

THE LINK

INDUSTRY NEWS FROM THE STEEL VALUE CHAIN

ISSUE 2
April - July 2023

Brought to you by
The Southern African
Institute of Steel Construction

Quality in Steel

**The quantum of quality:
Launching the SAISC's new
quality certification programme**

A word from Amanuel Gebremeskel, CEO SAISC

**Quality and what it means for our members,
the local and Pan-African steel sector**

A message from Nicolette Skjoldhammer, SAISC Chairperson

**Mentis Africa: A progressive tale of
innovation, growth and excellence**

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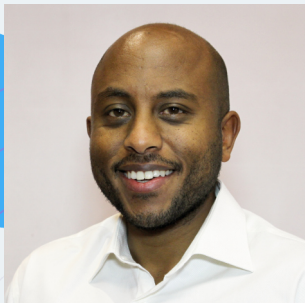
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Explore the SAISC's mission, membership, objectives and activities

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 role players. 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 or visit www.saisc.co.za



A word from Amanuel Gebremeskel

CEO of the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction

SAISC CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel unveils a strategic focus on quality, including plans to launch a brand-new quality certification programme which will transform the face of the steel sector, and the experience of its customers across the continent.

I trust this second edition of *The Link* will give you a good perspective of some of the latest quality-related activities and initiatives planned by the SAISC and in the steel sector currently.

These include insights into the SAISC's proposed new quality certification programme, and ongoing efforts to support the Department of Trade and Industry's review of SABS standards – and their ultimate harmonisation with those in other African countries under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

In this edition of *The Link*, we also update you on the SAISC's training initiatives, our 'industry bible', the Red Book, announce the nominations for the 2023 Steel Awards and explore the benefits of joining the SAISC.

Defined by innovation and quality

Featured in this edition is Mentis Africa, a global leader in high-quality grating, handrailing, expanded metal, guardrail and other light structural steel products, which for the past 73 years has been defined by innovation, progress and quality. The company's investment in research and development - and in the latest manufacturing processes and technology - enables it to deliver high quality steel products efficiently, saving customers time and reducing costs.

Choosing to highlight its quality ethos in this edition of *The Link*, Mentis Africa is among our members which are asserting and celebrating their commitment to quality and excellence.

The quality 'Link'

In closing, I would also like to thank you all for the extremely positive response which we received to the inaugural edition of *The Link*, which we distributed in April to 4000 members of our own and other industry bodies with whom we have reciprocity.

We trust that more members will participate in this newsletter, and gain valuable marketing leverage – not to mention boosting search engine rankings and increased online presence and visibility.

In future, we would like to grow our audience not only locally but across the continent, acting as a link – true to its name – with the Pan-African steel value chain, and spreading our message of quality and steel industry custodianship. Most importantly, through *The Link* – as with all our initiatives - we seek to provide you, our valued members, with a credible marketing platform and vehicle from which to promote and establish your business footprint.

Yours in steel

Amanuel Gebremeskel
CEO, SAISC

THE QUANTUM OF QUALITY

LAUNCHING THE SAISC'S NEW QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

The SAISC, as the custodian of quality in our region – which is one of only six similar industry bodies globally – will be launching a new SAISC quality certification programme to raise the bar of quality steel products, services and projects produced and delivered: not only by our members, but by all role-players in the South African region and steel value chain - and ultimately, across Africa. SAISC CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel tells us more:

There is a dire need for the establishment and development of an overarching quality regime in our industry: one that is internationally recognised and accredited, and which will meet the market's increasing demands for both quality and excellent value for money. The SAISC is strongly strategically positioned as the custodian of quality across the steel value chain to lead in the formation of this proposed new quality regime.

However, this is a resource-intensive project, and we plan to collaborate with our sister Institutes such as the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) in the United States, the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction (CISC) and the Steel Construction Institute (SCI) in the United Kingdom, which all have experience in establishing similar quality regimes in their respective countries.

