

CONEXT

The Official Newsletter of the Digital Council Africa

June 2022 Edition

Did you know that
a Datacentre is
Present in your
Everyday Life?

Corning puts
a focus on
Sustainability
and De&I

Resilience & the
clues it gives us for
Sustained, Inclusive
Economic Recovery

Q & A:
Kasthuri Soni
Chief Executive Officer
Harambee Youth Employ-
ment Accelerator

Celebrating
& empowering
our youth

Fibre has laid
the foundation
for a Smarter
SA, now it's up
to the users



Digital
Council

Issue #008



WELCOME FROM JUANITA

Dear Colleagues,

When lockdown began in early 2020, few of us imagined the long road ahead. No industry was spared from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Personal lives and businesses were forced to shift and shape to adapt to a new kind of normal. Those that were caught unprepared were left behind.

Life post the pandemic will never be the same. The world will now slowly awake from the consequences and start rebuilding itself. Humans have changed. As a consequence, our way of thinking, attitudes, and behaviours have radically shifted towards a more progressive, individualised future involving a hybrid lifestyle that combines face-to-face with virtual activity.

This shift towards remote working and digitalisation has placed a spotlight on the importance of access to technology and connectivity as a means to actively and equally participate in the digital economy.

As Youth month draws to a close we are resolved to continue our efforts in bridging the digital divide and its negative effect on education in disadvantaged communities. We aim to continue to speak on issues of injustice and inequali-

ty in the education sector because of broadband exclusion which also hinders the development of emerging countries and leads to digital supremacy.

As many of you may know, we have a very strong partnership with Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator. This relationship has allowed us to embark on several projects that seek to ensure that connectivity becomes a reality for all our young people. Harambee and the Digital Council Africa believes that by working together we can support the creation of thousands of jobs through active participation in the digital economy.

We believe that partnerships and collaborations such as these are the key to driving broader efforts to build an inclusive digital economy that will unlock growth and economic recovery. Ensuring resilience and growth in the wake of the pandemic and are of vital importance to not only national economic recovery, but also future prosperity of the Republic of South Africa.

As part of this recovery and job creation, the collaboration of the full range of stakeholders in the ICT and Telecoms sector and also outside of the sector becomes

critical to debate and promote the adoption of innovation frameworks through government implementable policies that will spur innovation and competitiveness. Such policies will help leverage the adoption of digital services to enable rapid growth in key economic sectors.

After 2 years of being unable to meet in person we are excited to be hosting our Conext conference live again this year. We believe this is the perfect opportunity for networking and collaboration as we bring together like-minded individuals and share local and international expertise on various topics relevant to digital infrastructure deployment, Fibre, Cloud & Data centres and Towers & 5G.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

As always, thank you for your support!

Stay safe,
Juanita

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FROM THE OFFICE

What is Conext?

“CONEXT: a relationship in which a person or thing is linked or associated with someone or something else.”

In a world that is becoming increasingly digital, it is important to ensure that ongoing engagement takes place. The Digital Council Africa strives to remain in contact with its members, and to provide its members with ongoing communication about its activities. Conext is the answer to staying engaged. Member engagement is encouraged through participation in events and working groups and through the distribution of the Conext Newsletter.

The DCA strives to offer members opportunities to network and collaborate and discuss best practice frameworks that is in the best interest of all, solving complex issues through dialogue and policy recommendations and we encourage dialogue between government and private sector from a platform that is independent and product agnostic. Conext belongs to the members of the Digital Council Africa. We welcome and encourage submissions from our members in the form of conversations related to the development of the digital economy as well as thought leadership articles you have written or would like to share, advertorials, adverts and any information that may be of interest to the ICT sector as a whole.

Contributions can be sent to Nadene Reignier at nadene@digitalcouncil.africa

Social Media

Social media is a fast, effective way to reach our target audience and create awareness of not only the Digital Council and our work but also for our members and as a means to share relevant industry news and updates. We have close to 6000 followers across our 3 platforms and had an organic reach of over 3000 on LinkedIn over the last 3 weeks alone. We plan to keep increasing our social media reach and leveraging it to grow awareness of the work of the Council and its members.

LET'S STAY CONEXTED. FOLLOW US ON



Member Benefits

By joining the Digital Council Africa members have a competitive advantage because they become informed members of their industry as the council actively engages and represents its members at government level. Council members who lead busy professional lives can depend on the organisation to represent and brief them on important industry trends, new legislative rulings, and advances in technology. The main platform the Digital Council Africa (DCA) uses for this is through its annual conference. This event aims to attract C-level speakers and best of breed OEM's and distributors to keep industry informed and updated on the latest trends in technology and legislation. To find out more visit our [website](#).

Member Webinar

The Digital Council invites all members to participate in upcoming webinars, which will focus on key topics pertaining to the industry. These webinars will be held on an ad-hoc basis via the collaboration platform and will be communicated via the member mailing list. Please note that members may also request to host a webinar, provided that the content is relevant and informative. Please contact Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa.



Welcome

A warm welcome to our new Member



Mamor Capital is a private equity company focusing on investments in the Information & Communications Technology sector; the venture capital arm focuses on backing start-ups that leverage the use of novel technologies towards equitable connectivity in Africa. The impact venture fund exists to support companies that offer solutions that unlock the benefits of connectivity, targeting telecoms infrastructure innovation, digital payments, and e-commerce.

To find out more visit their website at www.mamorcapital.com

Want to feature your company in the upcoming Conext?

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Contributions can be sent to Nadene Reignier at nadene@digitalcouncil.africa

Annual Invoicing

As a not-for-profit, the DCA is reliant on membership fees to effectively run the organization. In this regard, we ask members whose fees are outstanding to make payment ensuring that the Council can continue its work.

Thank you to all member companies who already made payments for the 2022/2023 membership year and thank you for your continued support.



SAYouth.mobi is part of the "Presidential Youth Employment Intervention" and is supported by Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, the Department of Employment and Labour, the Department of Higher Education and Training, the National Youth Development Agency, and the Development Bank of South Africa.

Visit SAYouth website at: <https://sayouth.mobi/>

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



LATEST DCA RESEARCH

The DCA has embarked on a body of work which seeks to research best practices in technology research and policy to assist government's quest to overcome the devastating economic challenges posed by the pandemic and put the country on a path of economic reconstruction and recovery through formulating and adopting pro 4IR technology policies.

We believe that to ensure resilience and growth in the wake of the pandemic is the key not only to national economic recovery, but also future prosperity of the Republic of South Africa. As part of this recovery and job creation, the collaboration of the full range of stakeholders in the ICT and Telecoms sector and also outside of the sector becomes critical to debate and promote the adoption of innovation frameworks through government implementable policies that will spur innovation and competitiveness. Such policies will help leverage the adoption of digital services to enable rapid growth in key economic sectors.

To access this work, please visit

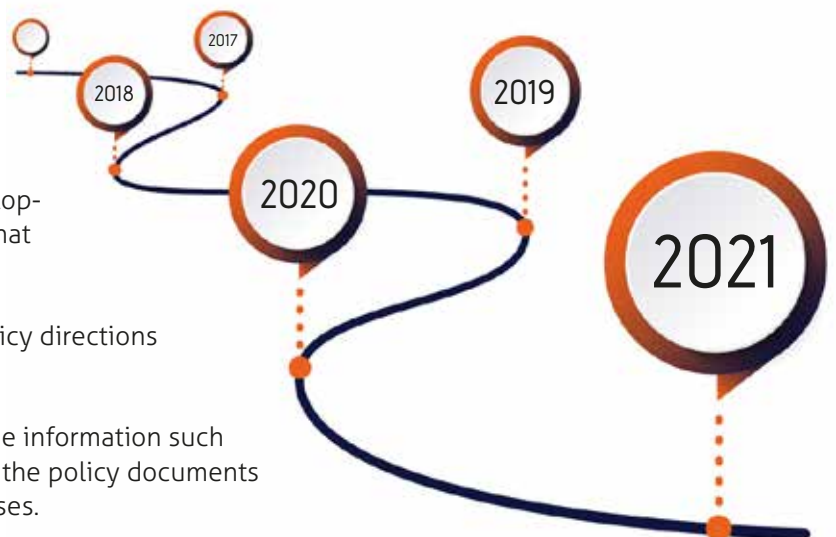
- [A Timeline of ICT and related Policy Development](#)
- [Digital Transformation and Adoption in Sectors Roundtable](#)

Development of a Timeline of Government Policies

The Digital Council Africa is in the process of developing a timeline and library of government policies that affect the DCA membership base.

The library will include an Infographic showing policy directions from 2016 to date.

It will be published on the DCA website and include information such as the actual policy direction, the current status of the policy documents (whether still in draft or finalised) and DCA responses.





Digital Council

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2022

CONEXT

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

**REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!
REGISTER TODAY TO SECURE YOUR SPACE.**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Digital Council Africa's Annual Conference will go live on Wednesday, 28th September 2022.

