

Engineering

Gauteng's excellent engineers are driving industrial and manufacturing development.

Gauteng's engineering sector has an enviable reputation for excellence – and for delivering projects on time. If any group of South Africans can feel justified in patting themselves on the back for the success of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, it would be the engineering sector. The roads and stadiums that formed the basis of the soccer tournament's important deliverables were indeed delivered on time, and in good condition.

The other specific tournament-related projects were a thorough overhaul of OR Tambo Airport and the introduction of the Bus Rapid Transport system to Johannesburg, both of which will remain as legacy projects. Multi-disciplinary engineering concerns such as GIBB had contracts with the BRT and Gauteng's other mega-project, the Gautrain.

The Bombela Concession Company (Bombela), which holds the 20-year concession to design, build, part-finance and operate the Gautrain Rapid Rail Link, has several shareholders including South African engineering giant Murray & Roberts; Bouygues Travaux Publics, a French firm with construction revenue of six billion euros; Strategic Partners Group, a BEE group; underground-rail specialists, Bombardier UK; and a subsidiary of Absa bank. Bombela's subsidiaries oversee aspects of this complicated project, the first part of which was rolled out just in time for the soccer tournament, despite the contract for the Gautrain having been signed long before the football was even thought of. First reports indicated that the train was a winner and would prove very popular with commuters for years to come.

Mining has historically been a major driver of innovation in the engineering sector, and the links between the two sectors is long and strong. Although mining has a reduced role in the overall mix of the Gauteng economy, it continues to be an

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

The engineering sector is a key underpinning factor in the performance of the economy's major sectors – and in delivering infrastructure.

- The Gautrain is on track, and proving popular.

important client for engineers.

Bateman Engineering Projects is responsible for the pre-project planning for a processing plant being built by Rand Uranium. The plant will process 450 000 tons of ore and tailings per year.

Many of South Africa's biggest construction companies have engineering components within the company or the group. The decision by TWP Holdings (a project company with engineering design capabilities) and construction company Basil Read to form a new company called Basil Read Turnkey Projects in 2009, will position the new company to bid for complex projects in the infrastructure, energy and mining sectors. ■

Online resources

Consulting Engineers South Africa: www.cesa.co.za
Engineering Council of South Africa: www.ecsa.co.za
South African Institution of Chemical Engineers:
www.saiche.co.za
South African Institution of Civil Engineering:
www.civils.org.za
Southern African Institute for Industrial Engineering:
www.saiife.co.za

