Sika has secured the supply of approximately 500,000 litres of Sika ViscoCrete-3088 and 300,000 litres of Sika-Retarder, which is of significant benefit to our business and to the consistent reputation of Sika’s high quality products,” says Sika South Africa’s Business Unit Manager, Andre Barnard. Sika ViscoCrete-3088 has been used extensively, world-wide, for normal workability concrete, extended workability requirements as well as for self-compacting concrete. Sika Retarder is used in conjunction with ViscoCrete as a highly efficient, set-retarding admixture for structural and mass concrete, where a controlled extension of setting time is required.

The Moatize Coal project also involves initiatives dedicated to investment in human capital (health, education and professional training), the creation of infrastructure and the development of sustainable economic activity (a model farm for cattle raising and agriculture) to create jobs and generate income flows for the local population.

Sika ViscoCrete Technology, Sika’s world renowned concrete admixture and high performance superplasticiser, has been selected as the exclusive concrete admixture for use in the construction of the Moatize Coal Project in Mozambique. This ground-breaking project, which will include the construction of one of the world’s largest coal handling preparation plants in an operational site, with capacity to process 26 million metric tons of coal per year, was pioneered by Vale, the global mining conglomerate, in 2004 and is due for completion in 2011.

Vale has contracted a consortium of two major Brazilian construction and engineering groups, Odebrecht and Camargo Corrêa, to undertake the civil engineering and construction work, and to help stimulate and develop local suppliers of products and services for Moatize. The mining group will be identifying potential local partners in the Moatize district. Currently, more than 2,000 people are working on the site, 90% of them Mozambican, and at the height of construction, this figure will exceed 3,000, primarily Mozambicans.

Situated in the North Western Province of Mozambique, some 35 kilometres from the town of Tete and surrounded by undeveloped land, logistical planning to meet the demand for on-time delivery of orders will be a critical success factor to the customer and critical to the suppliers’ bottom line.

Sika is honoured to have been selected to participate in this large-scale, global mining project which will provide sustainable development in Mozambique.
**Sika’s World Cup Soccer Sweepstakes**

Sika has much cause for celebration during the year 2010: not only is it Sika’s international Centenary AND Sika SA’s 21st birthday (more in the next issue of Sika Beat) but as proud South Africans we all celebrate our nation’s hosting of the Soccer World Cup. As one of the key suppliers to the construction industry, Sika has made a significant contribution to the world class soccer stadiums and training facilities that have mushroomed all over our country in the past couple of years. They are:

- Moses Mabhida - Durban
- Harry Gwala - Pietermaritzburg
- Greenpoint - Cape Town
- Soccer City - Gauteng
- Nelson Mandela - Port Elizabeth
- Peter Mokaba Stadium - Polokwane
- Mbombela Stadium - Mpumalanga
- Orlando Stadium - Soweto
- Coca Cola Park (Ellis Park) - Johannesburg
- Rand Stadium - Johannesburg
- Free State Stadium - Bloemfontein
- Hyundai Park - Soweto (Training/Practice venue)

These huge buildings are amazing platforms for displaying South Africa’s talents and capabilities to our visitors and to the whole world via TV coverage. So, how are YOU going to participate in the excitement and hype of this massive event? And, how can you benefit? Watch this space and other communications for guidelines from Sika’s Secret Soccer Team… Have we got something in store for you? LET THE GAMES BEGIN!
In 1918 Sika celebrated its first successes when the company overcame the challenge of waterproofing the first Gotthard railway tunnel for impending electrification. Almost 100 years later the Gotthard Base Tunnel, which on completion will become the longest tunnel in the world at 57 kilometres, presents challenges comparable to those of Sika’s early days, while entirely new ones have also come to light. As always, Sika solutions position the company at the fore.

The Gotthard Base Tunnel will be an extraordinary structure – an innovation in tunnel construction. The tunnel burrows through one of the highest alpine mountain ranges, the Gotthard. Beneath these high mountain peaks the tunnel courses some 2000 metres below the rock, and at its crown will lie only about 550 metres above sea level. It is this new route that will revolutionise railway traffic between the North and the South of Europe as it can be utilised by both massive freight trains and modern high speed passenger trains; shortening the journey time for passenger trains between Zurich and Milan by an hour. But it is not just the dimensions that present great challenges for the tunnel builders; above all the climatic conditions and the structural specifications make this the structure of the century:
- Service life of the concrete of 100 years
- High temperatures below ground (30 – 40°C)
- High humidity (above 80%)
- Long transport distances for fresh concrete (up to 30 km)
- Long workability for fresh concrete (up to 6 hours)
- Prevalent mountain water, corrosive for concrete

Sika solutions for the structure of the century
With Sika admixtures the concrete for the Gotthard Tunnel can be adapted continuously to the respective requirements. In particular the tunnel builders need highly specific formulae for shotcrete. Water reducers such as SikaViscoCrete, set retarders such as SikaTard, and pumping agents such as SikaPump must be added to the concrete to ensure it can be transported over the long distances in the tunnel and still constantly remain workable – for up to six hours.

