

# THE LINK

INDUSTRY NEWS FROM THE STEEL VALUE CHAIN

ISSUE 1  
January - April 2023

Brought to you by  
The Southern African  
Institute of Steel Construction

## Steeling up for the digital age

A word from Amanuel Gebremeskel, CEO SAISC

## Cladding industry news

Featuring SAISC members Global Roofing Solutions,  
Macsteel and Bolt and Engineering Distributors (B.E.D.) Group

## In the pipeline

SAISC marketing and events update

## SAMCRA update

Developing cladding standards and representing  
the metal cladding and roofing sector

## Steel Awards 2023

Everything you need to know about entering,  
and attending the SAISC Steel Awards 2023

# Features



## Page 1 - 2

### A word from Amanuel Gebremeskel

SAISC CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel explains that the SAISC has gone digital: from our first edition of this online newsletter, to a new digital nomination process for the SAISC Steel Awards 2023.

---

## Page 3 - 9

### Cladding industry news

Featuring SAISC members Global Roofing Solutions, Macsteel and Bolt and Engineering Distributors (B.E.D.) Group.

---

## Page 10 - 11

### In the pipeline

SAISC marketing and events update from Denise Sherman, Management Consultant, SAISC.

---

## Page 12 - 14

### SAMCRA update

SAMCRA Director Dennis White explores the ground-breaking cladding-related standards and training they are working on.

---

# Contact us

The Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) has tirelessly served the industry since its inception in 1956. Our mission is to promote the use of steel in construction and contribute to the health and wealth of the industry for the good of all roleplayers. We are respected as an association for our authority, technical knowledge, and position as the voice, champion and custodian of the steel construction sector.

**You can call us on +27 11 726 6111 or email us at [info@saisc.co.za](mailto:info@saisc.co.za) or visit [www.saisc.co.za](http://www.saisc.co.za)**



#### Cover image

Woodridge Packhouse - winner of the Agri Industrial Steel Award and the Regional Best Project in the Eastern Cape, Steel Awards 2022 for its innovative cladding



## A word from Amanuel Gebremeskel

CEO of the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction

# 2023

# Steeling up

for the digital age

**SAISC CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel explains that the SAISC has gone digital: from our first edition of this online newsletter, to a new digital nomination process for the SAISC Steel Awards 2023, which will give the industry a chance to study nominated projects online for the first time before the winners are announced in October.**

As the longstanding custodian and champion of the steel value chain, the SAISC is gearing up for a year packed with events focused on continuing professional development (CPD) training and an array of digital marketing and networking opportunities. This also includes our flagship event – the iconic annual Steel Awards - in October 2023.

In addition to a stellar events and educational / training calendar this year targeting our members and the entire steel supply chain - including engineers and architects, project managers, quantity surveyors and others – we are also engaged in many initiatives which leverage and embrace digital technology for the benefit of you, our valued members!

### **Online newsletter distributed to over 4 000 industry members**

This first online edition of our SAISC newsletter you are reading has been sent to over 4 000 members of our own and other industry bodies with which we have reciprocity. It is appropriately named **The Link** as it represents a communications and information link between the SAISC and our members – as well as a link between members themselves. This newsletter is cladding-themed, featuring cladding-related members Global Roofing Solutions, Macsteel and Bolt and Engineering; as well events and opportunities we will be presenting this year. As such, the online newsletter is just one way in which we are embracing the digital era to support the entire steel value chain.

In this newsletter – with handy emailed highlights, featuring a **‘read more’** link to the full version of each article and the whole newsletter on our website - you will find industry news, useful information and knowledge-sharing about quality, industry standards and solutions to steel value chain challenges; as well as profiles and updates from our members.

As we move through various industry-relevant themes in the other two editions planned for the year, we trust that more members will participate in this newsletter, and gain valuable marketing leverage as their articles are shared with thousands of readers in this new digital format and via our website and social media channels. This will also help to support the financial sustainability of the SAISC as we seek to advance the interests of our members.

### **Get involved!**

As you are aware, the SAISC is the custodian of quality, technical standards and knowledge within the steel value chain, and you - our valued members - form an integral part of this pool of professional skills and learning.

The SAISC and its sub-associations have been directly involved in assisting the SA Bureau of Standards to formulate specifications for the industry, including updating standards on designing for seismic areas. This topic came into focus recently after deadly earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria, causing mass destruction to buildings and infrastructure - largely due to non-compliance and outdated standards.

As the SAISC we invite members to actively engage and get involved with us, so that when there are opportunities to share professional knowledge, by way of offering online or on-site training sessions, expertise and experience, you can participate or attend and gain continuous professional development points (CPD).

### **‘Steeling’ yourselves for the Steel Awards!**

Lastly, but of course, not least, look out for our upcoming networking and training events in this newsletter, and watch this space for everything you need to know about entering, and attending the SAISC Steel Awards 2023. Planning is already underway, entries opened on the 1 April, and you will be able to enter via a simple online process which will also – very cleverly – digitise the entire nominations, selections and judging process – as well as allowing this to be effectively digitally curated and accessible to all our members moving forward.

