



Media Release

Award-Winning Green Supply Chains Recognised and Rewarded Green Supply Chain Awards

For Immediate Release

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Companies making genuine efforts to minimise the environmental impact of their supply chain processes and actively seeking ways to improve environmental performance were recognised and rewarded at the inaugural Green Supply Chain Awards which took place on 27 August in Randburg. The City of Cape Town's, Utility Services - Fleet Management Department took top honours for the Best Project category, whilst PM Systems scooped the Award for the Best Product. Ettienne van der Lith, Environmental Project Manager for Bombela Civils Joint Venture was honoured as the Best Green Leader.

Over recent years there has been a strong move towards companies "being green" and focusing on "environmental sustainability". In an effort to acknowledge and applaud companies that show excellence in "going green", the Green Supply Chain Awards were launched earlier this year by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport: South Africa (CILTSA), the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) and *Supply Chain Today* magazine. TrenStar, the South African based supplier of supply chain innovations and returnable containers, signed up as the inaugural lead sponsor of the Green Supply Chain Awards.

"The awards celebrate excellent initiatives aimed at greening the supply chain," says Susan Custers, publisher of *Supply Chain Today* magazine. "From the smallest innovations to huge multi-billion Rand projects – there are many things we can do to minimise the environmental impact of supply chains. Being "green" does not necessarily cost a company more. In fact, green supply chains can reduce costs – this year's entrants have proven this".

Entrants needed to demonstrate unparalleled performance in environmental supply chain planning and execution. This includes compliance with environmental regulations, minimising waste from the supply chain process and the overall adoption of "green" practices across the supply chain.

Best Green Supply Chain Leader

Ettienne van der Lith is the environmental project manager for Bombela Civils Joint Venture, responsible for the environment on the Gautrain Rapid Rail Link project. Van

der Lith was recognised for the manner in which the project implements its environmental management policies and initiatives. As part of the initiatives followed during the construction phase, the greening of the construction supply chain was identified as a key contributor to environmental management. The greening of the supply chain required careful consideration and resource allocation, as civil construction projects usually allow little room for greening a traditionally cement and steel dominated industry.

The main aim of greening the supply chain was to reduce cost and waste and to ensure it does not interfere with the demanding construction schedule. By proactively evaluating waste streams and finding potential re-use and engineering resource replacement strategies, it was possible to significantly reduce natural resource dependence on a project of this nature. Mining waste generated by the construction of the underground tunnels was temporary stockpiled, crushed and processed and used *in lieu* of commercial sourced materials. Similarly other companies' waste streams were also identified for use during the construction process. Waste materials were also sourced from AEL and Kelvin Power Station, where the volumes of self-generated material were insufficient. Overall less than 5% of the material required for fill and layer works required for the construction was purchased from commercial (natural resource) sources.

Mining associated with the construction of the underground tunnels are typically considered to be a water hungry activity. By careful modelling and calculating ground water inflows it was possible to erect water treatment facilities at the correct locations to treat polluted mine process water to a standard acceptable for re-use during the mining. At peak an estimated 50 000m³ of mining water was recycled per month, which resulted in a reduction of more than 95% of municipal dependence.

Various other initiatives were also implemented - ranging from the recycling of hydro carbons and steel, to the replanting of various protected and indigenous trees along the alignment.

Best Green Supply Chain Project

The City of Cape Town's Utility Services Fleet Management Department received the Gold Award. Through implementing a comprehensive maintenance strategy underpinned by "green" solutions, the organisation achieved a significant reduction in fuel usage, despite an increase in fleet size. Their fleet comprises 740 vehicles - ranging from off-road utility vehicles, sedans, LDVs and panel vans, as well as light, medium and heavy trucks.

Various technologies used in the execution of the strategy included:

- The Netstar Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring system, which was installed in all vehicles, enabling the fleet to be effectively managed and controlled. Particular attention was given to poor driver habits such as harsh acceleration and unnecessary trips.