Fruitful cooperation in the tunnel
Due to the size and complexity of this project, a comprehensive qualification process was carried out between 1996 and 2002. Sika teamed up with concrete suppliers Holcim to have their concrete formulae tested together, an investment of more than three million Swiss francs and numerous hours of work in advance. Schlumpf, Sika Concrete Technologist, remarks: “I’ve been participating in this project since the very first concrete trial… It is THE project above all others – for me and for Sika. We’ve invested in concrete formulae improvements like never before. Today the Gotthard Project is the Sika reference par excellence, and will hopefully help us secure additional major project orders.”

Sika is one of the main suppliers for the new Gotthard tunnel; after extensive testing, Sika together with Holcim, won the contract for three of the five sections.
**Sika History**

**The early days: experimental work, difficult beginnings and the Gotthard breakthrough (1910 – 1920)**

In 1910, Kaspar Winkler’s first inventions were agents used to protect and clean granite (“Conservado”, “Purigo”) and a mortar waterproofing agent (“Sika-1”). In 1911 he entered his firm, Kaspar Winkler & Co., into the Commercial Register, but getting his business off the ground was very difficult and he was in the red especially during World War I. His breakthrough came in 1918 when the Swiss Federal Railways ran successful trials using Sika to waterproof the tunnels of the Gotthard section.

**Expansion abroad (1920 – 1940)**

Kaspar Winkler & Co. had potential to expand internationally but an attempt to sell licences worldwide failed. In 1921 a subsidiary with its own, small-scale manufacturing facility was founded in Southern Germany and subsequent subsidiaries in England, Italy and France were founded by a Director for Foreign Operations. In 1928 Winkler’s son-in-law, Fritz Schenker, joined the firm’s executive board and, after legally ousting the Director for Foreign Operations (by sacrificing ownership of the German and Italian subsidiaries as well as trademark rights in other European countries), he single-mindedly pursued worldwide expansion. By the end of the 1930s, Sika had a presence in Europe, North and South America and in Asia (Japan).

**The war and the economic boom (1940 – 1970)**

During World War II, Sika companies continued production in every country in which they were present. As a result Sika was responsible for producing admixtures for bunkers built in Switzerland and German-occupied areas, as well as for the concrete ships used by the Allies to transport war material and those eventually used in the Normandy landing. During the boom of the 50s and 60s, new Sika subsidiaries were founded from Sweden to Cuba. A second generational change was heralded in Switzerland by Romuald Burkard’s entry into the firm in 1953, from which time he gradually took over the leadership from his father-in-law, Fritz Schenker, who died in 1971. By 1968 Sika had become one integral corporate structure, including Sika Finanz AG, but during the economic recession of the late 60s, the company slid into a serious financial crisis. The situation was ominous and Sika narrowly avoided insolvency.

**Sika goes beyond the limits of construction chemistry (1970 – 1980)**

By streamlining the leadership structures and bringing all the companies under the joint management of Sika Finanz AG, the sale of Sika shares to a large chemical or construction company was averted. The Burkard-Schenker family kept a slim majority in the company, (which it still does to the present day), however operational leadership was transferred from family owners to non-family managers. Although the 70s was not a happy time for the company, with enormous efforts, Sika triumphed over both its internal problems and financial difficulties.
resulting from the severe recession of the mid 70s. These crisis years ultimately strengthened the Sika spirit and an enduring cry of unity was shaped during this period. The Sika spirit stands for the employee attitude of solidarity and optimism, an example of which was the wage cut Sika Schweitz staff agreed to in the middle of this crisis (reversed as soon as Sika recovered). It was after this that a product, developed in 1968 but accounting for a modest portion of turnover, evolved into a bestseller: the one-component, elastic polyurethane adhesive, Sikaflex.