***“I encourage as many members as possible to participate in the awards, to showcase the many excellent steel projects we have undertaken across the region over the past 12 months. We had 700 guests attending in 2022, and we anticipate that this year’s event will be even bigger and better, giving us all a chance to network while we toast and celebrate the best of steel value chain excellence.”***

Until next time, I wish you a successful second quarter of 2023, as we all work diligently to continue the next chapter of post-pandemic recovery, despite the challenges of the current national energy crisis.

Yours in steel  
Amanuel



**Amanuel Gebremeskel**  
CEO, SAISC

# Cladding Industry News

Featuring SAISC members Global Roofing Solutions,  
Macsteel and Bolt and Engineering



# Global Roofing Solutions: delivering the exceptional - and taking it to new heights

*Global Roofing Solutions (GRS) excels at innovation, devising swift and safe roofing, cladding and decking solutions, exceeding the expectations of project developers, architects, engineers, and other customers across a broad cross-section of industry: from the commercial, industrial, and warehousing sectors to mining, agriculture, and residential housing.*

## Stronger than ever

Established in 1958, and delivering unique products and services which have defined - and continue to define - the local roofing sector, GRS has emerged stronger than ever from business and pandemic-related challenges in 2020. The award-winning manufacturer has a footprint of 11 branches across South Africa, Namibia and Botswana, providing clients with an extensive range of high-quality products.

## Quality, integrity and industry ‘firsts’

Commenting on the company’s upward business trajectory, CEO Andrew Winter highlights how its 65-year track record of innovation, quality, and integrity has positioned GRS as a sector leader. The business was borne out of two iconic South African roofing brands - Brownbuilt and HH Robertson - making it one of **the** largest metal roofing manufacturers in South Africa.



Andrew Winter, CEO  
Global Roofing Solutions

“As leaders in world-class roofing, decking and cladding solutions, Global Roofing Solutions has a proud history as *the*

trusted South African roofing brand. We are also known as dynamic innovators of a locally-researched and developed product portfolio - featuring many industry **‘firsts’**.

More recently, the business has overcome many challenges, emerging in a stronger-than-ever position with the support of loyal customers and staff – as well as third party investors – thanks to whom we are now firmly on our current, dynamic growth trajectory,” Winter explains.

## Guaranteed product quality

Chief Operating Officer Gert Dercksen says what has made the business a top brand is its specialised technical expertise, which enables it to engage in research and development to provide high-quality solutions, at the right price, for every roofing, cladding, and decking requirement in the industry.

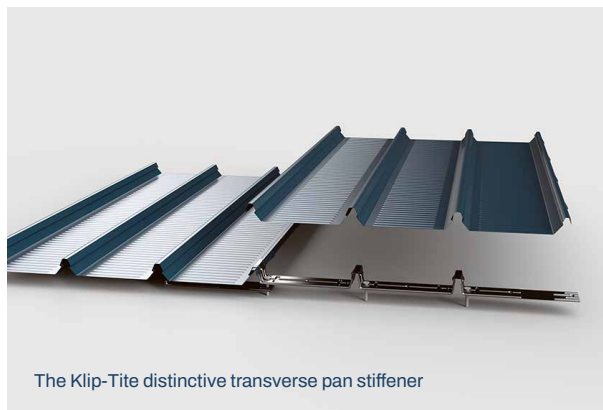


Shoprite Cilmor distribution centre

“We were among the first to issue product and installation guarantees to customers, provided products are installed by GRS-approved contractors who meet our quality standards and specifications. We have a proud history of quality and stand by our guarantees, without question,” he points out.

## Innovating for customers’ peace of mind

Head of Business Development Johan van der Westhuizen says customers favour GRS’s four flagship products: Klip-Tite, Bond-Dek, Bond-Lok and QC Flooring Solutions, because of their value for money, quality, and safety features. “Our Klip-Tite products are distinctive transverse pan stiffeners, providing superior wind uplift resistance as



The Klip-Tite distinctive transverse pan stiffener



Time Square Casino

the pans are prevented from bowing upwards - remaining flat when storm winds blow over the roof. This ensures water run-off capacity is not affected,” he explains.

Furthermore, robust mobile mills produce roof sheeting on site, elevating it to roof height, and thereby ensuring fast and effective installation.

He adds that because Bond-Dek, Bond-Lok and QC Flooring are permanent shuttering composite steel flooring systems, the need for temporary formwork is eliminated, providing for fast and simple, cost-saving construction.

“Bond-Dek’s 900mm wide panel width and unique side-lap interlocking ensures the fastest erection speed of all steel decking products. QC flooring’s soffit forms the finished ceiling without the need for plastering - again saving time and labour costs. All three products are also fire-tested by the CSIR and qualified for a rating of 120 minutes,” he explains.

