



# MICROmega MAIL

NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAFF OF MICROmega HOLDINGS LIMITED THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE DETAIL

## 48th annual NOSHCON conference a huge success

**N**OSHCON, Africa's biggest annual occupational risk management conference and exhibition, was once again a massive hit this year.

The event, hosted by occupational health and safety specialist, NOSA, attracted a record number of delegates. Hundreds of professionals that included managing directors, risk managers, engineers, health practitioners, union representatives and virtually every other relevant occupation imaginable descended on the Champagne Sports Resort in the Drakensberg where the event was held from 25 to 28 August.

"We are extremely pleased with the response we received at NOSHCON 2009," states Duncan Carlisle, MICROmega group manager and NOSA director. "This year was officially the biggest in the event's distinguished history, which is heartening because it shows that despite the current economic situation, companies refuse to compromise the health and safety of their employees."

As usual, NOSHCON gave delegates an excellent opportunity to interact with industry leaders and gain valuable information from specialists in the SHEQ field. It also allowed them to network with industry peers and establish new business relationships through constructive interactive sessions and social events.

But, of course, it wasn't all business. Delegates also had an opportunity to relax and enjoy some excellent entertainment. A particular highlight was the performance by Joseph Clark and the Gaabo Matho Tenors who wowed the audience with the music of Queen during NOSA's International Awards Banquet.

By all accounts, NOSHCON 2009 was both hugely informative and entertaining. Congratulations to Beatrix Oberholzer and her team for once again hosting an excellent event!



## Software safety solutions



*Danie Williams, managing director of NOSA subsidiary Riskworks, hosted a working lunch in which he explained the various applications that Riskworks offers, and how this software benefits the occupational health and safety industry.*

## View from the top

This final publication of the MICROMega Mail for 2009 allows us the opportunity to thank all the MICROMega staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication during the year. While it has been a challenging year for most of our subsidiaries, as a group, we have continued to grow and look forward to a very successful 2010.

Given the work that has been done in reducing the cost bases and streamlining the businesses, our subsidiaries are well positioned to take advantage of the improvement in market conditions when they occur.

Though we have seen a slight improvement over the past two months, we anticipate that, effective early next year, the economy would have recovered significantly and our subsidiaries will experience a concomitant increase in demand for their products and services.

I am sure that you are aware that a decision has been taken by the MICROMega head office that there will be no Christmas functions across the group this year. This is in light of the economic situation and the fact that we have been forced to retrench staff at two of our subsidiaries during the course of the year.

Accordingly, it is very difficult to celebrate the past year, when there have been loyal and hard working members of the MICROMega group that have unfortunately lost their jobs. We would like to confirm that this does not detract from how grateful we are to all the staff for their loyalty and commitment to MICROMega and we sincerely hope that the effort and energy that has been displayed in 2009 continues into 2010.

There have been a number of highlights within the group during 2009 and while there are too many to list, I would like to congratulate the following subsidiaries on their achievements:

- BTM on winning the award for the "Business of the Year 2009" and "Best Manufacturing Company 2009" in the Midvaal Area. The award, which is awarded by the Midvaal Chamber of Commerce, covers the entire Vaal Triangle.
- The securing of a three-year contract by NOSA to provide occupational health, safety and environmental services across Transet Rail Engineering's 90 sites.
- Stable-Net becoming a CISCO Centre of Excellence.
- The launch of Cloudware.
- MICROMega's Automotive Division was awarded a coveted gold award for its stand at the inaugural Automechanika South Africa trade show at the Nasrec Expo Centre in Johannesburg.
- The establishment of an automotive components dealership in Rustenburg.
- The securing of a sizeable contract by Lubrication Equipment with Shell to fit workshops at a number of Imperial sites.

## VARTA spotted at Kyalami

This year's final V8 Super Series race of the season saw tensions flaring as contenders battled it out for final season placements.

Starting the day in sixth position overall with 101 points was Franco di Matteo in the VARTA Batteries Jaguar. Di Matteo went into the race in top form after winning a pair of super saloon car races in September.

Just as the first race got underway, a typical Johannesburg storm hit the track and drivers were left to battle it out in the pouring rain. Di Matteo successfully fought out fifth position, but was left with badly damaged tyres at the end of the race owing to the track drying out.

The second and final race was a reverse grid, which is a feature of WesBank V8 racing, with the leaders of race one starting at the tail end of the grid. Once again, rain came pouring down, and the racers had no option but to hit the track with damaged rain tyres.

Unable to gain ground in the terrible (but very exciting) race conditions, Di Matteo did not improve on his position, but managed to hold on to his sixth position overall.

The VARTA brand was flying high as the Italian racer brought the silver Jaguar home.



## Putting for charity

This year's annual Alex SPPS Golf Day was the 10th of its kind, and an indication that MICROmega is still adamant in its fight against crime.

For over a decade, the SPPS model (Support Partnership with Police Station) has been a way for local communities and businesses to support their police stations, which are historically short funded.