The exponential rate at which technology is developing, mutating, and adapting is so fast that we have to apply certain effort to keep pace with technological change and how it will affect our business and lives. While the future is becoming more difficult to predict with each passing year, an accelerating pace of technological change can be expected. To date, technology has literally changed every aspect of the way any business operates and never before in history has that change occurred so fast.

Conext 2022 aims to keep participants informed of sector advancements. During the event we will explore the world of Digital Infrastructure as well as its impact on the industry and the opportunities it holds for the continent. The Conference provides a unique opportunity to meet key speakers and industry leaders in a series of scheduled sessions.

The 2022 edition will once again bring together like-minded individuals from all over the world over a 2 day period with expert speakers sharing local and international expertise on various topics relevant to digital infrastructure deployment, Fibre, Cloud & Datacentres and Towers & 5G.

Visit <https://conextconference.africa/>



ABOUT THE VENUE

The CTICC is Africa's leading convention centre located in the heart of Cape Town, South Africa. The purpose built event complex consists of CTICC 1 and CTICC 2, which are connected by the Skybridge and boast a floor space of 140 855m². With over 1400 secure visitor parking bays available, making your way to CTICC events is that much simpler.

PREVIOUS SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS



PREVIOUS PARTNERS



SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

There are various sponsorship benefits (dependant on package selection) some of which include:

- Reach DCA members through the Conext publication, the official newsletter of the Council (20 000+ readers)
- Brand the registration area with your logo
- Naming rights – Brought to you by
- Speaking opportunity
- Panel discussion participation
- Workshop or Technical presentation
- Logo on all online correspondence
- Logo and Profile on Event Website
- Sponsor Announcement to data base and on social media platforms
- 2 marketing mailshots to DCA member database (10 000+, 1 prior and 1 post event)
- Sponsor announcement mailer to DCA database

For more information about sponsorship [click here](#)



Digital Council

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2022

COMEXT

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



MILNERTON GOLF CLUB

30 September | Post Conference Golf Day

Boasting Spectacular views of Table Mountain from every hole Milnerton Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 72, challenging coastal course situated just 10 minutes to the north of Cape Town on Woodbridge Island, a sandy spit that's bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Rietvlei Lagoon on the other, the links-like layout at Milnerton Golf Club is an old-fashioned "9 out then 9 in" course that dates back to 1913, when an inaugural 6-hole course was first brought into play.

The 493-metre par five 8th is classed as the signature hole on the scorecard. Wetlands to the left of the fairway form an intimidating distraction from the tee before water to the right of the narrow green lies in wait for leaked approach shots.

Even without the rough, Milnerton is an exacting test of shot-making, and when the wind blows even the most skilful player is confronted with a tough challenge. An outstanding feature of the course is its many sloping greens, reminiscent of championship layouts in Britain and the United States. Milnerton has a special appeal to golfers during the wet Cape winters, as the sandy base of the course allows it to drain well.

For information to join the day please send an email to reesha@digitalcouncil.africa

Resilience and the clues it gives us for sustained, inclusive economic recovery

By Evan Jones,
 Strategy Director at Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

The latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey results suggest that the number of employed young people has increased for two consecutive quarters. While these numbers are the highest they have been in the past two years, this slight bounce-back is cause for very cautious optimism. Employment remains considerably lower than pre-lockdown.

Young people's employment journeys are often characterised by resilience – a term that has come under recent scrutiny. Resilience alone will not get us through these multiple, overlapping crises. But what if resilience were a map, a pointer of sorts and a source of clues on what initiatives, ideas and communities we need to invest in and support to accelerate our economic recovery?

For example, the labour market points to resilient sectors that, despite the pandemic, can be a case for investment and scale.

Very few sectors, if any, have been able to return to pre-pandemic levels of employment, and certainly not to the levels seen before the 2008 financial crisis. However, in early 2022, nearly a quarter of a million young people re-entered the labour market – the biggest uptick since the start of the pandemic. While the most significant gains were in community, social and personal services, there seems to be hope in other sectors too.

The financial intermediation, insurance, real estate, and business services sectors are the closest to returning to pre-pandemic employment levels, despite temporary losses—suggesting that they hold promise.

During and despite the pandemic, the South African global business services (GBS) sector created more than 50,000 cumulative new jobs, the majority of which were for young people, with key investments from international companies like Amazon, Webhelp and

TransUnion, amongst many others. Globally, *the impact sourcing market is around 350,000 full-time equivalent (FTEs)* and is predicted to increase. Could this be the next “shop floor” – with the potential to absorb large numbers of young people into the workforce of the future, as the manufacturing boom did in Asia? We certainly think so. A report by *McKinsey* suggests that cumulative jobs in the South African GBS sector could reach as much as 775,000 by 2030. This sector is evidence of real resilience, even in the face of the pandemic.

And as the digital economy continues to grow and needs digital and ICT skills to fuel its requirements, digitised services have the potential to unlock jobs for youth at scale. In November 2020 (mid-pandemic), Harambee, BPESA, PPGI, IITPSA and with the Digital Council, forecasted demand for 66,000 digital jobs, two-thirds of which were entry-level roles. Desktop support

technicians, junior software developers, and data analysts topped the list of the most in-demand entry-level opportunities. And over the next few years, machine learning and data management skills were deemed to grow in importance, with data analysts viewed as the most in-demand.

Our young people also offer clues of where resilience occurs, but importantly, where we need to invest and support them on their employment journeys. Take, for example, Shana Muduray, who is now part of the *DigiLink* programme that provides managed digital services to support businesses while developing the next generation of young digital talent.

The 25-year-old began her studies to become a chartered accountant at UCT. While she wasn't enjoying the course, she was in no position to forgo the credits she'd earned,

so had to find a new learning path that would accept the credits she already had, which is when she discovered Information Systems. Unfortunately, after completing her degree, she could not find any IT work due to her lack of experience—one of the most significant barriers keeping young graduates out of work. After three years of constant rejection, it's no wonder she was discouraged and depressed, so she went back to studying. This time, her 6-month programme at CapaCiTi focused on digital job readiness and skills development, so she was better equipped to enter and succeed in the digital economy. From there, she applied to the DigiLink programme, which she's been on for eight months (with four remaining), working in automotive software testing. By all accounts, she's excelling—Shana is top of her class and, hopefully, on a smoother

path to employment. The DigiLink programme since inception has enjoyed 100% conversion of its candidates into employment.

If we look close enough, there are hidden clues everywhere to help us identify enablers of resilience that can nudge us towards recovery and beyond. So, this Youth Month, let's not use the word resilience to simply celebrate endurance. Let's instead investigate the spaces where resilience occurs and, with intentional focus, coordinated investment and targeted attention, build on these clues that can enable us to bounce back into sustained, inclusive economic recovery.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



African Smart Cities Summit

Juanita Chaired a Plenary and Keynote session entitled Africa Is Ready at the African Smart Cities Summit on the 8th of June at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The African Smart Cities Summit is Africa's only dedicated conference that explores how smart cities can deliver a quality life and enable economic growth through IoT, technology and creative thinking. Providing African solutions for Africa's cities, this high-profile conference aims to tackle Africa's readiness to fully adopt smart methodologies for implementation to current infrastructure.

This exclusive gathering of key smart cities private and public stakeholders co-located with The Big 5 Construct Southern Africa (previously African Construction Expo) and Totally Concrete Expo.

To find out more about the Summit [visit](#)

BITTORRENT is almost **22%** of total upstream volume of traffic and over **31%** in EMEA alone

VIDEO is almost **58%** of the total downstream volume of traffic on the internet

NETFLIX is **15%** of the total downstream volume of traffic across the entire internet

GAMING is becoming a significant force in traffic volume as gaming downloads, Twitch streaming, and professional gaming go mainstream.

More than **50%** of internet traffic is encrypted, and TLS 1.3 adoption is growing

DID YOU KNOW THAT A DATACENTRE IS PRESENT IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?

By Stella Karangwa, Jambo Datacenter

When you send a mail, share a pic on social media, play a video game online or watch a movie on a streaming platform. Anything that goes through an internet connection needs to go through a datacentre. It is basically a network of computing and storage resources that enables the delivery of all your shared data and software applications.

The industry is booming and with an exploding cloud data service, the industry is only rising. There are nearly 8000 datacentres worldwide, and predictions announce a construction market size surpassing US\$ 51 billion by 2027. But where does a rising digital era in Africa stand in the market then? It might be a long way off from the mature markets, but it is about to burst. It is expected to grow from

USD 2.7 billion in 2021 and to reach USD 5.4 billion by 2027.

As a matter of fact, to give you an idea, if today there is approx. 200MW of live datacentre facility and a reported further 800MW in development where will we get these resources.