The Orion multifunctional roof ventilator is also a widely-used product - a smoke and heat exhaust ventilation system designed to extract smoke from the interior of a building through automatically operated, roof-mounted ventilators. It provides daily ventilation, and acts as a natural smoke exhaust

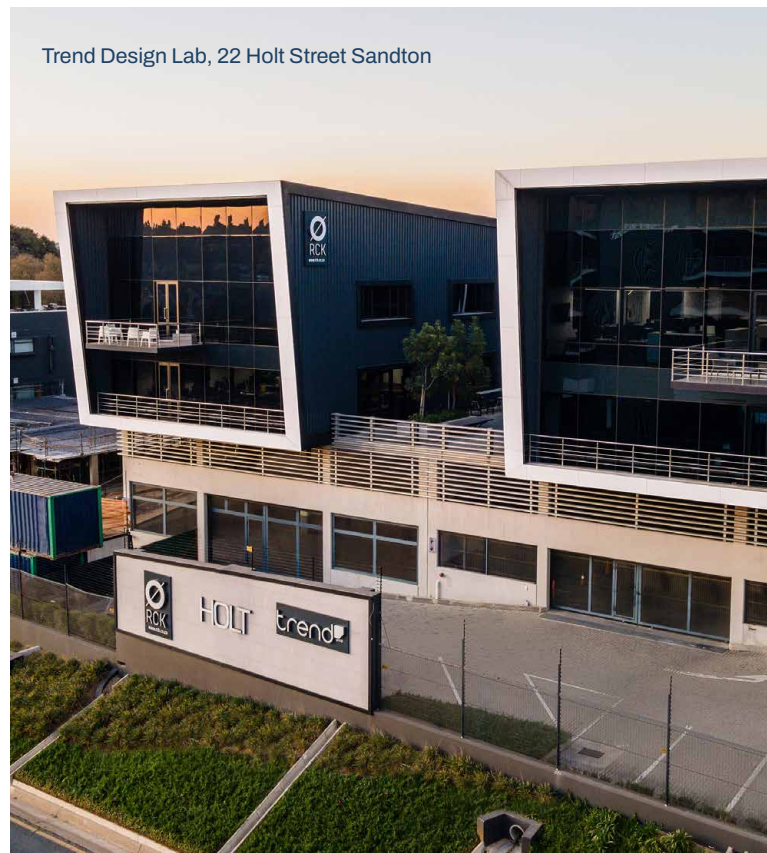
in case of fire, meets the EN 1201-2 EU standard and is CE- (Conformité Européenne) certified.

## Growing with our partners

Winter adds that GRS highly values the trust it has shared with its staff, customers and industry professionals over the years.

“We thank all our employees, customers, suppliers and shareholders for their unwavering faith in our expertise and ability to **‘deliver the exceptional’**. We look forward to enjoying a mutually beneficial and successful partnership moving forward, upholding the highest standards of quality and integrity in our professional services to the construction industry,” Winter concludes.

Trend Design Lab, 22 Holt Street Sandton



## Global Roofing Solutions: Leading the way with industry ‘firsts’

**1964**

Introduced first Brownbuilt concealed fixed roofing profile in South Africa

**1969**

Produced the first embossing feature on sheeting

**1977**

First Brownbuilt mobile mill introduced to produce sheets on site

**1980**

Bond-Lok composite decking introduced

**1988**

High yield ductile steel profile Klip-Lok 406 introduced

**1997**

Wide cover Klip-Lok 700 launched

**2013**

Introduced latest technology Klip-Tite profile

**2016**

Launched new KL700 Plus Clip for Klip-Tite and Klip-Lok

# Macsteel pursues reinvention to ensure relevance, innovation and growth

**MACSTEEL**

Pursuing Reinvention

*Pursuing reinvention is proving to be a winning formula for growing local business and global export trade says Macsteel CEO Mike Benfield.*

*Leading manufacturer, merchandiser and distributor of steel and value-added steel products Macsteel's consistently pursues reinvention. This is in order to sustainably and successfully provide its customers with high-quality, locally-produced and internationally-sourced steel products and services.*

## Rich history, broad reach and product range

The company has a rich history spanning decades: from its founding in 1904 as National Trading Company and S. Machanick & Co, and its foray into the Middle East and the America's in the early 1970s, to sister company Macsteel International Trading's presence across the world - from South Africa and Australia to the United States - the business is entrenched as a key player in the international steel value chain.



Mike Benfield, CEO  
Macsteel

As such, the company – with a footprint extending into Africa - provides a vast array of steel products, including light, medium and heavy profile sections, hot rolled sheet, coil and plate, galvanised sheet and coil, cladding and roofing products to sectors ranging from agriculture and mining to manufacturing and construction.