Steel standards development and harmonisation

We also need our local industry in South Africa to get involved and assist us as we get this initiative launched. This will include defining the steel quality standards that need to be developed - and then implementing and promoting these to public and private sector stakeholders across the region.

Our existing high quality steel industry standards form an excellent foundation on which to build, and from which to harmonise standards on the continent - without having to wait for the Pan-African public sector to impose these standards, as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) implementation rolls out.

Our plan once we have developed these steel quality industry standards, is to create a quality certification programme, developed in collaboration with industry and our sister organisations internationally. This will allow both member and ultimately non-member companies to obtain a SAISC quality certification.

The SAISC will evaluate the quality of a company's products and services according to these standards – and will issue a quality assurance certification to those which successfully comply. We plan to roll out the programme over the next 24 months, with the pioneers or early adopters achieving certification by 2024.

South Africa's steel industry is the most professionally and technologically advanced in Africa, and therefore very well-positioned to develop a credible and viable system of definitive steel standards and certifications - and we believe now is the time for us to act, in the drive to raise the bar on quality.

As our valued SAISC members, we look forward to your participation and contribution in this vital initiative, which is one that not only our own members - but the entire steel value chain and industry as a whole - will benefit from in terms of consistently improving products, projects, service and infrastructure.

A message from the SAISC's Chairperson: Quality and what it means for our members, the local and Pan-African steel sector



Nicolette Skjoldhammer
Chairperson
SAISC

Quality and what it means for any industry is an ever-evolving concept – and question. As technologies evolve, so too must industries and the standards used to measure vital elements such as quality. The steel industry is no exception to this rule.

Quality travels

The SAISC prides itself on being at the forefront of the latest technology and trends impacting the steel construction sector and value chain. This includes attending flagship international events such as the American Institute of Steel Construction's (AISC) annual conference, held earlier this year in April. CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel, together with a group of our members, represented the SAISC at this prestigious global steel event. Quality was naturally high on the agenda at the conference, where the latest steel construction technologies and techniques were showcased and discussed. In addition, valuable networking took place between the SAISC, its members and those of international steel sector companies – and sister Institutes – which also attended.

The critical technical learnings and knowledge gathered at events such as the above are constantly communicated via the SAISC's local networking events, training seminars and communications platforms, such as this new SAISC online newsletter - [The Link](#) – and our revamped website: creating diverse opportunities for SAISC members to be made aware of the latest trends in the global industry.

Talking quality

Further to the above, the SAISC offers a supportive, inclusive network where issues relating to pivotal considerations such as quality can be debated. For example, recently at an industry breakfast organised by the SAISC, the quality of steel was one of many topical points raised, initiating engaging discussions with members which focused on how to deal with this important concern affecting every company within the steel value chain.

Team Africa, Team Quality

As the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement gains momentum across the continent it is vital that African companies and countries take the long-term view of 'sowing the seeds for the future', supporting one another and combining resources, skills and experience to lead the way as 'Team Africa' in the provision of quality steel products.

One of the ways in which industrial supply chains on the African continent can collaboratively drive growth, is when companies focusing on the supply, processing, fabrication and erection of steel structures join forces to deliver Pan-African infrastructure projects in the mining, power generation, petrochemical and other industries.

AfCFTA itself is evidence that key stakeholders are already thinking and engaging along the lines of procurement in terms of a 'Team Africa' concept and mechanism - and it is vital we also do our part to contribute to this - and also to harmonise our steel quality standards across the continent.

Quality certification

This is why the SAISC is currently in the planning stages of launching a new quality certification programme that will enhance our existing role as a custodian of quality across the steel value chain, enabling companies to obtain an original SAISC certification – our stamp of quality approval – that will give their clients the peace of mind that products and processes have been evaluated by the SAISC, and have achieved a high standard of international quality.

