deal of fun and some sad times. I thank you all for allowing me to continually make mistakes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our clients for your continued support throughout 2006 and in 2007 wish to welcome you to the BIGEN family's new head office in Pretoria, housed in South Africa's first science park, The Innovation Hub.

May you enjoy a peaceful and joyous festive season!

Better service delivery through Agresso

In line with its company credo of not merely settling for being good but demanding to be the best that it can be, BIGEN AFRICA has implemented Agresso Business World ERP software solution, an integrated business and project management system.

BIGEN AFRICA's CEO, Francois Swart, said that the company had chosen the Agresso suite because its total cost of ownership was among the most competitive in the marketplace, as was its ability to adapt to rapid change and new innovations.

"It also has the ability to grow with the company and to turn raw data into valuable information that we will be able to use to add value to our client base."

Exponent's CEO, Marius Pels, whose company is not only the Africa-agent for the package but directly involved in its worldwide maintenance, said Agresso Business World offered organisations a fully integrated suite of world-class product modules that performed essential business tasks with the highest degree of efficiency and simplicity.

"That not only serves to streamline operations but also creates a single information platform to analyse the entire organisation, empowering decision-making at every level", he said.

Swart said one of the reasons why BIGEN AFRICA had chosen Agresso over its competitors was because it made role-relevant information available.

"Once information is on the system, any authorised business user can make use of it in their own role, gaining access to information captured and presented in a way that is relevant, accurate and timely to them – ensuring better service delivery and better management of individual departments," he said.

"Business as usual - just better business for you"

Socio-economic

development

Training & development

Diversity training to meet the changing demands of our society

BIGEN AFRICA's management has set in motion a strategy designed to build a culture that continues to attract and retain the quality of staff that the company has become renowned for. In order to determine what this culture should look like, BIGEN AFRICA's management has canvassed the views of all staff during a recent Employee Satisfaction Survey, a Culture Survey as well as a series of informal discussions and forums.

All staff furthermore attended diversity training workshops led by Makheni Motana. The workshops aimed to prepare all BIGENites to adequately meet the changing demands inherent in a multi-cultural environment.

The workshops will assist BIGEN AFRICA as a company to not only address the issues of racial diversity, but also that of gender, age, religious differences and other views that we wrestle with on a daily basis.

Corporate social development



Vusi Ngobeni, who is in responsible for site supervision answers some questions posed by the Mamelodi High School learners.



The contractor on site explains the preparation being done for the installation of bulk services.

Job shadow day

BIGEN AFRICA's job shadow day as part of the first National Construction Week in South Africa took place on 1 August 2006. BIGEN AFRICA fully supports the initiative of the Department of Public Works to promote the image and profile of the construction sector by giving young learners the opportunity to experience a wide range of exciting opportunities available in today's building environment and construction sector.

Four Grade 12 learners from Modiri Technical High School and five Grade 10 learners from Mamelodi High School were taken on a site visit to the Olievenhoutbosch site on the outskirts of Centurion.

The learners were asked whether they would consider a career in engineering after what they had seen and experienced during the job shadow day. Some of the answers were as follows:

“I thought that making streets and building or should I say service engineering is something very big but today I realised that it is much bigger so I am very much interested in this career” – Patience Mafolo, Grade 10 Mamelodi High School

*“I already considered becoming a civil engineer before coming here today but being here has opened a door and I like what I see on the inside. They have given me clarity and the courage to become a world renowned civil engineer who happens to be a woman and very proud of it. I have no doubt that this is the career for me. I have the brains, will acquire the necessary skills and make my country proud”
– Wilheminah Mabasa, Grade 10 Mamelodi High School*

*“I will consider engineering because it is interesting but it looks complicated”
– Dineo Moloji, Grade 10 Mamelodi High School*

SAACE Relay

The 21st SAACE relay was held on 9 September 2006 at Fountains Valley, Pretoria and BIGEN AFRICA walked away with the following prizes:

Running:

Open category:

Fastest overall team

SAACE Member category:

Fastest large firm

3rd fastest large firm

Fastest veteran team

Walking:

2nd fastest walking team

3rd fastest walking team

Individual trophies:

Fastest female

2nd fastest male

2nd fastest male master



Action Cricket

After a year's absence the SAICE Action Cricket trophy is back at BIGEN AFRICA after we beat Africon in the finals on 4 August 2006. Well done to the Action Cricket team!

Soccer

If all fails in our national soccer fraternity; BIGEN AFRICA comes in and provides yet another SOLUTION to the sporting code of South Africa if not Africa, stretching its wings beyond engineering.

BIGEN AFRICA has established a formidable soccer team, viz. BIGEN AFRICA Football Club, to conquer the world of corporate soccer in the wake of the 2010 World Cup Final.



Golf *in KwaZulu-Natal*

The DBSA, Old Mutual and His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini Zulu recently invited, amongst others the KwaZulu-Natal business unit of BIGEN AFRICA to the inaugural Old Mutual King's Golf Cup. This prestigious event is in aid of the King's Bayethe AIDS Foundation to assist in raising funds for His Majesty's charity and will in future be an annual golf day on the calendar of the Province!



Pictured in the middle, is His Majesty the King with, to His Majesty's left, John Johnson and Lionel Pienaar both from DLGTA whilst on His Majesty's right is Amar Sooklal from Durban Chamber of Commerce and Thomas Kilian from BIGEN AFRICA.