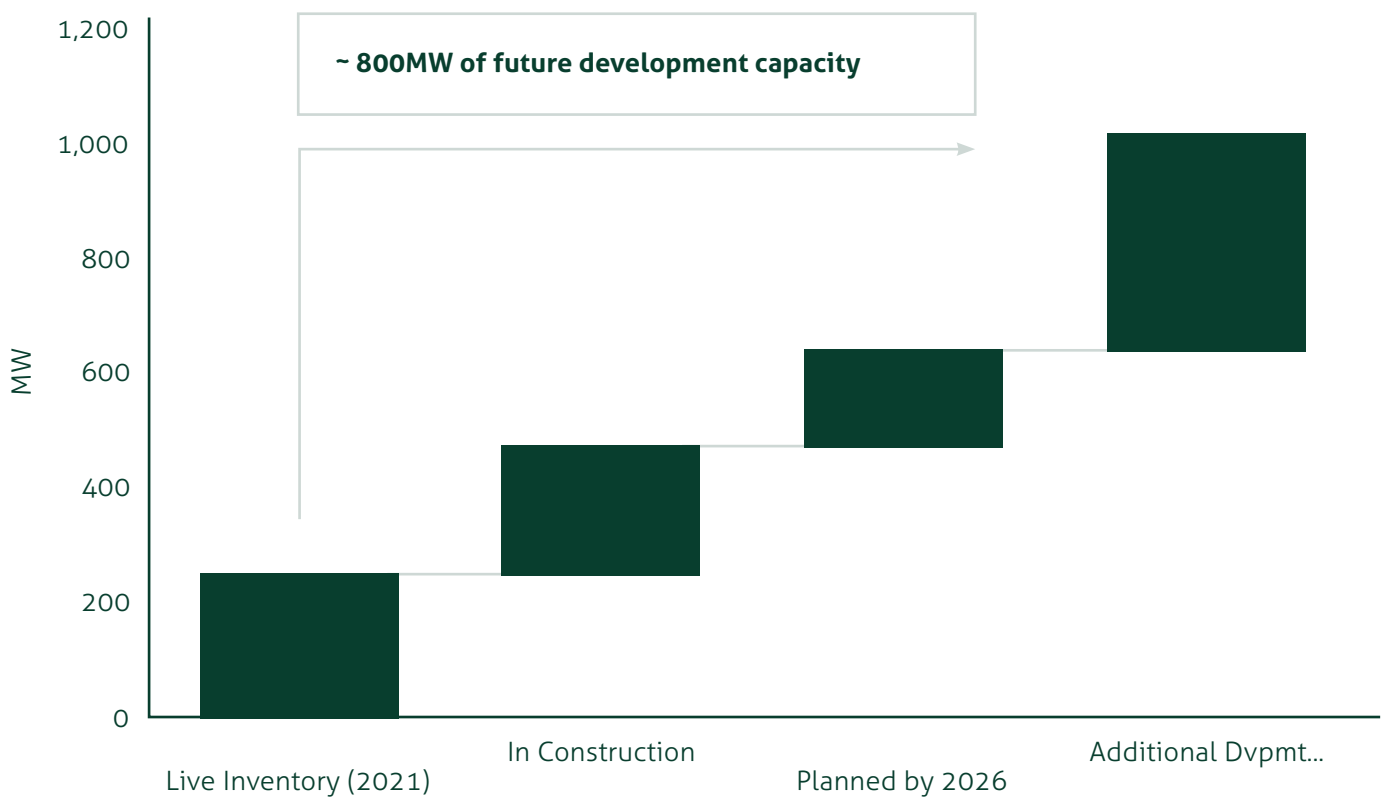
An example of an initiative in the UK, the Digital Futures program is working on bringing the skills gap allowing students from 14 to 19 years to develop employability skills and receive masterclasses while studying for their GCSEs. The program is funding by various actors of the industry as CNet Training, CBRE, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Yondr among others.

What about Africa as it begins to explode and the war on talents

has begun? *CBRE Data Centre Solutions* and *Harambee Employment Accelerator* are exploring local possibilities of data centre specific foundation training to bridging the gap for the African youth in the sector by addressing its needs in theoretical and practical training whereby gaining a potential apprenticeship or equivalent qualification over a 3-year period. But this is only possible if industry leaders united and ensure we capitalise on the funding mechanisms available, sponsors to support the practical experience element, and as qualified sector resources secure employment to complete the cycle. This topic needs dedicated focus over the next year if we are to create a pathway for African youth and talent of tomorrow and to bridge the gap, in this attractive and exciting sector.



Africa colocation supply outlook



Source: Xalam Analytics estimates



When I found out about the industry, I was instantly fascinated but found it hard to find a route to enter. That is why, Jambo Datacenter was created, check it out! A project aiming to bring awareness in digital infrastructure careers to the youth, women, and Africans. Thank you to CBRE that Jambo can support to combat knowledge sharing, build a road map for talent into the industry and develop the future digital talent pool across Africa.

By Stella Karangwa, Jambo Datacenter

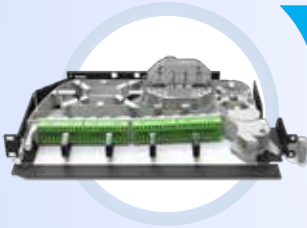
We provide our customers with superior connectivity solutions based on state-of-the-art technology and consistent excellence in execution, ultimately delivering sustainable growth and Profit

**MASSIVE
SALE**



Dome Joint UMJ UG 2.2mm SP

- IP68
- Splitter capacity 2 of 1x2 – 1x16
- Maximum splice capacity of 72 fibres
- Each tray can accommodate up to 12 spliced fibres
- The closure has 4 circular entry ports and an oval port



S & P PANEL SRS4000

- The product consists of a metal chassis available in 1U, 2U and 3U.
- Modular system for installation into 19" rack
- The patch panel are supplied fully configured with color coded pigtails

Configuration

S & P Panel SRS4000 -1U - LC/UPC S/mode DX 24F, 48 DX and 72 F DX
SRS4000 Panel - 1U - SC/APC S/mode SX 24F and 48 QD



DOME JOINT LMJ SHORT CAP No Pole, No Entry Seals

- The joint has ten circular ports and one oval port for mechanical entry.
- Maximum splice capacity is 576 fibres, adding an extra 24 trays
- Can accommodate a range of splitter modules from 1x2 to 2x64
- IP68.
- **NB: The joint can also be supplied with a mounting bracket**



MDWB WITH SPLITTER PLATE AND 2.2 TRAY

- Supplied with 10 single element splice trays. Single element splice capacity is 120 fibres.
- For use with 2.2mm splice protector



S & P PANEL SRS3000

- Modular panel design enables easy capacity upgrades from 12 to 48 fibres
- Splice and patch module pivots outwards for easy fibre access and maintenance
- Very high splice and patch density of 48 fibres for SC and LC connector types in 1U.

Configuration

S & P Panel SRS3000 SC/APC DX 24F and 48 F QD

Only while stocks last - E & OE -Terms & conditions apply



Fibre has laid the foundation for a smarter SA, now it's up to the users

By Shane Chorley, Head of Sales and Marketing at Frogfoot Networks

The start of this digital evolution has been ignited by the laying of many thousands of kilometres of fibre around the country, but it's now up to end-users to drive innovation on top of that layer by using the available connectivity and intelligence in smart devices in order to make a difference in our homes, neighbourhoods, offices, malls and even cities as a whole.

The expansion of fibre networks was driven partly on the premise that access to cost-effective high speed connectivity was going to revolutionise the way in which we live. While we may think we are far from an automated world, it merely goes to show how well these advances in technology have been infused into our daily lives in such a way that we use them without giving a second thought.

This includes using your voice-activated home assistant, such as

Alexa or Google, to turn your lights on or off, or using security cameras that notify you in case of an incident. While many of these smart features were introduced to drive efficiencies, or even create a 'cool factor' to wow early adopters, they are now becoming increasingly commonplace.

A visible consequence of this change can be seen in the requirements being placed on your home WiFi network: previously, homes would have a single 2.4Ghz network and that was good enough to meet their needs. Now, you have multiple connected devices per home user (think of PCs, laptops, phones, tablets, smart watches), and smart appliances (TVs, game consoles, fridges). Then, there's the growing adoption of smarter security through the use of cloud-based cameras that notify you of incidents and even smart switches that can control your lights and other electrical devices.

All of this needs access to connectivity, which means you not only have to extend your network by adding more access points, but also have multiple WiFi frequency bands, such as 5Ghz, to minimise congestion. Gated communities take this much further, with security being complemented with visitor management and access control systems, which though currently are mostly manual, could easily be shifted to a more seamless experience through the use of technology such as automatic number plate recognition or even facial recognition.

There are multiple components to enabling these applications, including fibre - which plays a crucial part - often being paired with wireless connectivity. It's why the recent 5G spectrum auction in South Africa will go a long way toward driving interest in, and adoption of smart home, smart industry and smart city concepts.