We sincerely hope that the many innovators, trailblazers and pioneers in our membership base will be among the first to work with us to both develop, implement and monitor this exciting new quality certification programme. Our CEO Amanuel Gebremeskel shares more about how we plan to roll this programme out in the coming months, which you can read [HERE](#).

We look forward to embarking on this dynamic quality journey with you all – both to acknowledge the already existing high standards attained, and to further raise the quality bar across the steel supply value chain both locally and across the continent.

Yours sincerely
Nicolette

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicolette Skjoldhammer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Nicolette Skjoldhammer
Chairperson
SAISC

Project Showcase

SAISC Steel Awards 2022



Benguela Gem Treatment Plant

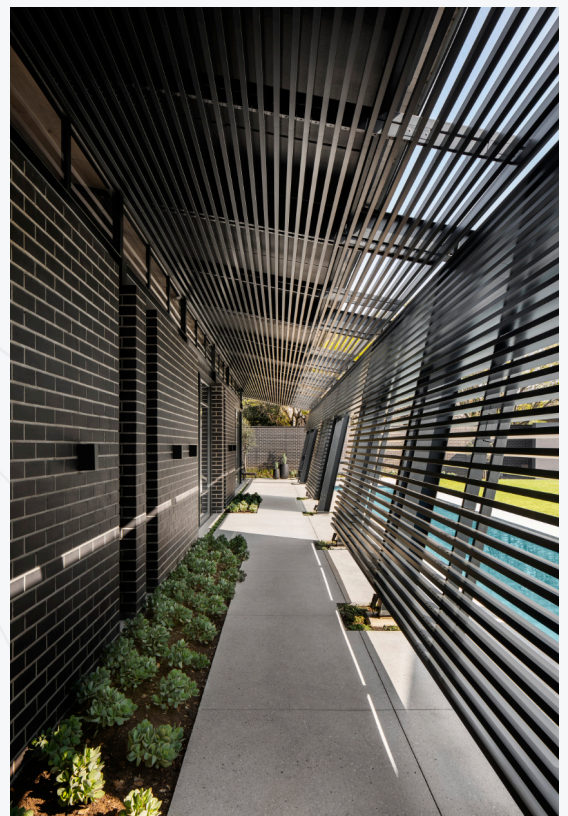
Winner of the Mining category and overall winner, Steel Awards 2022. From a naval engineering perspective, this sea-faring structure is subject to unusual engineering loads because it operates off-shore and unanchored. This made the project a first in the history of the Steel Awards.

[Read More](#)

Babanago Travellers Camp

Winner of the Tubular Steel and Best Project in KwaZulu-Natal categories, Steel Awards 2022 for its interesting technical details which included roofing structures reflecting shapes used in traditional African shields.

[Read More](#)



House Vingos

Winner of the Residential and Best Project in Gauteng categories, Steel Awards 2022 for its innovative use of steel to deliver a statement piece of architecture and a warm, welcoming home.

[Read More](#)



mentis
AFRICA

A PROGRESSIVE TALE OF GROWTH, INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

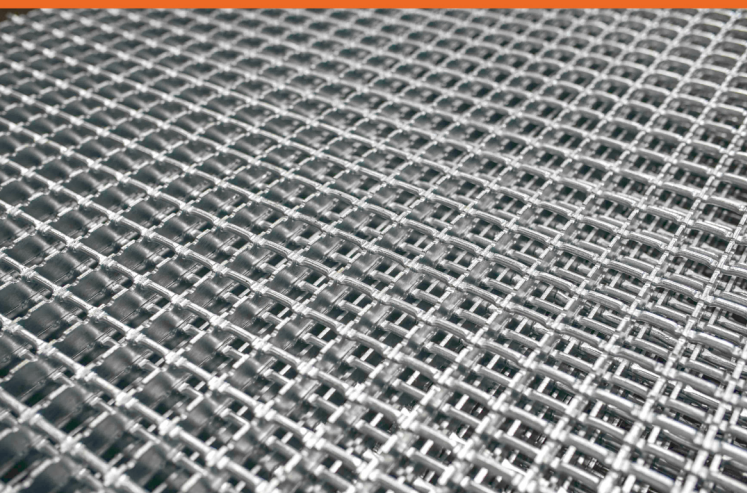
Innovation and progress define Mentis Africa - a pioneer in manufacturing top-notch grating, handrailing, expanded metal, guardrails, and other light structural steel products.

