

CONEXT

The Official Newsletter of the Digital Council Africa

August 2022 Edition

Employ more women, pay them fairly, and build the economy

The landing of the Equiano cable extends WIOCC's wholesale offering in South Africa

A FOND FAREWELL TO 'AUNTY PAM'

In Conversation with Pamela Mallela

Young women powerhouses steering Software AG's Transformational Agenda for the future of South Africa

Digital Council

Issue #009





WELCOME FROM JUANITA

Dear Colleagues,

This Women's month let us remember all the brave women who paved the way and honour all the courageous women in our lives today who lead and inspire us in all spheres of life.

The growing digital gender divide in access to the internet in Africa limits the potential of the internet and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to contribute to achieving gender equality, women's rights and digital rights for women and girls. Notably, there is a substantial divide between men and women in internet access and use globally, as a majority of the 2.9 billion people who remain unconnected are women and girls.

According to the *International Telecommunications Union (ITU)*, in 2022, 62% of men were using the internet compared to 57% of women, meaning that the global internet use gender gap stands at 5%. However, this divide is more glaring in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), many of which are in Africa, where only 19% of women used the internet in 2020, compared to 86% in the developed world.

Empowering women and girls through the provision of meaningful access to the internet and digital technologies could undoubtedly provide them with opportunities to start businesses, and to access education, health, social and financial services. It could also be a powerful tool to enable women and girls to participate in governance, to associate, assemble and express themselves on digital rights issues that are dear to them and to develop relevant content for their empowerment. In addition, there is a need to increase women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles within the ICT sector.

By leveraging the joint capability as intermediary entities to partner with the government and the ICT sector we can unlock barriers and enable the implementation of catalytic projects.

In these uncertain times, it is even more important to work together towards a brighter future. As we strive towards our goal of a South Africa where everyone is connected to all the extraordinary opportunities brought about

by the digital economy. We are committed to our partnership with Harambee and believe that, together, we can bring meaningful change. We invite all of you to join the fight against unemployment. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me to get involved.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together we are creating a truly transformed Africa, one in which all can participate equally.

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



Want to feature your company in the upcoming Conext?

This publication 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

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.



Welcome

A warm welcome to our new Members



WIOCC is Africa's digital backbone, the leading player in the deployment of carrier-scale, future-proofed network infrastructure in Africa. We have the flexibility and scale to meet the ever-growing demand for reliable, high-speed capacity, driven by end consumers, enterprise users and the ecosystem that supports them.

WIOCC's policy of continual strategic investment in network infrastructure ensures it remains able to meet the future data volume, resilience and expanded reach demands of carriers, content providers, cloud operators, ISPs and mobile operators throughout Africa.

For more information visit www.wiocc.net



Cell C Limited, launched in 2001, is a proudly South African customer-first digital provider of services that promotes digital inclusion. The organisation does this by championing the needs, passions, interests and motivations of customers to be at their best, empowering them to achieve and enjoy what they want to, by offering better value, differentiated propositions,

connection and access. Cell C is committed to bridging the digital divide in South Africa and ensuring that everyone enjoys the benefits of a modern, connected world.

Cell C is a Level 1 Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) contributor, with a focused transformation strategy premised on delivering meaningful diversity, inclusion and empowerment that has a positive impact on our economy and society as a whole.

Visit www.cellc.co.za or www.worldofcellc.co.za for more information.



New Era Group is fundamentally an ICT Firm with its business strategy expressed in three parallel business units, namely New Era Telecoms, New Era Mobile and New Era Digital Village. These three sister companies are fully Fledged companies in their own individual right and operate uniquely from each other and yet interdependently.

New Era was founded in 2017 with its offices in East London in the Buffalo City Metro Municipality in the Eastern Cape. The company is 100% black-owned and 70% women owned with 2 shareholders.

The company aims to deliver unparalleled customer service through building strong, lasting relationships with clients through innovative solutions through a team of experienced, highly skilled and well-motivated professional managers.

For more information contact Mrs Unathi Andisiwe Nuku on 078 478 9490.



Digital Council

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2022

CONEXT

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

**ONLY 47 DAYS TO GO! HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR SEAT?
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/>



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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
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- Speaking opportunity
- Panel discussion participation
- Workshop or Technical presentation
- Logo on all online correspondence
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- 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](#)



IN CONVERSATION WITH



Pamela Mallela

Executive Director, Department of Communications and Digital Technology

After 28 years of loyal service to the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) Pam (affectionately known as Aunty Pam) is retiring. As we bid her farewell we would like to extend our gratitude to her for all the phenomenal work and excellent service. She will be missed.

She is a consummate professional who has served in various roles over the years. Starting off as personal assistant to Ministers, Dr Z. Pallo Jordan, Jay Naidoo and the late Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri in 1994. In 2002, she moved to the Department of Communications and became Manager for Bilateral Relations.

In 1999, 2009, 2014 and 2019, she was nominated to serve on the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony Secretariat. She further served on the Government Committee of ANC Centenary Celebration in 2011.

Q: What, in your opinion, is the biggest foreseeable challenge for the next generation of female leaders in South Africa?

