**PRESS RELEASE**

World class consultancy services’ Power and Energy division looks forward to a good year

***28 August, 2014:*** *With the current state of the power and energy market, SMEC South Africa has positioned itself well by introducing a new addition to its functional groups, the Power and Energy division.*

SMEC functional head of Power and Energy, **Andre van der Walt**, notes that since establishing the Power and Energy division in July last year, the division has already acquired measurable success and is working on major projects within the power and energy sector. With its holistic approach to business and projects, the SMEC Power and Energy division is able to see projects through from inception right through to completion, providing customers with tailored local solutions backed by Global expertise.

SMEC’s Power and Energy services extend through all stages of project delivery, including: feasibility studies; front-end engineering; modelling and analysis; engineering design; procurement; contract management; construction supervision; quality-assurance and operation; and maintenance services.

“With the service offering that SMEC Power and Energy is able to offer and the medium-term outlook for the sector looking promising with significant infrastructure capital spend on the cards, SMEC Power and Energy is looking forward to at a bright future,” states van der Walt.

Speaking on infrastructure development within South Africa, van der Walt says: “The key to unlocking the infrastructure expenditure lies with the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission’s ability to enable the roll out of the National Infrastructure Plan (NIP). The NIP, which was adopted in 2012, intends to transform the economic landscape while simultaneously creating a significant number of new jobs and strengthening the delivery of basic services. SMEC Power and Energy is well placed to take advantage of the NIP, as it comes to fruition.”

Currently, SMEC Power and Energy is involved in two significant South African energy projects. The larger of the two projects is being developed by a local developer for submission in Round 4 of the Department of Energy’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP). On completion, the project will provide power to more than 13 000 mid-income households.

“In addition, we are working on a community electrification project in the Mogalakwena Municipal area, in the Limpopo province, whereby we will be providing our services to ultimately supply some 1440 household with electricity. We are currently in the design phase of the project and need to investigate the best electrification options for the community,” explains van der Walt.

SMEC Power and Energy’s technical and consulting engineering expertise are mainly focused on servicing the transmission &distribution, hydropower, renewables and industrial sectors within Africa.

“Our Transmission & Distribution business is the most active of our market sectors given the huge need for expansion and refurbishment of the power supply network in South Africa – mainly through Eskom and Municipal authorities,” explains van der Walt.

“As a team we are aiming high. There are a number of existing opportunities that we are pursuing that would get us to the position of one of the leading players in the power and energy market. The division is attracting fantastic talent and we are well-positioned for continued growth in the coming future. Our medium-term target is to grow the business by approximately 20% per year for the next three years. We believe that we are taking a realistic, aggressive approach to growing the new division,” concludes van der Walt.

***Ends.***

**Notes to the Editor**There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the SMEC link.

**About SMEC**SMEC is a professional services firm with Australian origins and a global footprint that provides high-quality consultancy services on major infrastructure projects.  SMEC has over 5,100 employees and an established network of more than 70 offices in Australia, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and North and South America.

SMEC South Africa provides professional engineering services throughout South Africa and the rest of Africa in the following sectors: hydropower, transport, water, natural resources and environment, geotechnical, mining, tunnelling, urban development, renewable energy, power, government and advisory services and social infrastructure development.

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