As an example of how the two types of connectivity can complement each other, the arrival of self-driving cars has been made possible through low latency wireless connectivity with seamless handover between base stations, but then these very base stations are reliant on fibre to provide the huge volume of required backhaul capacity.

Looking more broadly, connectivity can help South Africa's cities become more efficient and sustainable. Connected traffic lights with intelligence would work based on actual traffic patterns rather than changing at predetermined times helping reduce congestion. A future where more autonomous vehicles occupy roads could make a big difference toward reducing road deaths in our urban centres.

Smarter grids and smart street lights that only turn on when people or vehicles go by can help better manage our already strained grid, while sensors can similarly help quickly address water leaks - something that's critical in a water scarce country like South Africa. Of course, all these sensors and smart devices will need to receive and transmit information to whatever service that monitors and manages them.

On a small scale, this evolution is already underway: due to the consumerisation of smart technologies, many new electronic products are coming with the ability to use connectivity to enable new features as standard - primarily seen in TVs, but this is quickly spreading to other products too. As people replace their older appliances they are automatically being pushed into a more connectivity-driven world without thinking much of it.

The same will happen on a larger scale, such as at a major commercial or retail centre; when they next upgrade their infrastructure, they will do so in line with the technology requirements of the day, and the best possible connectivity that is available, creating a better experience for their users. Early adopters will do so to differentiate themselves, and eventually the rest will have to follow if they are to compete successfully. Smart cities are more complex, and will require robust partnerships between the public and private sectors.

To cater for the growing consumption in data, content and technology providers are increasingly looking at distributed cloud architectures that bring data closer to the end user. Several of these multinational companies already have a presence in local data centres that are based in the big cities, but now organisations are even building edge data centres located at the cellular base station itself - bringing the content right next to the user, be it an individual or an organisation.

Distributed architectures not only reduces latency even further, but decreases the risk of downtime as there is less reliance on national long distance or undersea fibre optic cables to access certain information or use a particular online service. While this may initially only be a nice-to-have or premium feature offered to individual or business users, it's critical to the long term success of applications such as autonomous vehicles.

This new approach has the potential to unlock sizable improvements in the user experience across multiple applications, which will in turn drive increased usage

of these services and adoption of new technologies. Uptake of these improvements will likely be slower in South Africa (as compared to global peers) due to the costs involved, and the rollout and adoption of smart concepts will first gain hold in the country's metropolitan centres, where demand justifies the investment.

Interestingly, the broader adoption of smart home, smart office, smart industry and smart city concepts in South Africa will result in a similar situation to our example with home WiFi network earlier - and will put local fibre network operators to the test. Most networks have been designed with the intention of providing capacity to 100% of the homes and businesses passed by the cables, but we are likely to see a significant number of additional people, devices and data centres being connected, which can result in us needing up to double the capacity of what we planned for. Operators can't go around digging up trenches to lay new cable again, and going smart will be a good test of which local operators were built to scale to match future requirements.

Frogfoot, an open access Fibre network provider, provides Fibre to the Home and Business across South Africa.

To find out more, visit
www.Frogfoot.co.za



Thato Mphahlele (32) is the Business Unit Manager for Samo Engineering Telecommunication ("SAMO Telecoms")

BEING A FORCE OF NEW



SAMO Telecoms is a leading Telecommunication specialist company. The company is committed to creating maximum value for telecom carriers, enterprises and consumers by providing competitive end-to-end Telecommunication solutions and services.

In this position, Thato is responsible for leading the a multi-disciplinary engineering team to provide the following solutions to the Telecommunication and Electrical Engineering Sector: Transmission telecommunication systems (Wave Division Multiplexing (WDM)) & related services, industrial communication systems & last mile solutions (RTU, SCADA and multiplexer), fibre characterization services and IOT solutions.

He has a keen fascination for technology as he believes it is the key to unlocking all sorts of opportunities for young people.

He and his team of IoT engineers have recently been working on the development of a transformer condition monitoring IoT sensor which is used to accurately and cost effectively monitor partial discharge, temperature, relative humidity and allows an operator to know the situation on transformer bushings in real time (24 x 7 x 365). The sensor is commercially available now.





IN CONVERSATION WITH SECTOR LEADERSHIP



Kasthuri Soni

Harambee Youth
Employment Accelerator

Kasthuri is the Chief Executive Officer of Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator. Kasthuri is a chartered accountant and the previous Group Finance Director who spent 10 years at Deloitte in various leadership positions. She brings prior experience as Chief Executive Officer of Soul City and is widely regarded as a seasoned executive. As a member of the team that incubated the organisation at its founding in 2011 she has deep institutional knowledge of Harambee.

Q: WHAT ENERGISES YOU ABOUT YOUR WORK?

Let me start by sharing that I am deeply grateful to be in the privileged and humbling position of being able to do work that feeds my soul at Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator. What energises me is the people – from three perspectives. Firstly, I draw inspiration from the young people that we serve – they are tenacious, determined and have a strong desire to be productively engaged in the economy. It is synchronicity that I write this article in June, an important month in South Africa that shines a spotlight on the young people who are at the centre of what we do at Harambee. I am more motivated than ever by our unique opportunity to be a catalyst for significant and enduring positive change in tackling youth unemployment. **As a change leader, I am driven by the transformative and outsized impact that our work can have on the lives of young people, women and broader society.**

Secondly, I absolutely love the amazing people in the Harambee village who bring their heads, hands and hearts to their work every day. I am truly honoured and excited to partner with a highly talented and fabulous leadership team to shepherd Harambee through its next phase. It is a gift to get to do this purpose-driven work in a values-driven culture with leaders who are very smart, committed, humble and caring.

Thirdly, I am super-excited by our coalition of ecosystem partners (which includes Digital Council Africa) who are working together to pathway young people into earning and learning opportunities through the sayouth.mobi platform. **These phenomenal people are essentially building a movement for youth economic inclusion. Our collaboration efforts will maximise opportunities for young people and be a game changer for the youth of South Africa. It is so awesome to be on this journey with this inspirational and powerful collective.**

"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

Q: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHERS?

Believe in yourself alongside striving to always do your best and be your best.

This will require you to back yourself with exceptional work ethic. Be driven to autograph your work with excellence. Having a growth mindset and making a commitment to lifelong learning will be fundamental to your success. Make an investment in your personal development and self-mastery. Being your best is also about how you show up for others. Remember to be kind to yourself, have fun and practice mindfulness rituals to keep the balance!



IN CONVERSATION WITH SECTOR LEADERSHIP

I show up as a servant leader who is committed to helping others shine and unlock their potential. Growing talent is something that energises me and I am always ready to share knowledge. My objective is to help my team be the best that they can be, so I am intentional about creating opportunities for learning, development and elevation outside their comfort zones.

I make my expectations clear, equip my team, provide guidance and then hold them accountable to a high standard of performance. My approach is to typically work alongside my team, as I believe that the most effective learning happens through collective thinking and engagement in the work environment.

Q: HOW DO YOU EMPOWER OTHERS?

I pride myself in leading by example and am happy roll up my sleeves and jump in to support, where necessary.

For me, it is always a priority to pause and appreciate the efforts, as well as, affirm the successes of team members. I am also prepared to lead through the discomfort of having courageous conversations, as I ascribe to the notion that “feedback is the breakfast of champions”. With that mindset, I provide concise, honest and timeous feedback with specific data points to help them learn from the experience. Tone matters as much as the message, so I am very thoughtful in how I provide the feedback. My motive is not to criticise or blame, but rather to focus on the lessons learnt to do it better next time. In order to create an enabling environment for growth, it remains important to build a learning culture and foster a psychologically safe environment to “fail forward”.

In empowering others, I aspire to Sheryl Sandberg’s principle that “Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence”.

Q: IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO BE?

I would love to have the superpower of sprinkling abundance like pixie dust across the globe. How amazing would it be for everyone to have an abundance of love, joy, kindness, success, learning, impact, wellness and memorable moments! It would surely make the world a better place for all.

Q: IF YOU COULD GIVE JUST ONE LEADERSHIP LESSON THAT YOU’VE LEARNT OVER THE YEARS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Lead with authenticity, humility and humanity.

Afterall -

“Leadership is not about being in charge but about taking care of those in your charge – Simon Sinek”



Corning puts a focus on Sustainability and DE&I

Corning released its 2021 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Report, Sustainability Report, and Annual Report, highlighting its purposeful approach and progress to sustainability and DE&I initiatives. Corning's scientific and manufacturing expertise is vital to the development of its breakthrough products that transform industries and enhance lives.