The challenge I foresee is the continued marginalisation of the female gender especially in this male dominated sector of ICTs. There needs to be a concerted effort to bridge this so unfortunate gap between male and female in the sector. Government should also find ways of vigorously enforcing this change. There has to be a political will to change things in earnest.

Q: How do you empower and engage with others?

I am from time to time reminded by my colleagues that working with me has been the most challenging especially because I am a product of the late Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri. "Paying attention to detail" I have always believed in allowing my subordinates to carry out their duties and in some cases represent me at various forums. I can say without doubt that I have empowered the most junior staff in the Department and left them with lifetime skills.

Q: Have you experienced stereotypes or biases? Can you name them? How have you overcome them?

The workplace will forever be dominated by males and stereotypes. Not being supported during campaigns but expected to get equal support. Don't give inputs to your documents but receive from yours. The way to overcome this is by proving oneself ten times your worth. This becomes taxing on an individual.

Q: What is something that you believe now that had never occurred to you before?

That taking decisive decisions during your lifetime is essential. Procrastination should not be permitted whatsoever. Take the bullet and bite it with immediate effect. Be brave in making decisions that affect your own being



IN CONVERSATION WITH

Q: What has energised you most about your work throughout your career?

Working in service of the people of our country

Q: What's one piece of advice that greatly impacted you and your career trajectory?

Do not take political sides in a government environment

Q: How do you unplug from work?

Relaxation with close friends and family. Excursions to holiday resorts at least twice in a year

Q: You are about to embark on a new adventure, what are you most looking forward to?

I am looking forward to spending time with my children and grandchild. I just hope and pray that not too much of that has been swallowed by work related events and my activism life. I still have much to share in relation to my 28 years of unbroken service in the Ministry of Communications. This I can do in my own time, terms and space.

Q: Finish this sentence.

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Wired Network Connectivity
Multi-Gigabit Link Speed



Employ more women, pay them fairly, and build the economy

By Tracey Swart,
Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

On average, South African women have more educational qualifications but still remain less employed and economically active than men. In fact, young women are 6-8% less likely to be working than men.

This reality proves Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator's decade-long hypothesis that more schooling and qualifications alone do not translate into economic opportunity, particularly for those most excluded from the labour market.

Our analysis over this past year reveals that women earn less than men across almost every occupation type and job family. The average income in the formal sector is relatively stable and relatively high and growing sectors like Global Business Services (GBS) offer higher-paying entry-level jobs. However, a gendered analysis of earnings across all occupation types – including entry-level roles for data capturers, call centre agents, IT technicians and software testers – shows that men earn more than women. On average, young men make at least +6% more than their female counterparts.

This study of youth income and earnings is, in fact, a study of gender disparity. The question is: what actions can be taken to address this?

Firstly, we need a targeted focus on the inclusion of women when promoting job creation. The GBS sector has done just this – of the 3,731 new jobs created in the sector in the past quarter, 65% were for young women. This didn't happen by accident. The sector's Industry Master Plan Framework not only aims to create 500,000 new net jobs by 2030 but also has a specific focus on impact sourcing, including women. Its industry-wide support – not just from suppliers but clients and customers too – is so needed, but now the focus must broaden beyond simply employing women to equal pay too.

More attention must also be paid to the other demands women face, which hinder their career progress in ways that do not affect men. For example, the additional burden of household duties and unpaid care

work that women undertake is a reality for most and a significant reason for their inability to find work or continually upskill themselves to find better, higher-paying work.

Harambee's research reports a monthly disparity of R500 in the salary of men and women software testers. In contrast, the DigiLink programme that develops the next generation of young digital talent into these roles ensures that its graduates are all paid equally for their work – it's pay for the job, not the gender. But will these young women be able to keep up with the progress of their male peers? We don't know yet, as the project is still in its infancy. However, we do know that to succeed and progress in digital jobs, employees must consistently keep on top of the ever-evolving skills needed to do digital work. We also know that

often, employers expect this to happen out of the office, in personal time. And we know that women have considerably less of that time available to them because of their additional personal workload at home.

So those employers who advocated for equal pay at the beginning must also shift their workplace landscape to give women the same equity for progress as men to avoid the growing pay gap we see over time in so many other sectors.

Women continue to signal their willingness to work by joining platforms like SA Youth – 65% of the SA Youth network is female, despite its gender-neutral positioning.

Once working, our data shows that young women perform as well as young men at the same level. In addition, the evidence is clear about the benefits of women's increased economic and social participation in the economy. Greater gender equality leads to better



development outcomes. It contributes to reducing income inequality and boosting economic diversification and, in turn, supports economic resilience. Higher economic participation by women leads to higher spending on schooling for children, with important implications for growth in the long run. And more women earning promotes economic growth.