**Crisis management and stagnation (1980 – 1990)**

With the success of the versatile adhesive Sikaflex, Sika launched into the automotive industry, shaking off its traditional fixation on construction chemistry in the process. This diversification was aimed at increasing resistance to economic cycles, as well as expanding the Sika presence world-wide. With the 1982 take over of Lechler Chemie in Stuttgart, Sika increased the number of its personnel from 3,000 to over 4,000 in one stroke – finally making a concerted attempt to further develop the German market. In the second half of the 80s, an economic boom in most of the industrial nations enabled Sika to benefit, surpassing the turnover threshold of one billion francs in 1989.

**Sika makes the globe its home (1990 – 2000)**

Between 1990 and 1995, Sika founded 16 new subsidiaries strengthening its presence especially in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. In spite of this, the 1990s were not an easy decade and Sika had to combat recession as well as weak profitability, which it attributed to competition and increasing raw materials prices. By withdrawing from less lucrative, non-core businesses, such as the building of robots used to rehabilitate sewer lines the problem was solved. Sika also abandoned the manufacture of road building products and almost sold its sealing membrane business to Sarna.

**Sika seals, bonds, dampens, reinforces and protects (2000-2010)**

The very same Sarna became a member of the Sika Group ten years later: in 2005 this central Swiss company, specialising in membranes, was absorbed by Sika by then seven times its size. However, the new century heralded one of the stormiest decades in Sika history. Turnover increased from 2 billion to more than 4.6 billion francs, a significant portion of which was contributed by the 38 firms acquired between 2000 and 2009. During this period, the workforce increased from 8,000 to 12,000. From 2000 onwards, Sika’s core competencies were summarized by five verbs: sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting. From basement to roof, Sika aimed to become the market leader in these technological disciplines. Sika ViscoCrete, the concrete admixture launched in 2000, became a significant sales mainstay. Sika also experienced a boom in other business units - in 2006 the turnover increased by more than a third. The company, whose holding has since 2002 been known as “Sika AG” for short, had to invest massively in increased personnel and production capacities, restructuring the organisation of management in the process. Since 2006, all marketing and sales activities have consistently been geared via new centralized Business Units, towards the four most important customer groups: “Distribution”, “Contractors”, “Concrete” and “Industry”. Towards the end of the decade, the maestrom of the severe international recession triggered by the financial crisis, also took hold of Sika. Despite this, Sika was able to increase its market share virtually everywhere. On the threshold of its 100- year anniversary in 2010, Sika stands well equipped to face the future.

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**Sika Advertising...from 1910 to 2010**

From 1910’s simple illustrations in black and white to 2010’s full colour photographs set off by Sika’s distinctive red and yellow branding, we’ve come a long way in 100 years. Throughout this century of largely successful trading, Sika has never underestimated the value of advertising and always strived to stand out from the crowd.
Sika Marketing

SIKA SPONSORS 24-HOUR CHALLENGE SAIL RACE

In March Sika sponsored the MAC 24-Hour Challenge Sail Race which is a distance team race as well as an attempt to sail the most kilometres non-stop in 24 hours. This exciting 24-hour challenge attracts entries from development sailing programs, national and international teams, as well as the S.A. Navy and S.A. Air force teams. Sika donated a tube of much needed lip balm to each sailor participating in the event, to prevent chapped, sore lips caused by the harsh windy conditions.

Milnerton Aquatic Club (MAC) was host to this, the 13th annual sailing challenge of the year at Rietvlei near Tableview in Cape Town. The vlei was a magical sight of colourful sails with a record entry of 41 boats on the water, and a record number of spectators attending to cheer the sailors on. Bongani Mnisi, Nature Conservation Area Manager, sounded the hooter for the start of the race, which commenced in a North Wester wind of 15–20 knots, gusting 25, resulting in several dinghies capsizing and keeping the NSRI Melkbos St 18 and MAC Rescue busy!

Team Barloworld damaged Team Kyotic’s gunwale, but with the determination and perseverance of the crew, Kyotic completed the challenge in 33rd position, thus winning the SIKA Endurance Floating Trophy. Sika was the proud sponsors of the SIKA Sea Scouts, providing the team with Sika shirts and caps. Christo Fuhri (Industry Sales Consultant) was also there to help seal their leaks in the hull with Sika waterproof adhesives.