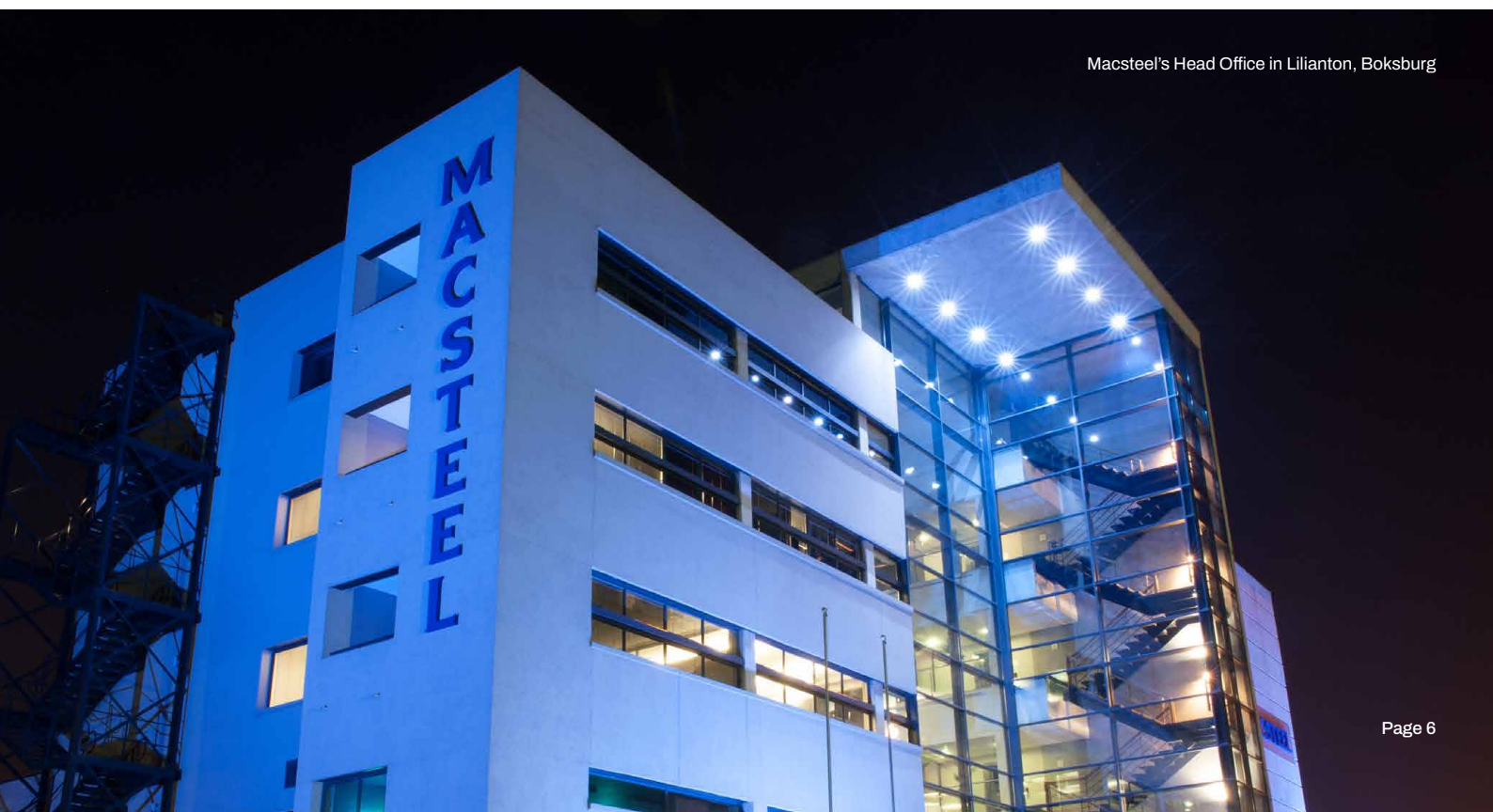
## Challenges and differentiators

Commenting on the challenges facing the steel value chain - and how Macsteel is pursuing reinvention to harness opportunities - Chief Executive Officer Mike Benfield says the industry must adapt, and desist from chasing volumes at the expense of quality.

“For too long the steel sector has been driving down margins because it has been chasing volumes at almost any cost. Many of our competitors have not survived due to this practice - which has also impacted on industry ethics and the quality of products on the market,” Benfield comments.

“At Macsteel we do not chase volumes, but rather focus on providing our customers and partners with high-quality locally manufactured or imported products, ethically sourced - at the right price - from our trusted partners worldwide. E-commerce has also helped us to achieve a greater market share as more businesses look online to swiftly find the right steel products that meet all the international quality standards for their projects,” he points out.

Macsteel's Head Office in Lilianton, Boksburg







Novotexi 440® Skyformer  
in action at the Pepkor building

### Extension of credit

“Another differentiator which gives us an edge is that we have an extremely strong balance sheet, enabling us to extend credit to our customers, depending on their project requirements. This places us in a strong supply chain position, as we are able to meet our customers’ needs for both quality products and efficient access to financing solutions – allowing their projects to progress swiftly and with no delays, to meet completion deadlines,” he says.

### World record

Many of the business’s successes have been recognised globally, not least its highly sought-after Sky Forming product, a unique Novotexi 440® concealed-fix profile which clinched Macsteel a Guinness Book of Records 2022 title for the longest roof span covered by a single metal corrugated sheet. The sheet spans 280 metres, across the widest part of the roof covering the new Pick n Pay flagship distribution centre in Kempton Park.