Vital for business, people and communities

"We agree with the increasingly pervasive notion that to prosper over time, every company must not only deliver financial performance, but also show how it makes a positive contribution to society," said Wendell P. Weeks, chairman and chief executive officer. "This idea resonates with our purpose, our long view, our meaningful inventions, and our global community of diverse stakeholders. Corning remains fully committed to advancing our diversity, equity, and inclusion journey. Every day, we strive to learn, grow, and do better. It's vital to our businesses, our people, and our communities."

The dedication and contributions of Corning's people are critical to its ability to create long-term value. Building on that deep commitment, the company announced it has achieved 100% gender pay

equity in its global salaried workforce – a significant corporatewide milestone that builds upon its prior success of achieving 100% gender pay equity in the seven largest countries in which it operates.

"We are leading our people, businesses, and communities to an intuitive DE&I mindset. This is not just the right thing for us to do – it is also fundamental to our progress as a company," said Dana Moss, vice president and chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion officer. "Corning is committed to acting as a champion and leader in this space, while continually striving to be a better version of ourselves."

Sustainability in all parts of the business

Corning is also focused on improving the environmental impacts of its business. To help responsibly navigate the global energy transition in the years ahead, the company is committed to lowering its

greenhouse gas emissions, increasing its use of renewable electricity, and integrating sustainability into its innovation process.

"Our commitment to sustainability at Corning has never been stronger, and I am excited both by the progress we've made and the progress ahead," said Mark Steen, Ph.D., vice president of Sustainability and Climate Initiatives. "We believe that how we do things is as important as what we accomplish – and we incorporate that philosophy across our businesses. We continually work to improve the sustainability of our own actions – whether through equitable pay, community involvement, or improved processes. Because of our expertise in materials science, we also get to invent products that will contribute to much larger improvements in sustainability, not just for our own company, but for the world."



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The First Step in Any IoT Project is Cable Readiness

Internet of Things (IoT) and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) projects can be complex. The last thing you want to worry about is whether you're cabling will be able to handle what you throw at it. No matter if you're working on a smart building, manufacturing plant, asset/fleet tracking system or a similar project, your first step to success is making sure your cable plant is ready for both information technologies (IT) and operational technologies (OT). Let's look at how to tackle this goal that will ensure the success of your next IoT project.

IoT changes the structured cabling test and assurance landscape

Prior to IoT, IIoT and smart building systems, assuring that a cable plant was ready to take on most business tasks was relatively straightforward. Certification tests were performed to ensure the cabling could support 10Base-T, 100Base-T or gigabit speeds for use in client-server data communications. These days, however, businesses are using cable plants for a wider range of data transport use cases like real-time streaming and for supplemental tasks such as power over Ethernet (PoE). Additionally, new cabling technologies and standards including single pair Ethernet (SPE) are driving the need for different and deeper types of testing to ensure the proper operation of business-critical IoT services.

Understand what's required from a network and cabling perspective

Speed has to do with the throughput and latency needs required by the IoT devices for them to function appropriately. Power is whether the IoT endpoints will be fed low-voltage power over the cabling using power over Ethernet (PoE) technologies. Finally, distance refers to the maximum length of cabling that will need to be run to connect all components.

Some IoT projects such as ultra-high-definition surveillance cameras may require multi-gig Ethernet speeds and POE++ power output options. Thus, the cabling used for this IoT project must meet or exceed a much higher level of speed and throughput standard compared to some other projects. If multi-gigabit speeds are part of an IoT or smart building project, understand that the time taken to run assurance tests for higher speeds on a copper cable can vary widely from one test tool to the next. AEM, uses a signal to noise ratio (SNR) test to provide accurate results of multi-gigabit capabilities under load (both traffic and PoE), as the link would be impacted under real-world operating conditions. The second benefit of SNR compared to BERT is that each test takes significantly less time to complete. Thus, for cable projects where hundreds or thousands of multi-gigabit tests must be performed, minutes saved per cable can quickly add up.

Ensuring Multi-Gigabit Link Speed

- Many IoT connected devices require a specific level link speed in order to operate efficiently
- Safeguard you're getting the best performance possible with your investment by testing
- Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) is an important test to provide you with visibility into headroom
- SNR based testing, means you are testing under load to simulate as much of a real world environment as possible
- If PoE will be deployed, it's a good idea to test with BOTH traffic and power running on the wire simultaneously



SNR based Multi-gigabit link speed testing while under both traffic and PoE

Multi-gigabit IoT projects would likely require Category 6A or better cabling to be installed and thoroughly tested in order to meet the necessary speed requirements of the endpoints. The following diagram can be used as a general guide as to when Cat 5e, Cat 6 and Cat 6A should be used for 2.5 and 5GBASE-T Ethernet. For 10GBASE-T Ethernet, Cat 6A or higher cabling is always recommended:

Multi-gigabit assessment

Bundled cabling length 0m to 50m	Category 5e	Category 6	Category 6A
2.5GBASE-T	Green	Green	Assured
5GBASE-T Assured	Green	Green	Assured
Bundled cabling length 50m to 75m	Category 5e	Category 6	Category 6A
2.5GBASE-T	Green	Green	Assured
5GBASE-T Assured	Yellow	Green	Assured
Bundled cabling length 75m to 100m	Category 5e	Category 6	Category 6A
2.5GBASE-T	Yellow	Green	Assured
5GBASE-T Assured	Red	Yellow	Assured
ALSNR Risk	High	Medium	Low

Credit NBASE-T Alliance

There are also IoT projects where end devices don't need much power or speed – but instead require very long cable runs. For these types of projects, standard four pair Ethernet and PoE standards may be able to exceed requirements from a speed and power perspective — but fail to deliver on distance requirements. Instead, alternative Ethernet and cabling standards may be a more appropriate option. For example, the IEEE has recently announced the 802.3cg 10Base-T1 standard that specifically addresses IoT projects that are lower in speed/power needs – yet require very long-distance cable runs. 10Base-T1 can provide up to 10 Mbps throughput and 13W of power while running at distances up to 1000 meters in length.

What's even more interesting is that this standard runs over single pair copper cabling as opposed to four pair cabling which is the norm for most other Ethernet installations. Single pair Ethernet (SPE) also provides the benefit of lower cost, thinner and lighter cable runs. It's a great option for IoT projects that fit those requirements.



Example 10Base-T1L 1000m (802.3cg)
Test Results



Lastly, always remember that fibre optics may be the best physical layer transport for your IoT project. Fibre boasts several benefits over copper including far greater speeds and distance limitations. While fibre is typically more expensive to install compared to copper, know that the longevity of fibre cabling is far greater when compared to twisted-pair alternatives. Additionally, a properly installed fibre plant can last for decades. Upgrades to speed over fibre can be accomplished by changing out the small-form plugable (SFP) while using the same physical fibre medium.

Network Limits reports all network types this Multimode link will support based on the Tier 1 Fibre Optic certification link test performed.

Certify or Qualify new and existing runs

To avoid troubleshooting headaches during an IoT rollout, be sure to also thoroughly certify or qualify all existing cable runs. This not only includes cabling that connects IoT endpoints and sensors – but all switch uplinks as well. Remember that IoT is known to significantly increase throughput on the network backbone. It's therefore critical that the physical uplink cabling be tested to be certain there are no defects that could impact performance.

Yet another cable readiness step relates to IoT devices that will be connected via WiFi. With highly dense wireless IoT deployments, bottlenecks can occur between access-layer switches and the WiFi access points (WAPs) they connect to. If your IoT project calls for the rollout of WiFi 6 or WiFi 6E capable access points to accommodate more density from a wireless perspective, existing cabling will have to be re-tested and potentially re-run. Current enterprise-grade WAPs can reach theoretical speeds up to 9.6 Gbps. The uplink(s) to the WAP should therefore be able to meet or exceed those speeds and POE requirements.

Choosing the right IoT cable test tool

When it comes to testing cabling for IoT readiness, there are two distinct user groups that require different types of test tools. On one hand, we have cable contractors and third-party system integrators that will be required to fully certify newly run cabling for an IoT project. For this group, the AEM TestPro provides full cable certification tests that can be used to assure manufacturer warranty on the installed cabling. Fast testing with ANSI pass/fail criteria is a key requirement.

Additional tests include:

- TCL and ELCL for analyzing noise immunity
- DC resistance unbalance tests for testing cable PoE at higher (60+W) power delivery levels
- TDR (distance to fault location) for Return Loss, NEXT, and Shield, as well as ACRN, PSACRN, and Impedence.
- SNR based multi-gigabit link speed testing up to 10GigE.

In-house network administrators, on the other hand, will likely be more interested in assuring that existing cabling will be able to operate within the requirements of the IoT device that's to be installed. For this group, AEM's Network Service Assistant (NSA) is a tool that fills the gap between basic verification/qualification test tools and more expensive cable certification tools. All the necessary multi-gig speed, PoE load, wired and wireless network connectivity testing is performed. Certi-Lite ensures the link under test meets the ANSI/TIA CAT5e, CAT6, CAT6A test standard, with a single-ended test.