Advocacy for pay equity is critical – and we cannot rely on market mechanisms alone. Employer advocacy is essential to avoid the risk of perpetuating gender inequity.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



MICTSETA

Media, Information And
Communication Technologies
Sector Education And Training Authority

SHAPING SKILLS, PIONEERING INDUSTRIES, EMPOWERING FUTURES

DCA partners with MICT SETA to address skills deficit

A constantly changing world requires adaptable skills to meet the needs of the hour. The need for highly specialised skills has driven today's workforce into developing and honing new skills. Optic fibre skills have been identified as one of the skills that is needed to aid in the fourth industrial revolution. The lack of skilled labour in the sector remains a big problem that is slowing down cable deployment in South Africa. To address this the Digital Council Africa in partnership with MICT SETA have embarked on a program to address the Optic fibre skills deficit within the ICT sector. The program is set to train twenty five women as optic fibre technicians.

MICT SETA in collaboration with its stakeholders have developed thirty-three new qualifications to respond to the needs of the fourth industrial revolution. As the Digital Council Africa, we applaud MICT SETA for these efforts and fully support their work to transform the ICT Sector.

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Young women powerhouses steering Software AG's Transformational Agenda for the future of South Africa

With the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector leading innovation and driving change in society, in a developing nation such as ours it is critical that the population is not left behind. Software AG (SAG), driven by its purpose to connect people and technology for a smarter tomorrow, has been making strides toward ensuring meaningful transformation in the sector and the country at large. We fully believe in the power of digital transformation to provide opportunity, security, resilience and longevity.

To all of us at SAG, transformation is not only intentional but it is a daily practice within our organisation for the advancement and benefit of all our stakeholders. It extends well beyond our commitment to help our customers transform their businesses into truly connected enterprises. Our Transformational Agenda is multifaceted and begins within the organisation and then spreads out to the most remote parts of our country, where our services are in great demand and impact disadvantaged communities positively.

Leading this agenda to contribute to the upliftment of the country is the dedicated Female Force within Software AG South Africa. As we celebrate Women's Month, we take time to honour and encourage the SAG women who go above and beyond the scope of duty to make our workplace and, by extension, the country a better place for all. Their commitment and drive is not just based on our organizational mandate to seamlessly connect people to technologies, but is fueled by the fire that burns inside each and every woman who is part of one of the most transformed organisations in the sector and their desire to bring about meaning change.



Transformed leadership

As the ICT sector grapples to meet and fulfill the management control element as set out in the B-BBEE codes of the industry, SAG South Africa has set the bar quite high with a female-only board. This admirable level of transformation is also replicated at the executive and senior levels within the organisation, ensuring that our leadership is purposeful and represents the majority of this country. Our journey of implementing our Transformational Agenda, which extends beyond the sectorial codes, can be seen in action within SAG which can confidently declare to have 49% of its workforce being women in a sector that is largely male dominated.

Inspired by the wise words of Saint (Mother) Teresa who declared: ***"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples"***, we strive to cast the stone that ripples change, and inspires others to do the same. Our powerhouse does not stand on its own, it is the support of the entire organization, from as far as the Global Team, that make it possible. Everyone who forms part of the building blocks that make this great organisation is needed to come together to achieve this great change. Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion network facilitates us in establishing and promoting these activities in our organisation. Not only during Women's Month but each and every month of the year, we illuminate on the value of women within our great organisation and are energized by their courage and determination to become visible agents of change.

"As the HR Generalist, with a passion for transformation and community development being part of the team that evokes change is truly satisfying, the goal is to drive meaningful development and change beyond our doorstep" – Robyn Kibby, HR Generalist.



Skilled workforce and community development

Another key element of our Transformational Agenda is a strong focus on building formal skills in the ICT sector and niche Skills around Software AG Technology. To achieve this meaningful transformation within the ICT Industry, we have partnered in Digital Centres in 6 out of the 9 South African provinces whose goal is to bring digital resources to all South Africans, particularly those in marginalized communities. Four of these digital centres are in rural areas such as Makotopong (Limpopo), Baziya and Komani (Eastern Cape), Hendrina (Mpumalanga) and others located in townships such as Alexandra (Gauteng) and Cato Manor (Kwa-Zulu Natal). These centres make a huge difference to these communities. They bring the spirit of innovation, problem solving, entrepreneurship and digital learning to members of these communities, particularly to the youth, who are required to be skilled in order to participate meaningfully in the 4th industrial revolution.

“Driving Meaningful and impactful transformation, with the support of not only the local team but also Software AG Global has been great, it is great to know that Software AG takes the upliftment of the South African Economy, its youth and marginalised citizens seriously. I truly believe that with the support of the private sector we can see true, sustainable change” – Ndazi Nokoane, Transformation Manager

The aim of all our Learner Programmes is to create employable individuals who would take the market by storm, Software AG technology has its own unique, valuable, and impactful benefits that empowers enterprises to become truly connected, and for this we need to build skills outside of the mainstream, making our alumni one of a kind, in demand and the solution to the skills gap in the ICT Sector, our commitment to bridging this contributes to the growth of the economy, a positive contribution to youth unemployment and a culture of as 'I rise, I lift'.

“Youth are the future of our organisation, our country and the whole world. To me, transformation does not only impacts our organization but it has a snowball effect on our society and it is up to each of us to invest in the future of our youth for the future benefit of our company, and most importantly our entire society and South Africa at large.” – Lelani Van Wyk, Director FC&A.

