

A voice in the local steel industry

Southern African Institute of Steel Construction (SAISC) is setting out to start 2023 with a drive to gain new members, by creating a more holistic offering by widening the membership pool

Denise Sherman, SAISC marketing and management consultant, says: "The Institute has built up an extensive pool of international knowledge, which we gladly share across the steel value chain. This includes our original member body, made up of steel mills, merchants and steel fabricators born out of the South African mining industry. Over time, we have noted that many engineers are also making use of our resources, but without necessarily being members of the SAISC."

As a result SAISC would like to encourage prospective members, engineers, the steel construction industry, and individuals involved with and interested in steel construction to become members of the Institute in order to be able to tap into an even rich source of available knowledge.

Engineers are especially seen as valuable members. Sherman adds that South Africa's

engineering capacity has dwindled over the last decade. While factors such as emigration were cited, so was the need for increased mentorship, problem-solving skills and depth of knowledge from the engineering sector.

"This underlines an urgent need for the supportive and inspirational resources such as those which the SAISC can offer to the engineering sector," she comments.

"In addition, we believe it is important for engineers to become members of the SAISC, as they are already an integral part of the steel construction landscape - for example offering design and technology input - and as specifiers of the products used by a number of our other members. A greater percentage of engineers as members would allow the creation of a more comprehensive and holistic industry body."

With access to over 60 years' worth of local steel industry project case studies, the SAISC is well-known as a custodian of steel industry knowledge and standards. This includes the creation and sale of popular technical publications, training, and helping



Denise Sherman, SAISC marketing and management consultant.

with technical queries relating to steel construction and structural engineering.

Being able to broaden the membership of the Institute to include more engineers would also benefit the SAISC as an industry body, notes Sherman.

"We are very keen to engage with more engineering members in order to access the market intelligence they are able to offer," she explains. 🌐