“We were delighted to achieve this world record, which highlights that - in pursuing reinvention - we are also partnering with our customers on the journey. Through doing so, we work to understand and supply their requirements, exploring innovative ways to grow our business while enabling our customers’ success,” Benfield says.

### New trends driving demand

He adds that looking to the future, Macsteel remains committed to exploring new roofing and cladding innovations, such as those that will be in demand as the trend towards photovoltaic (PV) solar roof panels for renewable energy gains momentum.

### Value from the SAISC

In addition to being rigorous in its efforts to remain relevant, keep innovating and proactively growing market share – ensuring all activities generate profitable returns – Macsteel has also been a long-term supporter and member of the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC).

“We strongly believe in its role as custodian and champion of the steel sector. At the same time, it is also imperative for the SAISC to ensure its continued relevance by giving members what they want from a value perspective,” he comments.

### Winds of change

“With well over a century of history in the market we are strongly positioned to partner with our customers and suppliers to meet current and future market challenges head-on, pursuing reinvention to meet evolving global demands for innovative steel products which will weather the uncertain future winds of economic and climate change,” Benfield concludes.



Macsteel Corrugated Iron Roof Sheeting also known as Classidek

# Bolt and Engineering explains the ‘humble’ fastener’s huge role in creating strong, durable structures and cladding



Range of cladding / roofing fasteners

its operations on trust, integrity, continuous improvement and the ‘100/0’ ethos of taking 100 percent responsibility and accountability - to help customers *‘find the perfect fit, fast’*.

## Wide-ranging construction services

Giltrow clarifies that construction projects have varying specifications and requirements with regards to holding together materials in the final designed structure. The use of industrial fasteners - including bolts, nuts, washers, screws and plating - is essential for completion of the structure.

“While nuts and bolts are often overlooked and may not seem important, you cannot hold any structure together without them,” he explains.

“Likewise, washers are essential in ensuring effective sealing, preventing leakage and water ingress. It is by paying attention to the so-called ‘little things’ that we take care of the big things, ensuring excellent products, solutions and customer service.”

*A far cry from the utilitarian ‘boxes’ of old, modern buildings are now beautiful architectural statements and brand extensions down to the finest fastening detail. Bolt and Engineering Distributors (B.E.D.) Group CEO Mike Giltrow explains how the company is contributing to meet the rising demand for quality cladding system solutions.*



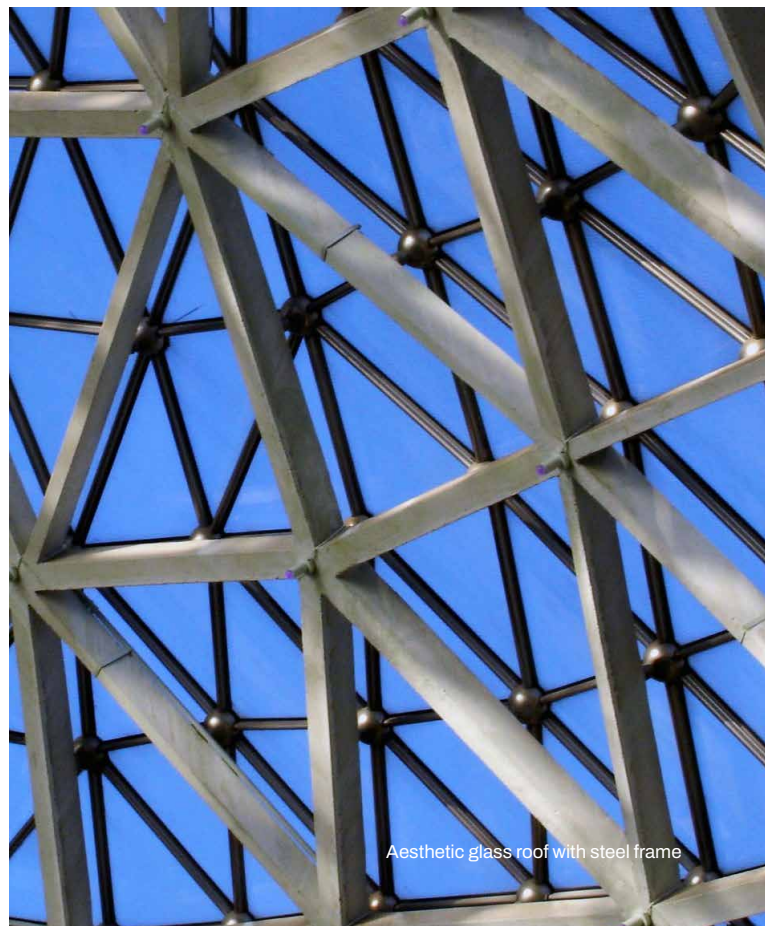
Mike Giltrow, CEO  
Bolt and Engineering  
Distributors (B.E.D.) Group

Buildings and structures of all types – from shopping centres to industrial warehouses – have changed. Cladding is playing more of an aesthetic role than ever – and so too is the ‘humble’ fastener. Fasteners are extremely important in the construction industry, including in the design and construction of cladding. While fasteners may be regarded by some as a more

minor (and therefore less important) cladding requirement, this could not be further from the truth.

