

# CONEXT

The Official Newsletter of the Digital Council Africa

June 2024 Edition

**Connect2Connect  
Summit August 2024,  
Tanzania**

**CELEBRATING  
YOUTH MONTH**



**Explore  
Upcoming  
Events**

**Welcome to our new  
Board Members**

**The Collective X:  
Here For Us Conference**





## WELCOME FROM JUANITA

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the winter 2024 issue of Conext, the official Newsletter of the Digital Council Africa and its members.

This Newsletter aims to not only let our members know what we at the organisation have been busy with but also, probably more importantly, to provide a platform to let us know what they are up to. We strongly encourage participation in this publication as it is a fantastic tool to engage with the broader digital infrastructure space.

The next edition will launch a product catalogue which will enable our community of readers to access products from a directory. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of our product members and wish to support them in turn. If you are looking for specific products, please use this directory and support those committed to the cause.

Last year, our **Connect Member Summit** brought together all our valued members and partners for an exclusive, members-only event. Held at the end of the year, this summit facilitated dialogue, stimulated conversation, and offered an informal space for connection. **We eagerly anticipate seeing you all at the 2024 edition of our Connect Member Summit on November 28th as we once again take a look at the year that was, and the one to come.**

A well-governed environment, where the right policies enable investment, is critical to ensuring that the digital economy continues to grow. Working towards this is at the heart of what the Digital Council stands for. With this in mind the Digital Council will be launching three smaller events throughout the year – addressing matters pertaining to the sector. 1. Data Centre & Cloud Dialogues, 2. Fibre Focus and 3. Tower Talk will bring the industry together to discuss more practical issues in the sector.

At these events we will make face to face connections, strengthen our communities, find solutions for problems and build brand recognition and hear from thought-leaders. Digital Council Africa members attend for free and there are standard sponsorship opportunities available. We look forward to hosting you at an upcoming event.

Finally, our second intake of learners, who began their Optic Fibre training on February 3, 2024, have completed their training. We are excited to see where this all-female crew will go from here and wish them well on their journeys. If you are looking for qualified female fibre optic technicians, please reach out!

As Youth Month draws to a close, our commitment remains steadfast. We will work tirelessly to bridge the digital divide and mitigating its negative effects on education in disadvantaged communities. We believe that digital skills will unlock the potential of South Africa's youth, promoting economic growth, global competitiveness, and job creation. That's why we are proud to partner with and celebrate our **YOUTH MONTH HERO, The Collective X**, a private sector-led initiative uniting industry leaders to address our country's critical shortage of digital skills. (Find out more about them here). We strongly encourage all our member companies to support this initiative. Contact them to find out how you and your organisation can get involved.

In closing, an invitation to join me in the first week of September in the beautiful Arusha, Tanzania as we partner with Extensia to host an event focussing on connectivity and digital infrastructure in the East Africa region. This event will develop opportunities in the digital infrastructure space! Find more information on this in the pages of the newsletter or reach out to me for more information.

Remember, Conext belongs to you, our members. We invite you to use this platform to share thought leadership insights, updates about your company, or product information that may benefit other members.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Juanita*

# CONTENT

## FROM THE OFFICE

4

What is Conext? | Social Media | Get featured in the next Conext  
Member Benefits | Let's Keep In Touch | Welcome to our New Board Members

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

ACT, COMRiC, and DCA Sign MOU to Strengthen South Africa's ICT Sector 15  
The Collective X: Here For Us Conference 21  
Competition Law Update & Discussion Session 28  
FemaleForce Fibre Optic Trainees Shine at 4IR Centres of Excellence Launch 29  
5G: South Africa's Progress in Comparison to Global Trends Webinar 30

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Microsoft reinforces its commitment to South Africa with R1.3 billion investment to spur job creation 10  
Celebrating our Youth Month Hero: The Collective X 12  
Digital Parks Africa extends data centre as demand surges 14  
Corning's sustainability: A commitment to the future generations 18  
IFC, Proparco & RMB partner with WIOCC Group to expand digital infrastructure in Africa 22

## CALL TO ACTION

Cell C: Subletting of IPV4 and IPT 20

## INDUSTRY NEWS

WEINERT Special Cables Expands to Africa with Strategic Acquisition of CBI Electric Telecom Cables 27  
Unveiling the Impact of Independent Tower Companies in Africa 31

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DCA Connect 2024 7  
DCA Golf Day 2024 8  
Connect2Connect Summit 13  
Data Centre & Cloud Dialogues 17

## CONTACT US, POPI INFO & LOST & FOUND

32

# 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](mailto: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 is a free platform for 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.

**Next Issue:** August 2024

**Theme:** Women's Month

Contributions can be sent to Nadene Reignier at [nadene@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:nadene@digitalcouncil.africa)

---

## 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](#).**

## Let's keep in touch

As people come and go, it's important to keep our database up to date. Please take a moment to update your contact information so we can stay connected. Your updated details ensure you receive the latest news and updates from Digital Council Africa. Thank you for helping us keep our community strong!

# Welcome

## Welcoming our new Board Members



### Alpheus Mangale - Group CEO, SEACOM

SEACOM, Africa's leading telecommunications and managed services provider, launched Africa's first broadband submarine cable system along the continent's Eastern and Southern coasts in 2009. Today, SEACOM's focus is beyond connectivity with a suite of Business Solutions and Services.

Alpheus is a seasoned senior executive, with over 25 years of diverse industry experience, spanning the telecommunications, financial services, technology, and the public sectors.

Prior to joining SEACOM, Alpheus was the Group Chief Engineering Officer for Standard Bank, a position he held for five years. He was responsible for daily operations, strategic direction, and financial oversight of the overall group engineering function. Leading a team of over 12,000 staff across 20 countries.

Alpheus spent 16 years at Dimension Data (now known as NTT Data), including as chief technology officer, chief operating officer and Sales & Client Experience Director for Africa and the Middle East region. He also previously led Cisco Systems in South Africa and was chief enterprise officer at MTN South Africa. He has served on several boards, such as the MTN Foundation, Cisco Systems South Africa, Standard Bank Namibia, and Dimension Data Middle East & Africa. He is currently the Independent Non-Executive Director at ABSA Group. Born in Soweto and currently living in Johannesburg with his family, Alpheus has successfully bridged his rich heritage with a global professional footprint.

## Getting to know your Board

### Please tell us a bit about your day-to-day role.

I am fortunate to lead a team of passionate people at SEACOM across all our operations globally. My day-to-day engagements include interacting with SEACOM staff, partners, and suppliers on relevant matters that enable our customers and their businesses. This includes removing obstacles and streamlining the way we serve our customers best. To maximize my team's growth and their individual potential, I spend valuable time understanding their reasons and motivations for being at SEACOM.

### What drives your enthusiasm in your professional work?

Working at SEACOM, we have a clear purpose: "Empowering Africa for a digitally connected future." This gives me a sense of purpose and fulfillment in the work that we do. At SEACOM, we are contributing to something larger than ourselves. This motivates and keeps us engaged in our mission; our work aligns with our core values and beliefs. I can also see the positive impact we have already made and will continue to make in the industry and on the African continent.

### What are some of your interests or hobbies outside of work?

I prioritize spending time with my family. I'm also an avid Formula One Racing (F1) fan and enjoy playing and watching football as well as golf occasionally. A special indulgence is watching documentaries on world sciences.

# Welcome

## Welcoming our new Board Members



### **Dr Andrew Barendse**

**Managing Executive: Regulatory Affairs & Public Policy, Vodacom SA**

Andrew is a seasoned executive, academic and board member.

As an executive, he is the Managing Executive for Regulatory Affairs and public policy at Vodacom SA, and, a former Group Executive of Government Relations & Public Policy at Telkom.