Ready to learn more about how AEM's award-winning test solutions can help you achieve your cable testing needs? [Request a demo with our team.](#)



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EMPOWERING organisations on their path to net zero

According to Accenture, *94% of top CEOs cite sustainability as important or very important* to the future success of their businesses.

To stabilise the future and build more quickly toward a global net-zero carbon economy, organisations of all types, sizes and sectors are facing the need to transform common practices. This includes more effectively managing their environmental footprint, embedding sustainability through their organisations and value chains, and making strategic business investments that drive value.

However, measuring the overall environmental impact of an organisation is particularly challenging.

Organisations need to be able to record their environmental footprint, report to stakeholders, reduce their resource usage, remove their footprint through carbon offsets or recycling and replace high-footprint resources with low-footprint ones.

“Doing this effectively means moving away from manually inputting data into spreadsheets, and toward a more seamless data flow via data connectors that provide automated, accurate, real-time data — and ultimately, turn those data-driven insights into action,” says Asif Valley, National Technology Officer at Microsoft South Africa.

Organisations need more accessible, centralised data intelligence to make the high-stakes decisions that are required right now to address complex issues, weighing both business and ESG (environmental, social and governance) criteria to direct capital toward investment

opportunities that balance growth and impact.

A growing set of ESG capabilities from Microsoft and its global ecosystem of partners give organisations the opportunity to accelerate their progress and business growth.

Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability draws on the depth and breadth of the entire Microsoft cloud and is designed to help companies take control of their environmental initiatives. It offers comprehensive, integrated and automated insights for organisations to enable faster, broader transformation at varying stages of their sustainability journey.

“Our Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability solutions provide the intelligence and data management capabilities organisations need to respond to changes with agility and confidence,” he says.

How technology can enable ambitious sustainability outcomes

Companies are building sustainability into their operations, from digital supply chains that improve business processes and reduce carbon footprints to IoT sensors streaming real-time telemetry for predictive analytics. In doing so, they are contributing new thinking and new solutions.

At some level, every industry is undergoing sustainable digital transformation. Financial services customers are using data and AI to assess their progress on ESG investments and evaluate their exposure to climate risk, manufacturing customers are moving from smart assets to smart factories to digital twins of their entire operations, enabling real-time optimisation and unlocking new data-driven insights to cut carbon across their operations and supply chains. Retail companies are taking their supply chain management and optimisation work and applying it to track the carbon footprint of products from farm to fork, field to fibre to consumer, and everything in between to reduce their emissions and deliver purpose-driven products to customers.

Building on more than a decade of work on sustainability

Microsoft's own sustainability journey began when it set its first carbon goal more than a decade ago.

"This led us to better organise our data and realign our company vision and strategy with our sustainability goals.

"We continue to build on our commitments to innovate and invest in technologies that address environmental sustainability," he says.

Much of this is being achieved through collaboration with Microsoft's global ecosystem of partners who have helped it land its ambitions and transform its business. Today, they're also pivotal to helping customers advance sustainability through robust, innovative solutions powered by the Microsoft Cloud.

Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability partner solutions span industries, from transportation to real estate to manufacturing. Microsoft's sustainability partner ecosystem also includes trusted advisers, who are actively helping organisations plan, design and implement strategies to enable sustainable growth.

"Through *Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability*, we are bringing together powerful capabilities delivered by Microsoft and our partners to help organisations unify data intelligence, build more enduring IT infrastructures, reduce the environmental impact of operations and create moresustainable value chains," says Valley.

Learn more about how Microsoft is helping organisations achieve positive impact by watching the [Cloud for Sustainability video](#) and on Microsoft.com/sustainability

"We continue to build on our commitments to innovate and invest in technologies that address environmental sustainability,"





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Moving to S/4HANA: Like leaving home for the first time

For many companies, the shift from SAP R/3 to S/4HANA must be like leaving home for the first time.

In this article, Jonathan Heywood, SVP Business Development EMEA Integration & API at [Software AG](#) gives a personal analogy to how it feels like to change. Change always brings with it a level of apprehension and Jonathan takes the reader on this journey in a manner comparable to undertaking a huge project as S/4HANA migration. He however points out key things along the journey that one needs to pay attention to and how to be ready for the future, beyond the end of the journey, observes Itayi Mandonga, CTO Software AG South Africa.

Many local SAP customers considering a move to S/4HANA are probably going through a similar thought process and Software AG is ready to engage with any such clients and help make the shift bearable and sustainable, adds Itayi.

It fills you with excitement at the challenge and opportunity, and also apprehension at the inevitable disruption to your established ways of working. And the longer you put it off, the greater the pressure from your parents (read "SAP") to take the leap.

It was the late-1980s when I left home for university – possibly one of the biggest disruptive life-adjustments I've faced. I maybe didn't always get on with my parents and sister, but I knew what I had at home: food just appeared on the table, laundry was magically done, and there was always someone to come to the rescue if things went awry.

So, the step into student hood in another country, although filled with exciting opportunities, also brought with it a significant shift in things I had taken for granted for so many years, like buying food and making sure I didn't run out of clean underwear.

I think this is how the shift to S/4HANA feels for many.

[54% of organisations are in the process of moving to S/4HANA or have concrete plans, while 24% have already moved – Source: ASUG & DSUG Insights on SAP Cloud Solutions Aug 2021]



Change your integration strategy

One of the well-established ways of working that needs to change is integration. However, as much SAP wants its customers to do everything inside the SAP ecosystem, the reality for pretty much everyone is that they will need to integrate other applications with SAP.

Just like I learned during my teenage years to get the most out of life living at home while staying integrated with my family, I'm sure that every SAP customer has already solved its biggest integration challenges over the last 10-20 years. Maybe you use an enterprise service bus (ESB), or SAP's integration tools (XI or PI) or something you've built yourself.

Whichever way you've tackled integration in the past, there are several reasons why your move to S/4HANA is the right time to thoroughly rethink your integration strategy:

- Rapid emergence of APIs
- Outgrowing your data center
- Empowering your business with self-service.

These three themes probably didn't factor in the choice of your current integration solution, but they sure are important today. The question I'm sure you're asking yourself is: "Our move to S/4HANA is already a massive project. So why should we introduce more risk by changing how we integrate systems?"

Three integration drivers

Let's look at these integration drivers:

- **Rapid emergence of APIs**

Integration "ain't what it used to be!" It is no longer just about synchronizing data between applications and databases. It has become a key enabler in an API-centric world known as the "API economy", making data and business capabilities accessible as building blocks for innovative digital experiences for employees, customers and partners.

[98% of IT leaders say that APIs are important for their organisation's operations – Source: Vanson Bourne/Software AG – Annual APIs and Integration Report 2021]

- **Outgrowing your data center**

Up until a few years ago, all the systems you needed to integrate were safely within the walls of your data center. Now, almost every organization is adopting cloud; either tactically or strategically. This means that in no time at all, your integration endpoints will be in all corners of the Internet. In a few years, you might not even have a data center anymore!

[87% of organizations run all or part of their integration systems in the cloud – Source: Vanson Bourne/Software AG – Annual APIs and Integration Report 2021]

- **Empowering your business with self-service**

With the desire to move ever faster, IT can become a bottleneck when it comes to building new applications. If IT doesn't adapt and find ways to empower the business with intuitive tools and reusable building blocks, they risk being side-tracked, reducing their influence and increasing the complexity of the landscape they need to manage.

[Shortage of talent and Reliance on legacy technology are cited by CEOs as the top two barriers to innovation – Source: Chief Executive survey Aug 2021]

Is your integration platform ready?

Now look at your current integration solution and ask yourself whether it is truly ready for the future – whether it provides the capabilities you will need in the coming years as SAP moves to the cloud:

- An **API-centric** integration platform that allows you to easily and quickly expose data and functions as simple reusable APIs, allowing you to hide the complexities of many business applications' raw APIs so you can be part of the new API economy.
- A **true hybrid** integration platform that allows you to build and deploy integrations in the cloud (private or public), while maintaining seamless connections to your existing on-premises or legacy applications. Whether your systems are in a data center, in the cloud, or anywhere else, you'll have access to them and the data they contain.
- A **multi-persona** integration platform that allows IT to focus on creating secure, easy-to-use building blocks (APIs) that business users or citizen developers can then compose into agile, innovative business applications and process automation. Your reliance on IT will become a partnership with expanded capacity to deliver solutions.

Embrace the opportunity

Just like my leaving home to start student life was a quantum leap into the unknown, moving R/3 to S/4HANA will likely be one of the largest, most disruptive IT projects you can be involved in. There will be a lot of changes, including the need for many new integrations. If you are tempted (like some students) to try and stick with the comforts of the past; taking your dirty laundry home at weekends and picking up a week's supply of mum's home-cooked dinners, sooner or later you will realize it is not sustainable - making the change even more difficult.

