



# MANUFACTURING CIRCLE

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The Manufacturing Circle Quarterly Communication provides a status update on activities conducted in relation to our objectives for the calendar year

## STRATEGIC PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE

Strategic Projects continue in the 2024 calendar year according to exports, energy and municipalities.

Defined workstreams are project managed by the Manufacturing Circle. Where appropriate, stakeholders are engaged on a collaborative basis to avoid duplication of efforts.



### EXPORTS

- **The Trade Interest Registry (TIR)** is a web-based platform that companies can use to provide input to trade negotiations, report export barriers, receive alerts on trade trends, access relevant research, and inform policy makers of their priorities. User acceptance testing is complete, and three onboarding sessions for MC members have taken place. The sessions are run via Teams and a detailed email with registration details has been communicated. Please contact [jo@manufacturingcircle.co.za](mailto:jo@manufacturingcircle.co.za) to arrange a session.
- **DTIC Gazetted Draft Block Exemption for Ports and Rail, 2024**  
The MC responded to the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition noting its support for the Draft Block Exemption for Ports and Rail, 2024 and is in agreement that collaboration is required to address the challenges facing port and rail in South Africa. The Manufacturing Circle also tabled that consideration of these principles be extended to address South Africa's energy challenges, with particular reference to the range of work required to maintain and expand generation, transmission and infrastructure.
- **CBAM An Industry Working Group** has been established. A Project Charter has been formulated and a stakeholder mapping exercise is in progress. Next steps involve securing project management expertise given the range of stakeholders and complexity of matters involved.



### ENERGY

- **Grid (Tx and Dx)** An Industry Tx Position Paper is being finalised for tabling with various audiences to include the newly formed National Transmission Company (NTCSA). An introductory session with Steel Masterplan industry representatives is scheduled for 21 August.
- **SAREM** – Sarem launch is anticipated in due course. In the interim, the MC participated in the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) Catalysing Green Industries Workshop aligned to SAREM in early July.  
  
The MC will be actively participating in SAREM implementation areas relating to industrialisation.
- **Gas** The MC is engaging on a regular basis with the Industrial Gas Users Association of South Africa (IGUA- SA) to escalate the urgency in addressing the imminent 'gas supply cliff' impacting on industrial gas users. A webinar was held on 23 July to update MC members.



## MUNICIPALITIES

### Electricity

- The MC continues to work in the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) to implement pilot projects to address poor service delivery across electricity and water infrastructure.
- The intention is for industry to provide funding and/or resource support to address critical infrastructure fixes together with a method to recover costs by way of rebates and/or repayments. In Springs, the New Era and Fulcrum regions have been identified as focus areas led by The Gauteng East Chamber of Commerce to pilot an Active Partnering Model.
- In Springs the Active Partnering Agreements MOU has now been drafted comprising an agreement between industry and the CoE to enable management of municipal structure. The next step will be to present the document to the City Manager for comments.

- In Wadeville, the MC continues to work together with the National Treasury Cities Support Programme (CSP) and the National Cleaner Production of South Africa's (NCPC-SA) Eco-Industrial Park Programme.

### Water

- Addressing municipal water service delivery challenges is a new MC area of focus. A survey has been initiated to obtain baseline information from members according to municipal water infrastructure and distribution impacting factories. In parallel, existing water initiatives and associated stakeholders are being understood to identify where collaborative efforts can be applied, and duplication avoided. This topic will be discussed at the Municipalities (Electricity & Water) Roundtable on 3 September.



## GOLF DAY

The MC's inaugural Golf Day was held on 4 June 2024 and was well supported by sponsors and golfers alike. The event was a great day of networking and fun.

## ENGAGEMENTS 2024

### TRADE INTEREST REGISTRY (TIR) Onboarding Sessions

Ongoing

**CBAM Industry Working Group: Next Meeting – 29 August**

**MUNICIPALITIES ROUNDTABLE - Electricity and Water: 3rd September**

**AGM: 24th October**

For further information relating to any of these items please do not hesitate to contact [jo@manufacturingcircle.co.za](mailto:jo@manufacturingcircle.co.za)