As an academic, he is a visiting adjunct professor at the LINK Centre and a former assistant professor at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. As a board member, he is a non-executive director of MAST (Vodacom Tower Company) and a former non-executive director of Telkom International and the International Institute of Communications.

Andrew holds advanced degrees in economics (PhD from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands), legal studies (Master of Legal Studies from Washington State University in St Louis Missouri), and, business administration (Master of Business Administration from the University of Cape Town).

## Getting to know your Board

### **Please tell us a bit about your day-to-day role.**

In my day-to-day role as Managing Executive for Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy at Vodacom South Africa, I am responsible for managing all regulatory affairs and public policy matters on behalf of Vodacom. This involves navigating complex regulatory landscapes to ensure our operations align with both national and international regulations. I lead a multi-disciplinary team of executive heads, collaborating closely to develop and implement strategies that support Vodacom's objectives and uphold industry standards.

### **What drives your enthusiasm in your professional work?**

Two main factors drive my enthusiasm in my professional work.

Firstly, personal fulfillment: I am deeply passionate about regulatory affairs and public policy, and my role allows me to engage in work that aligns with my interests and expertise.

Secondly, the impact of my work: knowing that my efforts contribute to the advancement of both public and private interest objectives provides a strong sense of purpose. By shaping policies that benefit the broader community and the telecommunications industry, I feel that I am making a meaningful difference.

### **What are some of your interests or hobbies outside of work?**

Outside of work, I am currently making a second attempt at taking up golf, which has been both challenging and enjoyable. Additionally, my wife and I are certified facilitators for an organization called Prepare Enrich, which offers marriage preparation and enrichment programs. This work is incredibly rewarding as it allows us to support couples in strengthening their relationships and preparing for a successful marriage.

We are thrilled to welcome our new board members to the Digital Council Africa. Your diverse expertise and valuable insights will be instrumental as we continue to drive innovation and growth in the digital sector. We look forward to working together to achieve our shared goals and make a significant impact on the industry.

Welcome aboard, and here's to a successful journey ahead!

**JOIN US FOR CONNECT 2024**



**Digital Council** 28 NOV 2024  
**CONNECT**  
The official AGM of the Digital Council Africa Members

## **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

Our Connect Member Summit last year was a huge success! This exclusive event, designed for our members and partners, provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, engaging conversations, and networking in a relaxed setting.

The summit offered attendees a unique opportunity to interact with and learn from top CEOs and leaders in the sector. Allowing participants to gain valuable insights into their strategies and received firsthand market perspectives.

This year, we're excited to invite you to join us again for our upcoming Connect Member Summit. We're gearing up to provide you with even more valuable insights, engaging discussions, and exclusive access to industry leaders. Stay tuned for more details on this year's summit and how you can be a part of it!

**Secure Your Sponsorship for the  
CONEXT Leadership Summit Today!**



**28 November 2024**

**Let's unite, collaborate, and inspire as together  
we chart a course for an exciting future!**

**[www.conextconference.africa](http://www.conextconference.africa)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Digital  
Council

# GOLF DAY

1 JULY 2024 | THE RIVER CLUB, SANDTON

## TEE UP FOR A DAY OF FUN AND CONNECTING AT THE DCA GOLF DAY!

Swing into action the DCA team, where business meets pleasure on the greens! Our corporate golf day isn't just about hitting that perfect shot—it's a fantastic opportunity to network, build relationships and indulge in beautiful scenery.

Fore! Get ready to tee off at the most exciting event of the year – the DCA Golf Day! Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time golfer, this day is all about having fun, making connections, and enjoying the great outdoors.

Picture this: a perfect sunny winters day on the greens at the exclusive River Club, laughter echoing across the course, and the chance to network with fellow enthusiasts and industry leaders. Our golf day isn't just about the game; it's about the camaraderie, the friendly competition, and the memories we'll create together.

Grab your clubs and join us for a day filled with swingin' good times, delicious food, and fantastic prizes. It's not just a golf day; it's an experience you won't want to miss!

So, mark your calendar, polish your shoes, and get ready for a hole-in-one adventure at the DCA Golf Day. See you on the fairway!

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Audi Centre  
Sandton

### EXCLUSIVE PRIZES

Hole-in-one Prize - R100,000

Spot Prize - Audi experience at Kyalami Racetrack

Africa

DataCentres

TOPPAN  
TOPPAN GRAVITY

Open Access  
DATA CENTRES  
A WIOCC GROUP COMPANY



D F A  
OPEN ACCESS NETWORK




Frogfoot  
Just connect



**Supplier of Fibre Optic and  
Telecommunications Test,  
Measurement and  
Installation Equipment.**



 +27 (0) 12 349 1341

 +27 (0) 72 508 7492

 [www.lambdatest.co.za](http://www.lambdatest.co.za)





## Microsoft reinforces its commitment to South Africa with R1.3 billion investment to spur job creation

Microsoft South Africa is deepening its commitment to the country and job creation to spur SMME development, create local opportunities, growth, and ready the country for AI transformation.

- Investment to accelerate capabilities for SMMEs and youth
- Digital transformation of up to 42 SMMEs and startups, including access to markets to drive growth and become net job creators
- Alignment with 18 TVET colleges to use technology to create better learning experiences for students, prepare them with future-ready skills and enhance employability
- Equipping 200 SMMEs and over 2000 individuals with advanced AI and other capabilities to narrow the current skills gaps and prepare for jobs of the future.
- Supporting up to 20 advanced research and development projects to address the current and future policy needs of the country in cyber security and AI.

**The company will invest more than R1.3 billion to unlock inclusive growth, contribute to building a digital economy, foster entrepreneurship, and innovation, and fuel the job creation engine. It will enable SMMEs to be engines of growth and expand local industry for South Africa.**

"The Fund will assist black South Africans in non-tech sectors to harness the power of technology and improve their competitiveness and ability to innovate and expand their operations. It will also act as a bridge to enable young people to get training, certification, and job-placement, so that talented South Africans gain access to the opportunities that arise from an increasingly digitalised world," said Mr Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition.

The digital revolution requires people with enhanced fluency in cloud, security, data analysis, AI, and machine learning. Through this investment, Microsoft is equipping present and future workers with the advanced skills needed to enable them to harness the potential of rapidly developing technologies. At the same time, this investment provides opportunities to spur entrepreneurship, especially amongst women and other previously disadvantaged individuals.

The programmes are designed to build ICT capability in SMMEs and youth so that South Africans can create new ways to address youth unemployment, employability, inequality, sustainability, and global competitiveness in the areas of Data Analytics, Cybersecurity, AI, Machine Learning amongst others.

"Consistent with our mission to empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more, this investment represents our commitment to empowering individuals and small businesses to be part of Africa's digital economy, and to drive job creation and growth that will benefit the entire region," said Lillian Barnard, President for Microsoft Africa.

The SMME development programme focuses not only on technical skills (for those organisations in the ICT sector), but entrepreneurial capabilities which will create sustainable businesses in South Africa, and also enable them to become engines for job creation.

Commenting on the scale of the investment, Barnard said, “Transformative technologies, such as cloud and AI, have the potential to solve some of South Africa’s most pressing challenges, while also unlocking opportunities to fuel inclusive, sustainable economic growth.”

**South Africa and Africa are home to the workforce of the future and by 2040 half of the world’s young people will live on the continent. “The world is changing rapidly, and the era of AI is ushering in a future brimming with innovation, and the opportunity for Africa is immense. Through this programme, we want to meet the demand for digital skills, whilst also creating opportunities for SMMEs to grow and thrive, and to leverage the innovative spirit of South Africans, with key investments in research and development that will stretch beyond borders,”** said Kalane Rampai, Managing Director at Microsoft South Africa.

In striving to be a catalyst for a digitally inclusive and technologically proficient South Africa, Microsoft recognises the need to partner with government to create a positive change in the structure of the economy. Through the Public Sector Workplace Placement programme, Microsoft will augment skilled candidates with crucial low code/no code training, empowering them to deliver rapid prototyping and automation capabilities into key government departments.



