**PRESS RELEASE**

World-class roof features prominently on new community pavilion

***21 May, 2014:*** *The impressive 'stadium-style' roof structure that is recognised as a unique feature of the recently completed Bridgton Sports Pavilion in Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, was designed and constructed by internationally-recognised consultancy firm SMEC.*

The R11-million pavilion, which officially opened in mid-2013, boasts a seating capacity for 1 220 spectators. The roof structure at Bridgton Pavilion is a unique characteristic seldom seen outside of the South Africa's city stadiums, states SMEC South Africa section manager for commercial and industrial development **Marius Mostert**.

"The structure is a triangular tapering tubular truss system that cantilevers off the concrete frame. It was chosen because of the self-stabilising triangular shape of the trusses, which are prone to force reversal in wind conditions that generate both tension and compression forces on the steel members. Circular hollow sections were identified as the most suitable compression steel members, due to the symmetry of the section and the highest radius of gyration for its mass,” he explains.

The Bridgton Sports Pavilion, constructed to overlook the pre-existing rugby and cricket fields, also features changing rooms, referee facilities and meeting rooms beneath the grandstand. Mostert adds: "The concrete construction of the grandstand was designed to maximise the use of local skills and labour on the project, thereby adding even greater value to the local community."

Mostert states that a strong working relationship between all parties involved in the project ensured that all challenges were swiftly overcome. "The synergetic collaboration between the client, the professional team, main contractor, steel contractor and steel detailers all came together to result in the completion of this impressive structure within specified deadlines and budgets," he concludes.

***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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