Gusts of rain throughout Saturday afternoon and evening did nothing to dampen the spirit of the challenge. From midnight on Saturday ’til 10h00 on Sunday the wind dropped and boats took up to three quarters of an hour to complete a lap of 1035m. Due to these conditions neither the world record nor the S.A. record was in sight. However, the teams remained challenged and when the hooter sounded at 12.00pm on Sunday 28th, although tired, the sailors continued for an additional hour, proving the ‘Bar One for the 25 hour day’ slogan possible. The winner of the ‘Nestle Bar One for a 25 hour day’ Trophy was won by Webasto from WYC.

24-Hour Challenge Overall line honours: 1st position was won by Southern Spars of Hermanus Yacht Club, with 148 laps; 2nd was Burn Out Brothers – Isivunguvungu, a development team from Simonstown; 3rd was Softel from ZYC. 24-Hour Overall Handicap: 1st position was Southern Spars HYC, 2nd was Burn Out Brothers – Isivunguvungu. TSC Awlgrip from TSC and Electra Glide from Mac tied in 3rd position.

Sika Sponsors Precious Patches

Sika’s Western Cape Branch in Montague Gardens kindly donated their old pallets (wooden boards used to stack products) to the “Feeding Children in Africa” (FCIA) initiative. As part of this feeding scheme, the organisers have implemented a project called The Precious Patches Project to teach the under-privileged children (of Koranrug Primary School in Darling) to grow their own vegetables in these make-shift garden crates.

FCIA currently supports ten rural schools on the West Coast and Overberg regions. “It is important to teach these children a skill which they can use for the rest of their lives. They will learn to sustain not only themselves and their families, but the community as well”, says Bronwyn Croxford, Director of FCIA.
Cape Town Premier supports Women in Construction

“Fantastic” was the adjective Helen Zille used as she and the Minister of Housing, Mr. B. S. Madikizela, went on a walk-about through Cape Town’s Greenbuilding Centre, where Sika houses a permanent display of its distribution products and systems.

The Building Centre served as the registration venue for 200 delegates attending the “Women in Construction” Awards Ceremony, held at the Conference Centre at the end of 2009. The Premier is known for her support of women in business, especially male-dominated industries and her attendance was well received by all delegates.

Pictured below is exhibitor, Attilio Angelucci of “Cobute”, introducing his revolutionary floor slab system to the Premier and the Housing Minister.

New Merchandising Tools

Sika’s exciting new point-of-sale tools, complete with Sika branding will soon be seen in a number of DIY outlets nationwide, including regional Massmart stores. Individual aisle splitters featuring product information on Cemflex, Raintite, Sikagard-703W and Sikagard-905W will indicate product position and application which will be installed on the shelf along the floor aisles and draw attention to Sika product.

The Massmart group, which includes Builders Warehouse and Builders Express stores nationwide, will receive aisle splitters showing the new packaging of DampTite, H2O Tite and Fibre Tite. The illustrations will also show application of these three products, especially produced by Sika for the Massmart group.

LOUD AND PROUD KZN BLITZ

An enthusiastic KZN sales team “Blitzed” the majority of relevant stores in the KZN Region during the Sika Distribution Blitz from 29th March to 1st April. The added value offered for the week-long promotion was great pricing specials and Sika giveaways, but we could never have accomplished this without a very loud and proud, bright red and yellow Sika presence in and around each of the stores!

A Sika model house, showcasing all Sika distribution products, was offered as a prize in a stores’ competition, thereby gaining a lot of extra attention. As a unique display tool, the Sika model house is a benefit to any store. Qualifying stores will be informed shortly of the lucky winner. Sika’s top selling products on promotion were Raintite Kit, Cemflex, Sikadur AP Epoxy and Sanisil.

Product training also took place during the Sika Blitz. The sales team from Builders Trade Depot, Marburg was given a quick product refresher training session prior to the team-building braai Sika hosted at their premises. The range of products stocked currently at Builders Trade Depot was covered including: Sikadur AP Epoxy, Sikalite, Sikaflex 11FC/PRO 2 HP, Sikagard 703W, Sanisil, Sika Grout 212 and Sika Boom.