*From left to right: Malebo Mabitje-Thompson, Acting Director-General of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition; Minister Ebrahim Patel, Minister for the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition; Kalane Rampai, Managing Director, Microsoft South Africa; and Lillian Barnard, President, Microsoft Africa.*

**ABOUT MICROSOFT**

Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT” @microsoft) creates platforms and tools powered by AI to deliver innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers. The technology company is committed to making AI available broadly and doing so responsibly, with a mission to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more, please visit Microsoft's [News Centre Middle East & Africa](#).

# Celebrating our Youth Month Hero

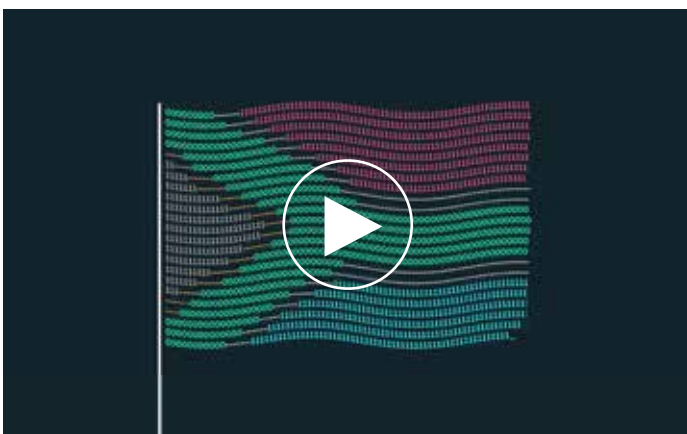


## Collectively unlocking the power of digital skills for a better South Africa

The Collective X is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fostering digital skills across South Africa. By cultivating a well-coordinated ecosystem, they aim to amplify digital skills through collaboration, concentrated efforts, and targeted solutions.

At the heart of The Collective X's mission are partnerships. By uniting diverse partners across the digital skills ecosystem, they strive to achieve impactful outcomes. This philosophy of harnessing the collective's power inspires in-depth conversations between all role players in the ecosystem, as they explore how collaboration can accelerate innovation and scale impact.

A cornerstone of The Collective X's success is its longstanding and collaborative partnership with the South African government. Their active involvement in shaping the national digital skills strategy and influencing policy decisions underscores their commitment to making a meaningful difference in the digital landscape.



The Collective X strategically focuses on skills development and demand, ensuring the creation of a sustainable and credible digital skills pipeline. By taking a business-led approach, they prioritize aligning skills development efforts with the evolving needs of the industry.

For more information about *The Collective X* and how you can become part of the solution [visit](#) or email [Fran@thecollectivex.org](mailto:Fran@thecollectivex.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

The banner features a dark background with a glowing blue network of nodes and lines forming a dome shape. In the top left, there is a circular logo with a map of Africa and a question mark. The main text is in large, bold, white letters. Logos for Helios Towers and Digital Council are in the top right, and Extensia and the Tanzanian coat of arms are in the bottom center. Text at the bottom center mentions the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Tanzania.

**CONNECT2CONNECT  
SUMMIT 2024**  
4TH & 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024  
Gran Melia Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania

**‘MEANINGFUL  
CONNECTIVITY’**

helios towers  
HEADLINE SPONSOR

Digital Council  
SUPPORTING PARTNER

extensia

In partnership with the Ministry of Information,  
Communication and Information Technology, Tanzania

## MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY = EQUITABLE FUTURES

Join the Digital Council Africa at the C2C Summit on the 4th & 5th of September in Arusha, Tanzania, overlooking the magnificent Mount Meru.

With more than 300 thought leaders, decision-makers, and key stakeholders as they converge to drive the region's connectivity agenda forward. Engage in thought-provoking discussions, build strategic partnerships, and explore innovative solutions to foster a connected and sustainable digitally enabled future for Sub Saharan Africa.

In recent years, Sub-Saharan Africa has witnessed remarkable advances in ICT connectivity, driving digital transformation across the region. Significant developments such as the expansion of high-speed broadband networks, innovative public-private partnerships, and the implementation of robust digital resilience strategies have revolutionized the way businesses and communities operate. The summit will provide a unique platform to explore these pivotal developments, dive deep into the latest trends, and understand their impact on fostering sustainable ecosystems and economic growth.

### KEY THEMES:

- State of the Industry: Gain insights into the current landscape and emerging trends in the ICT sector.
- Outsourcing and Partnerships: Discover the power of strategic collaborations in driving growth and innovation.
- Sustainable and Thriving Ecosystems: Learn how to build innovative ecosystems that promote sustainability and inclusivity.
- Digital Resilience: Explore effective strategies to enhance digital resilience in the face of evolving challenges.
- Robust Broadband Networks: Understand the importance of robust broadband infrastructure in enabling seamless connectivity.

### WHY ATTEND?

- Network with industry leaders and decision-makers
- Participate in insightful panel discussions and keynote sessions
- Build strategic alliances and partnerships
- Explore the latest innovations and best practices in ICT connectivity

For more information or to register, visit <https://C2CArusha.eventbrite.co.uk>.



## Digital Parks Africa extends data centre as demand surges

Due to the growing adoption of AI and machine learning, recent estimates predict that global electricity consumption could increase by 57% before 2027.

To meet the growing demand in the South African data centre market, Digital Parks Africa (DPA) has started expanding its Samrand data centre campus with the build of an additional brick-and-mortar extension to its custom, modular facility which will see an increase in capacity by 4.5MW.

DPA's carrier-neutral data centre, having grown to 1620m<sup>2</sup> in modular capacity over 6 years, is now adding 810m<sup>2</sup> of white space in a brick-and-mortar extension to support a further 570 racks. "The integration of both modular and brick-and-mortar facilities within the DPA data centre establishes it as a leader in Africa, offering customers the flexibility to choose between configurations to suit their diverse needs and preferences, all within a single premises," says Jacques de Jager, Chief Operations Officer at Digital Parks Africa.

The modular and brick-and-mortar facility is designed and constructed by Master Power Technologies (MPT), Africa's leading data centre developer. Both companies form part of the same group of companies.

Eckart Zollner, head of business development at Digital Parks Africa, says: "We are showing that modular and fixed brick-and-mortar

can co-exist and complement each other, reducing initial capital commitment and time to market. It talks to the unique and innovative capabilities that MPT offer total data centre solutions, using various building techniques."

He notes that since DPA's launch in 2017, not a year has passed without the need for expansion, which informed the company's initial focus on modular structures. The modular facility now includes three levels hosting multiple customers and equipment. To meet the ever-growing needs of its clients, DPA opted to expand the facility with brick and mortar, giving clients hosting options for growth.

Featuring three cooling modes and both medium and low voltage generators, DPA's data centre includes a dedicated hyperscale data hall, exclusive white space areas and 38-rack segmented pods for added security and custom capabilities.

**"DPA offers 3 – 15kw power per rack density to accommodate various computing requirements. This is increasingly important for organisations harnessing big data analytics and AI", says Warren Schooling, Head of Sales at DPA.**

He explains: "Most data centres cap power density at 3 to 6kw, but we take it up to 15kw per rack. In data centres that cannot offer this capacity, customers requiring higher power capacity would have to contract an additional rack. As the industry is focusing on analytics and AI, processors and servers get denser and more power hungry, so by accommodating these power requirements, our design drives efficiencies and affordability for our customers."

Zollner concludes: "As a 100% proudly South African company, we have the capabilities to continuously innovate in design for the South African market and to pass through the advantages to our customers."

