**NEWS ARTICLE**

Zutari celebrates how its projects continue to make an impact on South Africa

**4 July 2023:** Celebrating its 90th anniversary last year, leading consulting engineering and infrastructure advisory firm [Zutari](http://www.zutari.com) is showcasing some of the leading projects that has allowed it to make a meaningful impact on South Africa’s socioeconomic landscape.

“When we talk about making an impact, it is about the positive impact we have on society, our communities, the environment, and in all aspects of the economy,” says Zutari CEO **Teddy Daka**. He adds that this is related to Zutari’s core value of ‘We Are One’.

“It is deep rooted in Zutari and South African culture that the world we live in today is not just ours. It belongs to future generations. Impact is about ensuring we do not disappoint in this goal and create an environment for ourselves that is liveable, but also to declare our commitment to leaving behind a legacy for others to follow.”

Daka stresses that Zutari is unable to make this impact on its own. “It is only possible because of the clients who give us challenges and problems to solve. Hence, we extend our gratitude to our clients for affording us the opportunity to work on projects that highlight how we can bring about impact with solutions that add value to people’s lives.”

One of these projects is the Zandvliet Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), the third largest in the City of Cape Town, serving some of its densest, fastest growing, and poorest communities. For years it has been overloaded and has polluted the downstream Kuils River, leading to severe degradation of the river and estuarine ecosystem on which communities depend for small-scale agriculture and fishing.

Over the past decade, the government has prohibited housing and development in the catchment because the receiving Zandvliet WWTW could not accommodate the additional flow. This development moratorium has left thousands without dignified housing and sanitation and stalled economic development.

Zutari was appointed in 2013 to design a suitable solution and manage construction to increase capacity at the Zandvliet WWTW. Over the last decade, it has been steadily and methodically assisting the City through planning, concept and detailed designs, licensing and environmental authorisation, contract administration, construction, and commissioning. To date, Zutari has completed all designs and has implemented six out of the eight construction contracts.

“This project embodied a combination of technical mastery and digital acumen to co-create an engineered impact,” says **Imraan Paleker** from Water, Waste and Energy at Zutari. The project was a showcase for 3D modelling and the first to develop a Virtual Reality (VR) model, according to **Daniel Petrie**, Chemical Engineer.

“It was particularly helpful as it allowed our client to understand the design. Looking at 2D drawings is not how we experience the world. Being able to look at it in 3D, even though it was virtual, gave the client the confidence that they wanted to take it on and operate it well into the future,” says Petrie.

Another feature of Zandvliet is the sophistication of the instrumentation and information management adopted for a working plant. “It is unlike any wastewater treatment plant in the municipal space that we have had exposure to,” says Petrie. Real-life remote access to the data that is being accumulated will allow Zutari to track and pick up on any opportunities for process optimisation.

Zandvliet is a showcase of Zutari’s capabilities in the digital space, with the company embarking on a journey to become a fully-fledged digital practice by 2025, says **Dr. Gustav Rohde**, Deputy Chief Executive.

“It will improve our delivery process, remove duplication, and help to address any client pain points. We want to make sure that our clients benefit not only from our increased efficiency, but our understanding of the digital space itself. The ‘digital world’ means we can now connect things; we can connect infrastructure to people.”

Another flagship project that is testament to the role that creating adaptable infrastructure plays in economic development is the TASEZ Cluster 2 Ford Frame in Tshwane. The Ford Frame building has a massive footprint of 78 000 m² and a gross building area of about 100 000m². It essentially serves as a manufacturing, painting, and storage factory for the new Ford chassis in South Africa.

The vision for the project was to be the benchmark for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in South Africa and a major creator of new businesses, contributing to employment through transformation and socioeconomic development, while prioritising the growth of the local automotive sector.

Similarly ambitious were the engineering challenges facing the project team, both technically and from a programming perspective, to effectively deliver this project on time, fit-for-purpose, and within budget.

“It is the largest automotive city in Africa,” says **Daniel Struwig**, Technical Specialist – Structural Engineering. “The project was delivered in record time and involved a massive collaborative effort,” he adds. It generated 20 000 employment opportunities, of which 2 000 were permanent.

At the end of the day, Zutari “delivers long-lasting and futureproof infrastructure through human-centred design and engineering,” says **Joe Ndala**, Chief Financial Officer. “Our approach delivers robust infrastructure with multiple lifecycles.”

**Webb Meko**, Chief Clients Officer, adds that Zutari “promotes the concept of responsible engineering to co-create impactful infrastructure. We believe this can be done in a manner sensitive to the environment.”

**Dr. Eduard Vorster**, Managing Director, Resources, concludes: “Zutari showcases its inclusive methods to present opportunities for all stakeholders and result in solutions that deliver human dignity. At the end of the day, impact means accelerated equitable quality of life for all.”

***Ends***

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

**About Zutari**

As an engineering and advisory firm, we believe infrastructure has unparalleled potential to create enduring impact. Never more relevant, this potential can be realised only if we plan, design, deliver and manage infrastructure in ways that maximise its value. Our work in water, transport, energy, resources, and built-environment infrastructure does just this – helping to nurture thriving communities, growing economies, and healthy environments.

At Zutari we understand that radical impact doesn’t just happen; it requires more of us to connect differently, work smarter, and stay rooted.

**We connect differently**. Our broad collective of in-house experts connects across traditional disciplines to provide integrated results. We collaborate with clients, partners, and end-users, leaning into diverse perspectives to create superior solutions - together.

**We work smarter**. Our people lead the industry. We draw from deep technical skills, accrued over decades, and embrace the transformative power of digital technology to find simpler, better, and more innovative ways to deliver value.

**We stay rooted**. Few can rival our local capacity and understanding. Building on solid foundations, now 90 years in the making, we are trusted to shape locally relevant solutions through our extensive footprint in Africa and the Middle East.

At Zutari our people connect differently, work smarter, and stay rooted. Working in this way, we reliably deliver impact through infrastructure, making the world a better place – one project at a time.

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