Mike Giltrow, CEO of the Bolt and Engineering Distributors Group, explains: “Fasteners must hold the cladding together - and indeed the structure as a whole - thereby ensuring its integrity and longevity, while also playing a critical role in keeping the cladding intact and able to withstand harsh weather elements over time.”

The B.E.D. Group is synonymous with safety and quality, enjoying longstanding relationships with its customers and showcasing an impressive portfolio of products from leading global and local suppliers. As such, B.E.D. bases



Aesthetic glass roof with steel frame



Steel panel facade with windows

In addition to offering fastener solutions to the industrial steel and construction sectors, B.E.D. also offers bearings, welding and cutting technology; as well as support and repair services.

“B.E.D. has been supplying the construction and engineering industry with quality tools and fasteners since our establishment in 1983,” adds Giltrow. “Today, we have many different industrial products – from fasteners to welders and bearings – and a distribution capability which extends throughout South Africa and into sub-Saharan Africa. We are familiar with the role of fasteners throughout the construction process, from the foundations through to the main body of the structure and into the roofing.”

### Cladding and quality

“Fasteners are tremendously important in keeping cladding robust at all times, and quality is critical. The screws used in cladding must be correct and to the highest standards in protecting the structure, for example against extreme weather conditions such as high wind shear levels, which can potentially lift a roof right off,” notes Giltrow.

“However, it should be noted that supplying fasteners and indeed any tooling or equipment based only on price – and not quality – can potentially cause serious construction issues. At B.E.D, we go to great lengths to ensure that we are compliant at all times – safety and quality in this regard is absolutely critical.”

### B.E.D. and the SAISC

Giltrow says B.E.D. is very pleased to be a member of the SAISC, and was excited to return as a sponsor of the annual SAISC Steel Awards in 2022, having played this supporting role in previous years also.

“The local steel industry and value chain is an important economic contributor, as well as improving people’s lives through construction and infrastructure projects. B.E.D. is passionate about structural work - including the overall aesthetics of the finished building - where cladding plays an important role,” he enthuses.

“With the approach of *‘it’s our business to know your business’*, B.E.D. is here at all times to cater to the steel and construction sector’s fastener, tooling, bearings and welding equipment requirements, with a turnkey supply for the foundations all the way to the roof. We are able to assist in keeping your materials of construction cut, welded, fastened and working as they should!” he concludes.



(L-R) Vivienne Fouche, writer at Kendal Hunt Communications, Mike Giltrow, CEO at Bolt and Engineering Distributors Group, Kendal Hunt, Owner and MD of Kendal Hunt Communications, Amanuel Gebremeskel, CEO SAISC and Denise Sherman, management consultant SAISC

# In the Pipeline

## SAISC marketing and events update

### Pivoting to remain sustainable

*As the SAISC began a new era in our existence last year, we did so determined to bring a fresh energy, spirit and enthusiasm to our role as custodian and champion of the local steel construction sector. Having noted that being solely membership fee-driven was not sustainable – the team have come up with many other exciting offerings, platforms and opportunities for members to showcase their companies and capabilities – and in so doing, for the SAISC itself to offer more value, and be more financially sustainable moving forward.*



Denise Sherman  
Management Consultant  
SAISC

**SAISC management consultant Denise Sherman tells us more about the new approach to 'going digital' and the highlights of the SAISC 2023 events and marketing calendar:**

To echo what our CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel has also communicated in this new online newsletter – [The Link](#) – the SAISC's revamped and updated website, Steel Awards projects nominations and other innovations are all aimed at leveraging 'going digital' – to the benefit of our members and the industry as a whole.

Noting, however, that post-pandemic our members are also extremely keen on in-person / on-site events – as well as online – the SAISC is working on hosting those this year – including the iconic SAISC Steel Awards.

### The 'real deal' of steel: SAISC Steel Awards

The Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) members and the entire steel value chain are invited to participate in the SAISC Steel Awards 2023 - entries opened on 1 April 2023.

Along with myriad other networking and training event highlights on SAISC's annual calendar, the Institute is anticipating dozens of high-quality entries to this year's Awards. The SAISC Steel Awards 2023 winners will be announced at a specially themed, celebratory gala dinner hosted at Emperor's Palace in Gauteng in October.

The SAISC is seeking high-quality project nominations which showcase pioneering innovation and courage in design. We believe there will no shortage of entrants as there are many excellent projects which need to be showcased through our flagship Awards event.

### Digital nominations and knowledge-sharing

The SAISC has prepared guidelines for entries based on previous Steel Awards - and will be hosting a nominator training course to clarify the parameters of a high-quality entry. In the spirit of 'going digital' this year, entries - along with project technical information - will then be submitted in a simple online form, on the SAISC Steel Awards 2023 online portal of the Institute's website, which will be accessible to the public until the August 31 deadline when entries close.



