



**Press release:** For immediate publication

8 November 2010

## **New Public Enterprises Minister to open Reliability week later this month**

*The importance of planning for crucial maintenance*

The newly-appointed Public Enterprises minister Malusi Gigaba will deliver the keynote address on 23 November at the **Reliability & Maintenance Week** conference and exhibition taking place in Johannesburg. A former ANC Youth League President, minister Gigaba replaced Barbara Hogan during the recent cabinet re-shuffle and before that was deputy minister of Home Affairs.

### **The importance of planning for crucial maintenance**

Tracey-Lee Zurcher, **Reliability & Maintenance Week** project director, says the industry is looking forward to hearing minister Gigaba's vision and message. She says: "Addressing **Reliability & Maintenance Week** will provide the ideal platform for the honourable minister to interact with leading service providers such as Eskom and industrial giants such as Bearing Man Group, Steinmüller, Eaton, Haefely and Pragma as well as the operational contingents from power utilities, municipalities, mines and the petrochemical sector and to hear how they want to tackle South Africa's challenges in preserving, upgrading and ensuring continuous reliability of physical assets and human resources. Major service providers such as Eskom see the importance of planning for crucial maintenance to ensure reliability and the skills to perform these services."

### **Lack of skills a foremost concern**

According to Tracey-Lee Zurcher: "Huge business opportunities are in the offing as power utilities, municipalities, mines and the petrochemical sector will be looking to outsource much-needed maintenance contracts to ensure sustained reliability. However, there is also an urgent need for maintenance skills to be transferred, developed and retained in South Africa as the lack of skills is the foremost concern in the engineering sector in South Africa."

A special seminar, dedicated to addressing the skills shortage in engineering in South Africa, will take place on 22 November.

### **More industry-leading speakers and experts at Reliability & Maintenance Week include:**

- **How will the current lack of maintenance affect the African economy in the next 5-10 years? The economist's perspective.**  
*Chris Hart, Chief Economist, Investment Solutions*
- **International keynote for Bearing Man Group: Increase your profit: World class maintenance for world class manufacturing**  
*Thomas Ålund, Senior Consultant, Idhammar AB, Sweden*

- **Maximising your asset management systems to enhance your business processes**  
*Logan Reddy, Asset Management, Eskom Generation*
- **The simple way to understanding the PAS55 standard and incorporating it into your strategy planning**  
*Alan Tait, President, Southern African Asset Management Association*
- **The benefits of applying a defined maintenance management system**  
*Sam Mabotja, Divisional Manager - Eskom Maintenance, Steinmuller Engineering Services*
- **Managing and understanding risk within an asset management environment**  
*Dean Griffin, Head of Consulting, Pragma*

**Event website:** [www.reliabilityweek.co.za](http://www.reliabilityweek.co.za)

**Dates and location:** 23-24 November 2010, 22 November is a pre-conference skills workshop. Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, South Africa

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