As we celebrate Women’s Month, we pay homage to all the women of SAG and urge them to continue illuminating and drive our Transformational Agenda forward. We remind them to never forget that their contribution to transformation is not limited to the advancement of the individuals who benefit from our company’s programmes, but that it impacts our society and sets our country on a positive trajectory to innovate whilst uplifting the marginalised.





m4a

OUR PRODUCTS BUILD NETWORKS

m4a (Pty) Ltd manufactures a range of composite products that are used in the building and installation of utility network infrastructure

m4a's mix of manufacturing technologies offer flexibility in product design and production processes. Furthermore, a mix of modern material technologies deliver lightweight and durable products with a long operational lifespan and zero resale value (non-metallic).

Our Utilities Product Applications:

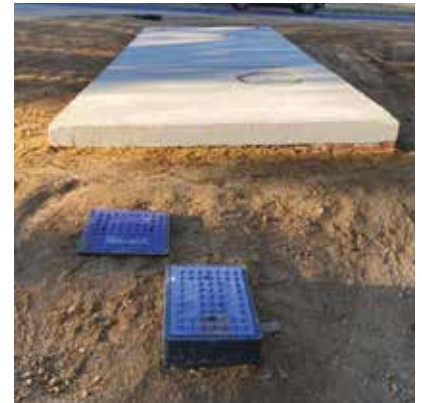
**Renewable energy infrastructure
(wind farm)**



**Electrical reticulation infrastructure
(national grid extensions)**



**Water services infrastructure
(water meter installations)**



**Storm water infrastructure
(coastal municipal services)**



**Telecommunications infrastructure
(fibre deployment)**



**Composite mast infrastructure
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Data Centre Automation

The majority of the world's data centre real estate is pre-existing stock not designed with automation in mind. Many data centres are designed with control systems that might be 5–10 years old. Data centres must shift toward strategies driven by scale and business growth, leveraging technology and innovation from other sectors.

An automation of a data center will take place in five steps:

Stage 1: Operational Assessment of Existing Processes and Systems

Stage 2: Digitization and Optimization of Operations

Stage 4: Automation of Data Centre Operations

Stage 5: Robotic Interaction

A Low-Risk Transition

Time spent upfront planning how the site will eventually operate will pay huge dividends in simplifying the future model and ensuring that any new technologies purchased to support the future operating model are able to share common underlying data and interact functionally in a smooth and logical manner.

Realizing the Fruits of Automation

Automating for your people, not in place of: It is necessary that data centre managers invest in education and training for data centre technicians to help them transition from core administrative roles into new value-added functions.

Risk reduction through data-driven decisions: Data-driven decision-making can enable you to begin predicting future events and diagnosing impending faults automatically. When the IT load is linked to the performance of the M&E infrastructure, IT can dynamically respond to changes in the building and vice versa. This integration between technology and facilities will require a convergence of thinking between facilities and technology in terms of design and operating models.

Sustainability strategies, maximized: Automated control makes it practical to deploy more granular environmental monitoring and for the control system to respond in near time to localized changes in power or cooling demand.

Next steps and guiding principles:

The data centre owner or manager need to conduct an assessment to be in a position to make an informed decision about the appropriate strategy for the site and whether there is a business case for change.

STEP 1: Back to basics

Audit your site(s) and ensure that schematics, asset lists, work processes etc. are all up to date and available in a consistent digital format.

STEP 2: Find the inefficiencies

Conduct a work time study of your playbooks and ask yourself if any of the manual processes can be automated or even eliminated if your current control systems and data sets were logically joined up.

STEP 3: Develop a phased plan

Decide what need to happen immediately, now, near term and in the future.

STEP 4: Implement in parallel

Build a change management plan to deliver the roadmap from Step 1 (above) to manage new systems and processes being brought online in parallel to current manual tasks.

STEP 5: Don't stop with small gains

Establish a Continuous Improvement Program.

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Our focus is your data centre's uptime. Our clients benefit from experience and best practices accumulated by managing ~700 data centres in 45 countries—more than any firm in the world.

CBRE's services stand out where it matters most: Best-in-class training and proprietary technology platforms are the foundation of our life cycle data centre services. Our team, over 3,800 strong, ensures uptime and delivers peak performance for your customers—with services that range from extensive maintenance, technology operations, consulting and project management to energy optimization and analytics.

A CALL TO ACTION

Cybercrimes Act (19/2020)

The **Cybercrimes Act 19 of 2020 (CCA)** ("the Act") came into partial operation on 1 December 2021 and the purpose of the Act is to:

- create offences which have a bearing on cybercrime;
- criminalise the disclosure of data messages which are harmful and to provide for interim protection orders;
- further regulate jurisdiction in respect of cybercrimes;
- further regulate the powers to investigate cybercrimes;
- further regulate aspects relating to mutual assistance in respect of the investigation of cybercrimes;
- provide for the establishment of a Designated Point of Contact;
- further provide for the proof of certain facts by affidavit; to impose obligations to report cybercrimes;
- provide for capacity building;
- provide that the Executive may enter into agreements with foreign States to promote measures aimed at the detection, prevention, mitigation and investigation of cybercrimes;
- delete and amend provisions of certain laws; and
- provide for matters connected therewith.