The annual Alex SPPS Gold Day, which supports the Alexandra Police Station cluster of Bramley, Sandrighnam, Sandton and Midrand, is hosted by the police station itself, the community policing forum, and a business partner, which in this case is a joint effort between MICROmega and engine manufacturer, Cummins SA.

Over the course of the last few years, the event has proved a great success, with many local businesses, including a few MICROmega companies such as NOSA, Deltec Power, Lubrication Equipment and ProFit, joining forces with Cummins and MICROmega to make their community a safer place.

This year's event raised R80 000, and will be used to provide equipment, training and other facilities to the Alexandra Community Police Forum and the Alexandra SAPS.

## IT division star performer in year-to-June earnings

MICROmega's IT division has grown in profit from R2 million to R12.6 million, in this otherwise extremely tough financial year.

Hats off to MMT, Stable-Net, Intermap and Sebata..



## Safety first with BTM

"Fatalities associated with transportation and mining consistently fall within the top three reasons for mining fatalities in South Africa," reveals Bruce Carolin, BTM's managing director, adding this was one of the primary reasons BTM has chosen to enter the market of mine safety products.



"We've sourced an excellent product designed and manufactured in Australia, a country with very similar mining conditions to ours, which we believe will not only add significant value to our own product range, diversifying BTM's interests, but boost safety in the local mining industry as a whole," he continues.



The product in question, Minecorp's state-of-the-art Safety Cell ROPS vehicle safety technology, involves either internally or externally fitted roll-bar cages, depending on the vehicle and its application.

Based on an Australian study that found a direct correlation between roof crush and occupant injury, Minecorp's Safety Cell ROPS is designed to prevent a vehicle's roof from collapsing.

"The forces experienced by the body during a rollover are generally not violent and, in most cases, are easily survivable," says Bruce. "In fact, the cause of serious injury and death is generally the intrusion of the roof on the occupant's survival space.

"Safety is as much an issue here as it is in Australia and Minecorp's Safety Cell range is a proven safety product that has saved lives. It's exactly what our mining houses need to reduce their vehicle accident fatalities and injuries."

Bruce asserts that, as sole distributor of the Minecorp product range, BTM will soon make its mark on the mining industry, its name becoming synonymous with mine vehicle safety.

## Leading systems analyst joins Stable-Net Group

Stable-Net's phenomenal expansion over the past year has led to the organic growth of a number of niche specialities within the group. One of these, which has since developed into a Managed Services Division, now welcomes Bryn Jones, a leading local systems analyst to the team.

Bryn, who jokes that analysing network systems problems is what he lives for, openly reveals that the chance to work with a team of experts in this very field

is extremely exciting for him, particularly since he has known both Mathew Woodcock, of Stable-Net, and Tony Rolston, of MICROmega Technologies, for a number of years.

"How often can a man get to say that not only does he really love his job, but that it's actually fun?" asks Bryn – even if most of us have no idea what it means to excel in an applied science that marks the difference between a network that is merely operating, and one that is performing optimally.

## BTM scoops business of the year award



**B**TM has scooped two prestigious awards: the company has been named Business of the Year for 2009 and also Manufacturing Company of the Year for 2009 by the Midvaal Chamber of Commerce.

Timothy Nast, executive mayor of the Midvaal Municipality, believes the company is a highly deserving recipient of these awards. "BTM has been based in Meyerton for many years and makes a massive contribution to our local economy. The management team is doing a very good job. Despite the economic downturn, especially prevalent in the automotive industry, BTM continues to prosper – and this is a testament to the company's management," he notes.

Unanimously selected by all the judges, BTM, which has been situated in Meyerton (just south of Johannesburg) since 1978, employs 136 people and Bruce says the award is a testament to their hard work and devotion. "We have a dedicated and loyal team of people who are determined to see BTM succeed and prosper; I would like to thank them for their efforts. These awards belong to them," he says.

## BTM snaps up industry icon

**H**azel Durston Nunes, who has been in the automotive accessory industry for over 20 years, is the latest addition to the BTM team, having accepted the position of sales director.

"Hazel has a wealth of knowledge and experience and will no doubt prove to be an invaluable member of our team," enthuses Bruce Carolin, managing director of BTM.

According to Hazel, the expansion and changes currently underway at BTM were her chief incentives for joining the company. "I'm passionate about the automotive industry and looking forward to the challenge of helping BTM grow," she says.



## MECS Africa launches Employee Benefits programme

**M**ECs Africa has launched an employee benefits programme which is available to MECS Africa employees, employees of the MICROMEGA group and for any person whose payroll is administered by MECS Africa.

"We realised that many employees do not traditionally qualify for financial employee benefit," explains Roland Glass, MD of MECS

Africa. "We are therefore extremely proud to launch this innovative and unique programme to our MECS and MICROMEGA family.

"It's designed to provide cover for our employees and their families, as well as assistance when it's needed most."

The MECS Employee Benefits programme includes cover in the event of accidental

death or disability, including medical expenses and hospital cash. There are also extensive assistance benefits for family members. "MECS Employee Benefits aims to ease the burden of unforeseen events," continues Roland.

Benefit programmes increase the economic and personal security of employees, which is why MECS Africa believes it is vital to offer this service to its employees.