Unleashing groundbreaking designs tailored to clients' needs, Mentis Africa's team of engineering experts leads the steel industry's technological advancement. They create turnkey steel solutions of unrivalled quality and safety.

Through continuous investment in cutting-edge manufacturing processes and technology, coupled with superior-grade steel, Mentis Africa ensures a consistent, dependable product lineup. This zealous dedication to quality assurance and client satisfaction is evident.

With a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility boasting vast capacity, Mentis Africa efficiently fulfils orders of all sizes, saving time and reducing costs. They have established themselves as a dependable partner in the steel industry, serving numerous loyal clients for over 73 years. Their strong position guarantees continued support for many more clients in the future, showcasing their unwavering commitment to growth and product development.

**Quality.
Service.
Innovation.**



Meet Our Team

Passionate Professionals Driving Excellence in the Steel Industry

At the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC), our dedicated team works tirelessly to promote and advance the steel industry. With a wealth of qualifications and professional experience, the SAISC management team, supporting staff, and board members deliver exceptional value to our members.



**Amanuel
Gebremeskel**
CEO, SAISC

Our team embodies SAISC's commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration within the steel industry. Get to know the passionate individuals driving excellence and making a positive impact. We are here to serve, support, and drive positive change.



Dennis White
DIRECTOR, SAMCRA



**Nicolette
Skjoldhammer**
CHAIRPERSON, SAISC BOARD



Denise Sherman
MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANT



Debbie Allcock
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



Reubenett Andrews
MEMBERSHIP AND
SERVICES MANAGER



Elrika Boschoff
BUSINESS ACCOUNTANT
AND BOOK SALES

Industry-Focused Courses and Events

In the dynamic world of steel construction, the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) is at the forefront, organising a series of courses and events. These initiatives aim to promote knowledge sharing, foster industry collaboration, and empower built environment professionals within the steel sector.

SAISC Design of Warehouse Building Course



Building a community of warehouse design experts!

The SAISC recently organised an informative Design of Warehouse Building Course. It covered optimising layout, maximising storage capacity, and implementing smart design principles. Attendees learned about space utilisation, aisle configurations, and material handling systems, to enhance productivity and streamline operations.

Led by industry experts, this course exemplified the SAISC's commitment to empowering professionals with expertise in design of innovative and functional warehouse structures, enabling them to tackle real-world challenges and drive efficiency in the logistics landscape.

SAISC Seismic Design Course



Learning the art of seismic resilience!

The SAISC recently hosted an impactful Seismic Design Course. Participants gained comprehensive insights into designing steel structures to withstand seismic forces and learned about best practices in seismic engineering.

The course covered seismic load analysis, selection of suitable structural systems, and robust design strategies. It showcased the SAISC's commitment to safety and resilience in steel construction, and provided attendees with the knowledge to design structures capable of withstanding seismic events.

Fabrication site visits

Our series of fabrication site visits provided students with a firsthand experience of the steel manufacturing process. Students were given the opportunity to witness cutting-edge technologies, observe skilled craftsmen in action, and gain insights into the intricate world of steel fabrication. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, the SAISC is helping to nurture the talent of today's students, equipping them with a deep appreciation for the steel industry and paving the way for a future generation of innovative engineers.



Today's students, tomorrow engineers. Fabrication site visit - TASS Engineering



Today's students, tomorrow engineers. Fabrication site visit - CADCON Steel Construction and Engineering

The SAISC remains committed to organising courses, events and workshops that promote industry excellence, knowledge advancement, and professional growth. We work continuously to deliver valuable learning opportunities and create platforms for collaboration and innovation within the steel community.