Instead, embrace the change, seize the opportunity that the shift to S/4HANA brings. Now is the right time to take the plunge.

I hope I have given you a little inspiration to help you rethink how and why you do integration, so you won't be relying on your mum to do your laundry forever!

Watch the full OnDemand webinar:

Migrating to S/4HANA is the Perfect Time to Rethink Integration

Let's connect!

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



In May Juanita attended the *Innovation Africa Digital Summit 2022* in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she moderated a panel discussion on HTS, Fibre and 5G Investment and the use cases of 5G. She also delivered a keynote speech on The state of Fibre deployment in Africa – focussing on the relative success that South Africa has achieved in deploying fibre optic broadband she also discussed the progress and challenges of deploying broadband.

She was joined by leadership from East and West Africa as they debated the justification of investment in next generation technology as well as the policy landscape needed to ensure that operators continue to invest.



The Importance of Cyber Security in an Increasingly Connected World

By Unathi Mothiba, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group Product Manager, Cyber Security

The last couple of years have seen an increased move towards digital transformation, not just of business models, but of day-to-day lives. As the world pivoted to meet the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, both the private and public sectors saw the need to accelerate their digital transformation to continue operations.

Traditional brick and mortar businesses had to at least offer an online component to customers. Schooling and meetings went online. Employees saw the rise of the hybrid working model, which now sees them working both in an office and at home on different days of the week.

The need for connectivity underpinned all these developments; none of them could function satisfactorily without dependable, stable, and fast online connections. But what many may have overlooked about our ever increasingly online world, is that it has broadened the space in which cybercriminals operate, and there is hardly any connected body corporations, NGOs, governments, and citizens who are not a potential target.

A recent study compiled by Liquid Intelligent Technologies, highlights that there is a key trend that cyber criminals are becoming more targeted and organised in their breach attempts in Africa. As one of the fastest growing regions internationally, Africa will have around 1 billion

internet users by the end of 2022. The study notes that as the continent is 'also the world leader in the use of digital money transfers, it is particularly vulnerable to cybercrime, especially as cyber security laws and regulations trail those in other countries significantly.'

"Because this type of criminality has become more widespread, education about how to guard against it is now more vital than ever before," says Ignus de Villiers, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group Head of Cyber Security. "Employees must be continually educated on what constitutes good cyber security hygiene."

Adoption of cyber security best practices are easy to learn (they can be seen below under cyber security tips). But, while educating their staff about how to avoid cyber-attacks is vital, businesses also need more robust cyber security measures in place. Whatever their size or model, companies need to guard against attacks such as identity theft, email compromise and more.

In the study, Liquid spoke with IT and cyber security decision makers in South Africa, Kenya, and Zimbabwe to understand the evolving threat landscape and its likely impact on businesses. The final report paints a rather disturbing picture in that it shows:

- A high increase in both the frequency and technological prowess of cybercrime being identified
- Corporations on the continent are more vulnerable to breaches as it is estimated that over 50% of African countries have inadequate safeguards
- Cyber security legislation and regulations are lax or non-existent, making cybercrime easier for cybercriminals

Cybercrime can have severe impacts on any business. As the study reveals, these can range from financial (26%), to information theft (18%), to reputational damage (17%) to the disruption of business operations (14%). While most companies the study sampled all increased their cyber security

measures in 2021, 79% of them declared that they'd seen an increase in cyber security threats in the same year, a significant increase on the previous year.

Last year, a report released by Interpol noted that the growing demand in Africa for digital services – the continent has the globe's fastest growing internet and mobile networks and is the world's biggest user of online financial services – has thrown its cyber security shortcomings into sharp relief. The same study states:

"The unique challenge for Africa appears to be the critical absence of cyber security protocol, cyber resilience as well as mitigation and prevention measures for individuals and businesses. As a region that is embracing digital transformation, Africa needs to invest extensively in improving the safety and security of cyberspace."

Considering these reports, the only effective way to ensure your business is protected is to have a resilient cyber security framework in place.

As one of Africa's leading cyber security providers, Liquid Intelligent Technologies offers end-to-end managed security services for digital solutions, for businesses of any size. These include measures such as secure email, firewalls for network defence, anti-virus software, and managed networks to protect outside users such as consumers. In addition, Liquid believes in training employees to be the first and best line of defence against cyber-attacks.

"Our offerings are designed to secure customers at every intersection of their digitally transformed business," says Unathi Mothiba, Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group Product Manager, Cyber Security. "They cover all aspects of security, minimising the opportunity for breaches and risks," he says.

Cyber security should be a major priority in Africa, for businesses, governments, NGOs, and individuals. Cybercrime is not going away, and we all need to be on our guard against it.

Cyber Security Tips

These specific tips have been chosen because they are best practices for employees – whether working remotely or in an office.

Passwords

Liquid's report highlights that around 32% of all breaches in the companies surveyed were through compromised passwords, so it is vital to make sure passwords are strong. It is also a bad idea to use words that are easy to guess, such as the names of loved ones, pets, or simple words like 'password' or '1234'. Use strong passwords or phrases which consist of letters and numbers, at least one capital letter, a special character and make them 14 characters and more. It is easier to use and remember sentences, e.g. 'My son only has \$10 to spend a week.' It's also better to implement and use two-factor or multi-factor (MFA) authentication, where users authenticate by providing a password, and a PIN received via a cell phone they have with them.

Email

Email is one of the most frequent avenues that cybercriminals use to breach organisation security measures. Using targeted phishing attacks, social engineering and more, hackers use innocent looking emails to entice users to act on them and gain access to an organisation's data and networks, or to install malware including ransomware. Email attacks accounted for over 60% of system breaches in 2021. So always look at the sender's email address and be wary of emails from addresses you do not recognise, and don't open any links or attachments that look suspicious. Such emails should be reported to your company's IT or Security department immediately.

Make sure your software is up to date, sanctioned and known vulnerabilities are remediated

Cybercriminals frequently make use of legacy exploits, which are security holes in software that has not been updated, or that was weakly configured. According to Liquid's study, 2021 saw a 30% increase from 2020 in these types of intrusions. To make sure you are not vulnerable in this regard, it is vital to keep the software up to date on your work and/or private laptop, tablet, and smartphone. Equally important in this regard is not to use unsanctioned or unapproved software, as most free applications, and websites offering those cannot be trusted.

Invest in advance endpoint protection software

It is obvious that buying anti-virus or rather more comprehensive endpoint protection software is crucial, but you would be surprised by how many companies and individuals do not bother. But going online without comprehensive endpoint protection software is like diving off an airplane without a parachute. It is vital in protecting against all sorts of cyber-attacks, which can lead to data breaches, including data leakage, data disclosure, ransomware, data extortion (all stood at 59% in 2021) and identity theft. Make sure you buy and install robust protection, meaning advanced endpoint protection rather than just anti-virus, and it is advisable to pay more for a reputable brand in this field. This does not just apply to desktops and laptops; it is well worth buying the same for your smart devices as well.

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MetroFibre announces key succession change

Current CEO Dr Steve Booyesen to hand over reins to Jan-Jan Bezuidenhout

MetroFibre's Dr Steve Booyesen will handed over the reins of CEO to Jan-Jan Bezuidenhout, the Deputy CEO of MetroFibre, effective on 1 June 2022. Booyesen stepped down as CEO and director of MetroFibre on 31 May 2022, but will continue to provide support on a consultancy basis to the executive leadership team until the end of August 2022.

"It's been an incredible 12-year journey as a founder member and provider of seed capital back in 2010, when we founded MetroFibre. I'm extremely proud of what we have achieved, and excited at what is still to come for the business. I would like to express a special thanks to my co-founders Malcolm Kirby, Johan van der Lith and Eugene Slabbert whose entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen were fundamental to the phenomenal growth of our business.

"I am especially proud to be able to hand over the reins to Jan-Jan who is an accomplished and respected leader within our business, with a deep understanding of the market and exceptional strategic capabilities. Jan-Jan was appointed Deputy CEO in 2019 with a clear succession plan mapped out, and I am confident that under his leadership and with the support of a phenomenal team of colleagues and exco, MetroFibre will continue to thrive," says Dr Steve Booyesen.

Jan-Jan Bezuidenhout takes over the reins as CEO at a time when MetroFibre is poised for rapid growth in one of the most competitive industries in the country. He brings vast experience and strategic focus to the table, having represented the lead institutional shareholder on the MetroFibre board from 2013 to 2019, before being appointed as Deputy CEO of the business.

"Since my involvement in 2013, MetroFibre has transformed from gritty start-up with less than 20 employees to the trusted and professional corporate business that it is today. It is an honour to take over the leadership of our business and exceptional team, and I look forward to our exciting journey ahead," adds Jan-Jan Bezuidenhout.