“We had great fun with all our customers and look forward to the promotional Blitz toward the end of the year” says Mervyn Naidoo, Sika Regional Sales Manager.
Bloemfontein celebrates Glasfit Opening

On the 18th March, Glasfit hosted an exclusive cocktail party at their new premises at the Loch Logan Waterfront Shopping Centre in celebration of its first opening in Bloemfontein. Store manager, Surene Botha welcomed key customers and suppliers invited to the event, including Sika personnel, Jacques Reinecke (Industry BU Manager), Roland van der Merwe (Industry Consultant) and Warren Taylor (Key Account Manager AGR). Franche Robberts (MD Glasfit Bloemfontein) and Chantell Lord (Glasfit Franchise Director) each gave a speech and invited guests to look around and enjoy themselves. The new centre is able to accommodate up to eight cars in the fitment area, which is considered substantial by industry standards. Due to the branch being located in an old underground car park, the idea was to create a drive-through design, which it manages to achieve successfully.

Sika hosts National Autoglass Customer Evening

Sika’s new National Distribution Centre at Sika Head Office in Westmead Pinetown, was the spacious venue for the National Autoglass Customer Evening held on Friday 20th November 2009. The event attracted a large attendance of 70 people, including Sika’s National Technical Sales Consultants, Jacques Reinecke - BU Manager Industry, Steve Swart - Managing Director for National Autoglass KZN as well as KZN National Autoglass customers and independents.

Jacques Reinecke welcomed guests before introducing Steve Swart of National Autoglass. Steve spoke about the importance of safety and care in glass fitment and replacement, and explained briefly why National Autoglass chooses Sika technologies as their preferred supplier. Warren Taylor, Sika’s Key Account Manager (KAM) AGR, gave a presentation on the advantages of using Sika products and the necessity of incorporating correct applications and best practice. He listed the do’s and don’t of glass replacements and discussed the dangers of short cuts, emphasizing Sika’s “No Shortcuts to Safety” initiative.

Industry Vehicle & Trailer Branding

Roland’s notorious Technical Services Caddy has had a facelift! When the old caddy reached its sell-by date and was traded in, BU Industry decided that a fresh new design was in order. The new look was originated using the corporate ‘Digital Car’ image and gives the caddy a bright and bold impact. The Industry automotive trailer was also overhauled from plain and boring to “in-your-face” Sika. Each was treated, re-painted and branded. Just another initiative to guarantee the Sika brand is loud and proud!

“SikaKnows” Marine

BU Industry has commissioned the construction of a Sika “Boat Nose” to be displayed at the annual Cape Town International Boat Show in October. This display tool indicates the innovative technology of Sika Marine products through a hands-on approach. All attachments and trimmings are authentic marine parts, including the teak decking and caulking. The “SikaKnows” is sure to be a great attraction at the Boat Show where a captured audience will be shown exactly where Sika products are applied, and thereafter the benefits of Sika’s 100 years of Innovation & Consistency will be understood.
Reinforcing Rietvlei Dam:
Another Sika Success

The Rietvlei Dam, completed in 1934 during the Great Depression, received a recent R7 million reinforcement. Although originally constructed to supply water to the Pretoria region in South Africa, the Rietvlei Dam - which is fed by the Sesmyl Spruit and tributaries streaming from five surrounding mountains - has since been declared a nature reserve. Due to its lack of structural fortification, Tshwane Municipality secured BKS Engineers to reinforce this cherished landmark to secure the safety of its tower and to strengthen the aging structure, in the occurrence of earth tremors or an earthquake. Civil contractors, Hindle Mason Projects wisely made use of Sika’s high performance products to ensure that the objective of this endeavour was safely and efficiently achieved. To this end, 1,600 metres of Sika CarboDur Plates and 90 kilograms of Sikadur-30 were utilised. Designed for strengthening concrete, timber and masonry structures, the Sika CarboDur Plates of pultruded carbon fibre were bonded onto the Rietvlei structure as external reinforcement using Sikadur-30 adhesive. Used to strengthen against the damage to structural elements by the deterioration of original construction materials, steel corrosion and earthquakes, this multi-use product is lightweight but also of a very high strength, it is easy to transport in rolls and requires minimal preparation for application.

The operation undertaken overcame spatial limitations and difficulties of access to the site and proceeded in three stages. The contractors began by removing existing coatings in preparation for the Sika CarboDur Plates by sandblasting the surface area free of contaminants, which may have hampered proper structural adhesion. A pull test was successfully carried out in the second stage of the project achieving results well above the required 1.5 mpa.

After removing landings and steel works to set up the scaffolding needed, the Sika CarboDur Plates were permanently attached to the Rietvlei construction with the unrivalled Sikadur-30 – a solvent-free, thixotropic, structural two part adhesive.

This concrete treatment together with Sika CarboDur Plates and Sikadur-30 ensured the desired strength needed for the renewed Rietvlei tower against earthquakes and overall deterioration.