**ABOUT DPA**

Established in 2017, Digital Parks Africa (DPA) is Africa’s premier modular data centre, offering carrier-neutral, Uptime Tier III Design Ready environments. Our ISO Certified (ISO 27001:2022 & ISO 9001:2015) state-of-the-art facility provide scalable, flexible, and cost-effective solutions for colocation, enterprise, hyperscale, edge and HPC(Ai/ML) computing needs.

Our strategic partnerships, certifications, and 24/7 support by a certified professional team underscore DPA's commitment to excellence, leading Africa’s digital transformation with unparalleled infrastructure and services to meet evolving demands.

For more information, visit <https://dpa.host/>

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



From left to right: ACT CEO Nomvuyiso Batyi, COMRiC CEO Adv Thokozani Mvelase and DCA CEO Juanita Clark

**United for a Secure Future: ACT, COMRiC, and DCA Sign MOU to Strengthen South Africa's ICT Sector**

On 23 May 2024 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Association of Comms and Technology (ACT), the Communication Risk Information Centre (COMRiC), and Digital Council Africa (DCA). This collaboration aims to address common concerns within the Digital Infrastructure Industry in South Africa, specifically targeting issues such as interrupted power and the security of physical infrastructure.

Represented by their respective CEOs—Nomvuyiso Batyi for ACT, Adv Thokozani Mvelase for COMRiC, and Juanita Clark for DCA—the associations recognize the critical need for cooperation in combating vandalism within the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. This MOU establishes a framework for these organizations to work together, promoting the interests of their shared members through a unified approach. By working together, ACT, COMRiC, and DCA aim to create synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, and foster a more secure and resilient ICT sector.

For more information about the initiatives and the impact of this collaboration, please stay tuned for further updates.

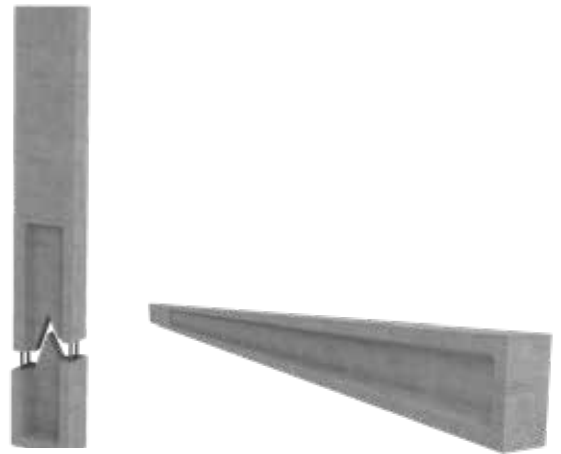
**m4a (Pty) Ltd is a specialist manufacturer of composite and plastics products with a focus on utilities networks and infrastructure markets.**

## Concrete Aerial Pole

The Concrete Aerial Pole is a concrete pole designed for aerial deployment of fibre and utility applications. These poles are extremely durable, and long-lasting, significantly enhancing the longevity of installations while minimising maintenance costs.

The Concrete Aerial Pole requires no maintenance beyond routine inspections, these poles are cost-effective for fibre network builders and operators.

Additionally, Concrete Aerial Poles boast superior strength compared to wooden poles, withstanding high winds and heavy loads to maintain structural integrity in harsh weather conditions.



### Key features:

- Materials: Flame retardant and fireproof.
- Structure: Reinforced Concrete 50MPa strength.
- Resistant to chemical agents, harmful and industrial environments, water resistant and UV resistant.
- Paintable.
- Zero environmental impact. No maintenance required.

### Performance:

- The Concrete Aerial Pole is constructed from high strength reinforced concrete material providing an expected 30 - 70 year life span with a complete maintenance free support need. The additional fire-resistance of concrete increases the operational capacity for rural and bush installations.
- The Concrete Aerial Pole has a minimal flex of displacement at its top which makes it very stable in high wind conditions and a suitable pole for the roll-out of CCTV cameras and omnidirectional WIFI networks.
- Security is an added advantage as a function of the mass and strength of the pole which reduces the risk of vandalism.
- Concrete as material also blends into its surroundings because of its neutral "grey" colour.

Height (L)	Width	Breadth	Underground Depth	Mass
9000 mm	300 mm	160 mm	1500mm	551KG
11000 mm	366mm	160 mm	1500mm	841KG

[Click here for m4a's product line card](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## INVITATION

**The Digital Council Africa invites you to the upcoming Data Centre & Cloud Dialogues.** Gain Expert Strategies and Insights for Optimal Data Centre Management.

The Digital Council Africa's Data Centre & Cloud Dialogues brings a comprehensive educational one-day conference program designed to provide you with the latest strategies and insights on planning, managing, and optimizing your data centre.

The focus is on cutting-edge data centre technologies such as edge computing, co-location, hyperscale, sustainability and predictive analytics will equip attendees with the knowledge they need to stay ahead of the competition and emerge as pioneers in the data centre industry in Africa.

Join us for post event networking with peers and colleagues from the data centre industry in Africa.

**Date:** 1 August 2024

**Venue:** Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Times:** Registration opens 8h00

Kindly **RSVP by 24th July** to confirm your attendance, including dietary requirements, to [reesha@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:reesha@digitalcouncil.africa).

Attendance is strictly by RSVP. Members attend free.

For **Sponsorship Opportunities** please contact Juanita at [Juanita@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:Juanita@digitalcouncil.africa).

# Corning's sustainability: A commitment to the future generations

We have always known that what we do today will determine how our world looks tomorrow and beyond. In our long-term vision, people are healthier. They're better informed. They're more richly connected with one another. That long view has played out time and time again over our history.

Our 1970 breakthrough discoveries in optical fibre helped unleash a communications revolution that continues to change the world today. Our 1972 invention of ceramic substances for catalytic converters started a new era that is making the air cleaner. Our ongoing improvement of vials allows delivering today and tomorrow's medical discoveries to save lives where it is most needed. Our 2021 image-capture technologies are helping James Webb Telescope mission to reveal the infrared Universe...

As our people keep making a positive difference in the world, our culture also ensures that we are a company built to last. We know that innovation, done our way, is sustainable only with a deeply ingrained moral compass and the trust of our stakeholders. We have recently launched the latest *Corning's Sustainability Report*, and Mark Steen, Ph.D. Vice President of Sustainability and Climate Initiatives, talks in-depth about it in this interview.

## Can you give us some highlights from the year? What's going well?

I think sustainability at Corning is accelerating in exciting ways. You can see that in various awards and recognitions listed throughout this report, so I'll spotlight some of the easier-to-miss developments that indicate to me that our positive impact will be deep and long-lasting. We're doing an especially good job embedding environmental sustainability attributes into our products.

Wendell mentioned Viridian™ Vials. Other examples include our SMF-28® Contour optical fibre portfolio, which lowers product carbon footprints by up to 60%, and our ColdForm™ Technology, which enables automobile dashboards and consoles with less embodied carbon. We have also continued working on innovations to minimize our carbon emissions related to melting glass, with an ultimate goal of eliminating our largest source of Scope 1 emissions.