Stay tuned for more exciting training and event initiatives from the SAISC as we strive to elevate the steel industry and empower professionals for a brighter future.

Steel Awards 2023

Nominate a Project / Book a Table

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 and close at the end of August 2023.

Event details

The SAISC Steel Awards 2023 winners will be announced at a specially themed, celebratory gala dinner:

DATE: Thursday, 19 October 2023

TIME: 18:00 to 22:00

VENUE: Emperors Palace, Johannesburg

DRESS CODE / THEME: Formal / Black Tie (and for the adventurous, medieval - Game of Thrones!)

Recognising excellence in the steel industry

At the SAISC Steel Awards 2023, you will witness extraordinary projects and individuals being honoured for their remarkable contributions to the steel sector. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to network with industry leaders, professionals, and visionaries in a captivating atmosphere of medieval charm and Game of Thrones allure.

The SAISC Steel Awards 2023 are a platform to recognise excellence in design, engineering, and steel construction, highlighting the remarkable contributions that steel has made to shaping our built environment.

Digital nominations and knowledge-sharing

The SAISC is seeking high-quality project nominations which showcase pioneering innovation and courage in design. For more information, and to submit a nomination [CLICK HERE](#).

Steel Awards Table Bookings

Table bookings are now open. For more information and to complete a booking online please [CLICK HERE](#).

Meet our 2023 Sponsors

Steel Awards is without a doubt the most anticipated and memorable event on the steel construction industry calendar, and 2023 is no exception! Our generous sponsors make this prestigious event possible! A big thank you to the Steel Awards 2023 sponsors:

[Unica Iron and Steel](#)

Main Sponsor

[Macsteel](#)

Pan Africa Trailblazer Sponsor

[Bolt and Engineering Distributors \(B.E.D.\) Group](#)

Table Decor Sponsor

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Factory and Warehouse Category Sponsor

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Light Steel Frame Buildings Sponsor

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Innovation and Sustainability Sponsor

[The Association of Steel Tube and Pipe Manufacturers](#)

Tubular Category Sponsor

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for more information



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Become a Member

By becoming a member of the SAISC, you join a community of industry professionals, gain access to valuable resources, and enjoy a range of benefits that contribute to your professional growth, recognition, and success in the steel construction industry. While our members come from different disciplines, company sizes and streams within the industry, they all have the desire to see the industry grow and thrive.

Benefits for company membership

- Mark of Quality and Professionalism
- Access member-only content
- Receive technical advice
- Up to date with code and specification changes
- Receive contractual and business advice
- Finding support when you feel you are standing alone
- Networking with clients, the professions as well as competitors
- Discuss industry issues and let your view be heard
- Attending courses aimed at steel construction
- Receive discounts on all SAISC publications
- Receive discounts on attendance fees for courses, seminars and conferences
- Acknowledgement of the member company's involvement in projects profiled on the SAISC Website
- Benefits enjoyed by Individual Members are applicable to a limited number of individuals employed at a member company, based on the membership category and fee
- Permission to use the SAISC logo on the company website or email signatures
- Marketing and PR support services
- Company listing on the SAISC Member Directory / Website
- Opportunity to participate in sponsorship of the annual SAISC Steel Awards.

Benefits for individual membership

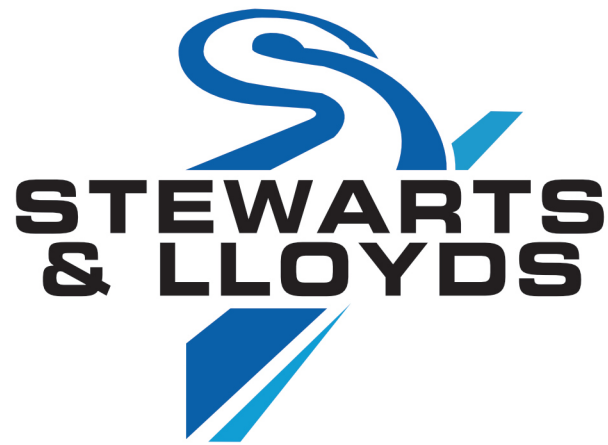
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- Finding support when you feel you are standing alone
- Networking with clients, the professions and competitors
- Discuss industry issues and let your view be heard
- Attending courses aimed at steel construction
- Receive discounts on all SAISC publications = 1 per publication per year
- Receive discounts on attendance fees for courses, seminars and conferences

