

Award for the whole industry

THE 10TH ANNUAL BEST PROJECTS Awards took place in November and was attended by representatives of the entire construction industry – contractors, subcontractors, specialist suppliers, professional services providers (consulting engineers and architects), academics and government. The aim of *Construction World's* Best Projects is to recognise entrants (and winners) across the entire construction industry – so as to ensure that these projects are not only recognised by the entrants' own institutions.

This issue of the magazine is devoted in its entirety to the Awards and becomes much like a digest of the South African construction industry as it is the only award in this industry that focuses on all disciplines within construction (civil engineering, building, professional services, and specialist contractors or suppliers) and is therefore the only publication that provides an overview of construction activity of the last year.

Wary of the fact that Best Projects should not have too many categories (it currently has six), the judges felt strongly that the awards should have separate categories for 'building contractors' and 'civil engineering contractors'. The 'civil engineering and building contractors' category attracted 18 entries this year and was an excellent mixture of building and civil engineering projects. The judges

were impressed by the complexity of the civil engineering projects that were entered and were cognisant of the fact that civil engineering projects are often far more complex than meets the eye. The Koeberg Interchange Upgrade Phase I, by the Paarden Eiland Joint Venture consisting of Group Five and Power Construction won the civil engineering award in this category, while the Sandton City Repositioning Phase I by Aveng Grinaker-LTA and WBHO was the 'building contractor' winner in this category.

The 'civil engineering and building contractors (outside SA)' category was won by Bagatelle – Mall of Mauritius, a Joint Venture between Rehm-Grinaker Construction Company Limited and Cogir for Atterbury Property Developments.

Top honours in the 'specialist contractor or supplier' category went to the construction of two chimneys and nine silos at Medupi Power Station by the Karrena – Concor Joint Venture. It only happens roughly once every two decades that a contractor gets the opportunity to work on a new power station and this project was impeccable in every respect: from the technology employed to safety.

The 'professional services' category, which had an exceptionally high standard and diverse projects, was won by the Bedford Dam: Ingula Pumped Storage



Scheme project by the Braamhoek Consultants Joint Venture consisting of Arcus GIBB, Knight Piésold and SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants.

Although it was the single entry in the 'public private partnership' category, the Gautrain project is a shining example of exactly what a PPP can achieve.

The 'AfriSam innovation award for sustainable construction' is fast gaining popularity and had 12 entries. It was won by the Oudebosch Eco Cabins project. This project also recently won an Acknowledgement Award at the 3rd International Holcim Regional Awards Ceremony held in Casablanca.

Well done to all the winners and entrants.
Have a safe December.

Wilhelm du Plessis
Editor