We continue to develop social sustainability programs to support our people and communities. In 2023, we launched new leadership development programs and expanded our Values and Inclusive Behaviour training course. In addition, we consolidated our philanthropic giving into a new Community Impact & Investment Centre

Sustainability highlights	
 <p><b>Renewable electricity</b></p> <p>Entered a virtual power purchase agreement for a solar plant that we expect to provide enough renewable electricity for 100% of our European operations</p>	<p>Named an <b>ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year</b> for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>— one of only 10 companies that have consistently achieved this distinction</p>
 <p><b>&gt;6,000</b></p> <p>employees participated in more than 70 employee resource group chapters around the world</p>	 <p>The <b>Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTI)</b> has approved Corning's near-term science-based emissions reduction targets</p>
 <p>Developed the Corning® <b>SMF-28® Contour</b> optical fiber portfolio with reduced coating diameters, decreasing size and materials in cable solutions to <b>lower carbon footprint by up to 60%</b></p>	<p>Introduced <b>Corning® Viridian™ Vials</b>, which can help drug manufacturers improve filling line efficiency by up to 50% while reducing vial-manufacturing carbon-dioxide-equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions by up to 30%</p>
 <p>Delivered the <b>50 millionth gasoline particulate filter</b></p> <p>helping to prevent thousands of tons of particulate matter from polluting the air</p>	<p>Continued to advance the development of <b>Ribbon Ceramics</b>, which could lead to smaller and higher-energy power sources</p>
<p>Scored <b>100%</b> on the Human Rights Campaign <b>Corporate Equality Index</b></p>	<p>Named one of <b>America's Best Large Employers</b> by Forbes</p>
 <p>Provided <b>\$3.5 million</b> in charitable giving to <b>264</b> organizations</p>	<p>Earned a spot on the World Benchmarking Alliance's 2023 <b>Digital Inclusion Index</b></p>
<p>Joined the <b>Responsible Business Alliance</b></p>	<p>Scored <b>100</b> on the <b>Disability Equality Index®</b> and named <b>Best Place to Work</b> list by the American Association of People with Disabilities and DisabilityIN</p>
<p>Celebrated <b>30 years</b> of fostering STEM development with middle school girls through our <b>Choices program</b></p>	<p><b>31,646</b> logged in employee volunteer hours</p>
<p>Opened <b>Optical Cable Manufacturing campus</b> in North Carolina to accelerate broadband buildouts and connect the unconnected</p>	<p>Celebrated <b>50 years</b> of Corning Environmental Technologies</p>

of Excellence to maximize our impact. In this report, you can read more about our work to fight rabies and cancer. These are long-term initiatives where we apply Corning’s expertise to improve people’s health and well-being.

Finally, our people continually inspire me with their dedication to sustainability. There’s no better example than the Corning Sustainability Network. This all-volunteer, self-led group donates their time and energy to sustainability work all over the world (see page 15). Whenever I feel daunted by the challenges ahead, I’m re-energized by their resourcefulness, creativity, and commitment.

**What are some of the challenges you’re managing?**

Balancing business growth with our emissions reduction efforts is an ongoing challenge. Our emissions intensity has increased, due to a combination of challenging operating environment and growing solar polysilicon production. We’re making strategic short-term trade-offs to position ourselves for growth in products that have a very As VP of sustainability and climate initiatives, Mark Steen has described his role as “where strategy meets the tactical.” He shares his thoughts on the current state of sustainability at Corning. Positive impact on environmental and social good, such as solar and optical connectivity products.

But it will remain a delicate balancing act, and we need to stay on track with our long-term decarbonization commitments. A more subtle, but perhaps thornier, challenge is the economics of sustainability. For example, many companies have committed to decarbonizing their products, so they demand lower-carbon materials from suppliers. Not surprisingly, there’s often a cost involved, and the players in the supply chain need to agree on how to share that cost. The economics will eventually work themselves out, but that alignment between decarbonization and capitalism is extremely important – and extremely difficult.

**Environment 2023 highlights**

- Reviewed and categorized landfill waste and diverted waste metrics according to UL ECVP 2799 and focused efforts at our top 10 waste-generating sites
- Invested **>\$10M** on site-level energy reduction-related projects
- Validated near-term science-based emissions reduction targets with SBTi
- Entered a virtual power purchase agreement (VPPA) to develop a solar plant that we expect to provide enough renewable electricity for 100% of our European operations
- Kicked off our Scope 3 supplier operations decarbonization program with suppliers that make up 80% of our GHG emissions
- Named an **ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year for the 10<sup>th</sup> year** in a row by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Used the World Resources Institute’s Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas tool to assess water stress across all Corning manufacturing locations, considering both current and future water stress forecasts

**Is there something that Corning is especially good at when it comes to sustainability – something that stands out compared to other organizations?**

Yes! I believe we’re distinguished by the size of our hand print – ways we change lives for the better – which stems directly from Corning’s distinctive style of innovation. Our solutions often require patient investment, but ultimately move the world forward in profound ways, deliver value over decades, and become the foundation of future innovations. Wendell noted Corning’s invention of ceramic substrates in the 1970s. Not only did our product reduce auto emissions by 99%, we’re also now leveraging that technology to create carbon-capture solutions. Corning’s expertise creates an incredibly rich set of hand print opportunities.

**Our innovations can help decarbonize the economy, connect the unconnected, and improve health care around the globe. That ability to have a significant positive impact on our stakeholders and the world is quintessential Corning.**

Read the full report [here](#).

# Subletting of IPV4 and IPT

As we know, most existing systems (computers, networks, routers) were designed to work with IPV4. Since IPV6 lacks backward compatibility with legacy systems and network devices, the cost of upgrading infrastructure is high. Therefore, Cell C is offering partners a comprehensive and flexible solution addressing businesses who require a robust and reliable Internet infrastructure, with the added benefit of accessing scarce IPV4 resources. The package enhances connectivity, content delivery, and operational efficiency, making it a unique, affordable, and valuable proposition.

Cell C is an approved local SA Internet registry, tier 2 ISP. IPV4 is a scarce valuable resource, Cell C has spare capacity, therefore Cell C is extending an offer to suballocate clean public IPV4 received from AFRINIC to responsible business such as ISPs, SME and Enterprise who will use the IPs for good business practice and not for deceptive or wrongful purposes. Since the IPs belong to Cell C, at the end of the term the IPs must be returned to Cell C. Cell C will inform AFRINIC of the suballocation name change; the IPV4 will reflect the partners business/entity name.

As part of the service, Cell C will extend access to two IP transit links from alternate tier one providers, Seacom and WIOCC. This will allow the partner access to undersea cables: Equiano, Seacom, WACS.

Bundled with the IPs, the partner will gain access to Cell C local CDN server; physical bilateral servers hosed in two data centres in SA for caching of peering content. The list of peering partners are AWS, INX, Facebook, Google, Netflix, NAP Africa. Although DDOS is excluded it can be added as an additional service, virtual or on-premises.

Interconnect /cross connect between Cell C and the partner can be arranged at any of the local DC in South Africa where Cell C has presence with more than one instance for redundancy. The partner will be responsible for ordering and paying for his own cross connect at the DC. Cell C has presence in five major data centres, Teraco Rondebosch, Teraco Riverhorse, Digital Parks Samrand, Liquid Midrand, and Teraco Isando.

## Rate Card:

Product	Blocks	Total IP	IP Price	Block Price
IPV4	/30	4	11	R 42.75
IPV4	/29	8	10	R 81.00
IPV4	/24	256	10	R 2 448.00
IPV4	/22	1024	9	R 9 216.00

Product	GB	Type	Rate per MB	Rate GB
IPT	1	CIR	R 8.01	R 8 202.24
IPT	5	CIR	R 7.56	R 38 707.20
IPT	10	CIR	R 7.20	R 73 728.00
IPT	15	CIR	R 7.02	R 71 884.80
IPT	20	CIR	R 6.84	R 140 083.20
IPT	30	CIR	R 6.75	R 207 360.00

CIR: Committed information rate

## Inclusions / exclusions

DDOS	Excluded (Can be sold as add on)
SO	Excludes DC cross connect. Partner orders.
Peering	Included: FB, Google, INX, AWS, Net, NAP.
Access	Includes Equiano, Seacom, WACS transit.
CDN	Includes local server, enables content and caching

Contact Cell C for more information, commercials and T&C.