Rietvlei Dam Inlet Tower containing pipes that lead to the station under the dam to cleanse and clarify the water. Sika CarboDur was applied to the inside of the tower stem to reinforce the structure.

Sika’s Roofing Solutions Treat Waste Water Works

Sika was the obvious choice when roofing solutions for anaerobic digesters at the Cape Flats waste water treatment works were specified by Ninham Shands Consulting Engineers. On behalf of this R22-million project, Empa contractors called for the integrity of world-class products, since the water treatment plant is situated at Zeekoevlei Nature Reserve, one of the youngest conservation areas in the province.

The spalled concrete roofs of three anaerobic digesters, built 31 years ago, needed complete removal and replacement in order that the existing structures could be serviced and repaired for guaranteed safety and continued use. Erection of scaffolding was necessary to access these tall structures (post tensional strength) before demolition work could be carried out. Once in place, demolition work on the roofs began, however the existing concrete was still in fair condition, making destruction of the roof challenging at first.

The existing walls were treated with Sika’s structural repair mortars and Sika FerroGard-903 (MCI) was used to coat the structure. The improved formulation of Sika FerroGard-903 migrates through concrete to the surface of the steel-reinforcement to substantially delay the start of deterioration and reduce the rate of corrosion. Sikalastic-150 was specified for its advantageous crack bridging capacity as a protective coating against chloride and carbonation ingress. This is easily applied to a prepared substrate using a notched trowel, brush or sprayer-applied. Sika products were applied to a total external surface area of 300m.

The concrete roof for the anaerobic digesters at Cape Flats waste water works was successfully replaced and structural repairs to the remaining structure was completed with the help of Sika’s advanced solutions, ensuring the City Of Cape Town receives efficient services far into the future.
When Saldanha Steel undertook a substantial renovation project, Sika was contracted to supply the construction products for the repairs and refurbishment of the internal floor and wall areas. The combined value of the project amounted to approximately R6 million and BKS/Mittal, the on-site engineers, called on Sika to provide advanced quality products and professional training for the contractors, Potgieter Boudienste, Phutuma Projects and Lattie Potgieter. Saldanha Steel, part of Mittal Steel South Africa, is largely export-focused and distinguished from other industrial plants by its ‘green’ attitude. Globally, the plant is the only steel mill to have successfully joined the Midrex/Corex process into an uninterrupted chain.

The floors, which had an existing screed, and other substrates had to be extensively cleaned, sanded and water jetted and then resurfaced in a very short amount of time due to the limited shut down period allocated by the plant. The repairs, relining and renovations completed during the course of this project included three surface areas on which Sika products were applied. The internal floor and wall areas of the Midrex/Corex clarifiers were first prepped for resurfacing by vigorous cleaning of the existing substrates. Allowing for a shorter application time, 5500 square-metres of Sikagard-63N was used following the application of Sikagard-720 EpoCem ZA. Sikagard-63N is a two-part epoxy resin coating used for protecting a wide variety of substrates against the effects of highly aggressive chemical environments, corrosion and weathering. Sikagard-720 EpoCem ZA, on the other hand, is a superfine epoxy-cement sealing mortar which functions as a thin film sealer on both flooring and walls for leveling and finishing. Because Sikagard-720 EpoCem ZA is impervious to liquids, it provides an excellent bond to green concrete and allows minimum waiting time prior to the application of other Sika resin based finish products, such as the Sikagard-63N.

Having no specialist experience of using Sika products prior to this project, the contractors had to be trained by Sika before application and to their credit, all surfaces were completed on schedule.

For further information on Sika products and systems, visit www.sika.co.za

Saldanha Steel has a Sika Intervention

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Sika rises to the challenge of St Albans Bulk Sewer Main

There were challenges aplenty when Sika was called on to supply materials for a chemical resistant coating to the interior walls, floor and roof slab of St Albans’ Bulk Sewer Main, a pump station situated in a bushveld area about 35km from Port Elizabeth.

Located in such an isolated position meant that there was no electricity or water on site; and ventilation was a problem while working as the pump station is below ground level with only two manholes to each of the four chambers. Extractors and blowers had to be installed temporarily to assist airflow, which allowed the products to dry and cure while simultaneously ensuring the safety of the applicators who had to work with epoxy in these confined spaces. Additionally, due to the chambers being below ground level, surface moisture was a constant problem, thus a temporary moisture barrier was necessary.

