

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **2011 CESA AON ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS - 'PARTNERING FOR GROWTH'**

Consulting Engineers South Africa's (CESA) prestigious **CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards** held at the Vodadome in Midrand on the 17<sup>th</sup> August this year are a celebration of innovation, quality, outstanding workmanship and professionalism in the industry. CESA is proud to host this annual event, sponsored by Aon, as a platform to showcase the important role that infrastructure plays in the sustainable development of our country. The event is the highlight of the year in the Organisation's calendar and is a spectacular networking opportunity for leaders in industry as they celebrate the cream of South Africa's Consulting Engineers. The Awards focus on consulting engineers and their clients who participate in or initiate projects that promote the advancement of our nation and the people of the continent.

Infrastructure has firmly moved to centre stage as the cornerstone to solving a multitude of issues facing our country. The establishment of the National Planning Commission and the publication for comment of Government's New Growth Path is a promise to the people of South Africa that we are building a state that will grow the economy, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for all. Consulting Engineers have the skills and resources to assist Government in implementing the institutional mechanisms to coordinate, design, finance, operate and maintain infrastructure networks. Consulting Engineers are once again being called upon to deliver. It is a social, political and economic imperative that we work together to reach out and improve the quality of our Public Service. Success requires the participation and leadership of all South Africans and consulting engineers are particularly well placed to do this.

Awards were handed out for the following categories: Engineering Excellence for projects with a value of less than R50million; projects between R50million and R250million and for projects with a value of over R250million; Best International Project; Visionary Client of the Year; Mentor of the Year; Business Excellence; Mentoring Company of the Year; Young Company of the Year; Young Engineer of the Year; Publisher of the Year; Job Shadow Day; and Branch of the Year.

The category of **Engineering Excellence with a value greater than R250 million** was won by **The Braamhoek Consultants Joint Venture, comprising GIBB, Knight Piésold and SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants** for the Bedford Dam – Ingula Pump Storage Scheme for Eskom with **Golder Associates** receiving a commendation for the Optimum Colliery Mine Water Reclamation Project for Optimum Coal.

The category of **Engineering Excellence with a value between R50million and R250 million** was won by **SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants** for the Mossel Bay 15MI/day Sea Water Desalination Plant for Mossel Bay Municipality. **Aurecon South Africa** received a Commendation for the Granger Bay Boulevard and Green Point Traffic Circle for the City of Cape Town: Roads and Major Projects Division. **GIBB** also received a Commendation for the Rhodesfield Project for the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa.

The category of **Engineering Excellence with a value less than R50 million**, was won by **SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants** for the Blackburn Pedestrian Bridge for SANRAL. Two Commendations were handed out, one to **KAYAD Knight Piésold**

for the Demise of the Athlone Cooling Towers for the City of Cape Town; and the other to **Vela VKE** for the Markgraaf Pedestrian Bridge for the City of Bloemfontein.

In the category of **Best International Project**, sponsored by the Built Environment Professionals Export Council (BEPEC), **BKS** was announced the winner for the Omdurman Water Treatment Works for Biwater, with **Golder Associates** receiving a Commendation for the Amoma Pit Infrastructure Detailed Design and Engineering for Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd.

**Bigen Africa Services** received an Accolade in the **Business Excellence** category sponsored by Business Report and in the **Young Company of the Year** category **ERO Engineers** were announced the winner.

In the **Visionary Client of the Year** category, CESA nominates candidates for the award, who must then consent to their nomination. Nominees in this category can be from the public, parastatal or private sectors, and are judged inter alia on their contribution to sustainable economic job creation in South Africa and or Africa. Creating sustainable development in communities through skills and knowledge transfer is an equally important factor. The judges also look at the opportunities provided for the growth and expression of professionals, including those from formerly disadvantaged communities. Projects should also have embraced innovative designs that highlight the ability of South Africans in the technological field. CESA this year gave recognition, in the category of **Visionary Client of the Year**, to **eThekweni Municipality**. CESA lauds eThekweni Municipality for being at the forefront of pioneering new procurement models for example their work on the Asbestos Cement (AC) Pipe Replacement Project. Notable projects that promote sustainable economic growth and job creation include the Moses Mabhida Stadium precinct development as well and the remodeling and rejuvenation of the Durban Beachfront Promenade. In addition to this eThekweni Municipality is achieving an outstanding reputation for re-using existing resources in a sustainable way. This includes the re-use of the aged asphalt that is recovered from their roads as part of their road rehabilitation strategy as well as nutrient recovery from sewage for use in agriculture, recycling and re-use to address the South African water crisis. The Municipality has prioritised the development of small businesses and the creation of opportunities for young people through access to technology. eThekweni Municipality recently launched hi-tech centres in poor communities, bringing much needed access to multimedia technologies.

In order to promote the Consulting Engineering industry to young professionals, CESA recognises the contribution young engineers make to the industry and to the future of the profession. Naturally the winner must be available to receive the award and attend the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) convention. Furthermore, he or she must be available to serve on CESA's Young Professional's Forum for a 12-month period. Judges look for outstanding performance in areas including technical achievement on a project; educational achievement; recognition such as awards received; contributions to sustainable development – such as environmental initiatives, social responsibilities, and community involvement. And finally, the winner in this category must have leadership ability, and contribute to the image of the firm and the industry as a whole. Once again, this year the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) sponsored the Young Engineer of the Year Award, enabling the winner to attend the FIDIC convention to be held in Davos, Switzerland this year. The winner in the category of **Young Engineer of the Year** is **Mpho Ramphao** from **Aurecon**.

In an effort to promote mentorship of young engineers CESA recognises the contribution Mentors make to the industry and the future of the profession. **SSI Engineers and Environmental Consultants** won the **Mentoring Company of the Year** category and

**Ric Snowden from ARUP** won the category of **Mentor of the Year**. In recognition of the role that the media plays in the industry, **Brooke Pattrick Publications** received recognition for **Publishing Excellence: Trade Media** and **Independent Newspapers** received recognition for **Publishing Excellence: Daily Newspapers**.

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