- Vendor mapping was implemented to minimise vehicle down-time and excessive mileages travelled. This reduced fuel consumption.
- Gas analysers were introduced to ensure the vehicles complied with emission limits. Of the 358 vehicles tested, 95% passed. The vehicles that failed the test were repaired and re-tested.

The fleet's technical specifications for vehicle replacements were updated to the Euro 2 standards and incorporated fuel-efficient diesel common rail technology as an essential requirement.

The functionality of the fleet was also critically evaluated by the technical hub of fleet management in conjunction with operational departments. Right-sizing principles were applied. A good example of this was the replacement of heavy knuckle boom aerial platforms mounted on 7t trucks, with lighter telescopic-type aerial platforms mounted on lighter fuel-efficient, environmentally-friendly 4t trucks.

The certificate for the Silver Award in this category went to courier company, TNT, which has reduced its carbon footprint by as much as 25 %through large-scale driver training.

Best Green Supply Chain Product

PM Systems received the Gold Award for designing an energy-efficient bulb which resulted in an 84% reduction in total energy used. Through innovation and forward thinking, PM Systems recognised a need for a better way to provide the correct amount of light in freezer stores, while at the same time significantly reducing the total energy required. The company designed a light fitting which gives over 100 lux at floor level in a 12 metre-high freezer store. Initial tests with prototype fittings were carried out in a Cape Town freezer store over a period of months and the design was refined. The lights have been commercially available since January this year. Traditional lights use 519 300 Kwhrs per annum.

The Silver Award went to CX Pallets for their robust, environment-friendly corrugated pallets. The pallets are fully recyclable and do not require any heat treatment or fumigation, making it ideal for the export market. Pallets can be recycled at the receiving end, relieving the cost of disposal, especially in European countries where strict disposal regulations of wood are enforced. Their pallets can carry one ton with ease and is supplemented by their unique, fully-corrugated Pallet-Box concept.

Apex Curtain Strips were the bronze winners. The company has made hundreds of installations which have contributed to energy efficient temperatures in factories and warehouses throughout the country.

The judges were impressed by the entries in this year's competition - not only in terms of innovation but also by variety of applications received.

Nick Tselentis, Legal and Regulatory Manager at the CGCSA adds, “Now more than ever, consumers are concerned about how and where their products come from. They want businesses to prove their commitment to environmental sustainability. It is not merely a matter of saying you are ‘green’, but being able to prove to the consumer your ‘green credentials’.”

“It is clear that adopting green supply chains strategies are fast becoming a business imperative,” confirms Catherine Larkin, Executive Director of CILTSA. Tap du Plessis, TrenStar’s CEO, adds: “In our dealings with customers, our combined impact on the environment, as with our awareness of and involvement in socially relevant projects, have become paramount. This, I believe, is happening as a clear sign of the collective realisation that our environment is ever more fragile and that the responsibility lies with all of us to look after it.”

With a network of National Councils and Sections in over 30 countries, CILT services the interests of over 30 000 members. CILT is a professional body committed to the advancement of Logistics and Transport. CILT established a Section in South Africa, known as CILTSA, in December 2002. The purpose of CILTSA is to establish and maintain the professional standing of its members so that they are recognised for their superior ability and expertise to create world-class logistics and transport value within their organisations and South Africa.

Launched in 2002, the CGCSA incorporates a number of companies dealing with best practice, standards and legal and regulatory issues in the retail, wholesale, manufacturing and service providers in the consumer goods industry. The CGCSA is a neutral, not-for-profit standards and services organization.

Supply Chain Today is the only magazine in South Africa which covers the entire supply chain arena from forklifts and shelving through to forecasting, scheduling, distribution and third party logistics. With the largest circulation in its field, “Supply Chain Today” is an informative, entertaining and educated read. “Supply Chain Today” also puts together an annual buyers guide, in print and electronically, which covers over 900 companies and the who's who of the supply chain fraternity in South Africa.

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