All interested persons and organisations are invited to submit written comments on the Draft Standard Operating Procedures no later than 15 August 2022, by e-mail to joosteme@saps.gov.za.



Cell C Wholesale

Cell C has been implementing its turnaround strategy to:

- Build its profitability and sustainability as a business;
- Position itself as a competitor in the market by taking advantage of the digital landscape.

Cell C is developing into more than a traditional telecommunications company. The organisation is transitioning into a technology company that enables digital lifestyles by offering customers differentiated value propositions in the mobile, technology and digital space. Solutions provided by Cell C transcend megs and minutes i.e. airtime and data and venture into specialised digital solutions that address the customer's needs.

Cell C Wholesale is extending an opportunity to B2B2C partners to expand their service offering by adding fixed wireless products such as Fixed LTE to their portfolios. Besides the current promotional offer, the product is designed to enable start up partners and partners with a pre-existing base who can benefit from discounts for higher traffic volume commitments. Additional Value Added Services (VAS) such as e-RICA, is expected to reduce the digital divide and streamline the partners' distribution process and cost.

For more information, please reach out to Cell C Wholesale: **Deena Rajah, drajah@cellc.co.za, 084777 0017.**



Draft Country Investment Strategy

In March 2022, Cabinet approved the publishing of South Africa's Draft Country Investment Strategy for public comment. South Africa's inaugural Country Investment Strategy (CIS) aims to position South Africa as a key preferred African investment destination by attracting and facilitating quality Foreign and Domestic Direct Investment into the country, in a well-co-ordinated manner, anchored by quality institutions and robust economic infrastructure networks.

This is in the country's important endeavour of advancing its National Development Plan (NDP) target of 30 percent of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030.

The draft CIS is importantly underpinned by and aligned to the aspirations and objectives articulated in the NDP, the country's Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan, the Re-imagined Industrial Strategy, Sector Masterplans and the National Infrastructure Plan 2050."

The period for public comment closed on the 27th of July 2022. For a breakdown of the strategy read [this](#) insightful article or download the relevant Government Gazette [here](#).

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

John Bosco Arends **Juanita Clark** **Faith Burn** **Werner Leithgob** **Oratile Sematle**

Baljeet Nagi **Chris Wigget** **MITS** **Roger Hislop** **Ayanda Peta**

Letsebelo Tsebie, Lebonya **RE-IMAGINE | INNOVATE | TRANSFORM** **Sihle Mthiyane**

The Houghton Hotel Johannesburg, South Africa

27th July 2022 | 09:00 AM to 6.00 PM

www.manufacturingitsummit.com

MEMS A

Victor Thobakgale **Mariah Motsoeneng** **Lehlohonolo A Molloy** **Brynn Gerson** **Andile Mnguni**

Juanita was a speaker at the 20th edition of the Manufacturing IT Summit 2022 which took place on the 27th July 2022 in Johannesburg.

The Manufacturing IT Summit Series is a leading networking conference, gathering the most influential IT leaders to explore today's biggest technological challenges, foster deep collaboration, and generate new ideas.

The 2022 Summit brought together over 120 C-Level Executives, Directors / Heads of Information Technology and practitioners, to discuss the critical technology issues affecting today's manufacturing industry.

Some of the phenomenal speakers sharing their experiences and expertise at the Summit included, **John Bosco Arends**, Group Head ITO & Chairperson, Chartered CIO Council City of Johannesburg, **Faith Burn**, CIO, Eskom, **Chris Wiggett**, Head of Data & Analytics, Dimension Data, **Letsebelo Tsebie Lebonya**, Enterprise Architecture Consultant, Harmony Gold Mine.

For more information about the summit visit <https://manufacturingitsummit.com/>



Bringing internet connectivity to businesses and residents

Jan-Jan Bezuidenhout, CEO of MetroFibre, shares an overview of the strategic focus for the business as it plans to meet its mission of being a diversified operator in the massively competitive and capital-intensive fibre network market.

Jan-Jan took the helm as CEO of MetroFibre as of 1 June 2022, bringing 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. Prior to joining MetroFibre, Jan-Jan spent more than a decade focusing on Private Equity, Infrastructure Investments and Corporate Development at leading financial institutions.

“MetroFibre has been on an extensive investment drive which is fundamental to achieving our growth targets and meeting the demand for quality, high-speed digital infrastructure in South Africa. As the third largest fibre network operator in the country, MetroFibre’s open access network currently passes over 350,000 homes and thousands of businesses in six provinces across South Africa, and we are well advanced in our strategy to gain further market share, both organically as well as through strategic acquisitions. We are aiming to expand and densify our existing network, and plan on passing an additional 500,000 homes by 2025,” explains Jan-Jan.

“Growth, is not only about having the capital to rollout infrastructure, but also developing solutions for the changing needs of our business & residential customers, specifically underserved communities,” he adds.

