

# Our industrial turning

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2014 has been an engrossing year for South Africa's manufacturing sector – notably for the automotive industry.

In this issue, we take a look at recent movement in South Africa's manufacturing arena, including an overview of the newest project set for the Eastern Cape's Coega IDZ: the Multi Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) complex. This mammoth facility has been described as the "the second economic heart beat of Africa's automotive manufacturing capitol Port Elizabeth." Unusual about the complex is that several brands will be housed under one roof.

Positive manufacturing news also came from the private sector, with the announcement that the Manufacturing Accelerator Programme (MAP) has gone live, for the first time in South Africa.

Launched in September last year, the founding members of the MAP; ISAH, Rifle-Shot Performance Partners and SANEC, signed a memorandum of agreement with the board of the South African Capital Equipment Council (SACEEC) to promote good manufacturing practices within the country. The MAP programmes provides executive education, worker training, strategy development and smart IT solutions in one package, customisable based on the type of manufacturing business and the size of the business.

Following intensive planning, and with RGR Technologies having gone live with the implementation of the MAP, Industry now will have an opportunity to review and assess the impact and results of the programme, based on the RGR installation.

Equally encouraging was the opening of the Tooling Centre of Excellence at the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) in Pretoria. Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Rob Davies

noted during the opening that the shortage of toolmakers in South Africa, specifically, posed a serious challenge towards achieving the goals set out in the Industrial Policy Action Plan.

Davies noted that the demise of the SA Tool, Die, and Mould making (TDM) sector over the past three decades has resulted in the loss of more than 80% of TDM manufacturing capacity. Yearly, South Africa's economy uses on average more than R15 billion of TDM equipment and maintenance services, of which only 20% is provided by local industry. The centre is sure to have a positive impact, as are the numerous other initiatives and investment schemes launched in 2014, like those for the textile, jewellery and agro-processing sectors.

On a cooler industry note, in this issue we take a look at the partnership between Imperial Health Sciences and Yusen Logistics, the launch of the pharmaceutical industry's first dedicated, temperature controlled sea freight consolidation service to southern Africa.

Finally, TNT's Shane de Beer joins us with several useful tips for SMEs. Shane, the company's sales and marketing director, shares advice for SMEs ahead of the festive season, reiterating the importance of planning ahead of the busy season to avoid last minute delivery disasters. Shane also attests to the fact that forming a close relationship with a logistics partner that is qualified to assist with optimising sourcing and delivery processes is becoming increasingly desirable for smaller businesses.

*Enjoy this issue.*

JLN