

PD Naidoo & Associates Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd and CBI Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, Merge

The South African engineering sector received a positive boost with the announcement in September 2011 of the incorporation of the 67 year old CBI Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd into PD Naidoo & Associates Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd. – one of the largest and longest established black owned engineering consulting groups in the country. The venture sees the creation of a significant new organization serving Southern Africa's industrial sector with specific emphasis to the Paper and Pulp Industry. It ensures that succession planning, transformation and skills retention is achieved through the vesting of this proven expertise in a relatively young PDNA that is 25 years old to the day.

The merger of the two companies has resulted in a stronger consulting engineering and project management company and provides strategic advantages for the two groups with PDNA broadening their technical offering into the specialist arena of Paper and Pulp with specific reference to the Process and Infrastructure design. Through the merger CBI are able to integrate their existing business with a partner:

- That has strong BEE credentials
- That has sufficient youth for succession
- That offers synergies of services and people
- That is able to formulate an integrated business plan offering protection of services and skills to their existing clients

PDNA Group CEO, Ali Naidu, said that CBI and PDNA have been in discussions over the last 12 months and had decided that the new initiative represented the best route forward for both companies to leverage technical and management synergies. The companies would merge their Durban, Richards Bay and Port Shepstone offices from 01 March 2012. The KZN region's resource base is strengthened significantly by this.

Mike Franklin (MD of CBI) has described the deal as being one of significant impact within the South African Engineering industry. It is important that this merger has been based on mutual need and requirements which will ultimately see both companies benefit from meeting social and financial imperatives of the country.

PDNA will support all CBI projects through the retention of technical expertise and will ensure that there is no change in the service levels to existing CBI clients. It is our intention to ensure that the opportunities granted to CBI in the past are retained in South African hands and more importantly all information and skills are secured for the Industry into the future.



----- End of Forwarded Message