To this end, MetroFibre recently announced a major overhaul of its Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) speed packages, making it one of the most competitive currently available in the market. It’s MetroConnect solution is a pioneering new pay-as-you-go model that

caters for customers who may only require intermittent use and do not want to commit to lengthy service contracts. “Our strategy is driven by the fact that for people to participate, meaningfully, in a heavily digitised and knowledge-based economy, we must address the inequality that a lack of fast and stable internet access brings to South African households & small businesses,” says Jan-Jan.

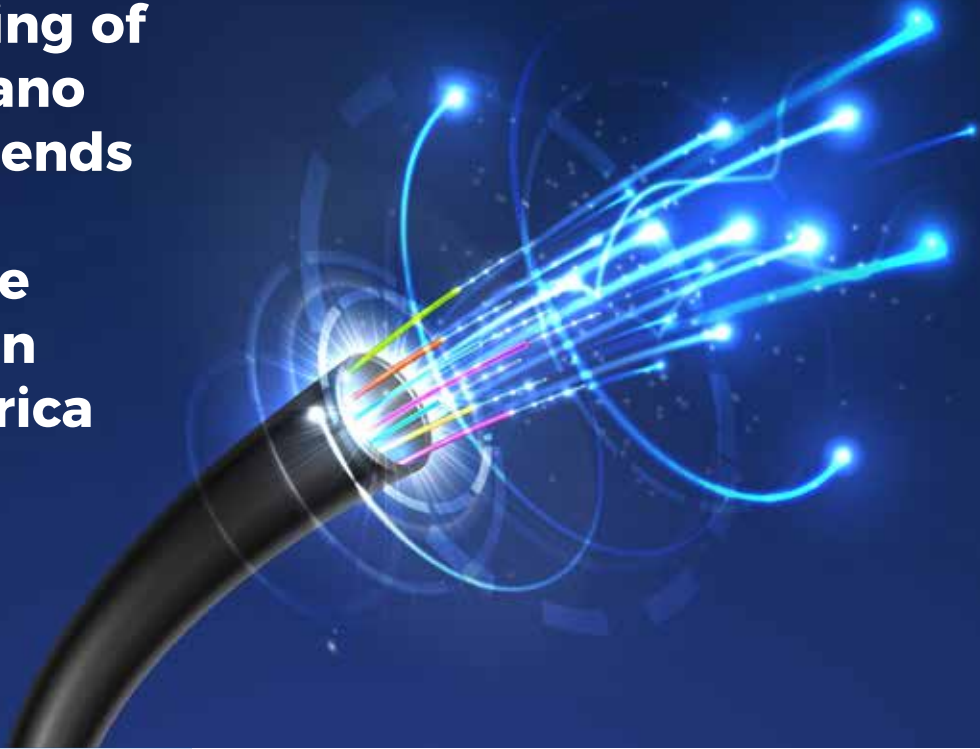
MetroFibre has strategically developed its FTTB competency to service businesses of all sizes, from SMMEs, through to blue-chip financial services customers where it counts both local and international corporates amongst its customer base. With the increasing demand for bandwidth fuelled by the migration to cloud and streaming applications, MetroFibre provides high-capacity bandwidths at the lowest latency on a single pair of fibres, with a managed optical service on its ROADM/DWDM network – offering redundancy and network protection throughout most of Gauteng and all the major data centres.

When it comes to education and the importance of internet connectivity, MetroFibre is also well down the road with various feasibility studies and proof of concepts to meet the demand from schools.

“Beyond our organic growth strategy of expanding and densifying our existing network, MetroFibre is actively seeking strategic acquisitions of existing infrastructure networks at a time when the sector is undergoing a significant consolidation process,” concludes Jan-Jan.

From its early days as a start-up business with less than 20 employees, today MetroFibre is a trusted and professional corporate business with over 500 employees and a rapidly growing footprint, ranking in the top three fibre network operators (FNO) in the country.

The landing of the Equiano cable extends WIOCC's wholesale offering in South Africa



The arrival in South Africa of Google's state-of-the-art, 144Tbps, 12 fibre pair Equiano cable will have a direct impact on connectivity throughout the Southern Africa region, resulting in faster internet speeds, reduced internet prices and improved user experience.

WIOCC's commitment to delivering a market-leading portfolio of wholesale services, based on strategic investment in subsea and terrestrial digital infrastructure, has been further demonstrated with the arrival in South Africa, on 8 August 2022, of Google's Equiano cable.

WIOCC is a key partner in Equiano, landing the cable in Lagos, Nigeria, and owning a full fibre pair on the system. Partnering in bringing Equiano to Africa is further reinforcing WIOCC's ability to support its clients in extending their reach and capability across Southern Africa.

WIOCC Group CEO Chris Wood commented: *"Having invested multiple billions of Rand to enhance our 16Tbps-ready, Optical Transport Network-enabled national hyperscale network infrastructure, we are extremely well positioned to provide businesses with access to fully upgradeable, quickly and easily scalable capacity throughout South Africa and into neighbouring countries, over one of the most future-proof networks in the country."*

As a fibre pair owner, WIOCC's Equiano capacity is upgradable fully under its own control. WIOCC owns and manages its own Submarine Line Terminating Equipment (SLTE), choosing to light and upgrade its capacity exactly as it wishes to meet the needs and demands of its clients.