Membership for individuals are not transferable and may only be used by individual holding the membership. Individuals are also not allowed to use our LOGO.

How the SAISC is funded

The Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) is a non-profit organisation that relies on various sources of funding to support its activities and initiatives. Primary sources of funding include contributions by steel producers, membership fees, workshop and course enrolment fees and book sales. It is through this combined support that the SAISC sustains its operations and fulfils its objectives of market development, education, technology advancement, and member services within the steel construction industry.

If you would like to become a member please complete our [BECOME A MEMBER](#) form online.



120 YEARS

of unbreakable strength



A Trusted Name.
An Established Reputation.



Decoding the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction

The Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) is the sole technical and advisory organisation in Africa, serving the steel industry since 1956 and dedicated to promoting and supporting the use of steel in the construction industry. With its comprehensive expertise and industry knowledge, the SAISC plays a vital role in advancing the understanding, application, and best practices related to steel construction across the region.

Our Mission

The SAISC has a clear and focused mission, which is to develop, promote, and sustain the health and wealth of the steel construction industry in Southern Africa. This mission statement serves as a guiding principle for all the activities and initiatives undertaken by the SAISC.

Our Membership

The SAISC boasts a membership roster of 459 members, representing a wide range of disciplines within the South African steel and steel construction industry. These members encompass various sectors and roles, spanning from design and production to construction.

There are five categories of membership:

- 1. Steel Producer/Mill Membership** for companies that are members of the SA Iron and Steel Institute.
- 2. Steelwork Contractor Membership** for fabricators and erectors of structural steel.
- 3. Associate Corporate Membership** for companies and organisations with an interest in structural steel such as converters/manufacturers of steel products, steel merchants and services centres, consulting engineers, detailers, project managers, and suppliers of goods and services to the industry.
- 4. Professional Individual Membership** which is for structural engineers, architects, quantity surveyors and project managers who are proficient in structural steel design or construction.
- 5. Associate Individual Membership** for any person not qualifying for Professional Membership.

Our Objectives

The SAISC is driven by a set of clear objectives that guide its activities and initiatives. These objectives are designed to support the growth, development, and competitiveness of the steel and steel construction industry, both domestically and internationally.

The key objectives of the SAISC are as follows:

To improve market share and turnover:

The SAISC aims to enhance the market share and financial performance of the steel and steel construction industry. This is achieved through strategic promotion and advocacy efforts which highlight the benefits, advantages, and applications of steel in various markets. By increasing awareness and demand for steel construction, the SAISC contributes to the growth and success of industry stakeholders.

To maintain and develop a favourable business environment:

The SAISC is committed to creating a conducive business environment for the steel and steel construction industry. This includes advocating for supportive policies, regulations, and standards which facilitate the smooth operation and growth of businesses within the industry. By working closely with government bodies, regulatory agencies, and industry associations, the SAISC ensures that the interests of its members are represented and protected.

A focus on increased capability, improved productivity, and competitiveness:

The SAISC recognises the importance of continuous improvement and competitiveness in the steel and steel construction industry. To achieve this, the SAISC promotes the development of enhanced capabilities, improved products, and increased productivity within the industry. By investing in research and development, fostering innovation, and providing training and education opportunities, the SAISC helps its members gain a competitive advantage in local and international markets.