Steel Awards 2022 overall winner – members of the project team with Amanuel Gebremeskel, CEO of the SAISC (5th from the left)

There is a minimum standard of what needs to be submitted directly into the SAISC website project case study platform. As soon as this has been submitted, the nominee can then book a half-hour project case study session, which the Institute will promote as a virtual event.

In addition, people will be able to access those project case studies and their technical information - as they are presented - as online events on the site. Therefore, ahead of the Steel Awards, people will have already seen all the nominated projects and have studied their drawings and technical excellence, rather than just seeing a photograph for the first time on the night of the Awards ceremony.



***“We are anticipating at least 50 entries of a high standard – last year there were 70 entries – and that the judges will again have the difficult task of selecting the best of an excellent crop of projects.”***

### **An integrated approach**

The SAISC is taking a very integrated approach to the way in which content is presented - and the way in which projects are profiled - so the steel industry and public at

large have access to them – both in the run-up to Steel Awards and thereafter online, to learn from these innovative projects and appreciate their true value.

The project case study online events will take place on a weekly basis, from April to August, before final judging in September, giving project entrants an extended period to submit nominations. We are anticipating at least 50 entries of a high standard – last year there were 70 entries – and that the judges will again have the difficult task of selecting the best of an excellent crop of projects. A total of 750 guests attended the Awards in 2022 - and up to 1000 guests are expected to witness the ceremony in October 2023, as enthusiasm for in-person attendance continues to gain momentum across the local steel value chain.

### **Online and on-site: continuing professional development training**

There are also a series of technical question and answer (Q and A) sessions planned from April - as well as training forum events and company-specific courses - which the Institute will present either online or on-site to engineering and construction companies, educating professionals on specific industry topics.

The SAISC’s self-paced online training courses will also be available, and member tours of steel mills and fabrication sites are also in the pipeline. We are also planning exciting and more informal social networking events, including quarterly breakfast meetings and cocktail evening jazz sessions. We look forward to hosting our members – online, or on-site and in-person – at the many SAISC events this year!



Attendees at SAISC Steel Awards 2022



(L-R) Adam Oldfield, Director: Cousins Steel International and Amanuel Gebremeskel, the CEO of SAISC – SAISC March 2023 breakfast

A VIEW

# FROM THE TOP

## SAMCRA UPDATE

Developing cladding standards and representing  
the metal cladding and roofing sector

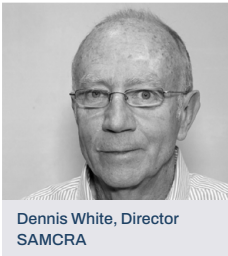


Woodridge Packhouse - winner of the Agri Industrial Steel Award and the Regional Best Project  
in the Eastern Cape, Steel Awards 2022 for its innovative cladding



KES Aquatic Centre - winner of the Sports Facilities Steel Award, Steel Awards 2022 for its innovative roof structure and cladding

*In line with the cladding theme of this newsletter, it was fitting to ask SAMCRA Director Dennis White, to tell us more about the ground-breaking cladding-related standards and training they are working on:*



Dennis White, Director SAMCRA

The South African Metal Cladding and Roofing Association (SAMCRA) was formed in 2013. As a sub-association of the SAISC, it is a unified body representing the interests of the local metal cladding and roofing industry: providing lobbying, technical expertise, and consulting support services - as well as

arbitration for members and their customers. As part of our role, we have been closely involved with the development of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) new national standard for self-supporting metal cladding, to be released imminently.

### Manufacturing quality benchmark

It was important to devise a state-of-the-art best practice standard for the industry, to provide suppliers and contractors with a benchmark for the design, testing, manufacturing and installation of quality products which are competitive internationally. Demand for cladding remains high, making the implementation of this standard essential.

### Steel cladding on the rise

Due to the demand for steel cladding in recent years, the design trend has moved decisively in favour of the innovative use of cladding to enhance architectural appeal – even

replacing tiling - on a wide range of construction projects: from shopping malls and gyms to commercial parks, banks (including the South African Reserve Bank), warehouses and residential housing developments. Our industry has consistently introduced new profiles and techniques, including on-site roll-forming to meet the demands of ever larger and more complex structures. This strong upward trajectory has continued despite the higher costs thereof. This may be attributed to its attractive finish and durability - which boosts the visual impact of a company's external branding - and has a lifespan, with modest maintenance, of some 10 to 20 years, provided the chosen protective coating is matched to the environment in which it is installed.

With this in mind, developers and owners of commercial offices and warehouses - for the storage of imported goods - and to service our growing e-commerce sector - are turning to cladding, for its aesthetic, brand-boosting appeal and its low-maintenance durability.

### New SABS standard

The new SABS standard will clarify the structural properties and protective coatings of cladding products for suppliers, contractors and consumers, providing a quality benchmark for manufacturers and all professionals in the sector to refer to, and meet. Many end-users and consumers are not aware that there is a wide range of different thicknesses, qualities of steel, metallic and organic protective coatings and profiles. They may simply specify to a contractor that they want 'galvanised steel' - not knowing that the thickness and geometry of a particular profile - plus thickness and type of

protective coatings - makes a huge difference to its quality, strength, and durability. This new standard will therefore guide the industry and help end-users who want to ensure they know what they are asking for upfront.