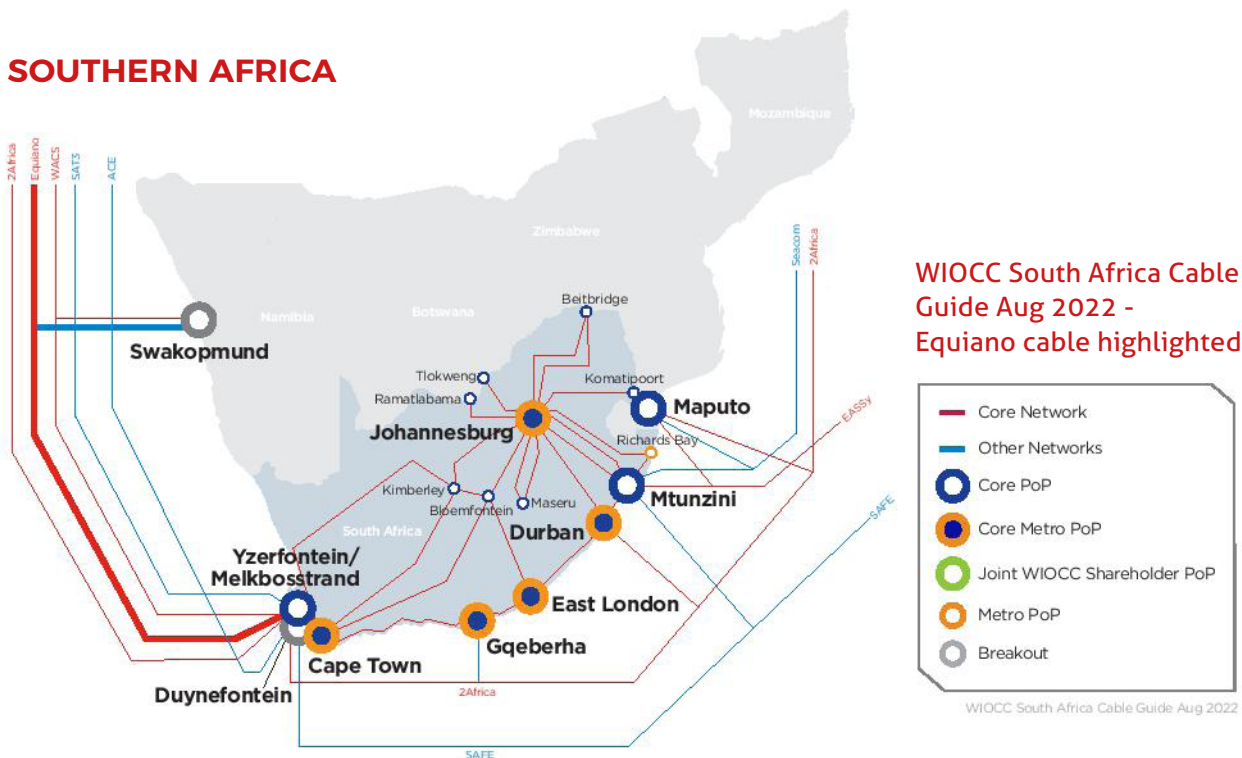
WIOCC's Equiano capacity will be extended into a new Open Access Data Centres (OADC - a WIOCC Group company) facility currently undergoing fit-out in Rondebosch, Cape Town, where clients can interconnect with terrestrial infrastructure providers, cloud networks, partners, suppliers and other ecosystem members.

OADC has been extremely active in South Africa, where it recently announced it will have three new core data centres (DCs) – one in Johannesburg and two in Cape Town - live by the end of Q3 2022. These three core DCs are integral to OADC's unique, core-to-edge, open-access DC offering, which currently includes another core DC, OADC Durban, and 25 (growing over the next 9 months to over 100) up to 150kW OADC EDGE DCs offering colocation, rooftop access and high-speed network interconnectivity between facilities at up to 100Gbps and on multiple routes for diversity.

WIOCC's Chris Wood added: "Our investment in Equiano continues our long-standing policy of making strategic investments in subsea cables. We own almost a third of the >10Tbps EASSy system, which extends from South Africa along Africa's eastern coastline to Djibouti and Port Sudan; we deliver more capacity than any other carrier on the WACS system, which links South Africa to western Europe and lands in many countries along the west coast of Africa; and we are a member of the 2Africa cable, which will bring another high-capacity connectivity option to Africa during 2023/24."

Services available from WIOCC in South Africa include high-quality Carrier IP Transit (IPT), point-to-point national connectivity and high-performance Metro Connect, and open access colocation services in specific locations – through WIOCC Group company Open Access Data Centres. In each case, solutions can be tailored to meet clients' specific requirements and are backed by first-class support - which includes WIOCC's highly-responsive Client Champions who are available 24x7x365.

SOUTHERN AFRICA



ABOUT WIOCC - www.wiocc.net

WIOCC is the leading player in the deployment of carrier-scale, future-proofed network infrastructure into Africa. We have the flexibility and scale to meet the ever-growing demand for reliable, high-speed capacity throughout Africa, driven by end consumers, enterprise users and the ecosystem that supports them.

