

FROM Paul Adams

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Durban

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## **BUILDING TRUST**

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## Cape Town Skyscraper gets Sika Treatment

Completed in 1993 and owned by Eris Property Group, the 28-storey premier grade Metlife Centre is one of the tallest buildings in Cape Town; its roof spire soaring to a height of 120m above the city's Foreshore District. Sika's high performance repair products were chosen for its recent renovation.

When a project was approved to weather-seal the building's precast concrete façade, LH Consulting Engineers needed no persuasion in specifying Sikaflex AT-Façade, a high performance elastic joint sealant that ticked all the right boxes for the most effective protection. With over a decade's experience in high rise building refurbishments, Skysite was awarded the contract which necessitated rope access for the entire project.

Sikaflex AT-Façade is a one-part, moisture-curing sealant based on silane terminated polymers. Offering excellent workability characteristics as well as low stress to the substrate, it is solvent-free and silicone-free and although primerless adhesion on many substrates is possible with Sikaflex AT-Facade, the extreme weather exposure of the Metlife Centre necessitated the specification of a primer.

The precast concrete facade panels were initially primed with Sika Primer-3N (24 units) specifically designed for application on porous substrates. This one-component, epoxy-polyurethane solvent-based product is easy to apply and provides good wetting out properties.

Upon completion of the project in September 2015, 2000 cartridges of Sikaflex AT-Facade had been applied. The main factors leading to the specification of this top class Sika product

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included outstanding adhesion, a movement capability of 25%, plus exceptional weatherability with the highest possible UV resistance.

Thanks to Sika, Cape Town's Metlife Centre, a modernism-style office tower, has a new lease of life.

For more information on Sika products and systems, visit <u>www.sika.co.za</u> Ends

## Sika AG Corporate Profile

Sika AG, is a globally active specialty chemicals company with its South African Head Office based in Durban, and branches in all major SA cities.

Sika AG, located in Baar, Switzerland, supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, facades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures. Sika's product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems. Worldwide local presence in 90 countries and some 17 000 employees link customers directly to Sika and guarantee the success of all partners. Sika generated annual sales of CHF 5.57 billion in 2014 and a net profit of CHF 441 Million.

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