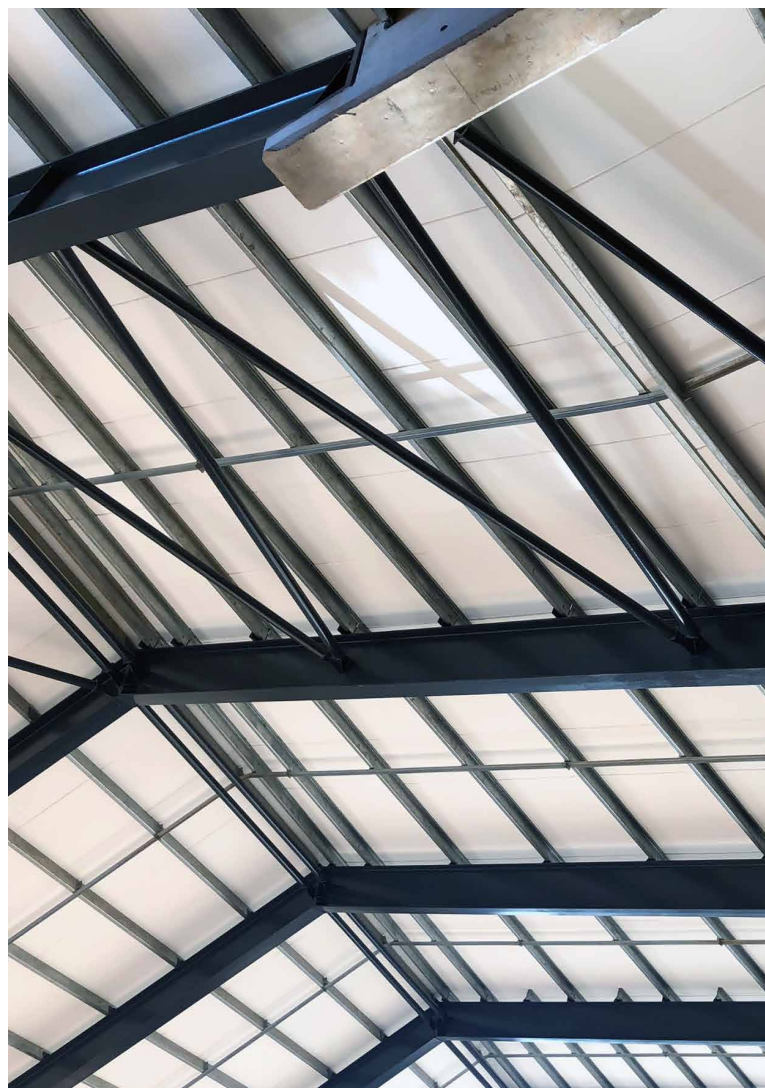
## Trends and challenges

Driven not only by aesthetics, branding and durability considerations, the rise of cladding in South Africa has definitely not reached its peak, given that the equally strong trend towards solar photovoltaic panels on roofing will also drive cladding developments moving forward.

Further to this, locally we face the challenge of a market, divided into formal and informal sectors, the latter being driven purely by price - with structural integrity and durability frequently disregarded. Substitution of inferior materials rather than using those specified is rife - particularly in the emerging contractor sector. This is unfortunately damaging the industry as in the quest to be 'all things to all people', emerging contractors install cladding without using appropriately trained and experienced cladding contractors.

## SAMCRA membership crucial

These factors only serve to highlight the crucial importance of membership of an industry body such as SAMCRA, and adherence to the quality standard which will soon be regulating the local cladding sector.



KES Aquatic Centre - winner of the Sports Facilities Steel Award, Steel Awards 2022 for its innovative roof structure and cladding

## Other SAMCRA developments and CPD training

visit [www.samcra.co.za](http://www.samcra.co.za)

- **Developing standards for the region:**

SAMCRA was invited to be a member of a technical committee for building regulations within the **African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)**. We are looking forward to contributing to the ARSO technical committee to develop standards for the region that will enable trade in quality products between countries under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

SAMCRA has also been invited to assist in updating the National Building regulations.

- **SAMCRA will be presenting an advanced cladding workshops commencing in May, which will also count towards continuing professional development (CPD) points.**
- **SAMCRA will also present wholesaler / retail staff training on cladding materials and thicknesses.**
- **SAMCRA also anticipates – given its increasingly popular use across industry - that the 2023 Steel Awards will again feature many excellent cladding-related project entries....WATCH THIS SPACE!**



# steel

**Feature or advertise in the next issue of *THE LINK***

For members of the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction who would like to be featured in the next issue of ***THE LINK***, or for advertising opportunities please contact us.

Call us on +27 11 726 6111 or email us at [info@saisc.co.za](mailto:info@saisc.co.za) or visit [www.saisc.co.za](http://www.saisc.co.za)