Deena Rajah - 084 777 0017 - [drajah@cellc.co.za](mailto:drajah@cellc.co.za)

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



### CO-CONVENORS



From left to right: Stephan Malherbe, Chair & Founder Genesis Analytics; Lerato Shai, Independent applied microeconomist and former director in the Project Management Office in The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa; Reshni Singh, CEO, BPESA; Ursula Fear, Senior Talent Programme Manager, Salesforce and Juanita Clark, Founder & CEO, DCA

**On Thursday, 13 June, over 300 delegates gathered at the inaugural The Collective X conference to exchange ideas, connect and catalyse large scale change for youth employment in the digital economy in South Africa.**

**Juanita** joined fellow panellists on stage for an in-depth conversation titled **Connecting To Foster Rapid Innovation**. This discussion centred around ways to foster impactful outcomes by uniting partners across the digital skills ecosystem, exploring how partnerships can speed up innovation and scale impact and create actionable results.

## IFC, Proparco and RMB partner with WIOCC Group to expand digital infrastructure in Africa

A financing package from IFC and Proparco for digital infrastructure provider WIOCC Group will fund WIOCC's expansion strategy in three African countries, enhancing the continent's digital infrastructure and connectivity and supporting economic growth.

The financing includes loans of \$10 million and ZAR 200 million from IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and \$20 million from Proparco, a development finance institution and subsidiary of the Agence Française de Développement Group. WIOCC expects to sign an additional \$10 million loan for its expansion in Nigeria with RMB in the next few weeks.

With the funding, WIOCC Group will expand its core and edge data centres in the DRC, Nigeria, and South Africa to meet growing demand for colocation and other data centre services. It will also grow its fibre networks, helping bridge the digital divide, and fostering economic growth across Africa.

The financing is structured as a sustainability-linked debt, with pricing linked to WIOCC's commitment to improve the energy efficiency of its data centres and obtain EDGE green building certification for them. EDGE, an

innovation of IFC, makes it easy to design and certify resource-efficient and zero carbon buildings.

"We are excited to conclude this next stage of our capital raise, which will enable significant expansion, adding further capacity to our open-access data centre operation and extending open-access hyperscale national, international, and metro connectivity across our key markets in Nigeria, southern Africa, the DRC and Greater East and Central Africa," said **Chris Wood, CEO of WIOCC Group**. "Our policy of continual investment in infrastructure to create Africa's first, truly open-access interconnected digital ecosystem means ongoing investment for growth, ensuring readiness to meet the future demands of our clients' customers throughout Africa."

"The Agence Française de Développement Group have been supporting WIOCC since its inception back in 2007," said **Ariane Du-**

**creux, Head of Energy, Digital and Infrastructure at PROPARCO**. "We are very proud to pursue this long-term partnership by supporting the expansion of the Open Access Data Centres' activities in Nigeria, South Africa, DRC and beyond. Truly neutral and open-access data centres are the cornerstone of a diversified digital ecosystem. Local data storage and processing capacity are also vital for the resilience of Africa's digital network, as recent outages have demonstrated. The sustainability-linked structure of this new financing, along with technical assistance support, also aims to incentivize the rollout of energy and water efficient data centres, while adapting implementations to the specs of each site environment."

"Our long-standing partnership with WIOCC of more than 15 years demonstrates IFC's commitment to increasing affordable and reliable digital connectivity in Africa through shared infrastructure.

This new debt facility will help WIOCC fulfil its ambition to establish an integrated, open-access, core-to-edge cloud ecosystem throughout the African continent, which is critical to bridge the digital divide,” said **Bertrand de la Borde, IFC Global Industry Director of infrastructure**.

“RMB is thrilled to be a Strategic Banking Partner to WIOCC. Digital Infrastructure is one of our core sectors of expertise as a Bank. As such, we are excited at the opportunity to support this deal and remain committed to partnering with WIOCC on its growth journey across the continent,” said **Chidi Iwuchukwu (Head of Investment Banking, Broader Africa - RMB)**.

Since its inception in 2007, WIOCC has been investing in Africa's digital backbone, delivering open-access infrastructure to meet the growing demand for reliable connectivity solutions throughout the continent.

As WIOCC Group continues to transform digital Africa, this latest capital raise signifies a major milestone in its journey towards building a more connected Africa, fostering long-term partnerships and sustainability.



Left to right: Dan Croft (Regional Industry Manager, Infrastructure, Central Africa & Anglophone West Africa - IFC), Jean Guyonnet-Duperat (Country Director Nigeria - Proparco), Chris Wood (CEO - WIOCC Group), Chidi Iwuchukwu (Head of Investment Banking, Banking Division Africa - RMB)

**About WIOCC Group** - Since 2007 WIOCC Group, Africa’s converged open-access digital infrastructure leader, has been helping transform Africa’s digital landscape by introducing client-centric innovations. WIOCC Group, the parent company of WIOCC, Africa’s digital backbone, and Open Access Data Centres (OADC), Africa’s fastest-growing data centre company, is pioneering and accelerating Africa’s digital transformation. It is creating an environment in which all Africans can take advantage of world-class technology developments to build better lives, better businesses and a better world, by deploying converged open-access digital infrastructure (CODI) across Africa; infrastructure that will expedite and underpin Africa’s digital transformation.

To learn more about IFC visit: [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org)

To learn more about PROPARCO visit: [PROPARCO.fr/en/strategy](http://PROPARCO.fr/en/strategy)

To learn more about RMB Nigeria Limited visit: [www.rmb.com.ng](http://www.rmb.com.ng)

For more information contact

Greg Sellars - [greg.sellars@wiocc.net](mailto:greg.sellars@wiocc.net)

## IC Logistix (PTY) LTD (ICL) are Importers & Distributors of Specialised Technology & Equipment

Celebrating

**YOUTH MONTH  
2024**

At ICL we are committed to nurturing the skills of young individuals. As part of our dedication, we've donated and sponsored fibre optic equipment to training programs and projects. We are dedicated to playing our part in uplifting the future of our youth.



PO Box 887, Randpark Ridge, 2156. 345 Main Ave, Ferndale, 2194, South Africa  
SALES: Tel +2711 521 2305/2384 Cell +2784 602 0066 Email [sales@icl.co.za](mailto:sales@icl.co.za)  
LABORATORY: Tel +2711 521 2380 Cell +2778 813 1656 Email [lab@icl.co.za](mailto:lab@icl.co.za)  
RECEPTION: Tel +2711 521 2370 Fax +2786 631 9265 Email [icladmin@icl.co.za](mailto:icladmin@icl.co.za)  
Local +2778 803 9421 International +2776 3359 9748 Lab +2711 521 2380  
Web [www.icl.co.za](http://www.icl.co.za)



**We export all over Africa**

# YOUTH MONTH 2024



## CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



QUICK TIP

ANSWERS ARE FIBRE OR FIBRE INDUSTRY RELATED

### ACROSS

2. An abbreviation for Fibre to the home.
4. Your premium Fibre Optic Test Equipment Supplier.
6. Abbreviation for passive optical network.
8. The outer layer of an optical fibre, which surrounds the core and helps to confine the light within the core by reflecting it back into the core.
9. A specialised tool used to precisely cut optical fibres cleanly and squarely.
10. A thin, flexible strand of glass or plastic capable of transmitting light signals over long distances by confining and guiding light within its core.
11. A very strong, very light, synthetic compound which is used to strengthen optical cables.

### DOWN

1. The process of permanently joining two optical fibres together to create a continuous optical path for transmitting light signals.
2. The Market Leader in Splicers.
3. An instrument that measures the amount of optical power present at the end of a fibre or cable.
5. The central part of an optical fibre that carries light.
7. An instrument that measures transmission characteristics by sending a short pulse of light down a fibre and observing back-scattered light.

