

# Wet Services Engineers incorporated into **SAICE Water Engineering Division**

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING (SAICE) has recently announced the incorporation of the Wet Services Engineers Forum (WSEF) into its (SAICE's) Water Engineering Division.

The WSEF was founded in October 2011 by Vollie Brink, Steve Franklin, Pieter Becker and Jack le Grange. According to the current chairperson of the WSEF, Pieter Becker, the main objective of the WSEF was to promote appropriate professional Wet Services design and construction supervision by qualified competent persons, with knowledge and experience in Wet Services engineering. "The forum was founded to involve all Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) registered persons who practise the design of Wet Services, and to collaborate, promote, participate in and enhance the technology and quality of Wet Services design as a recognised element of engineering under civil, mechanical and other specialised engineering groups," says Becker.

The formation of the WSEF came as a result of the National Building Regulations (NBR) which placed great emphasis on "the competent person" for the various competencies required. Engineers who had been practising and special-



**Pieter Becker, chairman of the  
Wet Services Engineers Forum**

ising in the design of Wet Services for many years took up the challenge to have all registered competent persons identified.

The term "Wet Services" is commonly used in South Africa for all building and related piped services such as:

- Sanitary drainage installations
- Domestic hot and cold water installations
- Rainwater drainage installations
- Hot water generation
- Fire water installations such as fire hydrants, fire hose reels and automatic sprinkler installations
- Pump installations
- Sustainable green systems

After discussions with SAICE, it was decided to incorporate the WSEF under the umbrella of the SAICE Water Engineering Division. The objectives of the WSEF will now be pursued through the SAICE mission and vision, values and code of ethics to serve the built environment through professional excellence in Wet Services design, and to promote and support training in this field of engineering.

Commenting on the announcement, Francis Gibbons, chairman of the SAICE Water Engineering Division, says, "It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Wet Services Engineers Forum into SAICE's Water Engineering Division. Their inclusion will enable us to realise the potential synergy between the two organisations, as well as provide a formal vehicle for the WSEF to interact with its stakeholders."

Previous members of the WSEF and all persons currently practising in Wet Services design are invited and encouraged to apply for SAICE membership and to partake in the activities of SAICE's Water Engineering Division. Details of the various categories of SAICE membership, as well as application forms, are available on the SAICE website ([www.saice.org.za](http://www.saice.org.za)).

There are many professionals and other competent persons in South Africa who are practising the design of building-related water services, but who, until now, have not been served by any professional body or organisation. The aim of this venture with SAICE is to recognise and formalise their skills in terms of professional competency for the benefit of the built environment in South Africa.

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