**PRESS RELEASE**

Zutari partners with WomEng to support female talent in engineering

**4 March 2022:** In celebration of [International Women’s Day (IWD)](https://www.internationalwomensday.com/) on 8 March, leading consulting engineering and infrastructure advisory firm [Zutari](http://www.zutari.com) has announced its commitment to partner with [WomEng](https://www.womeng.org/), a non-profit organisation (NPO) to assist women in engineering throughout their career pipeline. The IWD 2022 campaign theme is #BreakTheBias: Imagine a gender equal world.

“Zutari believes that to create a diverse workforce, we must invest in providing structures and networks outside of our organisation that support female engineers from when they register at tertiary intuitions to the time they enter the workplace,” says Chief Marketing & Communication Officer **Zipporah Maubane**.

Only 6% of registered professional engineers are women, according to the [2021 Annual Report](https://www.ecsa.co.za/about/pdfs/ECSA%20Annual%20Report%202021.pdf) of the Engineering Council of South Africa. This compares to 23% of the registered candidate engineers being women. Increasingly, female STEM talent is entering the industry, but the numbers significantly lag behind demographics.

Zutari will coordinate the participation of their graduate intake in the GirlEng programme by sharing real workplace experience with high school and university students. “Graduates who recently joined us will become Zutari ambassadors and participate in a community where they take charge of sharing their experiences and stories and thereby give back to their younger selves,” says Zipporah.

Other WomEng programmes that Zutari will sponsor include the GirlEng Technovation Bootcamps for top-performing high school students from underprivileged communities who are interested in engineering. Students are pooled from the various high schools where WomEng has partnerships.

The two-day bootcamps actively encourage students to pursue engineering at tertiary institutions by exposing them to female engineers who share what it is like to work in an engineering firm such as Zutari. Fun technical activities prompt the students to imagine themselves as solutionists by answering questions on what they would like to solve in their communities through engineering and technology.

The WomEng Fellowship is a pre-graduate programme targeting university students already studying engineering and who are about to graduate. The students are enrolled in an eight-month programme designed to empower them with workplace skills such as networking, pitching, and formulating ideas. This programme immerses students in the real world of work, preparing them to be up and running from the first day they are hired.

An example of a successful WomEng graduate working at Zutari is Asset Management Consultant **Biance Huysamen**, a data analyst and modeller. “I was excited for us to become involved with WomEng as I was one of their fellows and am part of that community. WomEng is one of the main reasons I ended up working at Zutari.”

“WomEng supports our partners to attract, develop and retain women in engineering globally. We use a combination of in-person experiential learning and virtual learning to connect, collaborate, and seek new opportunities for girls in STEM, women in engineering and technology,” says WomEng Co-Founder **Naadiya Moosajee**.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**To download hi-res images for this release, please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the Zutari link to view the company’s press office.

**About Zutari**

As engineering consultants and trusted advisors, Zutari co-creates an engineered impact that enables environments, communities and economies to thrive. Few others can match our local capacity, long-standing presence and understanding of the challenges required to operate successfully across various regions in Africa.

We have created an impact across Africa for the past 90 years (1932 to 2022) and remain committed to this continent, making us the perfect partner to those less familiar with working in Africa. We are experienced in international projects and our Global Design Centres allow us to bring world-class solutions to our clients.

As a private management-owned company, our commitment is true and we have vested interest in our clients’ success. Our strong relationships allow us to connect the right expertise, processes and resources to match client’s needs and bring stakeholders that have shared interests together.

We blend the old and the new. We have moved beyond traditional engineering and work collaboratively to integrate technical and creative thinking. This process of co-creation allows us to unearth new opportunities with our clients and partners.

Zutari’s broad collective of in-house, industry-recognised engineering consultants and trusted advisors provide seamless and integrated delivery. This unique ability to offer scaled engagement allows Zutari to solve complex challenges more efficiently.

Grounded in digital engineering, we continuously deliver better results.

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**About WomenEng**

WomEng is a multi-award winning social enterprise developing high-skilled girls and women for the engineering and technology industries. Our core philosophy is the promotion of STEM, focusing on engineering and technology from primary school to industry and ownership. We believe that cognitive and behavioural skills are vital for the engineering workforce. Beyond these skills it is important for girls and women to have mentorship and leadership development opportunities to create a virtuous cycle of women participating in STEM fields. For more information, visit <https://www.womeng.org/>.

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