**Use the clues to fill in the words above.  
Words can go across or down.  
Letters are shared when the words intersect.**



**“WE CANNOT ALWAYS BUILD THE  
FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH,  
BUT WE CAN BUILD OUR YOUTH FOR  
THE FUTURE.”**



**AFL HYPERSCALE**



**Divot**  
Bare Fibre Adapter/Tester

## What is SA Youth?

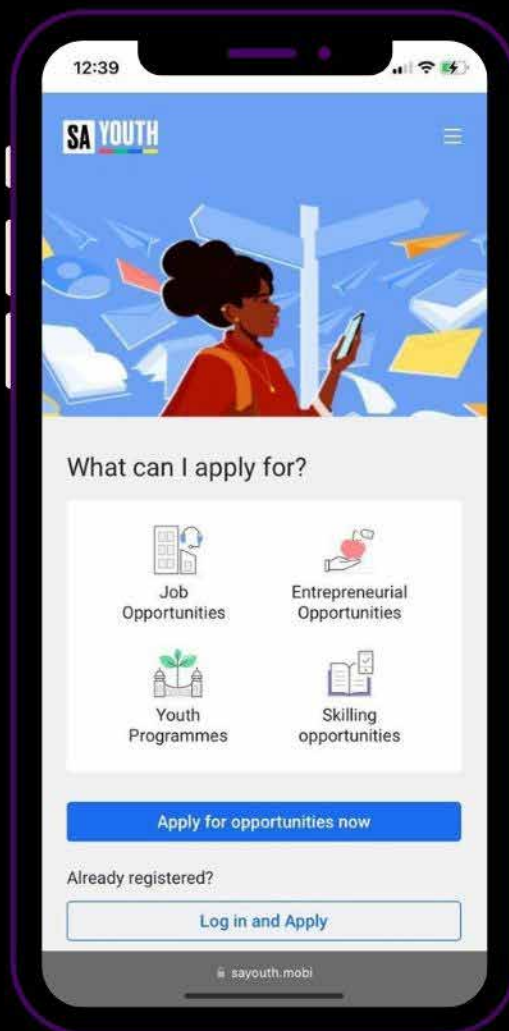
A place for all young South Africans to come to find work opportunities, learn new skills, find out how to become more employable, and get support.

## How can you become part of the network?

STEP 1: Go to [sayouth.mobi](https://sayouth.mobi) on your phone's browser and register. NO DATA NEEDED!  
STEP 2: Answer a few questions that will help us get to know you better so that we can connect you to job opportunities that match your profile.  
STEP 3: Log in regularly to search for new jobs  
STEP 4: Build your profile and keep it up to date

## What can you do on [sayouth.mobi](https://sayouth.mobi)?

- Look for work
- Access work-seeker resources to help to become employable
- Access a list of hustling support resources to help you start or grow your own business.



## Need help?

- Call us toll-free between 9am - 5pm Mon-Fri on 0800 72 72 72
- Email us at [support@sayouth.org.za](mailto:support@sayouth.org.za)
- Chat to us on our Facebook page

## To find out more:

- Click on the following link <https://sayouth.me/3zsKdRH> or
- Find us on [Facebook](#) and search for "What is SA Youth?" on the content tab

To access resources you will need to be registered on SAYouth.mobi first



## WEINERT Special Cables Expands to Africa with Strategic Acquisition of CBI Electric Telecom Cables

WEINERT Special Cables (Pty) Ltd is a result of an acquisition of CBI Electric Telecom Cables (Pty) Ltd in Brits, North West Province, South Africa by WEINERT Industries AG through its subsidiary WEINERT Industries South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

The acquisition created an original equipment manufacturer of copper and optical fibre cable products for the telecommunications, industrial and structured data cabling markets. WEINERT Special Cables' products are designed and manufactured to customer specific technical requirements and international standards.

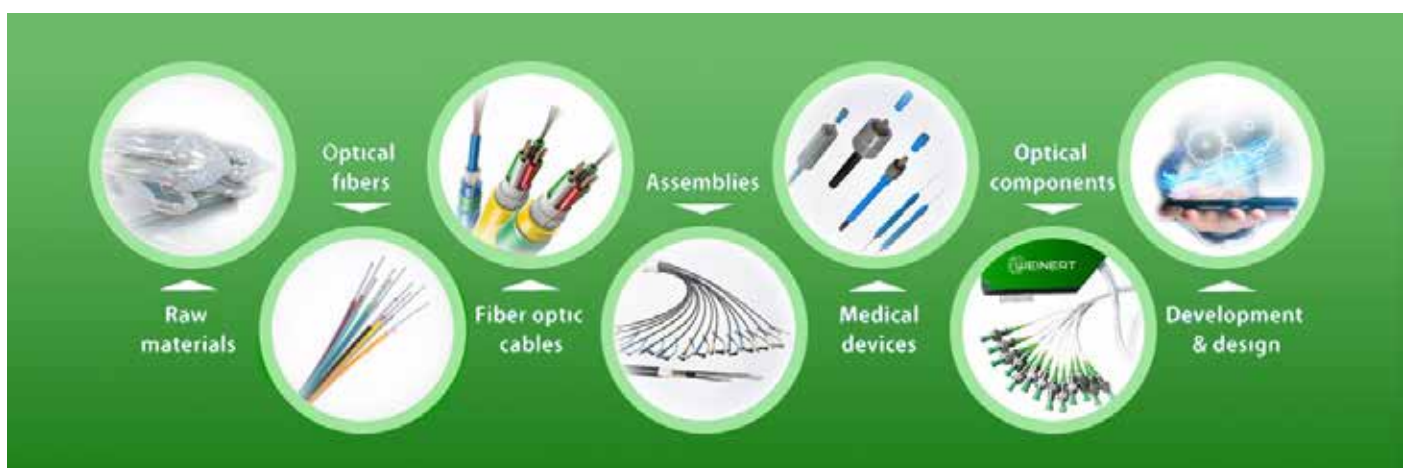
WEINERT Special Cables' extensive experience in the production of signalling and communication copper cables as well as fibre optic cables make it a perfect extension for the expansion of the WEINERT group's capabilities and capacities; as well as a strategic entry into the African market for WEINERT.

The extension of operations that this acquisition allows – with its facility of over 300 employees- forms a key pillar of WEINERT's long-term growth strategy. WEINERT will be able to leverage its extensive experience and knowledgeable staff to further engage with and deliver on the engineering and operational demands from its worldwide businesses and customers. The expansion of the WEINERT group into Africa not only presents an opportunity to extend our services and products throughout the world but also establishes us as a market leader on the continent in terms of knowledge, expertise, and capability.

We deliver light – no matter how challenging, once or a million times.



**Scan QR Code  
to visit our website**





**IN-PERSON BREAKFAST SESSION**

**Digital Council**

**Primerio**

**COMPETITION LAW UPDATE & DISCUSSION**

**18 April 2024 | 09:00 - 11:00**

**Venue: Inanda Club, Forrest Rd & 6th Ave, Inanda, Sandton**

**Programme:** Welcome - Dr Andile Ngcaba, setting of the scene and introduction of Michael-James Currie (Primerio)

**Topics of discussion:**

Competition law update and discussion with particular focus on:

- The recent public interest guidelines and how to manage this risk in deal making;
- Consolidation and the lens through which a competition agency scrutinises transactions;
- Presenting a competition case before the Tribunal;
- Update on African competition law developments.

**Wrap up:** Dr Andile Ngcaba

On 20 March 2024, the Competition Commission published its "Public Interest Guidelines" in relation to merger control. The Guidelines largely codify the Commission's existing practices and seek to provide greater clarity to merging parties in relation to how the Commission interprets and assesses a proposed transactions' effects on the various public interest grounds.

The Guidelines (which followed amendments to the Competition Act itself) are far-reaching and contentious as they significantly broaden the scope and obligation on merging parties in considering and addressing public interest considerations.

This session outlined the key amendments and how these are being interpreted and applied by the Commission together with how to navigate the new regime. The session proved useful for both legal and commercial teams that are involved in transactions.

# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Prof Blade Nzimande to launch the 4IR Centres of Excellence in TVET Colleges



CSIR, Pretoria

8:00

MAY 07 2024

Click here to register/RSVP:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS5eW3T\\_Gp\\_Uh5wz34uCi2WwDnt5YlaDkndtveMiaDQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS5eW3T_Gp_Uh5wz34uCi2WwDnt5YlaDkndtveMiaDQ/viewform)

For more info:  
Khumalo.NN@dhet.gov.za  
Sedusha.S@dhet.gov.za

higher education & training  
Department of Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ETDP-SETA

merSETA

MICTSETA

30 YEARS

NDP

## FemaleForce Fibre Optic Trainees Shine at 4IR Centres of Excellence Launch

On May 7 2024, the Department of Higher Education and Training launched the 4IR Centres of Excellence in TVET Colleges at the CSIR International Convention Centre. The DCA FemaleForce Network crew was invited to participate, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase our work in optic fibre training.

During the event, learners from the Digital Council Africa demonstrated the skills they acquired through both theoretical classes and practical training sessions. The exhibition targeted all 21 government SETAs, high school

learners, and stakeholders of the Department of Higher Education and Training. It served as a fantastic platform for sharing knowledge and highlighting the skills developed through the MICT SETA program.

Events like these are crucial for emphasizing the importance of skills development in emerging technologies such as optic fibre. They also provide valuable exposure and opportunities for learners to display their competencies.



# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

WEBINAR

## 5G South Africa versus the world



10 May 2024 | 10 - 11:30

EXPERT SPEAKER

Christopher Geerdts | MD, BMIT

## 5G: South Africa's Progress in Comparison to Global Trends

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, 5G technology stands out as a pivotal advancement with the potential to revolutionize connectivity. In May, the Digital Council Africa, in collaboration with BMI TechKnowledge (BMIT), hosted a thought-provoking webinar titled "5G: South Africa vs The World." This event marked five years since the publication of BMIT's influential report, "Roads to 5G for South Africa," and aimed to evaluate the country's journey towards 5G deployment in comparison to global benchmarks.

Christopher Geerdts, Managing Director of BMIT, led the discussion, drawing on his extensive 30-year experience in the industry. Geerdts, who has been instrumental in various technological advancements, including the launch of GPRS and corporate APNs with MTN, as well as contributing to 3G strategies in southern African countries in collaboration with Huawei, provided valuable insights throughout the webinar.

### Key topics covered during the event included:

1. The (bumpy) road to current progress in 5G deployment.
2. South Africa's advancement compared to global counterparts.
3. 5G's role in bridging the digital divide.
4. Unlocking the full potential of 5G for societal benefit.

Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and successes faced by South Africa in its 5G journey. The discussion highlighted how the country's progress stacks up against other nations and explored the significant role 5G can play in driving social and economic benefits.

The webinar was an insightful exploration into the state of 5G in South Africa and its implications for the future. It underscored the importance of continued collaboration and innovation to fully realize the benefits of 5G technology.

Stay tuned for more events and discussions hosted by the Digital Council Africa as we continue to explore and shape the digital future of South Africa.

▶ Watch a recording of this event [here](#).

## Unveiling the Impact of Independent Tower Companies in Africa

On May 7, 2024, the Digital Council Africa (DCA) participated in the Africa TowerCo White Paper Launch Event in Johannesburg, South Africa. The event revealed key insights into the critical role of independent tower companies in transforming the mobile sector across 14 African countries. This comprehensive analysis, spanning from 2010 to 2022, highlighted the positive impact of tower deployment on mobile affordability, 4G coverage, service quality, competition, and broadband adoption.

DCA CEO Juanita Clark moderated the engaging panel discussion, which delved into the findings of the research paper "Passive Infrastructure Regulation and Economic Development in the African Wireless Industry." The esteemed panellists included:

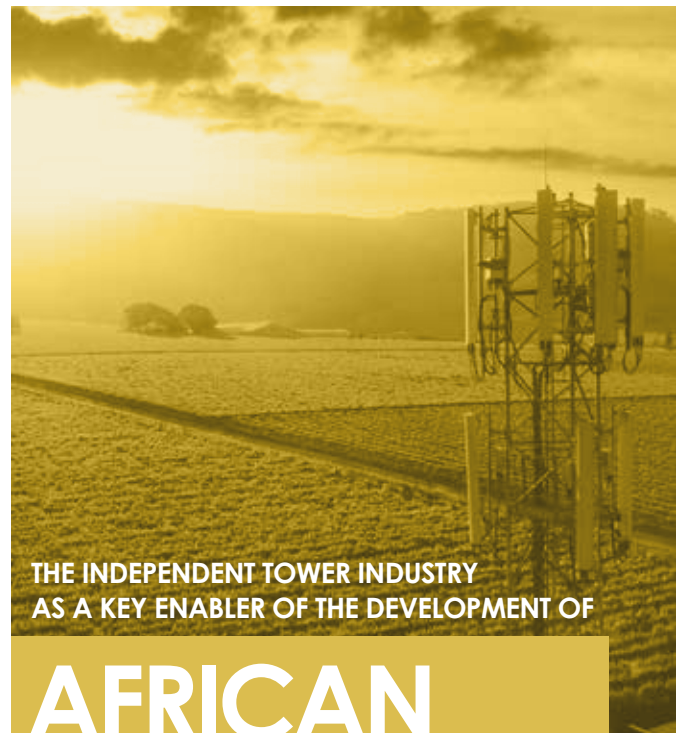
- **Dr Raul Katz**, President of Telecom Advisory Services, LLC
- **Sean Alborough**, Country Manager for South Africa at SBA Communications
- **Ditshego Tsebe**, Group Executive at Gauteng Technology Investment Office
- **Michael-James Currie**, Partner at Primerio

### THE PANELLISTS EXPLORED SEVERAL CRITICAL THEMES:

- **Infrastructure Sharing and Economic Development:** Highlighting the correlation between improved infrastructure sharing regulations and economic performance in the African wireless industry.
- **Digital Inclusion and Bridging the Divide:** Discussing strategies to ensure equitable access to digital services, particularly in underserved rural areas.
- **Regulatory Frameworks and Investment Climate:** Analyzing the impact of regulatory frameworks on investment attractiveness and fostering innovation while ensuring fair competition.
- **Operational Challenges and Best Practices:** Identifying key operational challenges faced by tower companies in Africa and sharing best practices for efficient infrastructure deployment.
- **Socio-Economic Impact and Empowerment:** Examining how the development of digital infrastructure can empower communities and drive socio-economic progress.
- **Foreign Direct Investment and Competition:** Assessing the role of foreign direct investment in driving innovation and infrastructure development.
- **Policy Reforms for Sustainable Growth:** Exploring regulatory reforms and policy initiatives aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the telecommunications tower industry.

The discussion provided a platform for in-depth analysis and dialogue on the research paper's findings, with insights from experts in economics, regulation, foreign direct investment, and tower infrastructure. The event emphasized the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing to unlock the full potential of the telecommunications tower industry, driving digital connectivity and socio-economic development in Africa.

For a comprehensive understanding of our findings and recommendations, read the full white paper [here](#).



THE INDEPENDENT TOWER INDUSTRY  
AS A KEY ENABLER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF

## AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MARCH 2024

TELECOM  
ADVISORY  
SERVICES

# CONTACT US



**Juanita Clark**

CEO

[juanita@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:juanita@digitalcouncil.africa)



**Reesha Iyer**

Member Services

[reesha@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:reesha@digitalcouncil.africa)



**Sipho Makhalema**

Events Manager

[sipho@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:sipho@digitalcouncil.africa)



**Nadene Reignier**

Stakeholder Communications

[nadene@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:nadene@digitalcouncil.africa)

## 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@digitalcouncil.africa](mailto:reesha@digitalcouncil.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](mailto: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.