Our policy of continual investment in our network to create Africa's first, truly hyperscale network infrastructure means ongoing investment for growth, ensuring our readiness to meet the future data volume demands of end users throughout Africa.

Operating exclusively as a wholesaler, we have revolutionised the delivery of high-capacity connectivity between Africa and the rest of the world. Widely recognised as Africa's carriers' carrier, we offer carriers, content providers, cloud operators, ISPs and mobile operators reliable, seamless, high-capacity connectivity between more than 30 African countries and key global financial and commercial centres.

Our focus on building and maintaining strong, long-term relationships with each client enables us to develop bespoke solutions that meet their current requirements and have the capability to match future demands for growth, extra resilience and geographical expansion.



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FOUNDING



MEMBER



AFL HYPERSCALE

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

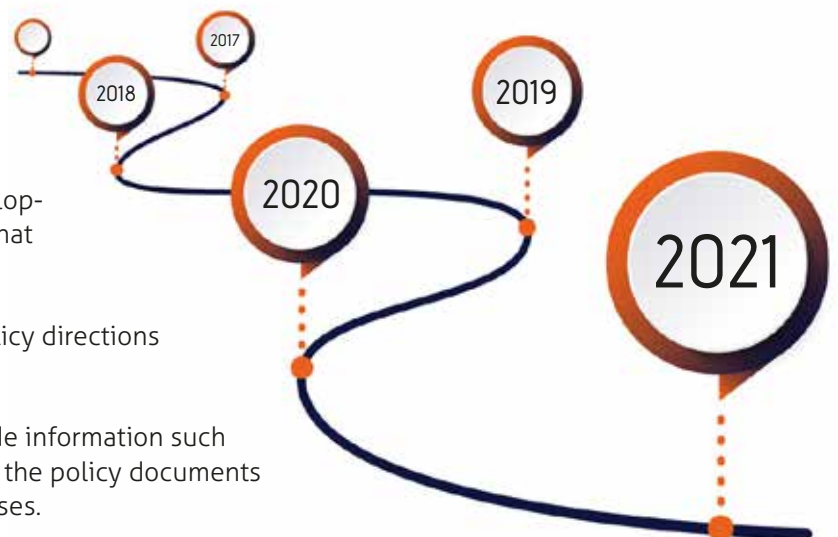
- [A Timeline of ICT and related Policy Development](#)
- [Digital Transformation and Adoption in Sectors Roundtable](#)

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.



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POPI ACT INFO

The Digital Council Africa respects your right to privacy and we aim to ensure that we comply with the POPI Act (Act 4 of 2013), which regulates the manner in which we collect, process, store, share and destroy any personal information which you have provided to us. Your personal information is strictly confidential and we will notify you immediately should we become aware of any unauthorised use, disclosure or processing of your personal information. Kindly note that you may choose to opt out at any time from all marketing and other communications by contacting Reesha Iyer at reesha@digital-council.africa.

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.



THE CHALLENGE

South Africa faces a crisis of youth unemployment. Of the 1.2 million young people who enter the labour market each year, approximately two thirds remain outside of employment, education or training

HOW SA YOUTH ALIGNS WITH THE NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY



PRESIDENTIAL
YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
INTERVENTION

- A strategic national vision and plan announced by President Ramaphosa in his 2020 SONA
- Sets out priority initiatives to address the youth unemployment challenge



NATIONAL PATHWAY
MANAGEMENT NETWORK
(NPMN)

- The NPMN is one of the initiatives under the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI)
- It is a network of partners across government, business and civil society that work together to:
 - Create, stimulate and aggregate income earning and learning opportunities for young work-seekers
 - Match and connect young people to these opportunities
 - Drive systems change to support inclusive hiring

SA Youth: The enabling platform

Creating opportunities for youth, at scale

Inclusive access to the economy

RECRUIT

partners.sayouth.org.za

PARTNER ACCESS POINT



APPLY

sayouth.mobi

WORK-SEEKER ACCESS POINT

- PARTNERS REGISTERED ON THE PLATFORM CAN:**
- List their opportunities for youth - jobs, learnerships, apprenticeships, internships, volunteering, entrepreneurial programmes, social programmes
 - Source suitable talent from a large database of entry level work-seekers

- YOUNG WORK-SEEKERS CAN:**
- Access learning and earning opportunities at no cost
 - Receive support via multiple channels – the web, WhatsApp, e-mail, toll free hotline, Facebook, Messenger

BENEFITS

<p>Access 2 million + engaged youth nationally (60% female) for entry-level roles</p>	<p>Easy to use online platform - reduces admin and streamlines your recruitment process</p>	<p>Matches work-seekers to your vacancies based on geography, education and your customised requirements</p>	<p>List unlimited vacancies, pull reports, track applications</p>	<p>A team of people ready to support you to register and load your vacancies</p>	<p>No cost to access the platform – only require your commitment to provide feedback on who you have hired within 20 days</p>
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Join the growing SA Youth network for your entry-level recruitment needs!
Contact us on info@sayouth.org.za | Register on partners.sayouth.org.za