WK Construction subcontracted MCS (Multi Contract Specialists) to undertake the application of Sika coatings. Joubert Nel of specifiers Aurecon, specified Sika’s chemically resistant Epoxy coatings to ensure the long term protection of the pump station.

Sika Monotop 620 (40 x 25kg) was initially used as a repair and repolishing mortar on the extremely uneven surfaces of the sewer. This cementitious pore sealer and leveling mortar can be applied to uneven substrates at between 1.5mm and 5mm thick. Subsequently Sikagard-720 EpoCem (380 x 18.5kg kits) was applied at 3mm thickness onto a prepared, dampened substrate by means of trowel to act as a temporary moisture barrier. This superfine epoxy-cement sealing mortar brings down the moisture levels to below 4% so that the epoxy does not blister (osmotic blistering) due to excessive moisture in the substrate. It offers excellent protection of concrete in aggressive environments as well as good chemical resistance. Sikafloor 156ZA (14 x 18.2lt) was then applied to the 720 EpoCem as a primer.

Following this Sikagard-63N (180 x 5lt), a solvent-free, highly chemical resistant epoxy coating, was applied. Sikagard-63N is moisture sensitive and can only be applied onto substrates with moisture content below 4% (as measured with a Tramex Moisture Meter). It provides very good chemical and mechanical resistance and is liquid proof.

After the expert application of the above advanced protection materials supplied by Sika, we are sure that this sewer will not be up for major repairs any time soon.
**Sikaflex Fix**
Launching the Multipurpose Polyurethane Sealer

Sikaflex® Fix is the best choice for many sealing and bonding applications on vehicles. Based on polyurethane technology it offers many benefits over silicone products, and is a multipurpose product that can be used for a wide variety of applications. This one product really "does fit all"!

**Features and Benefits**
Sikaflex® Fix is easy to use and fool proof, it bonds well to a wide range of substrates such as glass, metal, paint coatings, ceramic materials and plastics, making it cost effective to use. Sikaflex® Fix can be painted over and it does not cause corrosion when in contact with metal parts, as some silicone-based materials do. It’s compatible with most paint systems. Sikaflex® Fix cures on exposure to atmospheric moisture to form a durable elastomer. It is manufactured in accordance with ISO 9001 / 14001 quality assurance system and the Responsible Care program.

**Sikaflex-552 AT**
Introducing the High-performance Hybrid Adhesive

Sikaflex®-552 AT is a high-performance, elastic, gap-filling, 1-component, hybrid assembly adhesive for vehicle body panels and accessories. It is suitable for structural joints that are subjected to dynamic stresses. Designed to provide a high end product for CBR professionals, the main objective was to develop a new sealant with improved over-paintability within a flexible time period, using VOC-compliant, water-based paint systems to achieve a dependable final result. Sikaflex®-552 AT also features enhanced working properties in order to meet the specific requirements of car body and paint shop workers.

**Features**
- Fast curing, excellent non-sag properties and high green strength
- Excellent adhesion to a wide variety of substrates without primer
- Over paintable with water-based paint systems
- Ageing resistant, vibration-, impact- and shock-resistant

**Benefits**
- Easy, clean and problem free product application, no need for temporary fixing aids
- Fast application with low error rate, capable of withstanding high dynamic stresses
- Visually hidden joints
- Secure, long lasting bonded joints

**Product Positioning**
Sikaflex®-552 AT is intended to replace Sikaflex®-552 specifically, as well as all other elastic adhesives sold to CBR customers. Compared to Sikaflex®-552, Sikaflex®-552 AT has a shorter cut-off string, better tool-ability, prolonged shelf life of 12 months, lower viscosity, and it produces improved over-paintability.

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**Craig Coxon Technical Sales Consultant (Contractors) KZN**

Although born in Johannesburg, Craig grew up in Durban North. After finishing school, he worked for the Earthworks Corporation for a year and then went to the U.K. for a 2-year working holiday, finding work at various construction companies. The adventurer in him came out when he joined the British Army as a Paratrooper, and he enjoyed life as a soldier for about a year before returning to South Africa.

He started his own renovations company which he grew until joining Sika in February this year. Craig is married to Samantha and they have a 2-year old son named Cuinn and another baby due in July.

Life Motto: Live each day like it is your last.

