

Strategic partnership to mitigate energy challenges for commerce and industry

THE National Development Plan (NDP) envisages that by 2030 South Africa will have an adequate supply of electricity and liquid fuels to ensure that economic activity and welfare are not disrupted, and that at least 95% of the population will have access to grid or off-grid electricity.

While short and medium-term plans to enhance electricity generation and manage the electricity demand are being investigated, urgent interventions on an indi-

vidual and business level will be key to dealing with the country's current electricity challenges.

To complement the NDP's objectives to promote and develop energy efficiency practices in different energy sectors, including industries, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ithala Development Finance Corporation (Ithala) and the National Business Initiative (NBI).

The partnership involves a programme that aims to improve

energy efficiency in small, medium and large commercial and industrial companies based at Ithala Properties.

The programme, which comes under the UK-SA bilateral relationship, contributes to the South African government's strategy for reducing energy demand.

The NBI is a voluntary member-based organisation that is implementing a Private Sector Energy Efficiency (PSEE) Project to improve energy efficiency in business organisations within the commercial and industrial sectors in South Africa through the provision of various services that will assist companies to identify and implement energy saving measures.

The programme is funded by the UK Government and supported by the SA Department of Energy, with technical support provided by the Carbon Trust, based on its experience of similar programmes in the UK.

"As a start, Ithala is collaborating on the PSEE project to implement the programme at the Isithebe and Ezakheni Industrial Estates, followed by a roll-out to the light industrial and retail properties within Ithala's portfo-



From left: Valerie Green, Head of Energy, National Business Initiative and Themba Mathe, Ithala Communications, Marketing and HR Executive, sign the MOU at Ithala's Isithebe Industrial Estate

lio," said Themba Mathe, Ithala Group Executive.

"Government's Energy Saving Strategy talks to reducing the necessity for additional power generation capacity. One of the largest energy consuming sectors is industry and we believe that this partnership will play a significant role in helping the national

energy agenda."

The PSEE programme offers direct onsite support through consultants which will include energy assessments and audits, identification of energy efficiency opportunities and follow-up support. The PSEE's services are fully funded by the PSEE.

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Recently, Brace Able decided to expand their business and began their search for an appropriate property. After an intensive search for the ideal property, the automotive assemblers found what they thought would be the perfect space for their business going forward.

Situated in Westmead, the property provided Brace Able with the space they needed to expand their operations while still remaining close to Durban. There was, however, a problem. The property owner was determined to lease the property and refused outright to sell.

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property, eventually convincing him to sell. The sale was an unorthodox one and a tricky deal to navigate, but in the end it was settled that the property would be divided into sections. Deal Core devised this unique and creative sale in order for both parties to walk away from the deal satisfied.

By expanding their company, Brace

able has created between 40 and 60 new jobs for the community.

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With the growing demand from local companies moving into Africa, the fact that there is a professional team operating out of the province, offers quicker and easier options for making these projects happen.

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