Prior to joining MetroFibre, Jan-Jan spent more than a decade focusing on Private Equity, Infrastructure Investments and Corporate Development at leading financial institutions. He holds BCom and LLB degrees from Stellenbosch University and completed a Post Graduate Course in Philosophy, Management and Strategy, Corporate Finance, and Competition Law at the London School of Economics.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Juanita was a speaker at *The Digital Transformation Summit Africa 2022*.

The 2022 edition of the summit aimed to bring a deeper understanding of how organisations are currently coping up with the pandemic crisis, in regards to digital transformation activities, and how they are addressing the current realistic challenges and embracing the adoption of tech opportunities ahead.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Shaping African policies for an enhanced digital economy.



POLICY WORKSHOP

31 May 2022

Brought to you in Partnership with



On 31 May the DCA in partnership with Microsoft hosted a Policy Workshop. Through the workshop, we sought to consolidate initial industry considerations as a response to the economic challenges posed by the pandemic highlighting the urgency of the work being undertaken to advance the adoption of pro-cloud policies and programs.

The Digital Council Africa embraces the extraordinary possibilities that the digital era has for Africa. We believe that the digital economy will enhance the quality of life for African citizens and allow Africa to remain competitive in the global market. It is imperative that African countries define their digital strategies to safeguard their future status. The exponential rate at which technology is developing, mutating, and adapting is so fast that we have to apply certain effort to keep pace with technological change and how it will affect our businesses and lives.

It is the DCA's belief that to ensure resilience and growth in the wake of the pandemic is the key not only to national economic recovery, but also future prosperity of the Republic of South Africa.

As part of this recovery and job creation, the collaboration of the full range of stakeholders in the ICT and Telecoms sector and also outside of the sector becomes critical to debate and promote the adoption of innovation frameworks through government implementable policies that will spur innovation and competitiveness. Such policies will help leverage the adoption of digital services to enable rapid growth in key economic sectors.

The DCA therefore has embarked on a body of work which seeks to research best practice in technology research and policy to assist government's quest to overcome the devastating economic challenges posed by the pandemic and put the country on a path of economic reconstruction and recovery through formulating and adopting pro 4IR technology policies.

Several industry experts shared their knowledge and expertise. Among them was Aydin Aslaner, Head of the Microsoft Cyber Security Public Sector team in the Middle East & Africa.

Watch a replay of his Microsoft Cybersecurity Briefing [here](#).

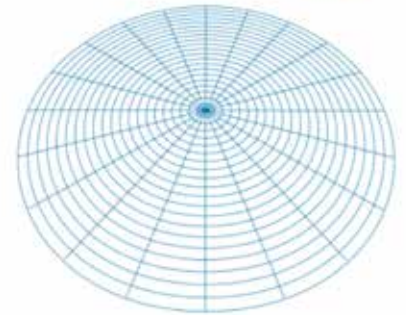
WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



The Metaverse Dialogue

An Exploratory Primer

02 June 2022: 16:00 - 17:00 SGT



Juanita joined the more than 120 discussants who participated in the inaugural Metaverse Dialogue on 2 Jun 2022. Hosted by Access Partnership and the Fair Tech Institute, with support from the Metaverse Policy Lab, this was an interactive online discussion where participants were invited to share their thoughts on various aspects of the metaverse, in whatever approach they chose to interpret this new concept. The aim of the dialogue - and the Metaverse Policy Lab - is to engage thought leaders in attendance in thinking through the different lenses by which we could view the metaverse, so that together, we can co-create solutions to issues which then arise.

The metaverse is the seamless convergence of our physical and digital lives, creating a unified, virtual community experience where everyone can work, play, transact, and socialize. There is no single virtual world but many worlds, which are being enabled and shaped today with Web 3.0 technologies, allowing people to deepen and extend our social interactions digitally.

The Metaversality Index 2022 (MVI 2022), is a first of its kind framework that provides a scalable, score-able map of how we are beginning to make sense of the metaverse, and all the various products which work to form the metaverse. From platforms, people, places, payments, and purchases – the MVI 2022 is the first index in the world that provides a guide to metaverse-compatibility for products or services, highlighting the aspects they excel in, identifying their inherent limitations, and where further attention to improvements could be focused.

This was an interactive session, where all participants co-created think-pieces in a collaborative discussion together, rapporteured by the Fair Tech Institute and the Metaverse Policy Lab.

Watch a recording of the session [here](#)





THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Operation Vulindlela wraps up development phase of model bylaws for wayleaves

Operation Vulindlela is an 'execution/ delivery unit' established by President Cyril Ramaphosa as an approach to support the Cluster, Cabinet, National Economic Recovery Council and Presidency to ensure that approved priority structural reforms are implemented efficiently, effectively and expeditiously.

In line with key structural reforms in the digital communications sector, and to create an enabling environment for rapid deployment of digital communications infrastructure, a Task Team has been established to develop and map out the processes required for obtaining Wayleaves by the digital infrastructure sector.

The task team is led by a Project Management Office (PMO) and chaired by Operation Vulindlela representative, Ms Ditshego Tsebe.

The Task Team consist of individuals who have sufficient experience and expertise in regulatory and policy drafting, cooperative governance, local government, agriculture, land reform and rural development, private sector digital infrastructure development. The main objective of the working group is to streamline approval of wayleave applications at municipal level and to develop uniform requirements and code of practice through the development of national standard draft by-laws for wayleaves applicable to electronic communications networks and facilities.

THE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION:

Government:

- Presidency of the Republic of South Africa
- National Treasury (NT)
- Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT)
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
- Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
- Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)
- Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRAD)
- Department of Transport (DOT)

Private sector:

- The Digital Council Africa

Once the Bylaw has been formally gazetted the DCA will engage in further consultation rounds with DCA members.



The National Priority Committee for Extortion & Violence at Economic Sites

The State of Nation Address by President Ramaphosa highlighted a need for the prevention and combating of ongoing extortion and violence directed at economic sites especially the Construction Sector as one of the Deliverables to the National Development Plan 2030.

The country is experiencing increasing incidents of violence and extortion at construction (economic) sites. In some cases legitimate requests are made from communities to be included in projects however, certain companies, individuals, (branded and non-branded) gangs are impacting negatively on the economic investment by using mafia-type tactics amongst others, demanding tenders from private sector, as well as contractors and sub-contractors on major infrastructure projects.

The National Priority Committee for Extortion and Violence at Economic Sites has been established in terms of the Governance requirements of the Strategy: Reduce Extortion and Violence at Economic Sites. Key in its ambitions is to strengthen cooperation between Government and the business sectors affected by this crime threat.

The objective of the Committee is to enable a substantial and sustainable reduction in Extortion and Violence at Economic Sites through:

- Provision of an oversight and monitoring function;
- Sharing of information including challenges and solutions from the use of the Standard Operating Procedure;
- A common understanding of the risks and threats to victims of the crime type;
- Sharing of resources, which include expertise, processes and technologies;
- Alignment of private sector initiatives against this crime type, with JCPS Cluster initiatives; and
- Approval of drafted public statements for either targeted or general consumption.

The following Industry Bodies are members:

- Business Against Crime South Africa;
- Consumer Goods Crime Risk Initiative;
- Digital Council Africa;
- Infrastructure Crime Forum;
- Master Builders Associations;
- Minerals Council South Africa;
- Petroleum Security Initiative
- South African Forum of Civil Engineering Contractors; and
- SABRIC

Committee Meetings are chaired by the Priority Crime Investigations Section Head: Serious and Violent Crime Investigations: Organised Crime Investigations. The Committee meets every two weeks.

The Digital Council Africa is represented by Juanita Clark.



As one of Africa's largest manufacturers of optical fibre cable solutions for the telecommunications market, CBI Telecom Cables has remained at the forefront of optical fibre and cable technology developments.

Micro blown cables in conjunction with micro ducts are used where future network expansion is expected as is ideal for new installation methods, giving customers the flexibility to add fibre cable as and when needed.

CBI Telecom Cables also manufactures a range of bundled micro ducts for both in-duct and direct buried access and FTTH applications.

By installing micro duct systems into a company's networks, customers are given the power to use their duct system efficiently to its fullest potential, with the added benefit of being able to easily expand as needed. The process is fast and easy and importantly saves on future construction costs.



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POPI ACT INFO

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LOST AND FOUND

The Digital Council Africa has an [Equipment Monitoring page](#) on its website. The aim is to curb theft of equipment.

To view a list of stolen equipment, you can access the list [here](#).

We encourage members to regularly send through the serial numbers of stolen equipment, and inform us when equipment is recovered to ensure that the information remains up to date and accurate.

Information can be sent to Reesha Iyer at reesha@digitalcouncil.africa

In addition, it remains the responsibility of the industry to regularly do spot checks against the serial numbers of contractor equipment to ensure that stolen equipment is identified and that culprits are eradicated from the industry. Companies wishing to purchase second hand equipment should compare the equipment serial numbers against those listed on the website.

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