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**Warren McDaniel Technical Sales Consultant (Contractors) KZN**

Warren is a born and bred Durbanite who studied Draughting upon leaving school, gaining his N5 diploma. Before starting at Sika he worked at Wacker Neuson, suppliers of construction equipment. Warren lives in Hillcrest with his wife Kelly and their little girl Hannah, 3, and they are expecting another baby in September. An outdoors man, Warren enjoys playing golf and football and watching sport in general; he’s also an extreme sports junkie! For Warren relaxation is a beer with mates around a traditional South African braai!

Life Motto: I like to live against the grain.

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**Erica van Heerden Technical Sales representative (Distribution) Cape Town**

The youngest of three children, Erica was born and raised in Kuils River, Cape Town. She completed Matric at Sarepta Secondary School where she was Head Girl, and went on to study Fashion Design at Peninsula Technikon, graduating after three years with her National Diploma. She worked from home for two years, designing and making wedding dresses. After a month at RMS as a clothing merchandiser, Erica then accepted a job offer at SpecPack where she worked her way up to Regional Manager of the Western Cape, managing 32 staff members and handling 20 suppliers - one of which was Sika! As a fun-loving, talkative Cancerian, Erica enjoys camping and hiking, "and just about anything that involves being in nature" but she also loves watching drag racing. Happiest when surrounded by family and friends, Erica married her childhood sweetheart after a 10-year courtship and their first baby is on the way. Life Motto: Treat everyone with respect, be happy and helpful, never expect anything in return, and always remember you only get out of life what you put in.
2009 WINNERS AT THE SALES CONFERENCE

Concrete Winners:
Service Excellence Award - Craig Handler
1st runner up Sales Person 2009 - Riaan Oosthuizen (GP Branch)
Sales Person of 2009 - George Christie (Export)

Distribution Winners:
2nd runner up Sales Person 2009 - Pegan Naidoo (KZN Branch)
1st runner up Sales Person 2009 - Phillip Boshoff (WC Branch)
Sales Person of 2009 - Raj Naidoo (GP Branch)

Industry Winners:
Innovation Award 2nd place - Lenzo Pillay (KZN Branch)
Innovation Award winner - Jean le roux (EC Branch)
1st runner up Sales Person 2009 - Warren Taylor (GP Branch)
Sales Person of 2009 - Steven Theron (GP Branch)

Contractor Winners:
2nd runner up Sales Person 2009 - Mark Griesel (R-Bay Branch)
1st runner up Sales Person 2009 - Ashley McKenzie (GP Branch)
Sales Person of 2009 - Steven Theron (GP Branch)

Regional Manager Award - Joint Winners
Kevin Kimbrey (WC branch) and Shaun Saxby (GP Branch)

Branch Award - Gauteng Branch

GUWUG give us what you got
The GIVE US WHAT YOU GOT competition runs through all BU’s and winners are decided overall. Well done to those who sent in their project refs and we look forward to receiving even more this year!

2nd runner up
Louis Visser - PE Branch (Contractors)
1st runner up
Ashley McKenzie - GP Branch (Contractors)
Winner
Phillip Boshoff - WC Branch (Distribution)

A bouncing baby boy for Nicole
Congratulations to Nicole Gatland, Sales Admin Assistant at Sika Head Office, who gave birth to a healthy baby boy on 8th March 2010. Proud parents Justin and Nicole have named their new bundle of joy Robert. He weighed in at 3.1kg and measured 50cm – for those ladies who are interested! We wish Nicole and her young family the best of luck for the future.

Wedding Bells for Phillip and Letitia
Love was in the air when Phillip Willems married Letitia Ferreira on the 13th of March at Casa Mia Country Estate in Cullinan, Pretoria. On a day of sunshine and blue skies, the picturesque garden ceremony was witnessed by 100 guests. Once the celebrations were underway, the bridal couple had the pleasure of “tearing up the dance floor” along with their hip-shaking guests, two of whom were Sika’s Michelle and Desirée. The pièce de résistance was a romantic honeymoon in Phuket, where Phillip and Letitia spent 11 nights touring the breathtaking islands, elephant trekking and snorkeling. We wish the bridal couple life’s richest blessings in their new venture as husband and wife!

In Loving Memory of Cookie Naidu
We at Sika Head Office all mourn the loss of Cookie Naidu, Sika’s Procurement Clerk who passed away suddenly on the 28th April, after suffering a heart attack. Cookie worked for Sika South Africa for 26 years and was an integral part of our team. She will be deeply missed as a dedicated colleague to all and as a good friend to many. We extend our sincerest condolences to her family and friends. Rest in peace Cookie.