To utilise cutting-edge technology in design and construction:

The SAISC harnesses the combined resources of the institute and the industry to promote and develop cutting-edge technology in the design and construction of steel structures. By staying at the forefront of technological advancements, the SAISC enables its members to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions. This includes embracing digitalisation, automation, and advanced engineering practices to optimise efficiency and quality in steel construction projects.

In closing, the SAISC's objectives revolve around market growth, a favourable and positive business environment, enhanced capabilities, and the utilisation of cutting-edge technology. By pursuing these objectives, the SAISC contributes to the long-term success and competitiveness of the steel and steel construction industry in South Africa and beyond.

Decoding the Southern African Institute of Steel Construction

Activities

The SAISC engages in a number of activities to support the growth, development, and competitiveness of the steel construction industry. These activities encompass market development, education, technology, and the provision of member services.

The SAISC's key activities:

Market Development

The SAISC recognises the vital importance of market development in expanding the reach and impact of the steel construction industry. To achieve this, the SAISC conducts research to improve the effectiveness of steel construction techniques and products. Regular communication and engagement with potential clients and professionals are maintained to foster stronger relationships and identify opportunities. The SAISC actively promotes the image of the industry and undertakes individual projects that require steel input.

Education

The availability of well-trained manpower and specialised skills is critical for the continued growth and development of the steel construction industry. Recognising this, the SAISC places a strong emphasis on education. By investing in education and training, the SAISC aims to nurture a skilled workforce and enhance the industry's competitiveness.

Technology

The SAISC is committed to advancing the technological capabilities of the steel construction industry. This involves providing design aids, such as the Steel Construction Handbook (Red Book), to assist designers in their work.

The SAISC also works to ensure that South African codes and specifications for steelwork design and construction align with international standards. Embracing information technology is another focus area for the SAISC, as it recognises the transformative potential of digital tools and processes. Furthermore, the SAISC addresses contractual issues, including measurement and escalation, to provide clarity and guidance to industry stakeholders.

Member Services

The SAISC places a strong emphasis on providing valuable services to its members. This includes access to resources, networking opportunities, industry updates, and support. The SAISC strives to create a community where members are able to collaborate, share knowledge, and stay informed about the latest developments in the steel construction industry. By facilitating member engagement and providing relevant services, the SAISC contributes to the professional growth and success of its members.

Through these activities in market development, education, technology, and member services, the SAISC actively works towards advancing the Southern African steel construction industry. By addressing key areas of focus, the SAISC aims to drive growth, promote innovation, and enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry.

Forum for debate

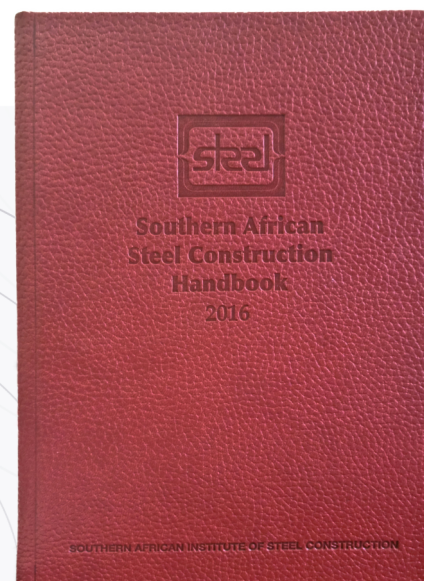
The SAISC also acts as a forum for discussion of issues of importance to the industry from time to time, allowing decisions to be taken for action to improve the business environment.

Purchase your copy of the Red Book

The handbook contains information, in ready-reference form, relating to the entire scope of steel construction as used in buildings and a large variety of other typical structures.

SAISC member and student pricing

SAISC members and students qualify for preferential pricing. Please visit the [SAISC Online Book Store](#) to purchase the Red Book as well as other useful industry related publications.



SAISC MEMBERS

STEEL MILL/MANUFACTURER

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www.unica.co.za

STEEL MERCHANTS & SERVICE CENTRES

Gauteng

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www.agrstructures.co.za

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