FUCHS LUBRICANTS SOUTH AFRICA invests R218 m to increase local production capacity

**11 December 2023:** Following the successful completion of its Phase One expansion at its Isando facility, [FUCHS LUBRICANTS SOUTH AFRICA](http://www.fuchs.com/za) is on track with the next phase of the project. Commencing earlier this year and expected to be completed in 2024 at a total cost of R218 million, Phase Two will see a 40% increase in lubricants production capacity, says MD **Paul Deppe**.

“As part of our growth strategy, we started planning our capacity expansion some five years ago,” explains Deppe. Phase One of the investment plan involved acquiring additional land at the Isando facility and construction of a new, state-of-the-art warehouse and head office complex, which was completed in mid-2022 by DRA Global, which engineered, procured, constructed, and managed the project.

“The next part of our expansion is to increase our production capacity,” says Deppe. This was necessary as the current plant is running at capacity 24/7. “To meet market demand, we had to look at expanding our production capability. It also afforded us the opportunity to introduce the latest technology in blending and filling processes.”

Deppe points out that the new plant is an expansion of the existing plant and will bring about much needed capacity increase. FUCHS embarked on its automation journey when it built its second grease plant in 2018. “We are adopting the same methodology with the automation of this plant, using a well-known German com-pany that has done work for the group in other parts of the world,” says Deppe. He adds that 80% of the pro-ject spend will be local and the balance imported, mainly on the automation.

**Esther Seabi**, Sustainability Director at FUCHS, reveals that in line with the FUCHS Net Zero goals, the project will focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy as key drivers. Features will include insulation, variable speed drives (VSDs), heat recovery from heated product and flue gas, and a solar PV system. Recently, FUCHS received an accolade from the Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) Leadership Awards for 2021-2022. In addition, the new FUCHS head office has been certified as being net zero carbon.

The new warehouse in Isando incorporates some of the latest warehouse management technology, including scanning and system driven batch control. The new materials-handling equipment includes narrow-aisle turret trucks stacking up to 17 m high. The warehouse includes a comprehensive environmental, safety and fire system, including in-rack sprinklers and automated spill barriers.

Deppe remains bullish about growth in both the local and African markets. “We are steadily increasing our market share and expanding throughout Sub-Saharan Africa from our regional hub in Isando,” he concludes.

***Ends***

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FUCHS develops, produces, and markets high-grade lubricants and related specialties for virtually all industries Founded in 1931 as a family business in Mannheim, FUCHS is now the world's largest independent supplier of innovative lubricant solutions, covering almost every industry and application. Today, the company’s 6 000 employees in over 50 countries still share the same goal: To keep the world moving both sustainably and efficiently.

To live up to this claim, we think in terms of perfection, not merely standards. When developing individual solutions, we enter into an intensive customer dialogue – acting as an experienced consultant, innovative problem solver and reliable team partner. The results we provide meet not only the highest technological requirements, but also help customers save on operating costs and emissions. Because at FUCHS, sustainability is not simply an empty phrase, but a mindset – and thus the basis and aspiration of all our business activity.

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